

New Member Orientation Brochure – District 13E

Derived primarily from the LCI "Orientation Guide," # ME13 EN 5/02

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Introduction to the International Association

Please review the following Lions Clubs International topics in the "Welcome" manual from a New Member Kit, or from the LCI "Orientation Guide," which can be downloaded from the www.lionsclubs.org website.

HISTORY OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

At a Glance: Lions Clubs International History Timeline

- 1917:** Association founded in Chicago, IL, on June 7 by businessman Melvin Jones
- 1920:** Association became international with the formation of the first club in Canada
- 1925:** Helen Keller challenges the Lions to become her "knights of the blind in the crusade against blindness."
- 1931:** First Lions club in Latin America chartered.
- 1945:** Association helps form the Non-Governmental Organizations section of the United Nations.
- 1947:** First club in Australia chartered.
- 1948:** First club in Europe chartered.
- 1953:** First club in Asia chartered. First club in Africa chartered.
- 1987:** Lions Clubs International becomes the first service club to admit women as members.
- 1990:** SightFirst, a major blindness prevention initiative, is launched.

Current Statistics for Lions Clubs International, as of December, 2002: Over 1.35 million Lions and 44,600 clubs in 190 countries and geographical areas.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL OBJECTS

LIONS CODE OF ETHICS

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL WORLDWIDE PROGRAMS:

- Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)
- Lions SightFirst
- Lions Quest
- Leo Clubs
- Lions Youth Outreach
- Plus many others listed in reference materials

THE ASSOCIATION'S NAME: The official name of the association is "The International Association of Lions Clubs" or simply "Lions Clubs International." The name Lions was chosen because of the symbolism of what a lion animal represents - courage, strength, activity and fidelity.

MISSION STATEMENT: To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation.

At a Glance: *Your International Association*

Founded:	1917 in Chicago, Illinois, USA
Founder:	Melvin Jones
Motto:	We Serve
Official Colors:	Purple and Gold
Slogan:	Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety
Primary Activity:	Blindness Prevention and Sight Conservation
Membership:	Nearly 1.4 million men and women in approximately 190 countries & areas worldwide

HOW THE ASSOCIATION IS ORGANIZED

INTERNATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Your District, and Multiple District

DISTRICTS: Most Lions clubs are part of a district, which is usually comprised of at least 35 clubs that have a combined total of at least 1,250 members.

District Governor: The district governor serves as the chief administrative officer for the district. He or she is elected to serve a one-year term at the district convention. The new governor takes office at the close of the international convention.

The district governor's responsibilities include representing the association in the district, supervising district officers, furthering the Objects and Ethics of the association, promoting the goals of the International Program, supervising the organization of new Lions Clubs and presiding over district meetings.

Vice District Governor: The vice district governor serves as chief administrative assistant to the district governor. The vice district governor's specific responsibilities are to further the Objects and Ethics Lions Clubs International, become familiar with the duties of the district governor to fulfill them in the event of a vacancy in the office of district governor, perform administrative duties assigned by the district governor, participate in district meetings, help prepare the district budget, supervise district committees at the request of the district governor, help review clubs, and engage in all matters to be continued during the next year. In Ohio a ***Deputy District Governor*** is elected in each district, with the expectation for them to become the next year's vice-governor. These two positions also serve as region chairmen within each district.

Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Treasurer (Or Secretary/Treasurer): Each one acts under the supervision of the district governor. The duties of each are to further the Ethics and Objects of Lions Clubs International and perform other functions and acts required through the cabinet secretary-treasurer manual and other directives.

Zone Chairman: The zone chairman, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor and/or region chairman, and is the chief administrative officer in the zone. The Zone Chairman is responsible for serving as chairman of the district governor's advisory committee in the zone, plays an active role in organizing new clubs, and keeps informed on the activities and well-being of all clubs in their zone. The zone chairmen are members of the district governor's cabinet, and are appointed by the governor.

MULTIPLE DISTRICTS: When a district becomes too large, it is often sub-divided along geo-political lines to form two or more sub-districts. Each sub-district is identified by its own letter and/or number. When there is more than one sub-district in a defined area, such districts form a "multiple district."

Ohio Lions is a division of Lions International, and was founded in 1920 with the chartering of the first Lions Club in Cleveland. We were the 13th state to associate with the International and therefore are known as Multiple District 13-Ohio Lions. The Ohio Lions consists of ten sub-districts, each of which has several counties, and are designated by alphabetic letters. District 13E covers West Central Ohio, including the Lions Clubs in the following counties: Auglaize, Champaign, Clark, Darke, Hardin, Logan, Mercer, Miami, Shelby, and Union.

There are nearly 500 clubs and 17,000 Lion members in Ohio. All are men and women devoted to serving the needs of their communities. Lions from Ohio have always been active at the international level. In recent years James Coffey from the Toronto (Ohio) Lions club was the 1993-94 International President, and Floyd Newberry from the Mount Orab (Ohio) Lions Club served as International Director from 1995-1997. The Lions of Ohio are recognized around the world for their organization and leadership, and stand out at international events with their traditional red coats and vests.

Administration of the Ohio Lions is performed by the Council of Governors. This council consists of the District Governors from each of the ten Sub-Districts in Ohio, plus a Chairman of Council elected by the new governors each year from the previous year's governors. The activities of the Ohio Lions are governed by their Constitution and By-Laws.

Ohio Lions has two paid employees - a Multiple District Secretary/Treasurer and an Administrative Assistant - who work for the Council of Governors. Virtually every other function of Lion's work is carried out by volunteers, which assures that all money earmarked for charity is used for its intended purpose. Twelve dollars (\$12) from each Ohio Lion's dues goes to support the activities of the state and district organizations. A new state office building was purchased in 1995 in the Columbus area to reduce operating expenses and provide a more effective environment to carry out Lions business.

The Ohio Lions hold two major business sessions each year, which are open to all Lions and guests. The Fall Conference consists of many training and educational seminars, along with a large banquet with a prominent speaker. The State Convention includes business sessions, caucuses and voting on constitutional issues and reports from all of the service, project, and administration committees. One voting delegate may be designated from each lions club for every ten active members. Training classes for new state and district level officials are held at these and other events throughout the year.

District Conventions: The annual district convention is the chief deliberative body of each district. District conventions are held to conduct general district business, take action on district matters, adopt resolutions, elect the district governor and other district-elected officers, vote on convention sites, conduct seminars, sponsor events important to the district and develop fellowship among the Lions of the district.

OHIO LIONS STATE SERVICE PROJECTS:

Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation:

This foundation is the second largest provider of money for eye research in the world - it is surpassed only by the Lions Clubs International Foundation (L.C.I.F.).

Ohio Lions Foundation:

This foundation provides assistance for natural disaster relief, and grants for worthy projects within Ohio, and supports the Diabetes Outreach Program. It also offers scholarships to blind college students through the Helen Keller Scholarship Program, and funds the Tactic, a Braille magazine for the blind.

Ohio Lions Sight & Hearing:

This program provides support for training of dogs and their handlers at no cost to individuals, including Lions Pilot Dogs for the blind and Lions Hearing Dogs for the deaf. Funding is also provided for the Prevent Blindness Ohio, the Ohio Radio Reading Services, the Columbus Speech and Hearing Center, and the News Reel programs.

Ohio Youth Outreach Committee:

This organization provides funding for several Ohio youth programs:

Camp Echoing Hills is a summer camp for developmentally disabled youths.

International Youth Exchange program permits cultural growth and education all around the world.

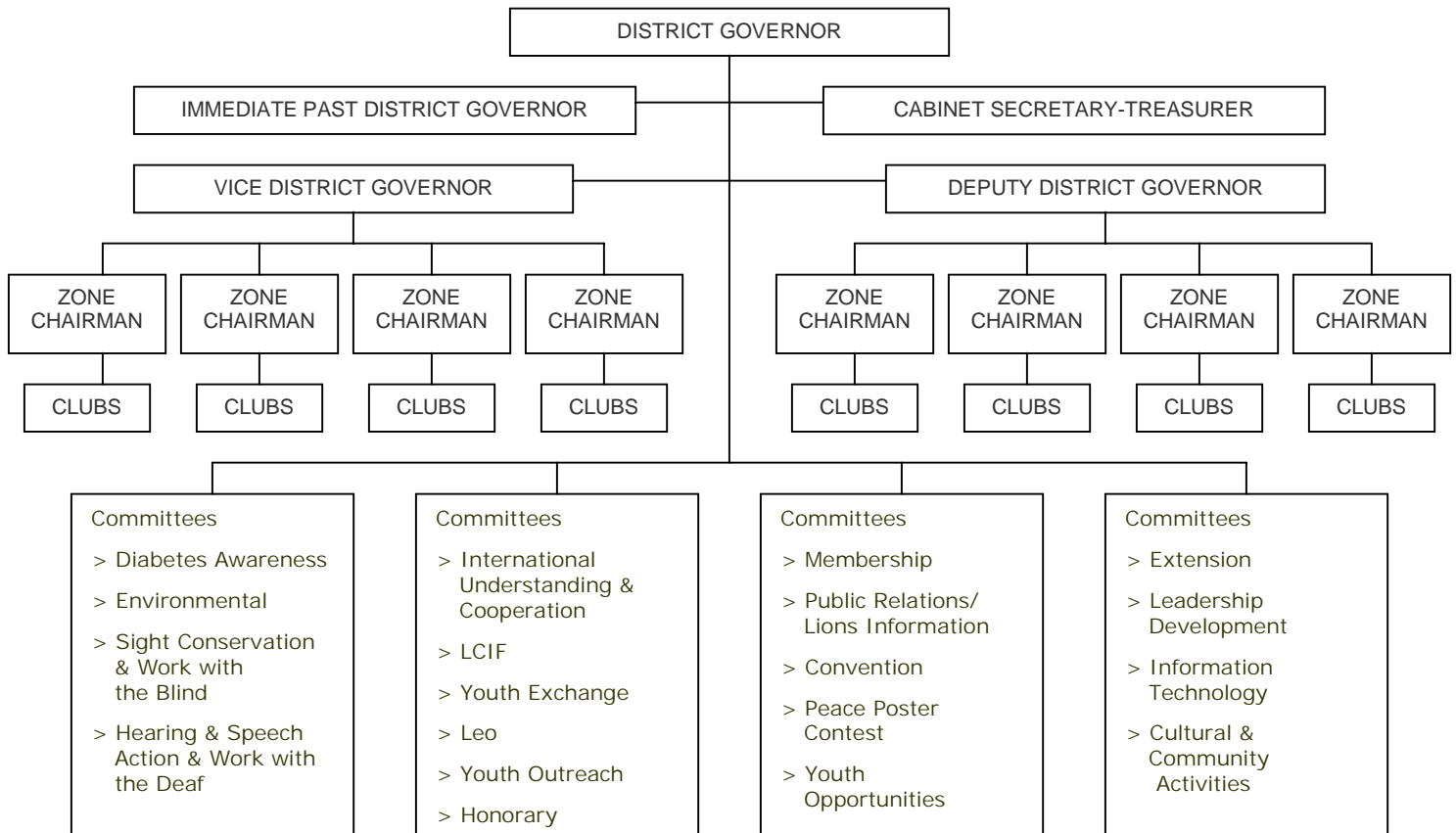
Leo Clubs throughout the state permit young adults to serve their communities and learn leadership skills.

Lions-Quest is a comprehensive educational approach to drug prevention in elementary, middle, & high schools.

International Relations:

This program provides funds for Ohio volunteer projects in the third world, including Volunteers of Optometry Serving Humanity (VOSH) which provides eye examinations and eyeglasses to the poor, and Amigos de los Americas through which student volunteers provide basic health services in Latin America.

OHIO LIONS DISTRICT ORGANIZATION CHART



All About Your Lions Club

Review the following information with the club Orientation Team

- **History of the club**
- **Major projects**
- **Sources of Funding**
- **Current Activities**
- **Fundraising projects**

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF THE CLUB; DUTIES OF OFFICERS, DIRECTORS & COMMITTEES

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS: A Lions club is governed by a board of directors, normally consisting of a president as chief executive officer, the immediate past president, three vice presidents, a secretary, a treasurer, a Lion tamer, a tail twister, four or more directors, and a membership director. Officers are elected annually for a term coinciding with the association's fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Directors are elected for two-year terms. Meetings of the board are usually held once each month.

President: The president serves as the club's chief executive officer and presides at all meetings of the club and the board of directors. The president issues the call for regular and special meetings in accordance with the club's by-laws or procedures, plans the agenda and ensures that the status of each committee activity is reported. It is also the responsibility of the president to see that regular elections are duly called, noticed and held. The president cooperates with, and is an active member of, the district governor's advisory committee of the zone in which the club is located.

Immediate Past President: The immediate past president, along with other past presidents, serves as an official greeter of members and their guests at club meetings and represents the club in welcoming new people into the community served by the club.

Vice Presidents: In the event that the president should be unable to perform the duties of office for any reason, the vice president next in rank occupies the position and performs the duties with the same authority as the president. Each vice president, under the direction of the president, oversees the functioning of various committees of the club.

Secretary: Under the supervision and direction of the president and board of directors, the Secretary acts as a liaison officer between the club and both the district and International Headquarters. Responsibilities of the secretary include submitting reports, maintaining club records and issuing financial statements to club members.

Treasurer: The Treasurer is responsible for all club financial matters. Duties include receiving all monies and paying club obligations, maintaining financial records, preparing financial statements and submitting financial reports.

Lion Tamer: The Lion Tamer serves as custodian of club property. Duties include being responsible for club property (such as flags, banners, gavels, etc.), serving as a at arms during meetings and distributing materials at meetings.

Tail Twister: The Tail Twister serves to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at club meetings through the judicious imposition of fines on members. The Tail Twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present. Any funds collected by the Tail Twister are immediately turned over to the treasurer.

Membership Director: The membership director serves as the chairman of the membership committee. Responsibilities of the membership director include development of membership growth programs, implementation of recruitment and retention programs and preparation of orientation sessions.

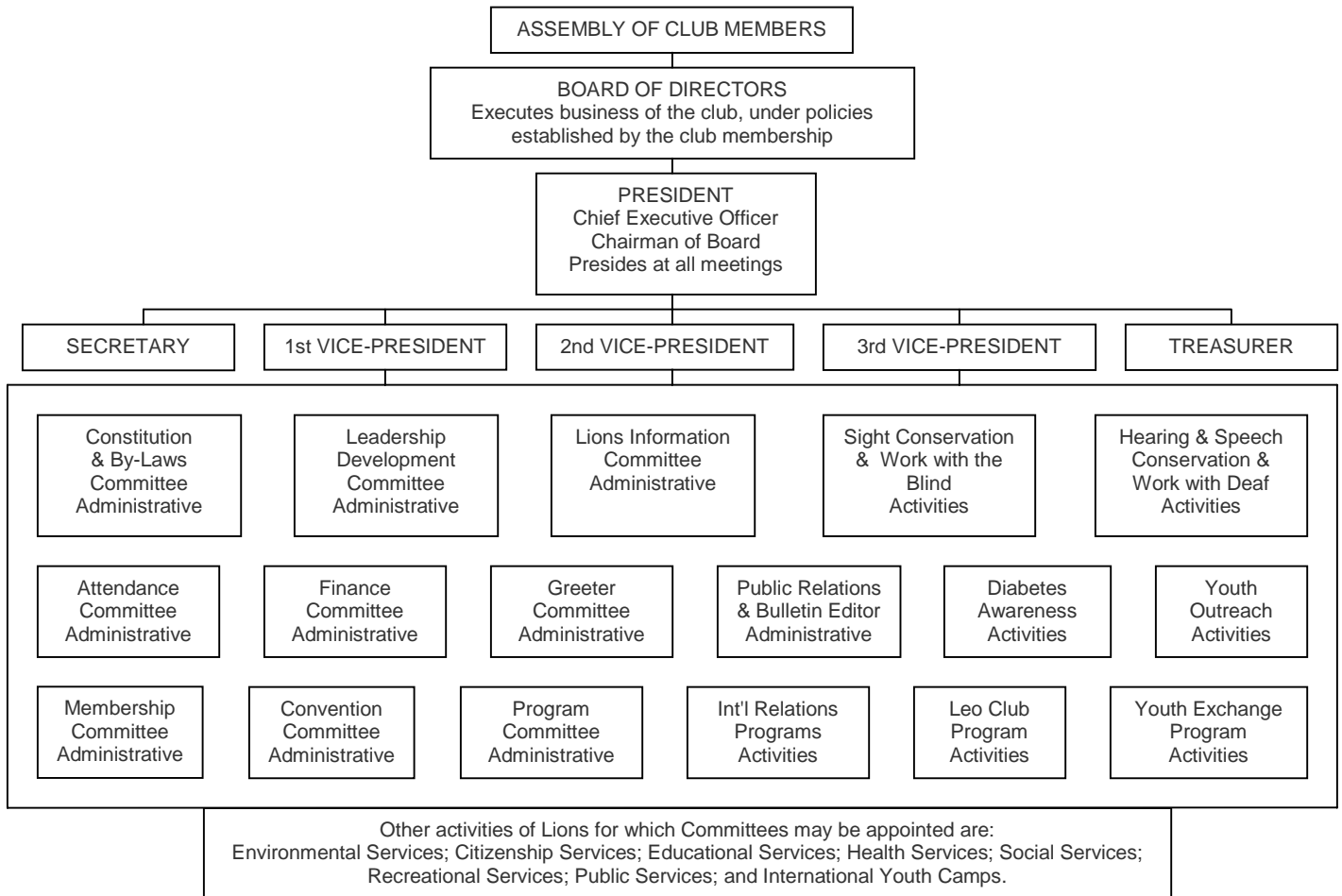
At a Glance:

Club Officers and Directors

The club's board of directors is composed of:

- Club President
- Immediate Past President
- Vice Presidents
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Lion Tamer
- Tail Twister
- Membership Director
- Elected Directors

CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES: There are several categories of membership, which are fully explained in the Lions Clubs Standard Form Constitution and By-laws. In brief they are:

- **Active:** A member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club implies.
- **Member-at-Large:** A member who has moved out of the community and is unable to regularly attend meetings and desires to retain membership in the club. This member cannot hold office or vote at conventions and must pay dues.
- **Honorary:** An honor bestowed by a club to an individual who is not a member of the Lions club, to recognize outstanding community service or service to the club.
- **Privileged:** A member who has been a Lion for 15 or more years, who because of illness, infirmities or advanced age or other legitimate reason, must relinquish his or her active status. A privileged member may vote, but may not hold office.
- **Life Member:** A member who has maintained active status for 20 or more, or for 15 years and is at least 70 years of age can be granted Life Membership. Life Members pay a one-time payment to the association in lieu of future dues. They have all the rights and privileges of membership.
- **Associate:** A member who holds his/her primary membership in another club, but maintains residence or is employed in the community of the club in which he/she attends. Associate members can vote on club matters, but may not serve as a club delegate at district, multiple-district or international conventions, and are not eligible to hold office.
- **Affiliate:** An individual who is currently unable to fully participate in the club, but wishes to support the club. He or she may not hold office and may not represent the club at district, multiple-district or international conventions, but may vote on club matters.

Members cannot simultaneously hold membership, other than Honorary or Associate, in more than one Lions club; and no person shall simultaneously hold membership, other than Honorary or Affiliate, in a Lions club or any other service club of like character.

ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS: Clubs should meet at least twice each month. All members are strongly encouraged to attend meetings regularly. Members who maintain perfect attendance during the fiscal year may be given an annual 100% perfect award. If a member misses a meeting, he or she has the opportunity to make up the meeting by attending a club board meeting, a region or zone meeting, the meeting of another club or a club committee meeting. The club secretary has complete details regarding your club's make-up policies.

GUESTS AT MEETINGS: Meals for guests at meetings are generally paid for by the Lion who extends the invitation, unless previously agreed upon by the club to absorb the expense, which frequently happens in the case of a speaker or a prospective new member. It is appropriate for a Lion member to introduce the guest at the time of the general introductions.

DUES: Each club assesses an entrance fee and annual dues. Lions clubs use their entrance fees and membership dues for administrative purposes and to pay international and district dues.

Preferably, dues should be collected from the individual member on a semi-annual basis. Dues statements should be mailed by clubs to their members on or near January 1st and July 1st each year.

The club annually pays to Lions Clubs International a "per capita and convention fund tax" for each member. The club is billed semi-annually on January 1st and July 1st.

CLUB BUDGETS: Clubs maintain two separate budgets: activities and administrative. The activities funds of a Lions club (consisting of funds raised from the public through club projects) may only be expended to satisfy a community or public need. The administrative budget is what finances club operations; its income comes mostly from club dues.

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A LION: Lions are men and women dedicated to serving those in need, whether in their own community or halfway around the world.

Membership in a Lions club provides people with the opportunity to meet and work with other individuals in a spirit of fellowship, striving toward the common goal of helping those in need. Through their mutual concern of others, members have the opportunity to improve both their local and world communities and develop valuable personal and professional skills.

New members are expected to give freely of their time and energy whenever possible. They are expected to attend club meetings, be available for committee assignments, be knowledgeable about the aims and objectives of Lions and to support club officers.

BENEFITS OF MEMBERSHIP: The benefits of Lions clubs membership are numerous and include:

- The unparalleled satisfaction of helping those in need.
- Making a difference in your community.
- Having an impact on those in need worldwide.
- Developing leadership skills.
- Enhancing communication skills.
- Utilizing planning and organization skills.
- Working hands-on to meet community needs.
- Meeting new people - from your community and abroad.
- Opportunities to network.
- Opportunities to travel.