

Fast Facts

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization. We have 1.35 million members in more than 45,000 clubs worldwide.

Lions are everywhere. We're active men and women in more than 206 countries and geographic areas.

Lions have a dynamic history. Founded in 1917, we are best known for fighting blindness – it's part of our history as well as our work today. But we also volunteer for many different kinds of community projects – including caring for the environment, feeding the hungry and aiding seniors and the disabled.

Lions give sight. By conducting vision screenings, equipping hospitals and clinics, distributing medicine and raising awareness of eye disease, Lions work toward their mission of providing vision for all. We have extended our commitment to sight conservation through countless local efforts and through our international SightFirst Program, which works to eradicate blindness.

Lions serve youth. Our community projects often support local children and schools through scholarships, recreation and mentoring. Internationally, we offer many programs, including the Peace Poster Contest, Youth Camps and Exchange and Lions Quest.

Our Leo Program provides the youth of the world with an opportunity for personal development through volunteering. There are approximately 144,000 Leos and 5,700 Leo clubs in more than 140 countries worldwide.

Lions award grants. Since 1968, the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) has awarded more than US\$700 million in grants to support Lions humanitarian projects around the world. LCIF was also ranked the number one nongovernmental organization in a 2007 study by *The Financial Times*.

Together, our Foundation and Lions are helping communities following natural disasters by providing for immediate needs such as food, water, clothing and medical supplies – and aiding in long-term reconstruction.

Lions are active. Our motto is "We Serve." Lions are part of a global service network, doing whatever is necessary to help our local communities.

Who we are

Lions meet the needs of local communities and the world. Our 1.35 million members in 206 countries and geographic areas are different in many ways, but we share a core belief – community is what we make it.

Ready to Help, Worldwide

Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller. Moreover, communities get better. That is because we help where help is needed – in our own communities and around the world – with unmatched integrity and energy.

Our 45,000 clubs and 1.35 million members make us the world's largest service club organization.

We're also one of the most effective. *We get the job done.*

We recently:

Brought 3,000 volunteers together to build a playground for children of all abilities in California, USA.

Fed 60,000 people in a township in South Africa. It's something Lions do there every day.

Sent a team of eye surgeons to Honduras to treat more than 100 adults and children.

Everywhere we work, we make friends. With children who need schoolbooks, with seniors who need transportation and with people we may never meet.

We're led by talented, dedicated volunteer leaders from around the world. And, we're supported by the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), which helps to fund Lions humanitarian projects.

The International Headquarters for both Lions Clubs International and the LCIF is in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA.

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Mission and History

In 1917, Melvin Jones, a Chicago business leader, told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world. Jones' group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed.

After contacting similar groups around the United States, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The new group took the name of one of the invited groups, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of that year. A constitution, by-laws, objects and a code of ethics were approved. Within three years, Lions became an international organization. Since then, we've earned high marks for both integrity and transparency. We're a well-run organization with a steady vision, a clear mission, and a long – and proud – history.

Vision Statement

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

Mission Statement

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

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** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, 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.

The Lions Name

On June 17, 1917 at the invitation of Melvin Jones, delegates met in Chicago. The only point of contention was the selection of a name for the new organization. Melvin Jones researched the idea of calling the new organization Lions. He was convinced that the lion stood for strength, courage, fidelity and vital action. On a secret ballot the name Lions was chosen over several others.

The Lions Emblem

At the 1919 convention, there was a move to change the symbol, but a young attorney from Denver, Colorado rose to speak. His name was Halsted Ritter. "The name Lions stands not only for fraternity, good fellowship, strength of character and purpose, but above all, its combination of L-I-O-N-S heralds to the country the true meaning of citizenship: LIBERTY, INTELLIGENCE, OUR NATION'S SAFETY."

The January 1931 issue of THE LION Magazine featured this interpretation of the association's name:

Our name was not selected at random, neither was it a coined name. From time immemorial, the lion has been the symbol of all that was good, and because of the symbolism that name was chosen. Four outstanding qualities – Courage, Strength, Activity and Fidelity – had largely to do with the adoption of the name. The last mentioned of these qualities, Fidelity, has a deep and peculiar significance for all Lions. The lion symbol has been a symbol of Fidelity through the ages and among all nations, ancient and modern. It stands for loyalty to a friend, loyalty to a principle, loyalty to a duty, loyalty to a trust.

The emblem consists of a gold letter "L" on a circular area. Bordering this is a circular area with two Lion profiles facing away from the center. The word "Lions" appears at the top and "International" at the bottom. The Lions face both past and future – showing both pride of heritage and confidence in the future.

Official Colors

Pantone Matching System (PMS) is a popular color matching system used by the printing industry to print spot colors. Most applications that support color printing allow you to specify colors by indicating the Pantone name or number. This assures that you get the right color when

the file is printed, even though the color may not look right when displayed on your monitor. The following are specified Pantone colors for Lion logos:

- **One color logo:** PMS 287
- **Two color logo:** PMS 287 and PMS 7406

Become a Lion

Community Volunteer Work that Makes a Difference

Right now, Lions are performing volunteer work to improve communities around the world.

We're meeting to plan a local project. We're sponsoring international exchanges for young people. We're bringing clean drinking water to a remote village. We're building. We're sharing. We're repairing. And we're having fun.

We have community clubs that meet in person. Cyber clubs that meet online. And special interest clubs that can be based on your profession, a hobby or anything you care about. Each club matches the needs of its members to help them support their community – right now.

Join an International Network of Volunteers and Friends

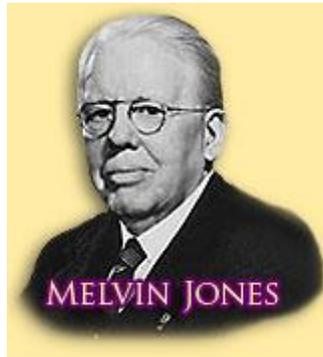
Lions are groups of service-minded men and women who are interested in doing volunteer work to improve their communities. We are young people, families, and Baby Boomers alike.

To become a Lion is to become an active volunteer, a member of a respected international organization, a leader in your community and a friend to people in need. Learn more about what we do.

There are many reasons to become a member. As a Lion, you'll:

- Help your community and gain valuable skills
- Make an impact on people's lives – locally and internationally
- Learn to be a leader – and lead a respected organization
- Network with business people in your community and around the world
- Energize your life and have fun

You will grow personally and professionally. Moreover, you will know that the community volunteer work you perform is worthwhile and appreciated.



Melvin Jones – Founder of Lions Clubs International

Melvin Jones was born on January 13, 1879 in Fort Thomas, Arizona, the son of a United States Army captain who commanded a troop of scouts. Later, his father was transferred and the family moved east. As a young man, Melvin Jones made his home in Chicago, Illinois, became associated with an insurance firm and in 1913 formed his own agency.

He soon joined the Business Circle, a businessmen's luncheon group, and was shortly elected secretary. This group was one of many at that time devoted solely to promoting the financial interests of their membership. Because of their limited appeal, they were destined to disappear. Melvin Jones, however, had other plans.

"What if these men," he asked, "who are successful because of their drive, intelligence and ambition, were to put their talents to work improving their communities?" Thus, at his invitation, delegates from men's clubs met in Chicago to lay the groundwork for such an organization and on June 7, 1917, Lions Clubs International was born.

Melvin Jones eventually abandoned his insurance agency to devote himself full time to Lions at International Headquarters in Chicago. It was under his dynamic leadership that Lions clubs earned the prestige necessary to attract civic-minded members.

The association's founder was also recognized as a leader by those outside the association. One of his greatest honors was in 1945 when he represented Lions Clubs International as a consultant in San Francisco, California, at the organization of the United Nations.

Melvin Jones, the man whose personal code – "You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else" – became a guiding principle for public-spirited people the world over, died June 1, 1961 at 82 years of age.