

Session 1: Brief International

Association History

Melvin Jones held an organizational meeting on June 7, 1917, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. The new group took the name of one of the groups invited, the “**International Association of Lions Clubs**”. A national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, in October of that year. The convention began to define what the association was to become. A constitution, by-laws, objects and code of ethics were approved.

Dr. W. P. Woods, of Evansville, Indiana, USA was elected as the first president. Guiding force and founder Jones was named acting secretary.

The organization became international when the first club in Windsor, Ontario, Canada was established in 1920. Clubs were later organized in Mexico, China and Cuba. By 1927, membership stood at 60,000 in 1,183 clubs.

Perhaps the single event having the greatest impact on the association’s service commitment occurred in 1925 when Helen Keller addressed the Lions at the international convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA. It was there that she challenged Lions to become “knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness.”

In 1990 Lions launched their most aggressive sight preservation effort to date, Sight First. Another significant event in the association’s history occurred in 1987, when Lions Clubs International became one of the first service club organizations to admit women as members.

Session 2: Objects and Ethics

Please review the Objects and Ethics provided in the MD-13 Orientation Guide.

Session 3: Current Statistics at the International Level

Lions Clubs International is the world’s largest service club organization with 1.3

million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographical areas.

Worldwide, Lions clubs are recognized for their service to the blind and visually impaired. Based on a recent report of Lions clubs worldwide, it is estimated that **each Lions club donates an average of \$9,900 to charitable causes**, totaling \$449 million. Each year **Lions club members volunteer 76 million hours**, which is equivalent to 36,500 people working full time for a year.

In 1990, Lions established SightFirst and raising \$143 million to fight major causes of preventable and reversible blindness.

SightFirst has:

- provided more than 7.1 million cataract surgeries
- built or expanded 213 eye hospitals
- supported more than 80 million treatments to prevent river blindness
- improved eye care in 90 countries around the world

Session 4: A brief history of your club

This should be presented by a member of your club that is familiar with the club’s history.

Session 5: The major projects of the club and their sources of funding

This should be presented by a knowledgeable Lion in your club.

Session 6: Club organization including the duties of the officers, directors, and committees

Have someone in your club explain the duties of the following club offices:

Board of Directors
President
Immediate Past President
Vice Presidents
Secretary
Treasurer

Lion Tamer
Tail Twister
Membership Director
Branch Coordinator

Session 7 Membership categories, attendance and dues policies

Have a member define each of the following membership categories:

Active
Member-at-Large
Honorary
Privileged
Life Member
Associate
Affiliate

Members should make every attempt to attend meetings. However, if they miss they can make up the meeting by attending a board meeting, another club’s meeting, a zone meeting, or other district meeting.

Dues will be collected every six months. International dues are \$39/year and MD-13 dues are \$11/year. District and club dues vary according to the district and club.

Session 8: What it means to be a Lion and the benefits of membership

Have a member tell what it means to be a member or read the statement in the MD-13 Orientation Guide.

Session 9: The Structure of the district and multiple district and responsibilities of the respective officers and the resources and contacts for your district and multiple district

Each of the following terms must be explained to the club members. Use Ohio as an example

Multiple Districts
Council of Governors
Districts

District Governor
Vice District Governor
Deputy District Governor
Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer
Region Chairperson
Zone Chairperson
District Committee Chairpersons

Session 10: District, Multiple District, and International Projects that our club supports

One of the clubs Lions should describe those projects that your club supports at the district, multiple district and International level.

Session 11: District and Multiple District Conventions

District conventions in Ohio (MD-13) vary in styles and formats. However, each district convention is designed to celebrate the current year under the direction of the district governor and time to recognize those Lions who have contributed to the success of the district during the past year. It is also a time to have great fun and fellowship with other Lions from the district. There will also be a business meeting for club delegates to set policy and elect officers for the district. Generally there is a speaker from International who is the guest of the district. In many ways the Multiple District Convention is similar to the district convention except that it deals with State issues and elections.

Session 12: The Association's motto, mission statement, logo, colors, etc.

Have a lion member go review the following topics from the MD-13 Orientation Guide.

Who are the Lions?
The Name "Lions"
Mission Statement
Motto
Slogan
Official Colors
Official Emblem
International Fellowship & Understanding

Session 13: The structure of the International Association, the responsibilities of the board of directors, the role of the International Convention, International Headquarters, and resources and contacts at Headquarters.

The structure of the International Association of Lions Clubs is not a complex organization. The individual Lions club is the most important unit of your association. As an individual, you belong to the club. It is the club that belongs to the association. This means that when it becomes time to elect international officers and directors, or to amend or change the International Constitution and By-Laws it is the club that casts the necessary votes through its authorized delegates.

At the international convention, the delegates elect the international officers and directors. Officers elected include the international president and first and second vice presidents, along with 33 directors representing various areas of the world. International directors serve 2-year terms, with approximately one-half being elected each year. The immediate past international president serves as chairperson of the LCIF Board of Trustees.

Our International Headquarters, with a staff of under 300 full-time employees, is located in Oak Brook, Illinois. An executive administrator oversees 11 operating divisions.

Session 14: International Projects and Programs

Lions Clubs International Foundation is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. The foundation was chartered in 1968. The SightFirst program responds to worldwide needs for the prevention of blindness. There are many other programs supported by the Lions clubs around the world. Please refer to the MD-13 Orientation Guide.



We Serve

Pocket Guide for Orientation of Local Lions Clubs

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