

# What Every Lion Should Know



# District 12-N

*Lions Member*  
*Manual & Workbook*  
2023-2024

<http://lionsclubs.org>

<http://tnlions.org>




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## LIONS CLUB MEMBER ORIENTATION MANUAL AND WORKBOOK

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***Revision: September 2023***

This workbook may be used as necessary to educate and share the good works of Lions. To the best knowledge of the preparer, this information is factually accurate and up to date. Comments and suggestions are welcome.

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## WELCOME

Dear Lion:

You are now part of the world's largest and most effective community service organization, with about 1.4 million members. Your club is one of 50,000 Lions clubs in over 200 countries and geographic areas. Regardless of what language we speak, religion we practice or politics we espouse, all Lions are dedicated to seeking out and helping those in need.

Your association has a proud heritage of service dating to 1917. With your help, the future will be even greater! The first step is active participation in your club's service, fundraising, and social activities. Learn all you can as soon as you can. This booklet will help give you a basic understanding of the history, structure, and activities of the association. But it is only from your fellow club members that you will learn what this means in your own community.

As you become active and more knowledgeable, please share your experiences and pride of accomplishment with your friends and family. Few things can be as gratifying as bringing another person into our community of service.

## WHO ARE LIONS?

Lions are...

- ◆ members of the world's largest and most active service club organization.
- ◆ men and women who believe that by working together they will accomplish far more than would be possible as individuals.
- ◆ members committed to solving worldwide health and social problems, and who realize that solutions are possible when every Lions club does its share.
- ◆ people who cherish the fellowship of their own club, but who also feel a close kinship with Lions throughout the world.
- ◆ patriotic citizens of their own countries and, who, in the global community, strive for a world at peace.
- ◆ individuals dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical and moral standards in their club - and in their personal lives.
- ◆ people who are serious about their commitment to humanitarian service, but have fun along the way.

**Lions are people like you!**



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## HISTORY

In 1917, a Chicago insurance agent named Melvin Jones convinced his luncheon club, the Business Circle of Chicago, that it should align itself with other independent clubs to form a national organization that would be dedicated not only to networking for business and social purposes, but to the improvement of the community as a whole.

Among the groups invited was the Association of Lions Clubs, headquartered in Evansville, Indiana and led by Dr. W. P. Woods. At the time of the meeting, June 7, there were several Lions clubs already in existence, some having been organized in 1916. They were an outgrowth of a now-defunct fraternal organization called the Royal Order of Lions.

The Business Circle and other clubs agreed to rally under the Lions name, and a convention was called for October at Dallas, Texas. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states (including Tennessee) heeded the call, approved the "Lions Clubs" designation, and elected Woods as the first president. Guiding force and founder Jones was named acting secretary, thus beginning an association with Lions that ended only with his death in 1961.

The convention also began to define what the association was to become. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, the colors of purple and gold approved, and a start made on the Lions Clubs Objects and Code of Ethics. Both the Objects and Ethics encouraged Lions to put service ahead of profit, and to uphold the highest standards of conduct in business and professions.

Community leaders soon began to organize clubs throughout the United States. The association became "International" with the formation of a club in Windsor, Ontario, Canada in 1920. Clubs were later organized in Mexico, China and Cuba. By 1927, membership stood at 60,000 in 1,183 clubs.

In 1935, Panama became home to the first Central American club. The first club in South America was organized in Columbia the following year. Sweden, then France, brought Europe into the association in 1948. Japan had clubs by 1952, and the so-called "Eastern Bloc" was unblocked in 1989 with the formation of clubs in Hungary, Poland, and Estonia. In 1990, a club was chartered in Moscow and Lions Clubs have been demonstrating the value of service in countries once closed to voluntary action.

A highlight of the association's early history was a speech at the 1925 convention, when Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." This began a century-long mission of impacting hundreds of millions of lives through vision-related work. (Note: The text of this speech is provided at the end of this manual.)

In 1945, Lions leaders were asked to help develop the charter for the Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) section of the United Nations. Lions International continues this partnership, reflecting our commitment to a "certain and lasting peace for the world."



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In 1957, the Leo Program was created to provide youth with the opportunity for personal development through volunteering.

In 1968, the Lions Clubs International Foundation was created with the mission “to support the efforts of Lions clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants.” To date, our foundation has awarded more than \$1 billion in grants.

In 1990, Lions launched the *SightFirst* campaign to help restore sight and prevent blindness on a global scale. More than 488 million people have been impacted over the last 30 years.

Although we celebrated the 100<sup>th</sup> year of serving local communities and the globe in 2017, Lions are just getting started! Our commitment to taking action and making a positive impact on the world is stronger than ever. Lions members already know the power of putting kindness into action, and our service makes us one of the greatest forces for good the world has ever known.

## MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

### **Our Motto**

The official motto of the association is “*We Serve.*” What better way to explain our mission? Lions serve. Our Lions Clubs are places where individuals join together to give their valuable time and effort to improving their communities, and the world. Where there’s a need, there’s a Lion!

### **Our Slogan**

The slogan of Lions Clubs International was identified officially as:

*Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety*

However, in recent years, another slogan has caught on among the membership:

*Loving Individuals Offering Needed Service*

### **Our Mission**

To empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

### **Our Vision**

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

### **Our Global Causes**

One act of service, one encouraging word, one gift of generosity is often all it takes to bring hope where it’s needed most. Over the last 100 years, the kindness of Lions and Leos has multiplied across borders, oceans, and continents. With our reach, Lions truly have an opportunity to change our world.



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Our global service has been united around five areas of need. These Global Causes present significant challenges to humanity, and we believe it's our turn to meet them:

- ♦ **Diabetes:** We serve to reduce the prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed.
- ♦ **Vision:** We serve to prevent avoidable blindness and improve quality of life for people who are blind and visually impaired.
- ♦ **Hunger:** We serve to ensure all community members have access to nutritious foods.
- ♦ **Environment:** We serve to sustainably protect and restore our environment to improve the well-being of all communities.
- ♦ **Childhood Cancer:** Lions and Leos provide support for the needs of children and families affected by childhood cancer through impactful service activities.

### Lions International Purposes

- ♦ **To Organize,** charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions clubs.
- ♦ **To Coordinate** the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.
- ♦ **To Create** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- ♦ **To Promote** the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- ♦ **To Take** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
- ♦ **To Unite** the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- ♦ **To Provide** a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- ♦ **To Encourage** service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

### Lions Code of Ethics

- ♦ **To Show** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.
- ♦ **To Seek** success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
- ♦ **To Remember** that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.
- ♦ **Whenever** a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.
- ♦ **To Hold** friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
- ♦ **Always** bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in work, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.
- ♦ **To Aid** others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
- ♦ **To Be Careful** with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.



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## LIONS CLUB

Lions Clubs are the most important part of Lionism; this is where the majority of service is performed. Clubs carry out the programs and activities that have made Lions International what it is today - the largest and most active humanitarian service organization in the world.

Membership in a Lions Club is by invitation only, and clubs usually meet at least twice each month. A typical Lions Club is governed by a Board of Directors, which may meet at a separate day and/or time from the club meetings. The table below depicts the members of the club's Board of Directors.

➔ Complete the table with the appropriate individuals (and phone numbers) for your club.

### Board of Directors

|   |       |
|---|-------|
| President                                 | _____ |
| Immediate Past President                  | _____ |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President            | _____ |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President (Optional) | _____ |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President (Optional) | _____ |
| Secretary                                 | _____ |
| Treasurer                                 | _____ |
| Service Chairperson                       | _____ |
| Marketing Chairperson                     | _____ |
| Membership Chairperson                    | _____ |
| Lion Tamer (Optional)                     | _____ |
| Tail Twister (Optional)                   | _____ |
| Club LCIF Coordinator                     | _____ |
| Program Coordinator                       | _____ |
| Safety Officer (Optional)                 | _____ |
| Directors (four or more)                  | _____ |
|   | _____ |
|   | _____ |
|   | _____ |
|   | _____ |



The **President** serves as the club's chief executive officer and presides at all meetings of the club and board of directors. The President calls for regular and special meetings in accordance with the club's by-laws or procedures, plans the agenda and ensures that the status of each committee activity is reported. The President is also an active member of the District Governor's Advisory Committee of the zone in which the club is located.

The **Immediate Past President** and other past Presidents serve as mentors to the Club President and Vice Presidents, and serve as the Club LCIF Coordinator unless another Lions is appointed.

The **Vice Presidents** perform the duties of the President if he/she is unable to perform the duties of office for any reason. Each Vice President, under the direction of the President, oversees the functioning of various committees of the club.

The **Secretary** acts as a liaison officer between the club and both the District and International Headquarters. Responsibilities of the Secretary include submitting membership and/or activity reports, maintaining club records (including meeting minutes) and issuing financial statements to club members.

The **Treasurer** is responsible for all club financial matters. Duties include receiving all monies and paying club obligations, maintaining financial records, preparing financial statements and submitting financial reports. Treasurers should maintain two separate bank accounts:

1. Administrative – for club expenses such as dues, postage, copying, member meals, etc. Club fees and dues are used to pay the club's administrative costs.
2. Service – for charitable activities of the club. *Money raised from the public must never be used to defray administrative expenses, it can only be used for legitimate community or public needs.*

The **Membership Chairperson** chairs the Membership Committee and is responsible for developing membership growth programs, implementing recruitment and retention programs, and preparing orientation sessions.

The **Service Chairperson** leads the Service Committee to implement the club's service action plans in order to achieve the club's service goals.

The **Marketing Chairperson** leads the committee to publicize club activities, including service projects, fundraisers, donations, Lions Clubs International sponsored contests and other newsworthy accomplishments both internally and externally via the news media, social media, and other effective means.





The **Program Coordinator** helps improve general meetings and keeps members informed of topics of importance to members by scheduling speakers and entertainment based on the interests of club members. They welcome the speaker on arrival and ensures proper seating and welcoming during the event.

The **Club LCIF Coordinator** communicates the mission and success of LCIF and its importance to Lions Clubs International. This position also collaborates with the Service Chairperson to support club initiatives.

The **Lion Tamer** (optional) is the custodian of club property such as flags, banners, podiums, badges, meeting supplies, etc. The Lion Tamer also serves as a sergeant at arms during meetings and distributes materials as needed at meetings.

The **Tail Twister** (optional) serves to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at club meetings through the judicious imposition of fines on members. The Tail Twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present.

The **Safety Officer** (optional) ensures that safety measures are in place by reviewing activities to identify potential hazards, ensuring adequate supervision and acquiring proper insurance coverage. In the event of an incident, gather and reports all significant information relevant to the incident to the insurance company in a timely manner.

**Directors** provide additional oversight and approval for items placed before the Board of Directors. The term of office is two-years in duration.

Assisting the Board of Directors are various committees to plan the club's activities and/or coordinate various functions. A chairperson or co-chairs are appointed by the President. Committee members are either appointed by the President or solicited by the committee chair. There are some core committees that most clubs will establish, however, many committees are unique to individual clubs.

➔ Ask your club President for a list of the committees.



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### Dues and Membership Categories

As mentioned under the Club Treasurer description, all money raised from the public must be used for service projects and community needs. As a result, Lions Clubs charge dues to its members to pay for administrative expenses.

Each club establishes its own annual dues amount to cover the administrative costs to provide resources to the Lions Clubs and its members. Current dues as of July 1, 2023 are:

|                         |   |
|-------------------------|---|
| International Dues      | \$46.00 per year * (see below for exceptions)         |
| District and State Dues | \$16.60 per year                                      |
| Club Dues               | → _____ (depends on operational expenses of the club) |
| Club Meal Cost          | → _____ (may be included in dues or paid personally)  |

\* Lions International dues have been approved to increase to:

\$48.00 per year on July 1, 2024

\$50.00 per year on July 1, 2025

There are a few special membership categories in which International dues are billed to the club at a reduced rate. These include:

- **Family Membership** – After the first adult family member paying full International dues, additional adult family members living at the same address pay half International dues.
- **Student Membership** – Students enrolled in an educational institution and between the ages of 18 through 30 pay half International dues.

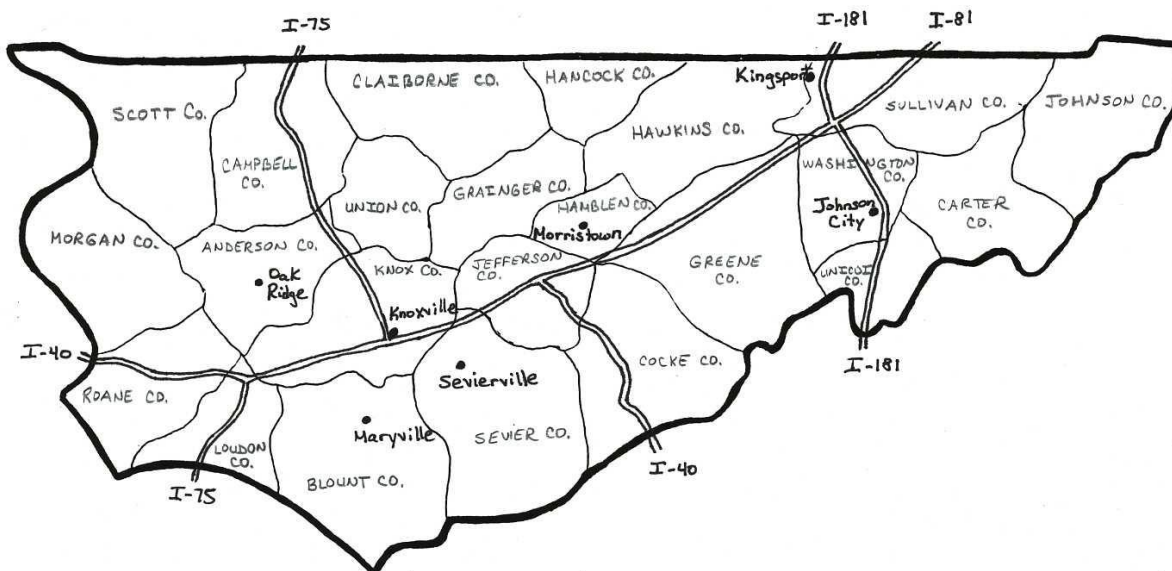
Club Secretaries should ensure the appropriate paperwork is completed to take advantage of these savings to the club's administrative expenses through the International dues billing. There is currently no program for reduced dues at the District or State level. Each club is responsible for deciding how to pass these savings on to its members.



## DISTRICT

### District 12-N Map

District 12-N makes up the 23 eastern-most counties of Tennessee. A map of District 12-N and the listing of clubs belonging to each Region and Zone are shown below.



### REGION 1

#### Zone A

East Hawkins County  
East Tennessee State University  
Elizabethton  
Erwin  
Johnson City Noon  
Johnson County  
Kingsport  
Rogersville

#### Zone B

Bulls Gap  
Greeneville  
Morristown Cherokee  
Morristown Hamblen  
Morristown Morris Boulevard  
Rutledge

#### Zone C

Dandridge  
Knoxville East  
Knoxville Tri-County  
Sevier County

### REGION 2

#### Zone D

Campbell County  
Caryville Cares  
Clinton  
Norris  
Oak Ridge  
Oneida  
Union County

#### Zone E

Farragut  
Fountain City  
Halls Community  
Inskip  
Karns  
Knox County North  
Powell  
West Knoxville

#### Zone F

Coalfield  
Harriman  
Kingston  
Loudon  
Maryville  
Tellico Village




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District leadership is guided by the District Governor (DG) and two Vice District Governors (VDGs), who are officers of the international association. The 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG is elected by delegates from the clubs in the district at the Spring Convention, which is usually held in February or March of each year. After serving as 2<sup>nd</sup> VDG for a one-year term, the individual is normally elected to the office of 1<sup>st</sup> VDG the following year and DG the year after that.

The DG and the VDGs assume their respective offices at the close of the international convention, or generally July 1. District clubs are divided into regions, which are further divided into zones. Regions and zones have chairmen (Region Chair is an optional position) who monitor and support the Lions Clubs in their hierarchy.

The District Cabinet is the group of Lions who serve as advisors to the DG. The Cabinet is made up of the VDGs, immediate Past District Governor, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Treasurer, Region Chairs (if appointed), Zone Chairs, and Activity or Program Chairs.

District by-laws require Cabinet meetings to be held at least once per quarter. The 2023-2024 District 12-N Cabinet Officers are shown below. Activity and Program Chairmen are provided on the following page.

**District 12-N Cabinet (Lions Year: 2023-2024)**

|  |                                      |
|--|--------------------------------------|
| District Governor                      | DG Frank McCall                      |
| Immediate Past District Governor       | PDG Richard Wilson                   |
| 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor | 1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Keltie Kerney    |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG Nathanael Hughes |
| Cabinet Secretary                      | Kim Osborne                          |
| Cabinet Treasurer                      | PDG Chuck Bailey                     |
| Global Leadership Team Coordinator     | PDG Richard Wilson                   |
| Global Membership Team Coordinator     | PDG Ed Gibbons                       |
| Global Service Team Coordinator        | Connie Emmons                        |

|          |  |             |
|----------|--|-------------|
| Region 1 | Zone A Chair<br>Zone B Chair<br>Zone C Chair | Doris Kaifa |
| Region 2 | Zone D Chair<br>Zone E Chair<br>Zone F Chair |             |



|  |   |
|--|---|
| Audit  | PDG Jim McFarland   |
| Chaplain   | Brian Powell  |
| Constitution & By-Laws   | PDG Mike Vudragovich  |
| Contest & Awards   | Kim Osborne   |
| Convention – District  | DG Frank McCall   |
| Convention – Multiple District/State   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG Nathanael Hughes  |
| Convention – International   | 1 <sup>st</sup> VDG Keltie Kerney   |
| Credentiailling  | PDG John Kelsey   |
| Day with the Lions   | PDG Jim McFarland   |
| Directory Editor   | Kim Osborne   |
| Lions District 12-N Charities, Inc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Childhood Cancer</li> <li>◆ Diabetes Awareness</li> <li>◆ East Tennessee Lions Eye Bank</li> <li>◆ Hearing &amp; Speech Foundation, Inc.</li> <li>◆ Leader Dogs for the Blind</li> <li>◆ Learning Ally</li> <li>◆ Lions Quest</li> <li>◆ Lions Volunteer Blind Industries</li> <li>◆ Tennessee School for the Blind</li> <li>◆ Tennessee School for the Deaf</li> <li>◆ World Services for the Blind</li> </ul> | Connie Emmons, Board President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ PCC Paulette Bailey</li> <li>◆ Doug Haseltine</li> <li>◆ PDG Mike Vudragovich (Board Pres.)</li> <li>◆ Kim Osborne/Nellie Harshbarger</li> <li>◆ Connie Emmons</li> <li>◆ PDG Dave Crawford</li> <li>◆ PDG Jim McFarland</li> <li>◆ Trevor Southerland (Exec. Dir.)</li> <li>◆ PCC Mike McDonough</li> <li>◆ PDG Carol McDonald</li> <li>◆</li> </ul> |
| Environment  |   |
| Eyeglasses Recycling   | Harry Ennis   |
| Hearing & Hearing Aids   | Kim Osborne/Nellie Harshbarger  |
| Honorary Committee   | Past District Governors   |
| Hunger   | PDG Rich Wilson   |
| Knox Area Project Access (KAPA_  | PDG Dave & PDG Clare Crawford   |
| KidSight Outreach  | District Coordinator – PDG Jim McFarland <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◆ Area 1 – PDG Ed Gibbons</li> <li>◆ Area 2 – Richard Walker</li> <li>◆ Area 3 – PDG Neal Vaughan</li> <li>◆ Area 4 – PCC Paulette Bailey</li> </ul>  |
| LCIF and Melvin Jones Fellows  | PCC Brandon Johnson   |
| Leo Clubs  | Peggy Chandler/PDG Rich Wilson  |
| Lions Alert Program (Disaster)   | PDG Bill Slover   |
| Long Range Planning  | DG Frank McCall (1-year term)<br>Kathy Burrow (2-year term)   |
| Marketing Communications & PR  | PCC Brandon Johnson   |
| News & Views   | Editor: PCC Paulette Bailey<br>Publisher: PDG Chuck Bailey  |
| Nominating Committee   | PDG Chuck Bailey  |



|                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Peace Poster Contest                 |                                      |
| Remote Area Medical (RAM)            | PDG Bill Slover                      |
| Resolutions – State Committee        | PDG Mike Vudragovich                 |
| Rules & Procedures – State Committee | PDG Mike Vudragovich                 |
| Tail Twister                         |                                      |
| Trading Pins Coordinator             | PDG Dave & PDG Clare Crawford        |
| USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum    | PDG Wendy Cain                       |
| Virginia Lindsey Leadership Award    | PCC Brandon Johnson                  |
| Vision Van Operations                | PDG Jim McFarland                    |
| Website/Webmaster                    | PDG Wendy Cain                       |
| White Cane                           | 2 <sup>nd</sup> VDG Nathanael Hughes |

**Lions District 12-N Charities and White Cane**

District 12-N has established *Lions District 12-N Charities, Inc.*, a 501 (c)(3) charitable organization to distribute funds to local and national non-profit agencies, ultimately benefiting hundreds of Tennesseans. These agencies, supported cooperatively by all of the Lions Clubs in District 12-N, are collectively referred to as the White Cane Project.

For one month each year, usually in October, district clubs participate in White Cane Days, the primary fundraising effort that supports the White Cane Project. Each of the agencies are available to all persons in need of their services; a description each approved entity follows:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Braille Slate   | The Direct Braille Slate was developed by a Lion to allow Braille to be written from left to right. Previous Braille Slates require the user to basically learn two alphabets, as Braille had to be written backwards and from right to left. Slates are shipped world-wide mainly to third world countries.                                       |
| Childhood Cancer  | As one of Lions’ Global Causes, funds designated for Childhood Cancer are donated to an appropriate 501(c)3 non-profit entity.   |
| Diabetes Awareness  | Approximately 50% of the blindness in the United States is caused by diabetes. Diabetes Awareness supports early detection and treatment. Those who suffer from diabetes are susceptible to blindness, heart disease, kidney failure, and stroke. Funds designated for Diabetes Awareness are donated to an appropriate 501(c)3 non-profit entity. |
| East Tennessee Lions Eye Bank (ETLEB)<br>Knoxville, TN<br><a href="http://easttneyebank.org/">http://easttneyebank.org/</a> | The Eye Bank serves as the major clearinghouse between persons donating their eyes after death and the recipient of a corneal transplant. Additional corneas are used for education and research.  |
| Hearing and Speech Foundation, Inc.<br><a href="http://www.hsfweb.org/">http://www.hsfweb.org/</a>                          | The Hearing and Speech Foundation empowers individuals with hearing and communication deficits, through cost effective hearing aids and other services.  |



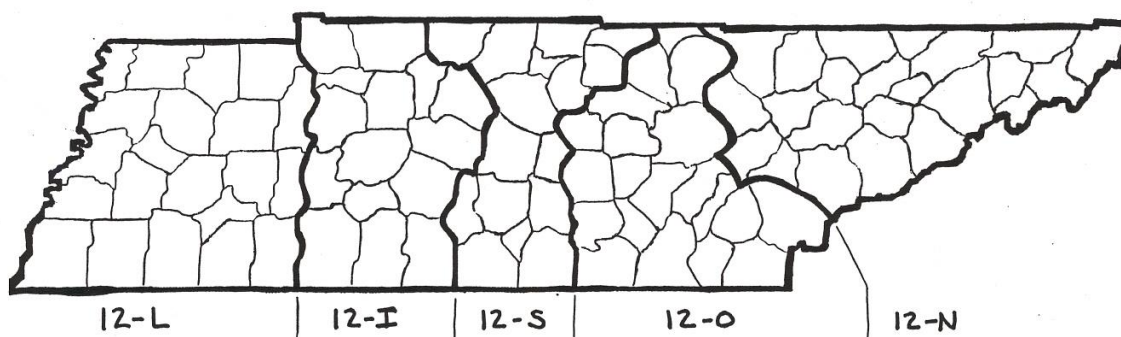
|  |   |
|--|---|
| <p>Knoxville Area Project Access (KAPA)<br/>Knoxville, TN<br/><a href="https://kapatn.org/">https://kapatn.org/</a></p>  | <p>KAPA is a broad-based community charity under the leadership of the Knoxville Academy of Medicine Foundation that provides access to health care for low-income, uninsured individuals in 23 East Tennessee Counties</p>   |
| <p>Learning Ally<br/><a href="http://www.learningally.org">http://www.learningally.org</a></p>   | <p>Learning Ally, formerly known as Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic (RFB&amp;D) provides recordings (by volunteers) of print material including text books, free to registered visually and print impaired borrowers.</p>  |
| <p>Leader Dogs for the Blind<br/>Rochester, MI<br/><a href="http://www.leaderdog.org/">http://www.leaderdog.org/</a></p>   | <p>Provides guide dogs and other orientation and mobility programs for the blind at NO charge. Expert trainers work with each potential guide dog, and then the blind recipient lives in a special dormitory for one month to learn how to work with the dog. In addition, several families in District 12-N have raised puppies during their first year of basic training and socialization.</p>                         |
| <p>Lions Quest<br/><a href="http://www.lions-quest.org/">http://www.lions-quest.org/</a></p>   | <p>Lions Quest programs (through LCIF) are comprehensive, positive youth development and prevention curricula that help cultivate capable and healthy young people of strong character. Lions Quest programs teach essential life skills that support character development, social and emotional learning, civic values, substance and violence prevention, and service-learning.</p>                                    |
| <p>Lions Volunteer Blind Industries (LVBI)<br/>Morristown, TN<br/>Johnson City, TN<br/><a href="http://www.volblind.org/">http://www.volblind.org/</a></p>           | <p>LVBI employs blind and visually impaired workers and additional severely disabled workers at two manufacturing sites (Morristown and Johnson City), where workers can earn competitive wages and make quality products for sale to commercial, state, and federal markets. LVBI also provides mobility and rehabilitation services through its rehabilitation center, Opportunity East.</p>                            |
| <p>Tennessee School for the Blind Fund (Tennessee Lions Charities)<br/>Nashville, TN<br/><a href="http://www.friendsoftsb.org/">http://www.friendsoftsb.org/</a></p> | <p>Tennessee School for the Blind is a state-operated school for visually impaired children through the 12<sup>th</sup> grade. Funds from Lions go through the Friends of Tennessee School for the Blind for student activities, personal needs, and holiday gifts.</p>   |
| <p>Tennessee School for the Deaf, Parent Teacher Counselor Association<br/>Knoxville, TN<br/><a href="http://tsdeaf.org/">http://tsdeaf.org/</a></p>                 | <p>Tennessee School for the Deaf is a state-operated school that provides an educational program for children with a hearing impairment. Funds from District 12-N Lions are used to assist students who need hearing devices, medicine, eye glasses, shoes, clothing, and other personal items. Funds are also used to support three summer camp programs for high school, middle school, and special needs students.</p> |
| <p>World Services for the Blind (WSB)<br/>Little Rock, AR<br/><a href="http://www.wsblind.org">http://www.wsblind.org</a></p>  | <p>WSB is a comprehensive rehabilitation center for blind adults that provides counseling for emotional and psychological adjustment to blindness, training in independent living and mobility skills and provides vocational programs.</p>   |



## MULTIPLE DISTRICT

Districts are usually organized along national, state or provincial borders. Where warranted by the number of clubs and Lions, districts can be broken down into sub-districts. The State of Tennessee is a Multiple District, and the information below depicts the growth of Lionism in Tennessee from a single district into the five sub-districts that presently operate.

|                    |                 |                                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| 1918-19 to 1940-41 | One District    | Single District 12              |
| 1941-42 to 1946-47 | Two Districts   | 12-E and 12-W                   |
| 1947-48 to 1954-55 | Three Districts | 12-E, 12-M and 12-W             |
| 1955-56 to 1985-86 | Four Districts  | 12-L, 12-I, 12-O and 12-N       |
| 1986-87 to present | Five Districts  | 12-L, 12-I, 12-O, 12-N and 12-S |



Multiple district leadership is guided by the Council of Governors. The Council is made up of the five current District Governors, and a chairman who is elected from the immediate Past District Governors (PDG).

### Who's Who in Tennessee Lions Leadership

\* Deceased

|                                       |                       |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|-----------|
| <b>Past International Presidents:</b> | Clifford Pierce*      | 1946-1947 |
|                                       | Edward M. Lindsey*    | 1966-1967 |
|                                       | Austin P. Jennings*   | 1988-1989 |
|                                       | Chancellor Bob Corlew | 2016-2017 |

|                                      |                    |           |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------|
| <b>Past International Directors:</b> | James A. Sherrill* | 1948-1950 |
|                                      | Chester P. Webb*   | 1953-1955 |
|                                      | Joseph W. Lawson*  | 1967-1969 |
|                                      | Herbert B. Diggs*  | 1972-1974 |
|                                      | John G. Justice*   | 1982-1984 |
|                                      | Carl E. Bledsoe*   | 1990-1992 |
|                                      | Billy C. Pearson*  | 1996-1998 |
|                                      | W. Allen Broughton | 2000-2002 |
| William (Bill) Watkins*              | 2007-2009          |           |
| Billy J. Blankenship                 | 2018-2021          |           |





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District program chairpersons serve as representatives on state committees. A state, or multiple district, convention is held each year, usually in April or May. Multiple District (MD) 12, which is the entire state of Tennessee, has established *Tennessee Lions Charities, Inc.*, a 501 (c)(3) public benefit foundation organized for the purpose of collecting and distributing charitable funds for charitable projects of MD-12.

### **Operation KidSight**

The Lions of Tennessee, Multiple District 12 have partnered with the Department of Ophthalmology at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, committed to a goal of providing quality eye care for children statewide.

Lions Clubs across the state raised over \$4 million for an effort named "Operation KidSight". This project created the Tennessee Lions Eye Center (TLEC) at Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, a pediatric ophthalmology center. The staff consists of pediatric ophthalmologists and others specially trained to provide quality eye care to infants and children.



From the beginning, an important part of this unique partnership has been the TLEC Outreach Program, the "clinic without walls", a program of free screening of young children in their own neighborhoods, with evaluation and follow-up by professionals at TLEC.

Leading the program are the medical director at TLEC who is responsible for the scientific integrity, and the outreach director who manages implementation of the program. Trained Lions Club volunteers screen children from 6 months up to 72 months of age in their own neighborhoods at nursery schools, day care centers, kindergartens, Head Start and similar programs. The purpose of the screening is to detect eye disorders that can lead to serious eye problems and/or blindness, at an early age when treatment is most effective. The process is very non-invasive which makes it ideal for use with young children.

Lions use an instrument that detects a range of vision disorders. The instrument's readings are attached to parent consent forms and sent to Vanderbilt for evaluation by physicians, after which results are transmitted to the parents. Those screened who have potential eye problems are referred to ophthalmologists or optometrists in their area for a more detailed examination, and TLEC staff follows-up with parents to help ensure those children get care.

Since its start in June 1997, KidSight Outreach results in approximately 25,000 children being screened by Tennessee Lions each year, with a milestone of 675,000 children screened being reached in 2023. Approximately 6% of children (over 39,000 to date) are referred for further evaluation. Cancerous tumors, pediatric cataracts, lazy eye, and more problems have been detected before children begin kindergarten thanks to this program.



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## INTERNATIONAL

The Lions International Headquarters is located in Oak Brook, Illinois. This facility serves as the association's central administrative and information source

Lions International holds a week-long international convention in late June or early July of each year. This is the annual meeting of the members of the association. Some of the activities held during the convention include voting on constitutional amendments, electing members to the Board of Directors, attending seminars of interest to all Lions, concluding the District Governors-elect seminar, general business sessions and the Parade of Nations.

### **Board of Directors**

The International Board of Directors consists of:

|                         |                                |                            |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| International President | 1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President | 35 International Directors |
|                         | 2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President |                            |
|                         | 3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President |                            |

International officers and directors act during the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

The International Directors represent every area of the world where Lionism is active, and are elected to a two-year term; approximately half of the positions are elected each year. The only remaining contest among international offices is for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President. The other offices advance one step each year until they are elected International President.

The International Board of Directors meets four times each year to set policy and monitor the ongoing programs of the association. Special committees may be appointed; the following standing committees are utilized:

|                                    |                        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------|
| Advisory                           | Leadership Development |
| Audit                              | Long Range Planning    |
| Constitution & By-Laws             | Membership Development |
| Convention                         | Marketing              |
| District and Club Service          | Service Activities     |
| Finance and Headquarters Operation | Technology             |

### **Lions Clubs International Foundation**

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the grant-making arm of our association. Established in 1968, the Foundation's mission is to support the efforts of Lions Clubs around the world in serving their local and global communities by funding humanitarian service projects.

Grants provide both immediate assistance following natural disasters and long-term disaster relief for reconstruction efforts. Grants help preserve sight, combat disability, promote health or serve youth.



LCIF is an efficient and effective charity. Every dollar donated to LCIF goes toward a grant. Lions support is crucial as donations from Lions provide the majority of LCIF's revenue. LCIF receives some funding from partner foundations and corporations. It receives no club dues. LCIF is truly Lions helping Lions.

Since the first grant of \$5,000 in 1972 for flooding, LCIF has awarded more than \$1.2 billion through more than 20,000 grants to improve the lives of people worldwide. A few key impacts:

- ◆ 9.7 million cataract surgeries performed
- ◆ Lions Quest has been implemented in more than 110 countries
- ◆ \$140 million in disaster relief
- ◆ More than 100 million children immunized against measles

The association's Immediate Past President is an international officer that serves as chairman of the LCIF Board of Trustees which manages the grant program.

LCIF grants are made possible by contributions received from personal donations from Lions, Lions clubs and districts, corporations and other foundations. The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) is the backbone of LCIF, providing 70 percent of its revenues. A recognition of humanitarian work, a MJF is given to those who contribute \$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others. Melvin Jones Fellows receive an attractive lapel pin, a plaque and a congratulatory letter.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship Progressive program recognizes people who donate \$1,000 or more or people in whose name a donation has been made, beyond the initial Melvin Jones Fellowship donation of \$1,000.

LCIF grants are generally awarded to Districts (more than 1 Lions Club involved) or Multiple Districts, and have different criteria for matching funds. Grant opportunities include:

| <b>Type, Applicable Entities, Amount</b>  | <b>Description</b>   |
|---|--|
| <b>District and Club Community Impact Grants (DCG)</b><br><br>Clubs and Districts Amounts Vary* | Fund: Broad array of local service projects<br><br>* Clubs donating at least \$5,000 and Districts donating at least \$10,000 to LCIF during Lion year (July 1 - June 30) may apply for grant up to 15% of donated amount.<br><br>Matching Funds: Not required. Amount may be applied toward matching fund requirements for other LCIF grant programs. |



| Type, Applicable Entities, Amount  | Description  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Childhood Cancer</b></p> <p>Districts and multiple districts<br/>\$10,000 - \$150,000</p>                  | <p>Help support and improve quality of life for children with cancer and their families.</p> <p>Fund: Construction and expansion of infrastructure such as family homes; child-friendly areas at child cancer treatment facilities; patient transportation, education, recreation</p> <p>Matching Funds: 25% - 50% of total project cost, depending on applicant location</p>                |
| <p><b>Diabetes</b></p> <p>Districts<br/>\$10,000 - \$150,000<br/>Multiple Districts<br/>\$10,000 - \$250,000</p> | <p>Help reduce prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed.</p> <p>Fund: Screening initiatives and comprehensive follow-up care; enhancement of existing diabetes camps; expansion of existing health facilities to increase patient access and health personnel training</p> <p>Matching Funds: 25% of total project cost</p>                                    |
| <p><b>Disaster Relief: Emergency</b></p> <p>Districts<br/>Maximum \$10,000</p>                                   | <p>Help Lions provide immediate emergency assistance to victims of natural disaster.</p> <p>Fund: Distribution of water, food, clothing, medicine, blankets, and personal necessities; <b>grant must be requested within 30 days of natural disaster occurrence</b></p> <p>Matching Funds: Not required</p>  |
| <p><b>Disaster Relief: Preparedness</b></p> <p>Districts<br/>Maximum \$10,000</p>                                | <p>Support partnering with local authorities and organizations to prepare for future relief efforts.</p> <p>Fund: Relief goods stockpiling; disaster kit assembly; preparedness education; advance support for first responders, food banks, medical facilities, shelters. <b>Limited to once every three years</b></p> <p>Matching Funds: 10% of total project cost</p>                     |
| <p><b>Disaster Relief: Community Recovery</b></p> <p>Districts<br/>Maximum \$20,000</p>                          | <p>In wake of current disasters affecting at least 100 people, help support short-term clean-up and repair where immediate needs already addressed by other organizations.</p> <p>Fund: Equipment for repairs and coordination of temporary services; do not fund construction projects; <b>grant must be requested within 60 days post-disaster</b></p> <p>Matching Funds: Not required</p> |



| Type, Applicable Entities, Amount   | Description   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>Disaster Relief: Major Catastrophe (MCAT)</b></p> <p>Minimum \$50,000</p>                                     | <p>Provide major support for relief efforts in wake of major natural disasters or civil calamities with significant international impact.</p> <p>Fund: Long-term reconstruction projects</p> <p><b>Applications not accepted; awarded at discretion of international president and LCIF chairperson</b></p> <p>Matching Funds: Not required</p>   |
| <p><b>Hunger</b></p> <p>Districts<br/>\$10,000 - \$100,000</p>  | <p>Support Lions' service projects focused on alleviating hunger.</p> <p>Fund: Large-scale infrastructure development projects focused on equipment acquisition for food banks, school kitchens, and food storage and transport</p> <p>Matching Funds: 25% of total project cost</p>  |
| <p><b>Leo Service Grants</b></p> <p>Districts and multiple districts<br/>\$1,500 - \$5,000</p>                      | <p>Support Leos in assessing, planning, implementing their own service projects.</p> <p>Fund: Hands-on, community-based humanitarian service projects directly developed, implemented, and carried out by Leo Clubs, in collaboration with Lions</p> <p>Matching Funds: 25% of total project cost</p>   |
| <p><b>Lions Quest: Program</b></p> <p>District maximum: \$50,000; Multiple District, country maximum: \$150,000</p> | <p>Implement Lions Quest program where Lions have detailed plan and commitment from local schools, or expand program where it has been active for years and opportunity exists to reach more schools.</p> <p>Fund: Teacher training workshops; student workshop curriculum and materials; translation; trainer expenses; program evaluation and research</p> <p>Matching Funds: 25% of total project cost</p> |
| <p><b>Lions Quest: Promotional</b></p> <p>Districts and multiple districts<br/>Maximum \$1,500</p>                  | <p>Assist districts in improving understanding of Lions Quest programming and communicating program value</p> <p>Fund: Informational seminars and other promotional activities for Lions, community members, educators</p> <p>Matching Funds: Not required</p>  |



| <b>Type, Applicable Entities, Amount</b>   | <b>Description</b>   |
|--|--|
| <b>Lions Quest:<br/>Community Partnership</b><br><br>Districts and multiple districts<br>Maximum \$1,500 | Start Lions Quest programs in new areas or reactivate dormant programs.<br><br>Fund: Pilot implementation/expansion; student and teacher-training workshop expenses; curriculum translation; program evaluation and research<br><br>Matching Funds: Not required   |
| <b>Matching Grants</b><br><br>Districts and multiple districts<br>\$10,000 - \$100,000                   | Help establish or expand Lions-initiated projects addressing critical human and social needs.<br><br>Fund: Construction and equipment costs for projects serving large and vulnerable populations<br><br>Matching Funds: 25% - 50% of total project cost, depending on applicant location  |
| <b>SightFirst Grants</b><br><br>Districts and multiple districts<br>Amounts vary                         | Help fight major causes of preventable and reversible blindness; provide services to those with blindness or visual impairment.<br><br>Fund: Renovation of existing infrastructure; cost-effective equipment; comprehensive eye care service delivery and education; health personnel training<br><br>Matching Funds: Required for select equipment only |



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## RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

As a service organization, the success of Lions all across the globe is dependent upon volunteers like you. While we are rewarded many times over for our service with the satisfaction of making a positive contribution in the lives of others, the organization takes great pride in recognizing Lions for certain achievements. A description of a few of these awards follow.

### **First Lion and Key Awards**

Bringing other good men and women into Lions should be one of your primary goals. Members who sponsor new members are recognized in one of the following ways: a First Lion Card for the first Lion sponsored, a letter of recognition for interim members sponsored, or one of eleven Key Awards in multiples culminating with the 500 Member Key. Your Club Secretary can provide additional details.

### **Perfect Attendance**

It is important to attend your Lions Club meetings and you may wish to aim for perfect attendance. Meetings contribute to the ultimate success of your club, form the bonds of fellowship, and carry out the business and activities of the club. If you miss a meeting unavoidably, you can usually make it up by attending another Lions meeting or event. Ask your Club Secretary about the club's specific policies about when meetings must be made up.

### **Chevrons**

Chevrons are "service stripes" that may be attached to your Lions lapel pin. There are two types: CHARTER MONARCH CHEVRONS for charter members who have maintained 10 years of continuous membership; and MONARCH CHEVRONS for Lions who have maintained continuous membership for ten years. Chevrons are then added for each additional five years of continuous membership. Lions can receive credit for years served as a Jaycee, Leo, and Lioness.

### **Extension**

Lions who assist in the organization of a new club are eligible for an Extension Award. The award is given to those Lions - no more than two for each new club - who, in the opinion of the District Governor, have done the most to organize the club.

### **Multiple District 12 Awards**

The following awards are presented on the sub-district level. Honorees then become the sub-district's nomination for the state (multiple-district) award.

- ◆ Lion of the Decade (for the 10-year period ending that year)
- ◆ Lion of the Year
- ◆ Club of the Year
- ◆ Virginia Lindsey Leadership Award (focused on young Lions)



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## HOW CAN I BE A GOOD LION?

A good Lion is one who is excited about the wonderful services that Lions world-wide provide to those in need. A good Lion is one who is active and enjoys meeting new people and experiencing new situations.

As a new Lion, you might be a little overwhelmed with the organization and our lofty goals. The next two pages will help you learn how you can become involved, and stay involved! The next page contains a checklist of activities that will help you become a better Lion. It is recommended that new members try to complete each of these during their first full year as a Lion. However, **EVERY** Lion can benefit from these guidelines.

The most beneficial thing that you can immediately do as a Lion is to go to your club meetings. The fellowship and informal interaction will help you get to know more about the people you will serve beside. No one is comfortable being a stranger among a group of friends, so don't let this happen to you.

The next thing you should do is learn as much as you can about the association. This workbook provides a brief summary of some of our major initiatives. If there are programs or activities that intrigue or interest you, notify the contact person and get more information. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions!

The most refreshing, but unfortunately underutilized, aspect of being a Lion is being able to see the benefits of your efforts. The most active Lions are those who have taken the opportunity to visit people and organizations supported by our Lions funds and programs. Witnessing the results of your hard work revitalizes you and keeps you exciting about being a Lion.

Take some time to think about your skills, talents, or interests. What do you like to do? What excites you? What would you or can you do to make a difference? Get involved with specific causes or activities that motivate you. If these do not currently exist, make a proposal to add that activity to your club's agenda. Take advantage of the association's programs to develop new skills and leadership abilities – don't be afraid to go for it.

Finally, be proud to be a Lion and wear your lapel pin!





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## CHECKLIST FOR NEW LIONS

### Complete this Workbook:

|                 |                                      |             |
|-----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| _____           | Club Board of Directors              | page 6      |
| _____           | Club Committee Contacts              | page 8      |
| _____           | Breakdown of My Dues Expense         | page 9      |
| <u>Provided</u> | District Cabinet                     | page 11     |
| <u>Provided</u> | District Program & Activity Contacts | pages 12-13 |

### Additional Information Gathering:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Obtain a directory of your club members from your Club Secretary
- \_\_\_\_\_ Read your copies of the *News & Views*, District 12-N's newsletter
- \_\_\_\_\_ Read your copies of *The Lion* magazine

### Club Activities:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a service project
- \_\_\_\_\_ Participate in a fundraising project
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work on at least one activity committee
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend a board of directors meeting for your club
- \_\_\_\_\_ Invite a friend!

### District Activities:

- \_\_\_\_\_ Tour one or more White Cane agencies or ask Chair to give a Club Program
- \_\_\_\_\_ Visit another club's meeting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend a zone meeting
- \_\_\_\_\_ Attend a Cabinet meeting and/or District Convention



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## LANGUAGE OF LIONS – COMMON ACRONYMS

|        |   |
|--------|---|
| CC     | Council Chairman  |
| CEP    | Club Excellence Process                                     |
| CGL    | Certified Guiding Lion                                      |
| CS     | Cabinet or Council Secretary                                |
| CT     | Cabinet or Council Treasurer                                |
| DG     | District Governor   |
| DGE    | District Governor-Elect                                     |
| ETLEB  | East Tennessee Lions Eye Bank                               |
| GAT    | Global Action Team  |
| GLT    | Global Leadership Team                                      |
| GMT    | Global Membership Team                                      |
| GST    | Global Service Team   |
| ID     | International Director                                      |
| IPDG   | Immediate Past District Governor                            |
| IVP    | International Vice President                                |
| LCI    | Lions Clubs International                                   |
| LCIcon | Lions Clubs International Convention                        |
| LCIF   | Lions Clubs International Foundation                        |
| LEO    | Leadership, Experience, Opportunity                         |
| LJF    | Lindsey-Jennings Fellow                                     |
| LLR    | Lions Learning Retreat (Tennessee)                          |
| LOD    | Lion of the Decade  |
| LOY    | Lion of the Year  |
| LVBI   | Lions Volunteer Blind Industries                            |
| MD     | Multiple district   |
| MJF    | Melvin Jones Foundation                                     |
| PCC    | Past Council Chairman                                       |
| PDG    | Past District Governor                                      |
| PID    | Past International Director                                 |
| PIP    | Past International President                                |
| RC     | Region Chair  |
| TLC    | Tennessee Lions Charities, Inc.                             |
| TLEC   | Tennessee Lions Eye Center (Vanderbilt Children's Hospital) |
| TSB    | Tennessee School for the Blind                              |
| TSD    | Tennessee School for the Deaf                               |
| VDG    | Vice District Governor                                      |
| VDGE   | Vice District Governor-Elect                                |
| VLLA   | Virginia Lindsey Leadership Award                           |
| WSB    | World Services for the Blind                                |
| ZC     | Zone Chair  |



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## TEXT OF 1925 SPEECH BY HELEN KELLER TO LIONS

Invited to address the 1925 International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, Helen Keller pointed Lions in a direction that would change the lives of millions.

(For presentation purposes) I ask that you close your eyes to contemplate the darkness as you hear her words:

“Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in night, your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world, wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, ‘Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see?’

*You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.*

“Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind children untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?”

The Lions responded and are now best known for our sight-related programs!