

LION

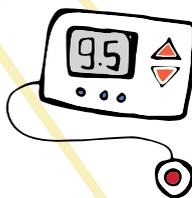
WINTER 2020 LIONMAGAZINE.ORG



Your Best

LION YEAR

EVER



AWESOME!



Lions Clubs International





Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

Helping Lions Serve their Local **-COMMUNITIES-**

Together, Lions and LCIF are changing the world one community at a time. To support *your* continued efforts, LCIF – *your* foundation – has created the District and Club Community Impact Grant (DCG).

Funding is provided to clubs and districts from their own contributions to LCIF. DCG offers an opportunity for Lions to support humanitarian activities in their community.



*LCIF is helping our community ...
The DCG funded communication
devices that will be placed in the
firehouse and fire trucks, which
could be a matter of life
and death.*

- Club President Dammann



Expand your service and help make an even greater impact
IN YOUR COMMUNITY TODAY!



Visit lionsclubs.org/community to learn more.

*The DCG program requires a US\$5,000 minimum donation for clubs
and a US\$10,000 minimum donation for districts.*

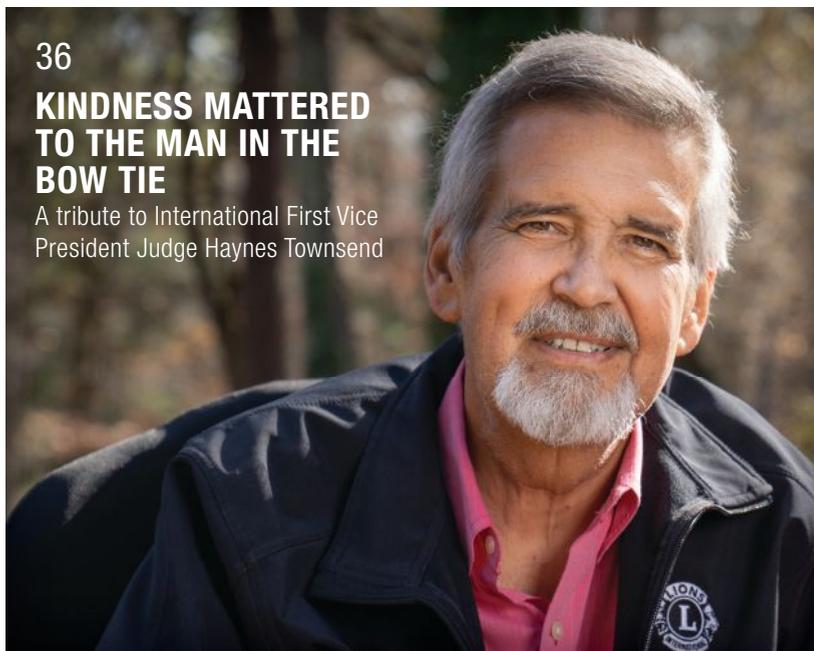
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📷 PHOTO BY IVAN DITSCHNER

COVER ILLUSTRATION BY SUNYA HINTZ.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING
Jackson Hole, Wyoming, USA
October 9-12, 2019

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS COMMITTEE

1. Confirmed the decision of the majority of the conciliators in the district dispute resolution complaint filed by Al Rehab Lions Club, affirmed the international director endorsement of Past District Governor Ahmed Salem issued during the District 352 convention held in May 2019.
2. Declared that former member Byung-Gi Kim not be eligible for future membership in Lionism and that he not be recognized in the future as a Lion or as a past international director.
3. Revised the International Officer and Vice District Governor Election Complaints Procedure in Chapter XXV of the Board Policy Manual to clarify that elections for international third vice president and international director are elections for their district or multiple district endorsement and not for office.
4. Revised Chapter VI, Paragraph B.1. of the Board Policy Manual to make it consistent with previously adopted changes.
5. Drafted a resolution to be reported to the 2020 International Convention to amend Article II, Section 6 of the International By-Laws to reflect the current practice of voting over three days of convention.
6. Drafted a resolution to be reported to the 2020 International Convention to amend Article IX, Section 6(e) of the International By-Laws to remove voting rights from appointed district cabinet positions during special meetings to fill a vacancy for a district governor, and to require a 15 day notice be provided to all qualified attendees.
7. Drafted a resolution to be reported to the 2020 International Convention to amend Article XII, Section 2(a) of the International By-Laws to increase annual dues by \$3.00, effective July 1, 2021 and to allow for an annual adjustment for U.S. inflation to be applied to the previous year's semi-annual dues, effective July 1, 2022.

CONVENTION COMMITTEE

1. Established per diem allowances for appointed Credentials Committee members serving without other reimbursement, District Governors-elect and District Governors-elect Faculty and headquarters staff attending the 2020 Singapore convention.
2. Revised the 2020 Singapore Convention schedule.
3. Increased the hotel night reimbursement for District Governors-elect at convention.
4. Amended policy to eight (8) geographical areas where applicable.

DISTRICT AND CLUB SERVICE COMMITTEE

1. Recognized the Republic of Iraq as an undistricted country and appointed Past Zone Chairperson Amine Hacha to serve as Coordinating Lion for this country for the remaining months of this fiscal year.
2. Appointed International Director Rodolfo Espinal to serve as Coordinating Lion for the Republic of Haiti for the remaining months of this fiscal year.
3. Approved the redistricting proposal submitted by District 315-A2 (Bangladesh) to take place at the adjournment of the 2020 International Convention
4. Amended the District Governor Reimbursement Policy to allow the district governor to make multiple club visits as needed within the allocated budget.
5. Requested the Constitution and By-Laws committee draft an amendment to the International By-Laws to be voted on at the 2020 International Convention to remove voting rights from appointed district cabinet positions during special meetings to fill a vacancy for a district governor and to require a 15 day notice be provided to all qualified attendees
6. Amended the Standard District By-Laws to limit voting during special meetings called for the filling of a vacancy in the position of vice district governor to the district governor, remaining vice district governors, past district governors, past international directors and past international presidents and to require a 15 day notice of the meeting to these positions.

FINANCE AND HEADQUARTERS OPERATION COMMITTEE

1. Approved the fiscal year 2019-2020 1st Quarter Forecast, reflecting a deficit.

2. Requested the Constitution & By-Laws Committee draft an amendment to the International By-Laws to be voted on at the 2020 International Convention related to international dues.
3. Amended the Investment Policy Statement for the International Association of Lions Clubs 401(k).
4. Revised Chapter II of the Board Policy manual related to the conflict of interest policy for clarification.
5. Revised Chapter V of the Board Policy manual related to modified protective status of clubs to provide additional clarification.
6. Revised Chapter XI of the Board Policy manual to align with current association practices and associated housekeeping revisions.
7. Revised Chapter XXIII of the Board Policy manual to incorporate Africa as Constitutional Area VIII.
8. Revised the Executive Officer Travel and Expense Reimbursement Policy.
9. Revised the signature authorization level matrix of the purchasing policy.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Approved a proposal to finalize the annual institute schedule for 2020-2021 four months earlier than the previous year so that the institute schedule can be released by April 2020 and institute applications by May 1, 2020.
2. Confirmed the phased launch of the new Learn application within the LCI digital ecosystem, which includes the new GAT-GLT reporting tool and the Lions Learning Center, with the goal for the application to be available to all Lions/Leos members in January 2020.
3. Approved a proposal for future curriculum revisions to the leadership development pathway for all leadership levels over the next four years.

LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. The committee learned that a staff team has been created to begin the discovery phase on the role of the district governor project.
2. The committee reviewed a draft charter for the LCI Forward Project Team and appointed members to the team.
3. Adopted a resolution that the Ad Hoc Committee on Board Representation, which was previously approved for the 2019-2020 fiscal year, be revoked and that a new Ad Hoc Committee on Board Representation not be further considered until 2023-2024.

MARKETING COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

1. Revised Chapter XIX, Paragraph A, B, C, and D. of the Board Policy Manual to update deprecated language and clarify Marketing Division priorities. In general, updates made to this chapter reflect the move to deliver more media and content through digital means.
2. Revised Chapter XIX, Paragraph F. of the Board Policy Manual to increase the number of Presidential and Leadership awards for recognition relating to Campaign 100. The number of Presidential Medals will increase by 200 (for a total of 1825) and Leadership Medals will increase by 200 (for a total of 1980) for Lions' years 2019-2020 and 2020-2021. After year 2020-2021, the number of Leadership Medals and Presidential Medals will automatically revert to the previously available amounts.
3. Revised Chapter XIX, Official Protocol, of the Board Policy Manual to be amended to clarify the description in the opening paragraph. The change replaces the word "precedent" with the word "precedence".
4. Revised language related to LION magazine to allow meetings of the LION international editors to be set at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief. As a result, Chapter II, Paragraph J.1.c.(7) of the Board Policy Manual was amended by deleting the phrase "every year" and replacing it with the phrase "when the Editor-in-Chief of LION Magazine determines it is needed".
5. Approved PR Grants for Multiple District 3231, Multiple District J, Multiple District LD, Multiple District H, Multiple District 103, Single District 50.

6. Adjusted PR Grants criteria to allow for applications from sub-districts, provisional zones and regions—in addition to multiple districts and single districts—in the future. Official changes will be made to application forms for the 2020-2021 Lions' year. Provisional granting of applications will be entertained in the 2019-2020 year as received and approved by the Marketing Communications Committee.
7. Discussed the exploration of sponsorship opportunities as part of Convention Committee and Marketing Communication Committee conversations. Discussed exploration and development of prospectus as part of the initiative, with the goal to report back to the committees at the next board meeting.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. Extended the maximum age of the Leo-Lion membership type and allow its associated benefits from age 30 to age 35 and amended provisions in the board policy manual mentioning the maximum age of Leo-Lions to age 35.
2. Approved the proposal from Multiple District 104 to create the Lions Club of Norway, a special virtual club, for a pilot program to be evaluated at the October/November 2022 board meeting.
3. Approved eight (8) Lions and eight (8) Leos as part of the Leo Clubs Advisory Panel for July 2020-June 2022 term, along with seven (7) alternate Lions and eight (8) alternate Leos.
4. Amended the criteria for Specialty Club Coordinators to claim reimbursement until the pilot program's end in June 2020. Previously, the criteria was to charter three specialty clubs AND recruit 100 new members for a maximum up to US\$2,000. The new criteria includes reimbursement of a maximum up to US\$1,000 for chartering two new specialty clubs.
5. Required the approval of a District Governor when adding more than 30+ new members at a time in an existing club.
6. Modified language in Chapter XXIV to reflect a change to GAT multiple district coordinator terms from a three-year to a one-year term effective July 1, 2020.

SERVICE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE

1. Approved a new logo and brand identity for Lions Clubs International's Strides diabetes awareness program.
2. Revised Chapter XIII, Paragraph D.4. of the Board Policy Manual in order to better align it with LCI's current international relations practices.
3. Discussed the importance of club service reporting, and plans to increase it in the coming year.
4. Reviewed plans to celebrate World Diabetes Day by screening 1 million people for type 2 diabetes, in partnership with the International Diabetes Federation.
5. Received an update on many current and anticipated programs, including type 2 diabetes screening, diabetes mini grants, strides, diabetes camps and support groups, and Lions Eye Banks.

TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

1. GDPR was discussed at length and the committee recognized the continued importance of member privacy.
2. The committee received an update on existing products and roadmaps and met with the Convention, District and Club Service, Leadership Development, Marketing Communications, Membership Development, and Service Activities Committees.
3. The committee reviewed uses of technology - especially in the area of natural language processing and machine learning.
4. The committee received a strategic update on eCommerce and approved a proposed approach moving forward.

For more information on any of the above resolutions, please refer to the LCI Web site at www.lionsclubs.org or contact the International Office at 630-571-5466.

We're Different, We're the Same

Greetings, Lions.

We talk a lot about serving our community as Lions. Service is best when it is personal and close to home, and when it enriches our relationship with our neighbors.

But now, as the world becomes smaller, the space between our communities grows smaller, too. Sometimes we focus on how different another culture is. How their food is flavored, how they dress, how they celebrate, how they mourn.

But while the diversity of cultures across the world is truly astounding, what I've learned from my years as a Lion is how much we are all the same. We all want the same things. We want to have safe, warm homes. We want to feed and clothe our families, and have good schools for our children. We want healthcare when we're sick. And at some point, all of us need a helping hand of some kind.

This is why I say we need to be ready to look at our global community to see if there is work to be done. Unfortunately, there are areas with great need that do not have Lions clubs. Or, if they do have clubs, the clubs do not have the resources required to address the great need. This is where Lions can truly make a difference. We can stand together and reach out to our neighbor countries, our neighbor continents, our brothers and sisters on other sides of the world, to give help where it's needed most.

Lions in Korea have partnered with Lions in Japan to build schools in needy areas of Nairobi. Scandinavian and European Lions have banded together to provide aid to refugees in Turkey. These communities of Lions, and many more like them, have looked beyond their borders to see how they can serve.

When we treat the world as one global community, the differences between us seem less important than what makes us the same. We are different, and we are also the same.

Sincerely,

Jung-Yul Choi

Dr. Jung-Yul Choi
International President, Lions Clubs International



We Serve.

Lights, Camera, Action Heroes!

Children fighting cancer in Germany show off their inner superheroes thanks to Braunschweig Lions Club. See story on page 10.



PHOTOS BY HANNO KEPPEL / IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY





(Left to right) Canadian Member of Parliament (MP) Ramez Ayoub, New Voices Coordinator Liliane Farhat, PDG Nicole LePage, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, MP Linda Lapointe, and Madame Sophie Grégoire Trudeau pose with the Prime Minister's new Lions Clubs Peace plaque.

Lions Clubs Now Prominently Featured in Trudeau Family Home and Prime Minister Office

When Sophie Grégoire Trudeau, wife of the Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, spoke at the Lions of Canada New Voices Symposium in Ottawa in May of 2019, Lions had expected the prime minister to attend as well. He was unable to make it and therefore unable to receive the Peace Plaque the Lions had prepared to present to him. Lions presented Madame Trudeau with one of her own as a thank you for speaking at their symposium.

However, the Lions had a second chance when, in October, the prime minister and his wife visited Sainte-Thérèse, where PDG and New Voices Leader Nicole LePage lives. The member of parliament representing her district arranged for LePage to present the plaque to Trudeau, who was surprised when he saw it. He said there was one just like it already hanging in their foyer at their home.

"I said, 'that was for your wife. This one is for you,'" says LePage. The prime minister then said he would be very happy to hang it in his prime minister office.

"Madame Trudeau was very impressed with Lions and deeply touched with our peace poster program," says LePage.

Lions Recognized as Partners with Mobility Worldwide in Serving the World's Leg-Disabled

Lions Clubs International was recognized for its role as a major distribution partner by Mobility Worldwide in serving the needs of the leg-handicapped of the world as the organization celebrated its 25th Anniversary at its annual meeting in Austin, Texas, September 26-28, 2019.

Founded in 1994, Mobility Worldwide (formerly known as the Pet Project) has built and distributed 80,000 sturdy, hand-cranked, three-wheeled carts (built to industrial specifications) for those who lack mobility due to landmine injury, birth defects, amputation, polio, and other causes. These 80,000 carts have been built and delivered free to those in need in 104 countries.

Lions have served as a major distribution partner since 2009, delivering more than 4,000 carts in Africa, India, Southeast Asia, and Central America. Lion volunteers are very active in the work of Mobility Worldwide in Texas, Maine, and Alaska. Texas Lions are major financial supporters and volunteer their service for affiliates in San Antonio, Austin, and College Station.

The mobility carts have been a fixture in the great parade of nations at the Lions International Conventions since 2006.



Mobility carts can give an entire family a leg up.

IN THE NEWS

OVERHEARD

“The look on the neighboring Lions club members’ faces when they realized this snowmobile was the one from their pond was priceless.”

— **Willie Brown**, of the Russell and Area Lions Club in Manitoba, Canada, on how they acquired goods for their fundraising auction. See story page 14.

“This is the key age as I see it. You need to spend time with your young kids, and Lions offers a bit of direction. It’s an opportunity to show your kids, right in front of their face, the value of community and volunteering.”

— **Jay McHugh** of the Carleton Place Lions in Ontario, Canada, on volunteering at age 40. See story page 26.

“I’m not the first [transgender president], I think I’m just the loudest one.”

— **Roberta “Bobbie” Jo Mendez**, president of the Visalia Pride Lions Club in California. See story page 30.

BY THE NUMBERS

300

Weight in pounds of the 6-foot friendship arches made by the Thorndale Lions in Ontario, Canada

396

Gallons of pill bottles collected by Lions in District 11-B2 and donated to a ministry in Ohio

1.5

Millions of dollars the Granville Lions have donated to the community since chartering in 1960 – mostly thanks to a brisk furniture resale business

20,240

Ink jet cartridges recycled by Lions, Leos, and Protestant and Catholic congregations in Alaska to raise funds for mobility carts

USA

A Heartfelt Gift to Families in Need

In the summer of 2019, the doors to Heartfelt House opened in Springfield, Oregon, offering affordable lodging to out-of-town families of patients at the newly constructed PeaceHealth Sacred Heart Medical Center at RiverBend.

Among the more than 600 donors who contributed from US\$10 to US\$1 million are Lions. More than 20 Lions clubs in Oregon, along with LCIF, contributed US\$220,000 to the Heartfelt House, and Lion Ed Gear – who reached out to clubs throughout southern and coastal Oregon – says he did not have to work hard to get Lion support.

“They just immediately started contributing and very much wanted to be a part of it,” says Gear.

This is the second time Lions have come forward to support families of hospital patients in Oregon. In the late 1990s, the Eugene Downtown Lions Club spearheaded a fundraising campaign to provide a special guest house for the families of patients who had to stay for long periods of time at Sacred Heart PeaceHealth Hospital in downtown Eugene. A group of Oregon Lions clubs, with the help of US\$75,000 from LCIF, raised more than US\$280,000 to help establish the Children’s Miracle Network-Lions Patient Family Guesthouse.

But the house that was renovated with those funds was built in the 1920s, so upkeep was an ongoing issue, and the downtown hospital had no room to expand as needed. The Sacred Heart PeaceHealth Medical Center at Riverbend in nearby Springfield was planned. The Sacred Heart Medical Center Foundation, with the aid of the local Lions, began the US\$6 million capital campaign to construct this new house adjacent to the hospital complex. And the Eugene Downtown Lions led an effort that raised money from Lions clubs and individual Lions to match a US\$100,000 grant from LCIF.

Groundbreaking took place in April of 2018, and the new home opened in September.

The guesthouse has a 10-room pediatric wing to house families of pediatric patients and babies in the Neo-Natal Intensive Care Unit, and a 10-room adult wing. It is a collaboration between PeaceHealth and Ronald McDonald House Charities, and guests pay nothing to a modest fee, depending on their circumstances, but no one will be turned away because of inability to pay.

“A guesthouse lessens the financial burden of being away from home,” says Gear. “Even more important, it can help ease the anxiety when a loved one needs hospital care. So much can’t be controlled when a family member is in the hospital. This part is in our control. We can help provide a warm bed, a kitchen, and a place to let down.”



Families of hospital patients in Springfield, Oregon, find affordable housing and the feel of home at the new Heartfelt House, thanks to Oregon Lions and LCIF.



GERMANY

SUPER

LIONS TURN SICK CHILDREN INTO
THEIR FAVORITE SUPERHEROES

KIDS



Lions in Germany believe life should have as many magical moments as possible. Those moments can help keep courage up and hope alive in difficult times.

And that's exactly what the Braunschweig Lions Club wanted to do for a total of nine children at the Braunschweig Pediatric Cancer ward (K5). They launched the project "Our Superheroes" based on an idea by the Italian photographer and visual artist Josh Rossi.

Rossi and his wife partnered with a costume designer to create movie-accurate Justice League costumes for children with diseases or disabilities. Their alter-egos were specifically chosen to highlight each child's unique ability.

"The idea was to showcase their inner strength in a way that would bring a smile to their faces as well as others struggling with similar issues," says Rossi.

"The video [about the project] impressed me so much that it was clear to me that we had to implement the action in Braunschweig," says Lion Michael Schwarze.





They hired a photographer, videographer, and makeup artist, and scheduled a full day to transform each child into their favorite superhero. Once photographed, the images were edited, special effects added, and the results printed on 60-by-90 centimeter canvases.

The canvases were presented to seven of the nine children at a special ceremony, after which Lions surprised the crowd with an appearance by the Braunschweig Fire Department.

"If so many superheroes are present, then the fire brigade cannot be missing," said Braunschweig

Lions Daniel Steinke and Detlef Ohlms.

The Lions then invited the superheroes and their families, treating physicians, and everyone involved in the project to take a ride in a private plane for a sightseeing flight over Braunschweig.

"I cannot express my gratitude," says Schwarze. "Everybody was heartfelt and gave everything to give the children a magical moment."

📷 PHOTOS BY HANNO KEPPEL / IMAGE PHOTOGRAPHY



USA

Connecting the Dots

In Tennessee, a Norris Lions service project to make the walk to school a little nicer for elementary students turned into a joint project with the children and a celebration of art.

It all began with the Norris Lions' project to spruce up a tunnel in the town that connects the elementary school to the commons area. Many students use the tunnel to walk home after school, but the interior paint was peeling, and it needed cleaning.

Lions offered to clean and paint the tunnel as a service to the city. Lions Robert Ulino and Mike Robinson organized club members to power wash the inside. That led to the suggestion that a mural be painted inside the tunnel with an artist rendition approved by the city.

With the help of artist Lion Murrie Grazer, the ceiling of the tunnel soon became a blue sky with puffy white clouds. His plan for the rest of the mural showed the mountains of East Tennessee where they live.

Elementary art teacher Alison Greenhouse suggested they involve the students as a way to celebrate International Dot Day.

International Dot Day was inspired by a children's story, "The Dot," by Peter H. Reynolds. It tells of a young girl who was sure that she had no artistic ability until her teacher convinced her to make her mark by just dipping a finger in paint and making a dot on a piece of paper. When the girl came to school the next day she found that her picture was framed and hanging in the classroom. After that she had the confidence to create more art.

Greenhouse suggested the children could make their own colorful dots to be incorporated into the finished painting. The details of the mural could be done by the local middle and high school students under the direction of their art teachers.

So, on Friday, September 13th, a large group of volunteers came to direct the children in the project. Norris Lions set up containers of paint in various colors, as well as buckets of water for hand washing. Two hundred and forty students lined up to take turns making their dots and then signed an album to be displayed at their school. The album includes not only photos of the event, but also the name and dot of each student who participated.



The Norris Lions in Tennessee worked with students and teachers to clean up and paint a tunnel that connects the elementary school with the commons area, combining community service and art in celebration of International Dot Day.



FINLAND

Play Together, Stay Together

Juurikkalahden Kiri (JUKI), the largest youth soccer club in Sotkamo, Finland, has joined with the Sotkamo Lions Club to organize a free weekly sports activity available to everyone – locals and tourists alike – to help families stay connected and increase physical fitness.

With so much competing for our attention these days, it can be hard for families to find ways to be together that don't involve a screen. But research shows that families who keep active together not only improve their health, but also improve their bond.

Sport and exercise psychologist Jocelyn Penna told the *Sydney Morning Herald*, "Although downtime is important, many people spend far too much time

inactive, so when families exercise together, they gain the combined benefits of being together, growing together, and encouraging each other to be active."

Last year, more than 100 children, parents, and grandparents participated in the JUKI/Lions program, which they called "A Lions Hour of Exercise with Your Child."

The activity is designed for everyone, regardless of their ability or previous experience with organized sports. Most importantly, the collaboration makes it possible

for all families to participate regardless of their ability to pay.

As an added bonus, families are finding new connections in the area and tourists get to know local families.

In 2018, the JUKI soccer club was awarded the annual "Sports Award of the Year" for promoting both outdoor and indoor soccer in the area for several years with outstanding results.

JUKI is coed and has been growing every year. The club pays special attention to getting girls involved in soccer, and the partnership with Lions was acknowledged as "a remarkable example of keeping children active and engaged."

Your Best

LION YEAR

EVER

By Erin Kasdin

2020 - 2021



Being a Lion isn't *only* about serving;
it's also about having fun. ~

With new clubs popping up, and old clubs taking
a new look at how they Lion, there are all kinds of
ways to design a fun and productive year of service.

Here's your guide to your best Lion year ever.



2020

June



JUNE 26-30

Hob nob with Lions from all over the world

Singapore hosts the 103rd International Convention, which is the kickoff to the 2020-2021 Lion year. What better excuse to visit this exquisitely clean and modern city.



TIP:

Don't litter in Singapore

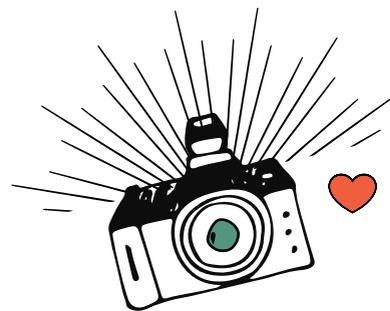
You could be put to work cleaning up the streets as punishment. Then again, that sounds like something Lions like to do anyway...

July



Install your new officers

A new international president has taken the torch and your club has its own new leadership. Get the year going on the right foot with a warm welcome to the new recruits.



The Bellefonte Lions from District 22-D in Delaware have a tradition of capturing the exact moment new officers are sworn in with a candid photo. Says Zone Chair Daniel Elkins, *"They are so excited to take on their new roles that they want to share the moment with the world."*

August

Stay active

Some clubs go “dark” during the summer months, when members are traveling or busy with kids home from school. However, other clubs see service activities as a way to keep members interested.

“We work year-round,” says Anthony Colleluori, from the Jericho-Brookville Lions in New York.. “We try to keep our schedules full so that one can jump right in. It’s also a great way to train new members. They get put right to work!”

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY:

Set up shop at the fair

Sell hot dogs and corn at local fairs to raise funds for the coming year. Or, change things up and host a fruit and vegetable stand with produce sourced locally. Use the opportunity to encourage people to eat healthily and give away recipe cards that feature the produce you’re selling.



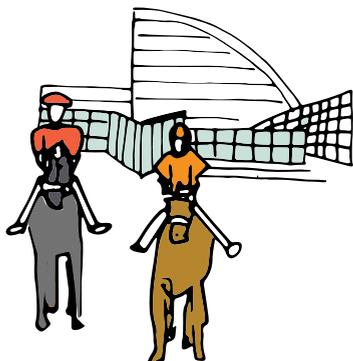
September



SEPTEMBER 17-19

Pack your bags for the USA/Canada Leadership Forum

Louisville, Kentucky, will host this year’s forum, where you can expect to find everything you need to hone your skills as a leader, while meeting some fellow Lions along the way.



SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

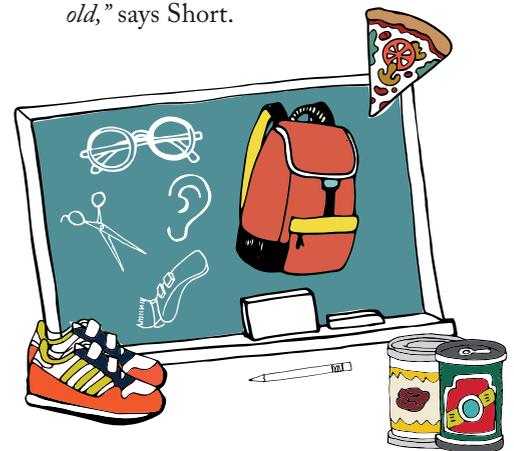
Back-to-School Bash

Help kids get ready to go back to school.

“Teaming your club with your local school is a proven winner for service,” says PDG Charles Short, of the Lafayette Lions in Indiana, who partnered with their local county to participate in “Backpack Splash,” an event for at-risk kids.

Backpacks, shoes, pizza, immunizations, hearing screens, day care signups, haircuts, canned goods, family pictures, and Lions vision screenings were offered.

Families lined up beginning at 9 a.m. for the event, which began at 1 p.m. Lions screened more than 200 kids in three hours. *“The fact that entire families were present with many preschool kids made it an ideal chance to screen kids as young as a year old,”* says Short.



2020

October

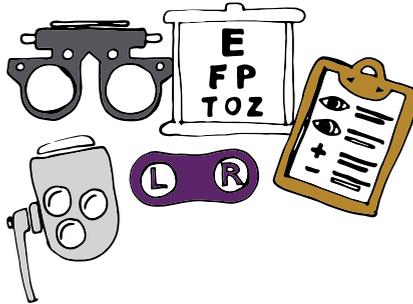
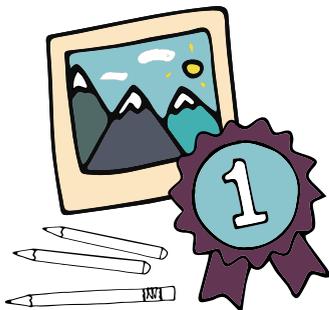
VISION AWARENESS MONTH

Get creative

October 1 is the deadline to purchase Peace Poster Contest kits from Club Supplies. *“The Peace Poster Contest is a great way to get your foot in the door with your local schools,”* says Richard Stevenson, president of the **South Tucson Cyber Lions** in Arizona.

Last year, and for the past 17 years, **Lions in District 307 A2**, Indonesia, have sponsored an all-day, all-out drawing fest at a local mall.

“First thing is, we make it about promoting Lions, not just a social activity,” says Past Council Chair Eveline Chandra. *“Second thing is that these posters are original from the kids. No one can go inside the poster-making area,”* she says. The students draw for five to six hours, with a 30-minute break for lunch. Other clubs in the region host similar events and, so far, they’ve had 12 merit winners, which they display in the same mall they were created in.



OCTOBER 10

World Sight Day

Take a cue from the **Arima Santa Rosa Lions** in Trinidad and don’t just schedule a vision screening for Vision Awareness Month. Partner with another club and train your members so you can be armed and ready to screen all year long.



OCTOBER 15

White Cane Safety Day

Arrange for a person who is blind to demonstrate the use of the white cane and its benefits with the community or your club.

FUNDRAISING IDEA:

Capitalize on the pumpkin craze

If you’re in the U.S., it’s all about pumpkins this month. From lattes to donuts to, yes, pumpkin-flavored butter.

Ely Lions in Nevada capitalize on the craze with their **Annual Pumpkin Chunkin** event, where members of the community can put their pumpkin-throwing skills to the test. Included in the contest is a special mascot’s division, where school or team mascots try out their throwing arms. It’s their biggest fundraiser of the year and a great way to get the Lion name out in the community.



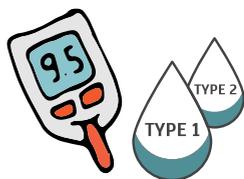
November

DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

NOVEMBER 14

World Diabetes Day

Be like the **Amman Ayla Lions Club** in Amman, Jordan, and light up historical sights and other landmarks in your community blue, host two diabetes screenings, give public educational seminars about nutrition, and raise money to buy insulin for children in need by selling insulin pens that have been recycled into writing utensils.



RECRUIT:

Chances are your club could use some fresh blood. One way to spread the word is by donning your Lions gear and volunteering at a non-Lions event. *"I can't even begin to count how many recruits my club has gotten by us being willing to go out and show other people what it means to be a Lion,"* says Zone Chair Daniel Elkins, of the **Bellafonte Lions** in Delaware.

Download recruitment materials from LIONSCLUBS.ORG and have them on hand everywhere you go.



NOVEMBER 15

Tax forms due!

This is how you keep your tax-exempt status, so don't forget to file.

December

DECEMBER 5

International Leo Day

Grab your local Leos and plan a joint service event. No Leos in your area? Sponsor a club! Go to the local high school and make your pitch.

Chandler Lions Club President and former Miss Arizona Isabel Ticlo believes in establishing one-on-one Leo-to-Lion connections as a way to get kids serving and keep them coming back as adults. How does she know this works? She was a Leo in high school. *"It was like hanging out with friends for a good cause,"* she says.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

Get crafty

Many clubs plan meals and food drives around the winter holidays, but sometimes what parents really need is something to do with their children when school is out. The **Sandwell Lions** in England host craft sessions for kids at their local library. *"You don't have to be crafty,"* says Sandwell Lion Melissa Murphy. *"You can get instructions easily off the internet,"* she says. Having the pictures of the final project stimulates ideas and gets them going. It's *"really easy stuff,"* she says, but it's also the kind of project that's perfect for a small club looking for a meaningful way to give back.



2021

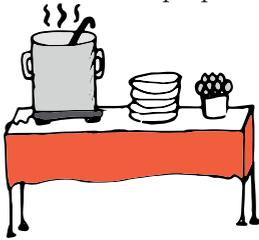
January

HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

Stage a pop-up soup kitchen

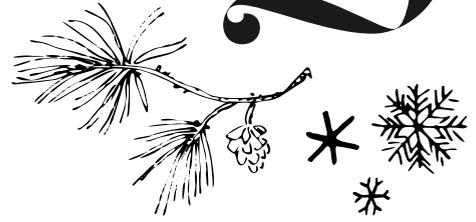
You may have sworn off sweets and carbohydrates from holiday overindulgence, but many people in the world are still going hungry. Resist the urge to hit the service snooze button through January and find some hungry folks to feed. Grab 10 gallons of soup and a fold out table and head to an area where you know there are people in need.



JANUARY 13

Melvin Jones' Birthday

Happy Birthday to the man who started it all! **Melvin Jones** didn't just start a service club, he sparked a movement driven by kindness.



February

CHILDHOOD CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

Go bald for a good cause

Have anyone in your club who could use a good haircut or a close shave? It's childhood cancer awareness month, so partner with an organization like **Saint Baldrick's Foundation**, which raises funds for important research by shaving heads and faces.

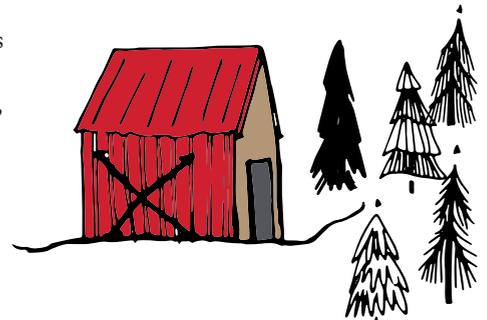


FUNDRAISING IDEA:

Sinking Shack

Live somewhere cold? Use it to your advantage. The **Cadillac Lions in Michigan** use the unpredictable Midwestern winters to stage their Sinking Shack fundraiser. They train a video camera on their club's ice shack and take bets on when the Xs, painted on the shack's side, will slip below the surface of the thawing Lake Cadillac.

The club nets about US\$1,500 to US\$1,800 after prizes have been handed out. *"But the PR is worth way more than we take in,"* says Past District Governor Tim Anderson. The club even got some new members from the event.



March

MARCH 7

Take your seat at the world table

Join Lions in New York at the **41st Annual Lions Day with the United Nations** and be part of the global conversation about this year's theme, "Protecting our Future: The Health of our Children."



MARCH 8

Celebrate women

This **International Women's Day** the focus is "Each for Equal." Take a moment to recognize all the achievements of women and help advocate for a more gender-equal world.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

Help girls stay in school

Give sanitary products to girls in need. In August of 2018, Always™ – a popular brand of feminine hygiene products – released data that showed one out of every five girls in the United States misses school during their period. Missed days can lead students to falling behind and eventually dropping out.



April



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

Team up and clean up

Hold a beach cleanup and take bets on who can collect the most debris. In 2014, Lions cleaned up a beach off **Tioman Island in Malaysia**, and among the garbage was more than two pounds (nearly 1 kilogram) of cigarette butts! Caring for the environment together is a great way to bring people together and showcase the good work Lions do.

APRIL 22

Earth Day

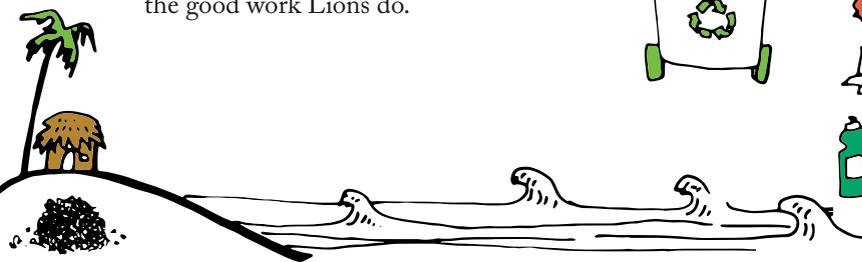
Get the community out to join you in a cleanup event.



APRIL 25

Lions Worldwide Induction Day

All those Lions you've been working hard to recruit? It's time to formally welcome them into your club. *"In Puerto Rico, induction of a member tends to be a formal event. We want to make it special,"* says International Director Jose Marrero. *"We have their sponsors take an oath beside them as mentors of the new Lion. At the end we give the member a salute of three long roars then three short, fast roars."* This is also a great time to launch a membership campaign if you don't have one already.



2021

May

STRENGTHEN MEMBERSHIP MONTH

Check in on your Lions



Call up those members you haven't seen in a while and give them some reasons to come back. *"Don't be afraid to ask members how they feel about their role in Lions,"* says PDG Diane Smith, of the **Woolwich Community Lions**, in Ontario.

"We used to have a Lion who called everyone the night before our meeting," says Jo Ochoa of the **Danville Lions, in California.** *"Those on the fence generally came. And they knew they'd be missed if they didn't."*

Get your club finances in order

Consider an internal audit so the incoming treasurer can start with a neat and tidy treasury.

RECRUIT:

Take recruiting to the grassroots level and start trolling your neighborhood for potential members. When Ivan Hardman, of the **Riverside Lions in Manitoba**, first joined Lions they would get new members by cruising the neighborhood in pairs with some cold beverages. *"When we saw someone mowing his lawn we would stop, and while one took over the lawn mowing, the other would share a beer and interest the person about the club and extract a promise to attend,"* he says. Modernize this by bringing non-alcoholic drinks and stop for anyone who looks like they might need a hand.



Get rid of the popular table

Strengthening membership doesn't only mean adding new members, but also keeping the ones you have happy. PDG Mercy Walters from the **San Diego Forever Lions Club** says, *"We treat members like family."* She remembers one meeting at her club when she noted three new members sitting by themselves. She called out her members for being cliquy and ever since they've rotated seating at their monthly meetings to ensure everyone has a sense of belonging.



June

JUNE 1

Helen Keller Day

You could say she made us who we are. At the **1925 International Convention**, Keller asked Lions to become **Knights of the Blind**. Ever since, Lions have made vision their primary mission.



JUNE 1

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY:

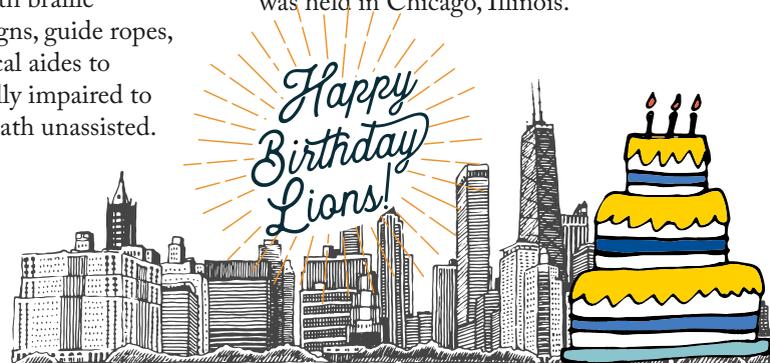
Make nature accessible

Honor Helen Keller and turn a local nature path into a braille trail, with braille informational signs, guide ropes, and other physical aides to enable the visually impaired to experience the path unassisted.

JUNE 7

Lions Clubs International Birthday

On this day in 1917, the first Lions club organizational meeting was held in Chicago, Illinois.



PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISER

The perfect dinner for introverts

The **Layfayette Lions Club in Indiana** has figured out a way to leverage their community's hermits. The "no-show" event is an agreement between the club and the community that they will NOT hold a fish fry. All you have to do is purchase a ticket to agree NOT to attend. *"For a \$40 donation, they can enjoy the peace and quiet of home cooking and we get to provide all the fun and services we do,"* says PDG Charles Short. *"If they send us \$40, we send them a 50-cent fish key chain. It's a real bragging rights item!"*

Um, I think that's called stealing...

Hold on to your valuables if there's a **Russell and Area Lion from Manitoba** loitering in the vicinity. One year, the Russell and Area Lions "acquired" items from each other without their knowledge. One member's barbecue, one member's favorite sports team jacket, one family's strollers for their kids, etc. Each member then had to buy their items back. They even "borrowed" a neighboring club's snowmobile for the event. It just so happened to be the snowmobile they used for their own spring fundraiser.

"The look on the neighboring Lions club members faces when they realized this snowmobile was the one from their pond was priceless," says Lion Willie Brown. At the end of the night, everyone gets their items back, but only after forking over some money. *"Lots of laughs, a bit of money to a good cause...oh, did I tell you we have fun in Lions?"* says Brown.

You've goat to be kidding me

The **Ubly Lions** in Ubly, Michigan, really know how to get each other's goat. Their annual wine and cheese event had *"fizzled out a bit,"* says International Director and Ubly Lion Justin Faber. They were discussing alternatives when 80-year-old Lion Lola suggested a goat raffle. One dollar bought one ticket, or six tickets for \$5. But who would want to win a goat, the other members asked. *"No one!"* she said cheerfully. *"That's why you put someone else's name on it!"* The club added an extra twist. For \$5 you can purchase goat insurance, which will get you out of having to take the goat if your name is drawn, but it only works for one ticket. *"I do caution you that you can't just toss a goat in someone's yard like you could 40 years ago,"* says Faber. Good to note.

BE SEEN

Good marketing and public relations helps foster community support and can even bring in new members.

1. Actively promote your club and its programs using the Marketing and Communications Chairperson Guide here: LIONSCLUBS.ORG/MARKETING.
2. Pool your old copies of LION Magazine and deliver them to local doctors' offices, libraries, and hospital waiting rooms. You never know who might pick one up and decide to join. And there's nothing like new members to cap off your best Lion year ever. 🐐

Best Lion Year Ever!

CHEAT SHEET

Your quick guide to everything you need for an excellent year of service.
Tear this out and bring it with you to meetings to help spark ideas.

2020

June

JUNE 26-30

103rd International Convention
in Singapore

July

Install your new officers.

August

Stay active.

Host a vegetable stand at your local festival.

September

SEPTEMBER 17-19

USA/Canada Leadership Forum

October

 VISION AWARENESS MONTH

OCTOBER 1

Deadline to Order
Peace Poster Contest Kits

OCTOBER 10

World Sight Day

OCTOBER 15

White Cane Safety Day

November

 DIABETES AWARENESS MONTH

NOVEMBER 14

World Diabetes Day

NOVEMBER 15

Tax forms due!

December

DECEMBER 5

International Leo Day

Jot down any ideas for your club here:

2021

January



HUNGER AWARENESS MONTH

JANUARY 13

Melvin Jones' Birthday

February



Childhood Cancer Awareness Month

March

MARCH 7

Lions Day at the United Nations (LDUN)

MARCH 8

International Women's Day

April



ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS MONTH

APRIL 22

Earth Day

APRIL 25

Lions Worldwide Induction Day

May

STRENGTHEN MEMBERSHIP MONTH

June

JUNE 1

Helen Keller Day

JUNE 7

Lions Clubs International Birthday

Gear up for next year!

Start planning for an even better year in 2021-2022.

Check out

[HTTPS://WWW.LIONSCLUBS.ORG/EN/RESOURCES](https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources)
for a full list of important dates
and other great resources.

THIS OLD HOUSE



When this young couple's dream home wasn't safe for their son, Lions stepped in – and brought their tool belts.

By Joan Cary



Peter McHugh, 7, couldn't return home for a year after being diagnosed with cancer just before he turned 3.

Jay and Veronika McHugh had hundreds of people living around them but knew none of them. Their busy city life in Ottawa, Ontario, left them longing for a tighter knit community where they could own a home, raise a family, and know their neighbors.

With “sheer ignorant ambition,” says Jay, they decided to buy and renovate a 150-year-old log farmhouse in a quiet country town called Carleton Place.

It was there where they eventually found their community. But it was Lions, part of an organization Jay knew only vaguely about, who opened their arms and helped them find it.

PRIORITIES

Two years after the McHughs moved into the house, they welcomed their first child, Peter. Jay stripped and re-chinked the outside, redid Peter’s bedroom, and was knee deep in building a new bathroom. The place was a mess, but they were making progress toward their dream.

Then, priorities took a quick turn.

In July of 2015, just shy of his third birthday, Peter was diagnosed with Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL). To make matters worse, with all the dust and exposed-log walls, their house was not livable for someone with his condition.

The McHughs were accepted into the Ottawa Ronald McDonald House near the Children’s Hospital of Eastern Ontario where Peter was receiving chemotherapy. Jay quit his sales job to spend the days at the hospital with Peter while Veronika, a nurse, was working. On Fridays, he packed his bag and drove an hour home, where he played the role of a weekend warrior, bent on making the house livable, while Veronika stayed with their son.

For a year, she never went home.

They learned to live life one day at a time. The renovations were just too extensive for them to think too hard about when they might return home as a family.

THE KNOCK AT THE DOOR

But then in January of 2016, Carleton Place Lions Robert Anderson and Roger Wills knocked at the door.

“OK. We’ll help you get this going,” they said.

Staff at the Ronald McDonald House had reached out to the Lions, seeking help for the family. While many people and companies had heeded the call, none were more involved than the Carleton Place Lions, says Jay.

“I just remember after they came that night, I felt this great feeling. I was just looking to know my neighbors, and here they were offering to help me,” says Jay.



Peter McHugh plays in his room, renovated with the help of Lions.

Anderson, a truck driver who lives about 5 miles up the road, and Lion Norman Larche, a retired carpenter, devoted every weekend throughout the winter to working on the McHugh house.

“Well yeah, I guess the summer too,” says Anderson in retrospect. “It took longer than we thought, but that was OK because we just wanted to help and to do it right for them.”

About 15 Carleton Lions spent a weekend bringing the house down to bare bones and re-framing it. Two Lions re-did the electrical. Two others did the duct work. A local plumber donated his service.

“Before this, I only vaguely knew Lions as clubs that do volunteer work,” says Jay. He had no idea the extent to which they truly changed lives.

HOME COMING

On July 25, 2016, one year after their son’s diagnosis, the McHughs came home with Peter.

Jay asked the Lions how he could ever repay them. “Join the club,” Anderson recalls telling him. “Help somebody else.”

Jay officially joined Lions on Nov. 1, 2016, and is now the club secretary. While in the throes of it all, he had never taken time for a haircut. He couldn’t be bothered. But in April, at a Lions district convention in Cornwall, he shaved his head, donating his long hair to Hair Donations Ottawa, and raising more than CA\$4,500 (US\$3,382) for the oncology department at the hospital.

“

I just remember after they came that night, I felt this great feeling. I was just looking to know my neighbors, and here they were offering to help me.

”



Lions Norm Larche, Rob Anderson and Jay McHugh. Larche and Anderson helped McHugh rebuild his family's home when his son became sick.

Peter is 7 now and doing well, his dad says. The McHugh family has grown to include Elizabeth, who is 1. And every first and third Thursday, they all know that Dad goes to his Lions club meeting.

Most of the Lions are older, as is the case with many clubs. Jay, who is 40, says he understands why young men say they are too busy with work and family activities to add Lions to their plate. But he also sees this as the time in his life to be involved in helping others.

“This is the key age as I see it,” he says. “You need to spend time with your young kids, and Lions offers a bit of direction. It’s an opportunity to show your kids, right in front of their face, the value of community and volunteering.

“We came here in search of a tighter community, and we were lucky. There’s strength in community. Lions don’t get recognized often, but they make everything happen. It’s because they make helping a priority.” **L**



The McHugh family: Peter, 7, Viktoria, Jay, and Elizabeth, 1.

Pride in the Valley

A black sheep leads the quest to make sure everyone is all right.

By Katya Cengel

Joyce Bergshoeff is a fast talker. Open and warm, the 48-year-old nurse and mother of three gushes the way proud mothers often do when describing their children. Growing up, her eldest child was “brilliant, very outgoing, a concert cellist.”

It is the present tense that is trickier.

Sometimes Bergshoeff forgets and uses “she” when talking about Elizabeth, who is transgender and prefers the pronoun “they.”

Now, she worries about how much stress her child is under. “She looks good on paper, but she feels like crap,” says Bergshoeff.

Elizabeth’s transition has been difficult for the entire family. Bergshoeff, who peppers her language with “dang” and “my goodness,” describes herself and her husband as “very conservative people.”

Before Elizabeth came out, Bergshoeff was often confused when she saw members of the transgender community depicted on television. “You’re like, ‘What is going on?’” she says.

She felt just as lost when Elizabeth came out three years ago. At first, when they joined the rainbow dorm at the University of California, Davis, Bergshoeff thought maybe they were gay.

“I don’t know,” she says, adding almost apologetically, “I didn’t know.”

Then she found out “it was a little more than that.”

She speaks rapidly, as if trying to hurry over the more painful parts. “So, they came out to us as transgender. Which was a huge surprise,” says Bergshoeff.

📷 PHOTOS BY IVAN DITSCHNEINER



The scare

The way Elizabeth came out was with a suicide attempt.

At the time, Bergshoeff says she had no idea why Elizabeth had tried to harm herself. All she was thinking about was trying to rescue her child, who was in a hospital in Davis, 230 miles north of Visalia, where Bergshoeff lives, in California's very conservative Central Valley.

Later, she learned that Elizabeth attempted suicide because they were scared their parents wouldn't want them.

Panicked and lost, Bergshoeff reached out to her best friend, Shelley Reese. It was Reese who introduced Bergshoeff to the Visalia Pride Lions Club. Reese's aunt, Diana Compo, and her aunt's wife, Cheri Provancha are both club members. The couple told Bergshoeff about The Source LGBT+ Center, a Visalia non-profit serving the LGBTQ community.

But after one visit, Elizabeth didn't feel like they fit in there.

A second adolescence

Roberta "Bobbie" Jo Mendez is a 63-year-old woman who lived the majority of her life as a man. She is now the president of the Visalia Pride Lions Club.

She's not exactly the type of person Bergshoeff expected to find in a Lions club.

"I thought it was just a bunch of old dudes getting together," says Bergshoeff. "But it's not. In this club anyway."

Mendez adds with a laugh, "We're still old." She punctuates most of her statements with laughter, especially those about herself. Bergshoeff calls her a kindred spirit. The two share the same open and warm attitude. They also both switch effortlessly between humor and pain. There is an understanding between them that comes from a shared experience. That experience is the transition. While it wasn't Bergshoeff herself who is transgender, when someone transitions, their family transitions as well, says Mendez.



Bobbie Mendez (right), President of Visalia Pride Lions Club, helped Joyce Bergshoeff (left) as her daughter, Elizabeth, transitioned to a new life in their hometown and with Lions.

Before coming out seven years ago and transitioning three years ago, Mendez was a husband and father. Her wife, Yolanda Lee Mendez, not only stayed with Mendez – they have been married 33 years – she also became a Lion two years ago. It’s hard to tell which accomplishment Mendez is more proud of.

While things are easier now, Mendez says transitioning was incredibly difficult, like a second adolescence.

“It’s very raw,” says Mendez. “You become 12 years old again because all your social norms just dropped, and you have to reevaluate everything that you do. How you are perceived. How you feel that you should be perceived.”

It is this phase that Elizabeth is still trying to work their way out of. Bergshoeff refers to all the back and forth – the trying out of different names, the constant questioning and uncertainty – as rubber banding. She talks about watching her eldest child, a former concert cellist who took calculus and linear algebra while still in high school, struggle to find a sense of belonging. The process has turned Bergshoeff upside down, she says, forcing her to undergo a “cultural shift” – a kind of transition of her own.

“I just ended up coming back.”

Mendez understands Bergshoeff’s struggle well. They both once belonged to the same Mormon religion, which considers acting on homosexual urges a sin (having them is not) and elective sex re-assignment surgery possible cause for discipline. Bergshoeff still belongs to the church. Mendez does not. Mendez grew up in the nearby town of Hanford and still lives there. Over the years she tried leaving the Central Valley on several occasions. She joined the Army; she moved to Florida to start a restaurant.

“Every opportunity, I tried to get away,” she says. “But I just ended up coming back.”

One of the reasons she came back was family. It’s the same reason fellow Lion Diana Compo returned, despite having left at the first chance she could at 18, when she joined the Army. Compo knew that she was a lesbian, and she also knew that wasn’t something you wanted to be in the 1970s in Visalia.

“It was a very rigid community,” says Compo, who is 64, short, athletic, and a straight talker. “There was nothing here. Not only nothing here, nobody here that I could relate to.”

In her 20 years in the Army, working in communications, Compo lived in a number of different states and

three foreign countries. But after she retired in 2011, she returned to Visalia with her wife, Cheri Provancha, for the same reason Mendez did – family.

A retired Army Colonel, Provancha was worried about moving to the Central Valley. “If you’re not into farming and that type of stuff, you are an outsider,” says Provancha, now 57. “They really don’t support diversity in this area; they haven’t.”



I didn’t want to come anywhere where I had to live in silence... and I haven’t had to. And I think it’s because of being a Lion.



And yet it is here, in this city of 130,000, that the second Lions pride club was founded a decade ago. Compo and Provancha joined soon after moving to town.

“I didn’t want to come anywhere where I had to live in silence,” Provancha says. “And I haven’t had to. And I think it’s because of being a Lion.”

A bumpy path

Mendez’s path to the club and her own identity was a little bumpier. Over the years, Mendez worked different jobs – mainly in food service – raised two sons, and got into some trouble as a “very outward, boisterous, loud, obnoxious male.” She is still loud, she says, but a lot nicer. The change came after she transitioned and no longer had to hide who she really is by being hyper masculine.

“Just like Diana (Compo) I came from a very steadfast Hispanic family,” she says.

In the world Mendez grew up in, men ran the household and had certain standards and duties they had to keep.

“It just seemed like no matter how I tried, I never was good enough,” says Mendez. “So, I said, ‘OK I’ll be over the top with it.’”

When she began to transition, she was full of self-doubt, questioning everything she did. Is this the way a woman stands? Is this how a woman walks? She felt like she was constantly being measured. Was she trans enough? Was she woman enough?

It was after she came out and before she transitioned that she started searching for the LGBTQ community. The Visalia Pride Lions Club was one of the first organizations she found. For years Mendez and her wife had volunteered with an organization that serves those infected with or affected by HIV/AIDS. Through the Visalia Lions Pride Club, Mendez felt she could continue serving the community while also learning more about the LGBTQ community and figuring out where she fit into it. In June 2018, she took over as president of the club.

"I'm not the first [transgender president]," she explains. That distinction belongs to the Fresno Pride Club's inaugural president. "I think I'm just the loudest one."

While her close friends advocate for the transgender community by traveling the national and international speaking circuit, Mendez has never wanted to join them on stage.

"That's just not me. That's not my style. I can't do that," she says. "So, I've been trying to figure out a way I can be a voice, yet not stand up and have to be a voice."



After leaving college, Elizabeth found a place where they belonged with Lions.

The answer is in Lions

By being a Lion and helping out on projects with Lions from other clubs, Mendez is able to educate people simply by being herself. As they accept her as a Lion, she says, "All those misconceptions and stereo-

types, all the bad things that people make up or try to conjure to put us down, make us hide, they find the fallacy in those." And that, she adds, "is better than any soapbox."

She may do the most service, though, not by educating those unfamiliar with LGBTQ issues, but by helping those like Elizabeth who are struggling to find their place.

Where Mendez and Bergshoeff's words tumble out, Elizabeth weighs their words carefully, speaking with an almost academic distance.

Before coming out, Elizabeth had worried how people would react. They had heard about people who had come out to their families and had "less than positive reactions." The response from Elizabeth's parents was not rejection, but to Elizabeth it still felt inadequate.

"I think they thought I was amusing. They didn't really take me seriously," says Elizabeth. "I just didn't feel like I was really heard."

Before the suicide attempt, Elizabeth had been studying molecular biology and taking a number of music classes at UC Davis. After stays in several hospitals to recover, Elizabeth tried to stay in Davis, but things became too difficult. Elizabeth decided to leave school and move back home to Visalia.

They tried to reach out to friends from the area, but it was difficult. "A lot of my friends have moved away," they say, "And the friends that are remaining have been difficult to connect with."

There is a long silence before Elizabeth adds, "I'm not really sure what I do wrong, but I tend to get excluded." Though they have friends online who they play action games with, it isn't the same as face-to-face interactions.

Desperate to help her child, shortly after returning to Visalia, Bergshoeff accompanied Elizabeth to their first Lions meeting. Elizabeth still remembers the location – a Marie Callender's restaurant.

"It was just like 'boom!' We meet Bobbie Jo and Elizabeth doesn't feel alone," says Bergshoeff.

"She's just been really something," says Elizabeth. "Just greeting someone with a smile. Letting them know about different events that are occurring in the community. Letting them know they're always welcome. That makes a huge difference."

The kid will be all right

After meeting Elizabeth, Mendez took them under her wing. She drove Elizabeth to a monthly dinner held by members of the transgender community in nearby Fresno, and invited her to participate in Equinox, an annual event that Mendez created for transgender individuals to practice hairstyles, names, and new identities in a safe environment. The event, now in its third year, is continually evolving. The equinox Elizabeth took part in included a fashion show, for which Elizabeth served as a model.

“I can’t remember exactly what I wore, but it was a lot of fun,” says Elizabeth. “I strutted out there, did a twirl.” As if for emphasis, Elizabeth adds once again, “It was a lot of fun.”

Mendez is able to mentor Elizabeth partly because she understands the particular pain of becoming a new person in a place that is so steeped in traditional norms. Although Mendez laughs more easily and often than Elizabeth, her pain still surfaces now and then. She drives a black Pontiac with a personalized license plate starting with “bahbah” to remind her of how she has always been the black sheep of her family and of her continued estrangement from them.

“It’s like Elizabeth went through her crisis and I went through one as well,” says Mendez.

She punctuates her words this time not with a laugh, but with tears. “Some of us pull through,” she says. “And with great people like this supporting her, Elizabeth will do fine.” 



With great people like this supporting her, Elizabeth will do fine.



Kindness Mattered to the Man in the Bow Tie

A tribute to International First Vice President Judge Haynes Townsend

By Erin Kasdin

In the fall of 2019, the video team at Lions Clubs International headquarters sat down with First Vice President Judge Haynes Townsend to begin capturing footage for his presidential videos. We interviewed the Judge, his family, and those who knew him well. On December 17, 2019, VP Townsend passed away unexpectedly. What follows is a portrait of the man as was recorded by his family, friends, and himself during these interviews. He will be greatly missed by his family and by his extended Lions family.

As a Judge in the Whitfield County Magistrate court in Georgia, Haynes Townsend, 64, often saw people on their worst days. People being evicted from their homes or charged with stealing food. He knew these were not bad people, but people in bad circumstances. One day he was faced with a young woman in her early twenties with three children in tow, ranging in age from 3 or 4 down to an infant in her arms. She had been charged with shoplifting from Walmart.

“I’d like to plead guilty,” she said. He asked her what she had shoplifted. “Baby food and diapers,” she responded. She had just moved to the area from Kentucky and her husband left her shortly after they arrived. She couldn’t afford childcare, which meant she couldn’t get a job. So, she had no money.

Judge Townsend dismissed the charges against her and asked her to wait for him in back until he was finished with court that day. He then contacted local shelters, which gave her a place to stay and food to eat.

It's what he loved about the job—being able to help people solve their problems. He became good at knowing who was telling the truth and who was leaving something out. But regardless, his motto was always to lead with compassion.

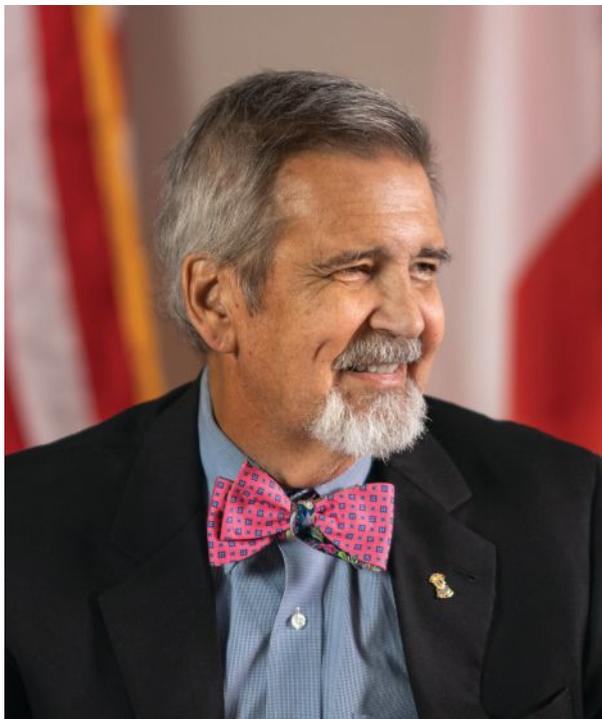
“I knew it wasn't going to do any good to put her in jail,” he said. “If you can't put yourself in someone else's shoes, then you can't be an effective judge.”



Before becoming a judge, Townsend had helped run a hardware store with his mother in Dalton, Georgia, where she instilled in him the importance of working hard. But Townsend never seemed to find life very hard.

“Growing up in Dalton was a lesson in small town culture,” he said of his hometown, which sits at the base of the Appalachian Trail.

As the only child of Clifford and Evelyn Townsend, he was doted on. His father, a pilot and former flight instructor during World War II, taught Townsend



Being a judge gave Townsend the chance to help people solve their problems. And he always led with compassion.

to fly at a very young age. “I actually soloed when I was 10 years old. They don't generally let you do that anymore,” he said.

When he wasn't flying with his father or helping his mother at the hardware store, his playmates were the diverse group of neighborhood kids who, like him, lived on the “wrong side of the tracks.” If they wanted to play baseball, they'd find a vacant lot, mark off some lines, and play. They didn't have umpires, and nobody fussed about the rules. “Everybody recognized when they were out,” he says. “It was that kind of experience that taught us how to get along with each other, and how to trust each other.”

His friends crossed racial and cultural divides, and he credits that for teaching him how to get along with all kinds of people, which has served him well in his career as a Lion.

“Diversity can be termed in many different ways, and it's not all about color, it's not all about religion, it's not all about what country you come from,” he said. “A lot of it is just about ideas that you have about some of these other cultures around the world, and how you react to those, and we have to be willing to accept those ideas, because that's how we grow as a species, and how we turn into better human beings.”



After graduating high school, Townsend attended Young Harris College, a small junior college in the mountains of northeast Georgia, where he met his wife, Donna. He sat next to her at a showing of “Night of the Living Dead” at a theater on campus. “I had bubble gum in my mouth, and I was blowing bubbles,” said Donna. “And I had the biggest bubble and Haynes reached over and he popped that thing. It went all over my face. And I thought, ‘Okay, this relationship is over with.’”

But it wasn't. It was the beginning of a 40-year marriage. “We've been partners ever since,” said Townsend. Donna describes a man who loved to



Left: A young Haynes blows out some birthday candles while sporting what would become his signature look—a tidy, hand-tied bow tie. **Middle:** Townsend's mother worked at the hardware store for 52 years, instilling in Haynes the importance of working hard. **Right:** Townsend's father was a pilot and former WWII flight instructor. He taught Haynes to fly when he was just 7 years old.

joke around, but who also loved to take long, quiet drives in the country. “Sometimes we would just get in the car and drive through the mountains for three or four hours, and we didn't even have to say anything,” she said. He loved photography and reading and seemed to be an infinite well of knowledge. She was certain there weren't too many folks like him.

The couple had two daughters, Morgan, 36, and Madison, 32, who learned the importance of kindness from watching their father.

Madison recalls a time when she was young and the family was going to out to eat. There was a man outside asking for help and her father asked the man to join them for lunch. “I was just kind of in shock,” she said, but she was also in admiration of him. “Every time I see something like that – somebody needing some food or just help – I think back to that day.”

Morgan remembers when her cousin had her first child and her father went to the hospital to see her and the new baby. “She is a brand new mother and my dad was carrying this tiny little baby around, helping to change its diaper, because she didn't know what she was doing yet.”

Not only did he show kindness to others, but to his daughters, too. He supported them in all their endeavors, teaching them to go after whatever they wanted, and to go at it full force, with open arms and a humble heart.

Kindness was something he lived. He truly believed the world could be a better place if people were kind to one another. “That's what we have the ability to do as Lions,” he said. “Unleash that kindness onto the world.”

Townsend joined the Dalton Noon Lions Club in his hometown shortly after he and Donna were married, and Donna began attending events shortly thereafter. “I thought, ‘I'm never going to see this guy if I don't get out there and go with him,’” she said. He sponsored her when women were legally allowed to join, and she has never looked back. “Haynes took me from a quiet little town in Dalton, Georgia, with a population of 35,000, to millions and millions and billions of people around the world. Who gets to do that?”

In addition to being a Lion, Townsend was also part of Dalton First United Methodist Church, the Downtown Dalton Development Authority, and the Dalton Christmas parade. Most recently, he was nominated for Judge of the Year by the state of Georgia. “If you go around town anywhere, they know dad,” said Madison. “He'll see somebody walking down the street when they're going out to get lunch or going out to the grocery store and he'll take five, 10 minutes out of his day just to catch up with a friend he hasn't seen in forever,” she said. He made time for people. It was his way of showing he cared.



Left: The Judge's daughters adored their father and liked to honor him by dressing up in his clothes for Father's Day. Right: The Late Judge Townsend and his wife, Donna, were married for more than 40 years.

"My dad has never known a stranger," said Morgan. "If he meets someone, they're friends forever." He loved to be a part of the community.

But he was truly passionate about the mission of Lions. And more importantly, he believed in Lions themselves.

He urged Lions to invite prospective members to service events, not to meetings. "The millennials and the new folks out there don't really want to come to a club meeting that's boring and sit around in there for an hour and a half or two hours and listen to old stories," he said. "They want to do something. They want to get out there and have interaction in the communities and feel like they're helping somebody."

He knew that people came to Lions from all walks of life, and that made the organization stronger. "I think that's the best thing we can do – be willing to accept what they're willing to give, and know their glass may not be 100 percent full of Lionism. But if it's 50 percent full, we need to drink of that."

Townsend spent more than 40 years as a Lion. And he would have made an exceptional International President.

"He picks up phone calls when you need him, no matter what time, what country you are in, he is there if you need him," said Morgan. "And I know that he cares about every single person that is a part of this association, because we see it."

The influence he has had on others is reflected in the love they give back. As he struggled through illness over the past year, Lions all over the world reached out. The entire organization has been shaken by his sudden loss. But the fact that he is gone doesn't diminish the impact he has made, and can continue to have, through others who follow the example he set.

Saying goodbye to a friend is never easy. Maybe it might help to think of him as always just a phone call away.

In his own words: "Lions, it's been a privilege having served up until this point...I hope that any time you think you need something, whatever it is, feel free to call...It might be awhile before I can call you back, depending on which part of the world I'm in, but keep up the kindness, keep doing great things. God bless you all."

"Rosalynn and I are saddened to learn of the passing of our friend Judge Haynes Townsend. His kindness and generosity were evident in his passion for the Lions clubs and its partnership with The Carter Center. His legacy will certainly live on in our hearts. We offer our deepest condolences to Haynes' wife, Donna, their daughters, and the global Lions Clubs International family."

**– Former U.S. President
Jimmy Carter**

SINGAPORE

Lions
Converge on
the Lion City
June 26 to
30, 2020

Singapore is a place unlike any other. An independent city-state in Southeast Asia that is home to nearly 6 million people, this tiny nation is a vibrant blend of Asian and European cultures that make it the ultimate melting pot.

It's this diversity that makes Singapore the perfect destination for the 103rd Lions Clubs International Convention. Lions epitomize the confluence of ideas that makes being a member of the world's largest service organization so valuable. So, what better place to celebrate that diversity than in the greatest melting pot of all.

The Lion City

There is a story that the original founder of Singapore, Sri Tri Buana, in the late 13th century went hunting in the ancient settlement of Temasek and saw a strange beast. When he described the beast, he was told it must be a lion. Buana decided to stay and rename it "Singapura," or "Lion City."

Many historians question this story, pointing out that lions are not native to South East Asia, and that the name may not even derive from the Sanskrit for Lion City after all. However, despite the origins of the name, between June 26 and June 30, 2020, Lions will indeed descend upon the city.

Learn more about this multi-cultural, multi-lingual city at LClcon.org.



What's in store

The week's activities will take place at the Sands Expo and Convention Centre, which is part of the Marina Bay Sands hotel—one of the most iconic pieces of the Singapore skyline.

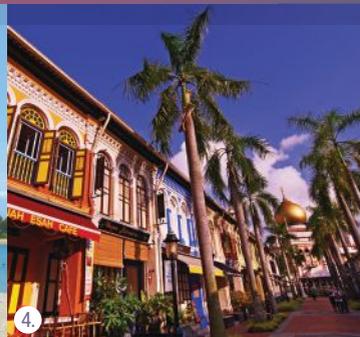
Here, kick off the convention with the Parade of Nations, and watch an estimated 10,000 Lions from more than 125 countries march, many in native dress. Between special guest speakers, plenary sessions, seminars, luncheons, the extensive Exhibit Hall, and the international show, you may never leave the grounds.

But we highly suggest you do.

While the convention itinerary will keep you busy, there are plenty of opportunities to get out and do what Lions do best—serve. Sign up for one of the special service opportunities early, as these spots tend to go fast.

5 Things to Do in Singapore

While it's a small island – you can drive east to west in under an hour – it's packed with things you won't want to miss during your trip.



1. Eat at a Hawker Center. While travelers will be wooed by state-of-the-art architecture, tranquil gardens, and an active nightlife, far and away the biggest experiences here are for your taste buds. Hawker Center is an open-air market filled with high-quality food stalls. With prices between US\$3 to US\$5 a plate, here you can taste a variety of Singaporean cuisine for a low price.

2. Visit the Gardens by the Bay Cloud Forest. Designed to be a “world of gardens for all to own, enjoy, and cherish,” this elaborate conservatory boasts the world’s tallest indoor waterfall and a surreal, mist-filled Cloud Walk and Treetop Walk.

3. Take a Break at Lazarus Island Beach. Singapore is actually comprised of one main island and 62 other islets. Lazarus Island is

just 20 minutes from the city via ferry and is much less crowded than other beaches making it perfect for when you need a quiet spot to absorb all you've been learning at convention.

4. Explore the Neighborhoods. Take in the charming storefronts, sample the many authentic dishes, and visit local places of worship to get a feel for each distinct heritage that contributes to the unique Singapore culture.

5. Go on a Night Safari. This 86-acre reserve is home to 2,500 animals from 130 different species, and it is exclusively for nocturnal animals. Visitors ride through the park on guided trams or can choose to walk the trails. However you choose to experience it, you'll leave with a new sense of wonder for the animal kingdom.



Featured Speaker

Malala Yousafzai's vision of a more equitable world means that every girl will have the opportunity to learn and lead. Her immediate focus is providing access to the 130 million girls globally who have been denied the right to education. Through the work of Malala Fund, co-founded with her father Ziauddin Yousafzai, this seemingly audacious goal is a matter of “ambition and intention,” in her own words. Luckily, for Malala, neither of those qualities are in short supply.

Come hear this inspiring young woman for yourself.



Service in full color

#LCICON2020



VOTING AT 2020 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Voting for Executive Officers and International Directors

Every Lions club in good standing can participate in the election of executive officers and international directors and can vote on amendments to the association's bylaws by assigning delegates to represent the club at the international convention.

At the International Convention certification and voting will occur at the same time in the convention Voting Area. As soon as you are certified, you will receive a ballot and will be able to vote immediately. Certification and Voting days and times are:

- Sunday, June 28, 12:00 PM – 5:00 PM (12:00 – 17:00)
- Monday, June 29, 10:00 AM – 5:00 PM (10:00 – 17:00)
- Tuesday, June 30, 7:30 AM – 9:30 AM (7:30 – 9:30)

Assigning Club Delegates

Club Delegates for the International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned by the club president or secretary, using one of the options below:

- www.lionsclubs.org >>> LOGIN >>> MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> Conventions
- Submitting the [Club Delegate Form](#) to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Clubs using MyLCI can assign their club delegates at any time between January 1 and June 24, 2020 11:59 PM CST.

Clubs using the Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates will need to mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2020. If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2020, bring the signed form to the convention site. The form will also be available online.

For more information on voting at the International Convention go to:

<http://lcicon.lionsclubs.org/experience/certification-voting/>

Lions Clubs International Member Service Center

300 W. 22nd Street Oak Brook IL 60523

email: MemberServiceCenter@LionsClubs.org

fax: 630-571-1687

phone: 630-203-3830

International Convention Club Delegate Entitlement Table

Delegate count is based on the club's membership as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. See Article VI, Section 2 of the International Constitution and Chapter XVII – Membership, Board Policy Manual.

*Delegate entitlement is one delegate for every 25 members or major fraction thereof.

Membership	Delegates Entitled
1-37	1
38-62	2
63-87	3
88-112	4
113-137	5
138-162	6
163-187	7
188-212	8
213-237	9
238-262	10
263-287	11
288-312	12
313-337	13
338-362	14
363-387	15
388-412	16
413-437	17
438-462	18
463-487	19
488-512	20
513-537	21
538-562	22
563-587	23
588-612	24
613-637	25
638-662	26
663-687	27
688-712	28
713-737	29
738-762	30
763-787	31
788-812	32
813-837	33
838-862	34
863-887	35
888-912	36
913-937	37
938-962	38
963-987	39
988-1012	40
1013-1037	41
1038-1062	42
1063-1087	43
1088-1112	44
1113-1137	45
1138-1162	46
1163-1187	47
1188-1212	48
1213-1237	49
1238-1262	50
1263+	See below*



Lions Clubs International

CLUB DELEGATE FORM

Club Delegates for the 2020 International Convention of Lions Clubs can be assigned using one of the options below:

- www.lionsclubs.org >>> LOGIN >>> MyLCI >>> My Lions Club >>> Conventions
- Submitting this form to LCI headquarters, at the address below.

Confirmation of the Club Delegate assignment will be emailed to the Club Delegate. When the email address of the Club Delegate is not available, the Confirmation will be emailed to the club officer.

Club Number: _____

Club Name: _____

Club City: _____

State: _____

Country: _____

Delegate Member Number: _____

Delegate Name: (first middle last) _____

Delegate Email Address: _____

Delegate Preferred Ballot Language: _____

Authorizing Club Officer: (select one) Club President Club Secretary

Officer Member Number: _____

Officer Name: (first middle last) _____

Officer Signature: _____

Mail form by May 1, 2020 to:

Member Service Center
Lions Clubs International
300 W. 22nd St. Oak Brook, IL USA 60523
MemberServiceCenter@lionsclubs.org
Phone 1-630-203-3830
Fax 1-630-571-1687

Clubs using this Club Delegate Form to assign their delegates must mail the form to International Headquarters by May 1, 2020.

If you are not able to mail the form by May 1, 2020, bring signed form, along with your government issued photo I.D. to the convention site.

Clubs using MyLCI must assign their club delegates by June 24, 2020 (11:59pm CST)





CONVENTION AND HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

103RD LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Singapore • Friday, June 26 – Tuesday June 30, 2020



DEADLINES MAY 1, 2020: Deadline for advance registration and hotel reservation. Deadline to submit a refund request for registration, housing and/or ticketed event cancellation.

REGISTRANT INFORMATION: Please type or print name as it appears on passport/photo ID.

First Name/ Family (Last) Name				Badge/Call Name			
Address							
City		State		Postal Code		Country	
Daytime Phone				E-mail			
<input type="checkbox"/> Lion	<input type="checkbox"/> Lioness	<input type="checkbox"/> Alpha Leo	<input type="checkbox"/> Omega Leo	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Guest	Club No.	Membership No.	District Title

COMPANION: First Name/ Family (Last) Name				Badge/Call Name			
<input type="checkbox"/> Lion	<input type="checkbox"/> Lioness	<input type="checkbox"/> Alpha Leo	<input type="checkbox"/> Omega Leo	<input type="checkbox"/> Adult Guest	Club No.	Membership No.	District Title

CHILD: First Name/ Family (Last) Name						Age		<input type="checkbox"/> Alpha Leo
---------------------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	-----	--	------------------------------------

PACKAGE A:

Includes convention registration for each registrant listed above plus one (1) hotel room serviced by shuttle buses during convention.

- Before January 10, 2020 Reservation in delegation hotel
 After January 10, 2020 I prefer my delegation hotel Prefer another hotel

Hotel Name

Arrival Day/Date _____ Departure Day/Date _____

No. of Guests in Room _____ No. of Beds Needed 1 2

Special Requirements: Wheelchair Accessible Other

- **US\$200 Hotel Deposit** is per room and credited to your hotel bill at check out.
- Hotel rooms are equipped to accommodate a total of two (2) guests per room.

PACKAGE B:

- NO ROOM REQUIRED** (Registration only for each person listed above.)

OPTIONAL TICKETED EVENTS

I/we plan to attend the following event(s): (Must be registered to attend)

EVENT: MELVIN JONES FELLOW LUNCHEON

DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
June 28/ 12:30-14:30	US \$75	_____	\$ _____

EVENT: DISTRICT GOVERNOR/PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR BANQUET

DATE/TIME	FEE	QUANTITY	AMOUNT DUE
June 29/ 20:00-22:00	US \$150	_____	\$ _____

Dietary Requirements: No restrictions Indian Vegetarian Vegetarian Other _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION:

Emergency Contact Name _____ Emergency Contact Phone Number _____

SERVICE PROJECTS IN SINGAPORE

- I am interested in participating in a hands-on community service project during the Singapore International Convention. Further details on registering for service projects will be sent to you in the coming months.

PAYMENT: Full payment is required with this form. US currency only. Checks and money orders must be drawn on US banks. Visa, MasterCard & Discover cards accepted.

REGISTRATION FEES:	Adult	Child (17 and under)/Alpha Leo	Omega Leo	PACKAGE A:	PACKAGE B:
EARLY (Before January 10, 2020)	US\$175	US\$20	US\$100	Registrations: US\$ _____	Registrations: US\$ _____
REGULAR (January 11 through March 31, 2020)	US\$225	US\$20	US\$100	Ticketed Events: US\$ _____	Ticketed Events: US\$ _____
LATE (April 1, 2020 – onsite)	US\$250	US\$20	US\$100	Hotel Deposit: US\$ 200.00	Total Due: US\$ _____
				Total Due: US\$ _____	

- Check # _____ Wire transfer (payment slip must be attached to this form) Visa MasterCard Discover

Name as it appears on card _____ *Credit card must be in the name of the registrant.*

Card Number _____ Expires Month/Year _____ Security code (3 digits) _____

Cardholder Signature _____

LION



Lions Clubs International

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LANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 2020

100 Years: Norman, Okla.; Lansing Host, Mich.; Detroit, Mich.

95 Years: Stratford, Ontario, CAN; Decatur, Texas Inc.; Victoria, Texas; West Chester, Pa.; Murphysboro, Ill.

90 Years: Washington, Kan.; Tremont, Utah; Milton, W.V.; Marinette, Wis.; Red Cloud, Neb.; Indianola, Iowa; Trumann, Ark.; Hamilton, Mont.; Waverly, N.Y.; Jetmore, Kan.

85 Years: Gaston, Ind.; Buena Vista, Ga.; Toronto Beaches, Ontario, CAN; Dunkirk, Ind.; Washington Island, Wis.

80 Years: Georgetown, Ill.; Humboldt, Tenn.; Alchua, Fla.; Wahiawa, Hawaii; Port Allen, La.; Ruidoso, N.M.; Seattle Lake City, Wash.; Rudyard, Mich.; Benton, Ky.; Clifton, Ill.; Irwin, Pa.; Ladoga, Ind.; Follansbee, W.V.; Yazoo City, Miss.; Craigsville, Va.; Glassport, Pa.; Lodi, Calif.; Stigler, Okla.; Le Grand, Calif.; Senath, Mo.; Hopkinsville, Ky.; Tolono, Ill.; Platte City, Mo.; Seymour, Mo.; Hot Springs, Mont.; St. Mary's, Ontario, CAN; Kohala, Hawaii; Mullens, W.V.; Kalama, Wash.; Houma, La.

75 Years: Turlock, Calif.; Punxsutawney, Pa.; Union, Utah; Algona, Iowa; Lumberton, N.C.; Ninety Six, S.C.; Paw Paw, W.V.; Waterville, Minn.; Ware Shoals, S.C.; Springfield, Ky.; La Plata, Md.; Moncks Corner, S.C.; Emmaus, Pa.; Ickesburg, Pa.; Peru, N.Y.; Junction, Texas; Harleysville, Pa.; Seneca, S.C.; Midwest City, Okla.; Belleville, Pa.; Tullahoma, Tenn.; Wernersville, Pa.; Summerton, S.C.

50 Years: North Hardin, Ky.; Chatham-Nauset, Mass.; Stone Lake, Wis.; Poteet, Texas; Viburnum, Mo.; Hodgesville, W.V.; Greene Township, Ind.; Madras, Ore.; River John & District, Nova Scotia, CAN

25 Years: Forest Grove 94, British Columbia, CAN

Anniversaries continued on page 47.



Lion Alyssa Marfil and Cub Alaina Marfil traveled from Michigan to deliver 7,962 pounds of pill bottles to Matthew 25: Ministries in Ohio.

Members of the **Portage Lions Club** in **Michigan** drove to Ohio and delivered plastic pill bottles to Matthew 25: Ministries. Roughly 396 gallons of pill bottles collected by Lions in District 11-B2 were kept out of landfills.

Florence Evening Lions Club President Whalon Hilley pinned the Lions badge on granddaughter Lion Natalie Shealy. As a child she accompanied him to meetings, fundraising events, and Lion activities. Shealy told her grandpa she wanted to be a Lion someday. She is the Leo club advisor at West Florence High School in **South Carolina**.

The **Boise Bench Lions** in **Idaho** staffed the Found Kids Booth at the Western Idaho Fair where 1,290 kids got a numbered armband as Lions recorded the contact information for their parents or guardians. If a child got separated from the adults, he or she could go to security staff or any vendor who would take them to the Found Kids Booth.

The **Doylestown Lions Club** in **Pennsylvania** is planning a dinner to celebrate their 75th anniversary in the spring of 2020. Over 75 years the club has become entrenched within the community, supporting various organizations. The club began with 20 members in 1945 and by the 1970s had grown to include 150 active members.

In **Texas**, the **Brazoria Lions Club** was visited by Aaron Heath who came to thank members for sponsoring her in this year's Lions diabetic camp. Because of the camp, she said, she no longer feels like she is fighting diabetes alone.

In **Minnesota**, the **Burnsville Lions Club** assisted with their town's annual International Festival, celebrating the many cultures that make up their global community.

In **Ontario, Canada**, the **Thorndale Lions Club** continues offering Lions Club Friendship Arches to other clubs. The 6-foot, 300-pound arches stand as a symbol of friendship and commitment between Lions and their community.

For info: mpink@start.ca

In **Maryland**, the **Leonardtwn Lions** celebrated the 95th birthday of Lion George Guy who has had perfect attendance at Lions meetings for 70 years.

The **Weidman Lions** in **Michigan** honored members Karlis Greizis, Richard Donley, and Ted Bailey as they received the Melvin Jones Fellowship Award.

In **Pennsylvania**, the **Tunkhannocks Lions** with the help of a Lions Quest grant, funded materials for the Lions Quest program focusing on social and emotional learning in grades K through 6 at the Tunkhannock Area School District.

The **Salisbury Lions** in **New Brunswick, Canada**, recognized members Ross Alexander and Sydney Douthwright who received the Melvin Jones Award.



The first Lions Club Friendship Arch was designed by past international directors and erected on the U.S. Canada border in 1966.

L ANNIVERSARIES

FEBRUARY 2020

100 Years: Rockford, Ill.; Nashville, Tenn.; Port Huron Host, Mich.

95 Years: Waxahachie, Texas; St. Petersburg, Fla.; Webster Groves, Mo.; Ephrata, Pa.; Kenneth Square, Pa.

90 Years: Gosport, Ind; Lewiston, Idaho; Tomah; Wis.; Clyde, Kan.; Orange City, Iowa; Fort Atkinson, Wis.

85 Years: Schumacher, Ontario, CAN; Van Buren, Ind.; Skowhegan, Maine; Talbotton, Ga.; New Castle, Ind.

80 Years: Easton, Md.; Coweta, Okla.; St. Matthews, Ky.; Victor, N.Y.; Bryson City, N.C.; Thibodaux, La.; Chestertown, Md.; Town County, Ga.; Lewisburg, W.V.; Sharptown, Md.; Leesburg, Ohio; Franklin, Ky.; Sumrall, Miss.; Fairfield, Mont.; Seguin Noon, Texas; Preston, Md.; Bell Gardens, Calif.; Remsen, Iowa; Plain City, Ohio.

75 Years: Reidsville, N.C.; Hartsville, S.C.; Petersburg, Tenn.; Gallatin, Mo.; Torrance, Calif.; Cheswick Springdale, Pa.; Soddy Daisy, Tenn.; Green Hills, Del.; Lincoln, Mich.; El Paso Five Points, Texas; Sycamore, Ohio; New Liskeard, Ontario, CAN; Abernathy, Texas; North Saint Paul, Minn.; Franklin, Ind.; White Bear Lake, Minn.; Carrboro, N.C.; Jasper, Tenn.; Clermont, Ind.; Franklin, Mass.; Creedmoor, N.C.; Millis, Mass.

50 Years: Marcellus, Mich.; Vista Amigos De Vista, Calif.; Chattanooga Valley, Ga.; Clarence Creed, Ontario, CAN; Kailua Kona, Hawaii; Joliet Evening, Ill.; Klamath Falls South, Ore.; Big Flats, N.Y.; Martisco, N.Y.; Chesapeake Deep Creek, Va.; Cremona, Alberta, CAN; Oxford, Ind.; Blue River, Ind.; Mabank Cedar Creek Area, Texas; Lake Mills, Wis.; Stoddard, Wis.; Howard City, Mich.; Port Williams & District, Nova Scotia, CAN

25 Years: Burlington, Kan.; Bellevue, Wis.; Hills, Minn.; Gloucester North, Ontario, CAN

Anniversaries are based on the official records of Lions Clubs International. The recorded charter date at LCI sometimes differs from local club records.

Higher Key Awards

Lions honored for sponsoring members.
See list of honorees at lionmagazine.org.



The **Bowie Lions Club** in **Texas** collected 500 pounds of plastic waste to get this recycled bench from Trex for their community in memory of Lion Carl Vettel.

Five Lions clubs in **California** got together to host the 11th annual Lions Clubs Golf Tournament in September, raising funds for three charities that provide assistance for those with impaired sight or blindness. **Banning-Centennial Lions, Calimesa Breakfast Lions, Grand Terrace Lions, Highland Lions, and Yucaipa Valley Lions** developed this year's event. Net proceeds of US\$15,311 were split between Guide Dogs of the Desert, KidSight USA, and California Lions Friends in Sight.

In **Missouri**, the **Smithville Lions** enjoyed a presentation by member Cliff Amos at the Kansas City Zoo. Amos is a master naturalist who travelled to Uganda.

Correction:

In the Fall issue, the clubs celebrating their 25-year anniversaries in November were incorrectly identified. Those clubs are:

25 Years: Higbee, Mo.; Bergen Hispanic-American, N.J.; Brownsville Border, Texas; Chequamegon, Wis.

We regret this error.

A Blueberry Orchard for Generations

BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

An Empty Space

Next door to the Albany Victory Gardens in Albany, New York, were unsightly, deserted lots. There were homes on the land that were previously declared uninhabitable, so they sat empty, dangerous, and unbeneficial to the environment. Lion Gregory Sheldon envisioned a better use for this land. He partnered with Albany Victory Gardens, which purchased the land, demolished the homes and, along with local organizations and community members, Sheldon cleared the land of debris and invasive vegetation to start a community garden. Specifically, he wanted to grow blueberries.

This garden became part of a larger community project, a place where the neighborhood now comes together to share gardening knowledge, grow food, and volunteer time, bridging social, economic, and diversity gaps. It is a vital part of the neighborhood, as it enables self-reliance and access to nutritious food in an underserved area.

But first, the land needed to be prepared for growing blueberries, so Sheldon enlisted volunteers to help local companies spread woodchips, mulch, and soil. Using a US\$1,500 grant from a partnership between the Anthem Foundation and Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), the Albany Troy Lions Club—which is actively investing in community health equity, food sovereignty, and social justice—planted 200 blueberry bushes alongside Anthem volunteers and other community members.

Blueberry Benefits

Blueberries were the perfect fit for the gardens. They're high in nutritional value and antioxidants. The bushes attract pollinators such as bees, which will increase the amount of blueberries and other produce harvested from the garden. The sandy loam soil is designed to absorb water, reducing storm water runoff by up to 100,000 gallons. At the same time, the sandy loam provides good drainage and will help purify the air, along with the plants.

All of this is on land that was once occupied by empty, uninhabitable houses.

Thanks to LCIF, the Anthem Foundation, Albany Troy Lions Club, Lion Gregory Sheldon, and the incredible community volunteers, this neighborhood now has a beautiful orchard they can care for and enjoy for multiple generations. "All the kids that worked hard to develop this site will be able to share these blueberries with their kids. This is truly why we do what we do," says Sheldon.

To learn more about how LCIF and Campaign 100 are protecting the environmental health of our global communities, generating long-term, positive ecological impact, visit lionsclubs.org/campaign100.



Lion Gregory Sheldon works to spread woodchips at the site.



Lions, Anthem volunteers, and other community members work together to plant 200 blueberry bushes.



Clearing Clouded Vision in Vanuatu

BY JAMIE KONIGSFELD

Clarence has battled diabetes since she was a baby. Unable to afford medical care, she developed cataracts which seriously impaired her vision. She lives in the gorgeous archipelago nation of Vanuatu, home to lush rainforests, soft sand beaches, and surrounded by turquoise water; however, the 23-year-old woman could no longer see its beauty.

In Clarence's area of Vanuatu, healthcare resources are often unavailable or unaffordable. Without a diagnosis for many years—something that is all too often the case in Vanuatu—diabetes took a toll on Clarence's body. She suffered through a series of infections, which led to having her toes amputated. Mobility is now difficult, although a wheelchair helps her get around.

Lions of New Caledonia knew they could improve the situation in Vanuatu with support from Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF). In collaboration with Fred Hollows Foundation New Zealand, Lions of New Caledonia secured a US\$330,043 LCIF SightFirst grant to expand and enhance cataract screening and surgery services in Port Vila, the capital of Vanuatu and Clarence's hometown.

At an existing eye clinic, the grant made it possible to update old equipment and build a new operating theatre. In addition, Dr. Johnson Kasso is the new,

permanent ophthalmologist there at the clinic. Prior to Dr. Kasso, Port Vila did not have an ophthalmologist and operations could only be performed once per year when a team from Fiji visited.

Having a permanent doctor in the area came as an enormous relief to Clarence, who had her cataract removal operation postponed four times due to battling repeated infection. When the new operating theatre opened, Clarence was the first patient to receive an operation. She even sang at the inauguration.

After the surgery, Dr. Kasso checked Clarence's vision and asked if she could see clearly. Clarence had a smile on her face she couldn't hide. She shouted, "I kiln I pitim kiln!" – meaning "more than clear!" in her native language. It was a significant and memorable moment for Clarence, Dr. Kasso, and the clinic's nurses. Clarence says she is "happy tumas" – very happy – to receive the surgery. What was once dark, cloudy, and blurry, became bright, crisp, and clear.

To learn how projects like this receive LCIF funding — and how you can contribute through Campaign 100 — visit lionsclubs.org/campaign100.



Clarence (pictured seated) smiles at the clinic's inauguration ceremony.



Dr. Johnson Kasso



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