

NORTH CAROLINA LIONS “PRIDE BOOK”

NEW MEMBER

ORIENTATION



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Your Book of Pride

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary describes "*pride*" as a reasonable or justifiable self-respect; or a company of lions. The object of this booklet is to educate each new Lion member in the *pride* of the history of Lions Clubs International in North Carolina, the *pride* we share in our heritage of serving others, and the organization of our Lion's Pride.

As a Lion member you are a part of the largest and most effective community service organization in the world. Our worldwide membership is in excess of 1.4 million Lions in over 45,500 clubs, organized into 738 districts, established in 191 countries and geographical areas. As a North Carolina Lion you are a member of a Pride of Lions that number over 10,000 members, representing nine districts reaching from the mountains to the ocean. There are over 415 local clubs serving their communities with pride. Together we are part of an international family of Lions; regardless of the language spoken, the religion practiced or the politics espoused; who are dedicated to seeking out and helping those in need. "WE SERVE" is more than a motto; ...it is our guiding principle.

Our International Association has a proud heritage of service dating from 1917. With your help, the future will be even greater. Your first step in developing your Lion's *pride* is participation in your club's activities. Your club will present you with many varying opportunities through its service projects, fund raising endeavors, and social events. Learn all you can about Lionism as soon as you can. This booklet has been designed to help give you a basic understanding of the history, structure, and activities of the North Carolina Lions. However, it is only from your fellow club members that you will experience what the humanitarian service of the Lions mean in your own community.

As you become active and more knowledgeable, please share your experiences and pride of accomplishments with your friends and family. Few things can be as gratifying as extending a helping hand. It has been said, "One never stands so tall as when they stoop to help another." By sharing your experiences, you encourage others to renew their efforts and to enlist other potential members.

It is the legacy of those who have gone before us, those with the positive attitude and the confidence and pride to make a difference, which has made Lions Clubs International the pinnacle of service organizations. Their rich, golden legacy has given us a boundless future.

Welcome to our Pride!

With grateful acknowledgment for the contributions in the preparation of this booklet from PDG David Butler and the North Carolina Lions Foundation, PDG Bob Ward, Editor of "Lionism in North Carolina - A New Era 1967-1988", Lions Clubs International and many other Lions of North Carolina who have preserved our history.

PID Sid Scruggs

How Your Association is Organized

The individual Lions club is the most important unit of your association. It is the club that is a member of the association. As an individual, you belong to your club, and therefore it is the International Association of Lions Clubs that now proudly counts you as a member.

This means that when it comes time to elect International Officers and Directors, or to amend or change the International Constitution and By-Laws, it is the club that casts the necessary votes through its authorized delegates.

Every Lions club in good standing is entitled to send at least one delegate and alternate to vote at the international convention, regardless of the number of members it has. Most clubs are entitled to more than one vote, since the rule provides for one delegate or alternate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. Delegates can be appointed by the club's board of directors, or elected by the membership.

International Organization

Every year at the international convention, the delegates elect the International Officers and Directors who will act for them during the coming fiscal year, which for our association runs from July 1 to June 30. Officers elected include the International President and First and Second Vice President. Constitutionally, a contest exists only for the office of Second Vice President with the other officers advancing one step each year until they are elected International President. The Immediate Past International President is also an officer of the association and serves as Chairman of the LCIF Board of Trustees.

The International Board of Directors consists of the officers and 33 International Directors. Elected by the delegates as a whole, the Directors represent every area of the world where Lions are active. They serve a two-year term, with approximately one-half being elected each year. Also serving on the board, but without a vote, are the Executive Administrator, who assists the President in the day-to-day operation of the association and to whom the staff reports, and the Foundation Secretary and Treasurer.

The Board is the executive body of the association and exercises general management and control of its business, property and funds as delegated by the membership through the International Constitution and By-Laws. The Board is also authorized by the constitution to exercise general control and supervision of all officers and committees.

The International Board of Directors meets four times each year, setting policy and monitoring the on going programs of the association. During interim periods, the constitution authorizes the Executive Committee; consisting of the President, the Vice Presidents and one International Director; to act on the Board's behalf when necessary. All actions of the Executive Committee must, however, be approved by the Board at the next regular meeting.

District Organization

With Lions clubs active in approximately 191 countries and geographical areas worldwide, it would be very difficult for the International Board of Directors to exercise control without the help of knowledgeable

and dedicated local Lions. The association has therefore been organized into more than 740 districts. The chief executive officer of each district is the District Governor, and he is an officer of the international association.

In general, the districts are organized along national, state or provincial lines. Where warranted by the number of clubs and Lions, districts can be broken down into sub-districts. Constitutionally each sub-district must contain at least 1250 members and 35 clubs. These sub-districts make up the multiple districts that are given number designations by Lions Clubs International. Where no sub-districts exist, the district is normally called a single district.

The District Governor is elected by delegates from the clubs in the district at the district convention or state convention if the district does not have a district convention. Because of the importance of this office, District Governors-elect from around the world gather just prior to the international convention for a series of seminars designed to broaden their knowledge of the association and its programs. Each Governor assumes office at the close of the international convention.

For administrative purposes, districts are generally subdivided into regions and zones, with Region and Zone Chairmen responsible for their respective areas. A zone shall include a minimum of four clubs and a region a minimum of two zones. The position of Region Chairman can be eliminated at the desecration of the District Governor. These Lions, as well as the Vice Governor, the Immediate Past District Governor, the Cabinet Secretary and or Treasurer, and quite often various activity chairmen make up the District Cabinet. Working closely with the Governor and the Cabinet is the District Governor's Advisory Committee, which comprises the president and secretary of each club in the district.

In 1994 the office of Vice Governor became mandatory. Normally, the Vice District Governor will be elected as District Governor the following year.

Your Lions Club

The Lions club is the most important single element of Lionism. It is the clubs, after all, which carry out the programs and activities that have made our association what it is today; the largest and most active humanitarian service organization in the world.

Membership is by invitation only, and is open to persons of legal majority who have demonstrated high moral character and a commitment to community betterment.

Your club has been chartered by the International Association, and has agreed to abide by the International Constitution and By-Laws. It has the same rights as any Lions club, proportionate to membership.

A typical Lions club is governed by a board of directors consisting of a President as chief executive officer, three Vice Presidents, the Immediate Past President, a Secretary, a Treasurer, the Lion Tamer (custodian of club property), the Tail Twister (who adds fun to the meeting), Membership Chairman, and four or more Directors. Most boards meet on a monthly basis.

Assisting the Board are the various administrative and activity committees appointed by the President. The administrative committees may include Attendance, Constitution and By-Laws, Convention, Finance, Lions Information, Program, Public Relations, Bulletin Editor, Greeter, and Leadership Development. Activity committees generally conform to the major activities of Lionism.

The wise President will appoint as many club members as possible to a committee. In many clubs, every member is assigned to a committee. Committee chairmanships in particular are an excellent method of encouraging and developing future club leaders.

Each club sets its own entrance fee and annual dues. The club also collects both the district and the international dues (increased to \$ 39.00 by 2006 is still the lowest of the major service club organizations).

Entrance fees and dues are used to pay the club's administrative costs. Money raised from the public for charitable activities must never be used to defray administrative expenses, but are to be used for legitimate community or public needs.

Club Meetings

Lions clubs are required to meet on a regular basis. Originally, most clubs met weekly at noon. As social and business patterns changed, many clubs found that an evening or a breakfast meeting better served the needs of their members.

The important thing for you, as a member, is to attend every meeting of your club. It is at the club meeting where the bonds of friendship are formed that contribute so much to the ultimate success of the club. Important business takes place including votes on projects and expenditures, planning for future events, and reports of committees. It is your club only when you participate.

You should aim for perfect attendance. If you miss a meeting unavoidably, you can make it up by attending a club board meeting, a region or zone meeting, the meeting of another club, a meeting of one of your club's committees, or one of the many other ways specified in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Conventions

The International Convention

Every year, approximately 20-30,000 Lions and their families from throughout the world gather in a major city to carry out the important business of the association. They elect officers and directors, vote on constitutional matters, and attend a wide variety of educational and inspirational seminars and workshops.

The convention is also about pageantry and renewing friendships from around the world. The colorful parade, international entertainment, notable speakers, and workshops are some of the things that make for an exciting experience. For many Lions it is the opportunity to meet Lions from different countries that gives the convention its special flavor. It is truly the "crossroads of Lionism."

North Carolina Lions State Convention

A convention of the North Carolina Lions is held each year at various locations throughout the state. The site where the convention is held each year is selected by the Council of Governors and is not selected more than three years in advance. Clubs or facilities desiring to host the State Convention may submit to the State Secretary their written invitation as defined in the state Constitution and By-Laws.

At the North Carolina Lions Convention, the business of the state association is conducted. The delegates vote on constitutional matters dealing with the state organization and may attend a wide variety of educational and informative seminars and workshops.

At the state convention you have an opportunity to meet new friends as well as visit with old friends from around the state. You will find that there are a lot of Lions in your state that have good ideas that will help you and your club to do a better job of serving your community.

District Convention

A convention of the Lions of your district is held each year at a time and place that is determined by the District Governor.

At the District Convention, the business of the district association is conducted. The delegates will elect the district officers for the next Lionistic year. Any endorsement for candidates for an International Officer are presented and approved for submission to the delegates at the State Convention for the Multiple District approval.

As with the International and State Conventions, you have an opportunity to visit with friends, new and old, that you have made at previous conventions or on club visitations. Conventions are a time for review of accomplishments, recognition, decision making, and fun. Start now to make conventions a vital part of your Lions *pride*.



Your Pride Book will focus your attention on the uniqueness of being a North Carolina Lion. Information will be given that is about the history and outreach programs of the Lions of North Carolina, and some important information about Lions Clubs International.

LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP

The International Family from North Carolina

Strong leadership ability at the international level begins with proven leadership at home. Every Lion in North Carolina can take pride in the number and the quality of leaders we have sent to serve the International Association of Lions Clubs. Each one of them demonstrated uncommon ability and commitment in serving their communities and state, and then they went on to represent North Carolina with distinction throughout the nation and the world.

International Presidents

North Carolina's leadership at the international level rose to new heights in 1956 when **John L. "Jack" Stickley** of the Charlotte Central Lions Club became President of the International Association of Lions Clubs. Having served as an International Director in 1951-1953, he chose the theme, "The Utmost for the Highest" for his year as President. This theme was a perfect description of the Stickley presidency. He was dedicated to a strong spiritual foundation as he and his wife, Jenny, carried the banner of Lionism throughout the world. He was also instrumental in introducing Lionism to the continent of Africa.

North Carolina's proud tradition continued when **William L. Woolard**, also a member of the Charlotte Central Lions Club, took office as President of the International Association of Lions Clubs in July of 1989, having served as an International Director in 1981-1983. It is impossible to talk with Bill Woolard about Lionism without becoming aware of the depth of his commitment. Lionism has been a way of life for Bill and his wife Virginia since he first became a Lion in 1963. Although he speaks quietly and with understanding about his own record of achievement, his voice is one of firm conviction when he talks of human problems, which must be solved, and the human efforts that will solve them.

International Directors

The following North Carolinians were elected to serve on the International Board of Directors:

Lion Judge **G. H. Hastings**, Winston-Salem Lions Club, 1927-1930*

Lion **Carbis A. Walker**, Winston-Salem Lions Club, 1939-1941*

Lion **John H. Kalte**, High Point Lions Club, 1946-1948*

Lion **Edward H. Mc Mahan**, Brevard Lions Club, 1948-1950*

Lion **John L. Stickley**, Charlotte Central Lions Club, 1951-1953*

Lion **Wallace I. West**, Wilmington Lions Club, 1960-1962*

Lion **Dr. M. Henderson Rourk**, Shallotte Lions Club, 1964-1966*

Lion **Grady R. Pulliam, Jr.**, Winston-Salem Twin City Lions Club, 1970-1972

Lion **Dr. Lacy M. Presnell, Jr.**, Raleigh Host Lions Club, 1975-1977

International Directors continued:

Lion **William L. Woolard**, Charlotte Central Lions Club, 1981-1983

Lion **E. Howard Stallings**, Oxford Lions Club, 1991-1993

Lion **Ron Huber**, High Point Host Lions Club, 1995-1997

Lion **Sid L. Scruggs, III**, Vass Lions Club, 2000-2002

*Deceased

The North Carolina Lions who have served as International Director have a wide variety of backgrounds. Past Director **Judge G. H. Hastings** was a practicing lawyer who also served as a member of the North Carolina legislature for two years, after which he became Judge of the Municipal Court and the Juvenile Court in Winston-Salem.

Past Director **Carbis Walker** was a C.P.A. and an industrial engineer. He was internationally known in swimming circles. He was the only man, at the time, to swim the length of Lake Erie and was a member of the Olympic team in 1920.

Past Director **John Kalte** was engaged in real estate and insurance, but prior to those endeavors he was an executive in the paint and wood finishing business. He served as director of the High Point Community Chest and Secretary of the Salvation Army Advisory Board.

Past Director **Edward McMahon** was engaged in law practice and acted as attorney for various firms, corporations and individuals. He served as president of the Brevard Chamber of Commerce and as county chairman of the War Finance Committee, heading the War Loan drives.

Past International President **Jack Stickley** was a textile executive. In addition to his Lions service he was a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board in Charlotte and served on the Board of Trustees of Wingate College.

Past Director **Wallace West** was an educator and varsity coach. He served not only as a teacher but also as an administrator as Assistant Superintendent of Schools, New Hanover County. He received the Silver Beaver Award from the Boy Scouts of America and was honored with the "Outstanding Citizen Award" by the Woodmen of the World. Appointed by the Governor of North Carolina, he served two terms on the North Carolina Commission for the Blind.

Past Director **Dr. Henderson Rourk** was a practicing physician for over thirty years. He held degrees from the University of North Carolina, the University of Minnesota and Harvard University. Serving in World War II for over four years, Dr. Rourk enlisted as a Captain and returned to private practice with the rank of Colonel.

Past Director **Grady Pulliam, Jr.** is a retired chairman of a life insurance corporation. He served his country in World War II and was attached to the Adjutant General in Europe. For his military service he received five battle stars.

Past Director **Dr. Lacey Presnell, Jr.** is a retired educator. Not only was he a teacher, but he also served as Superintendent of Schools and President of the Carolina School Planning and Research Board. He is also an active lobbyist for the Retire Teachers Association of North Carolina, and serves on the Board of Directors of the Raleigh Industries for the Blind and the Governor Morehead School for the Blind Foundation.

Past International President **William Woolard** is a retired Lawyer and owner of Armature Winding Company, Inc. He was appointed by the Governor of North Carolina to Board of the North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics in Durham. He received the Order of Long Leaf Pine for humanitarian service, the state's highest award, from Governor Jim Hunt. He also received a three-year grant from the Carnegie Foundation for World Peace. A graduate of Duke University, he was an Angier B. Duke scholar.

Past Director **Howard Stallings** is retired educator. As principal at Webb High School and as Assistant Superintendent of Schools in Granville County responsible for personnel, he has earned the respect and admiration of students and teachers alike. He has been active with The North Carolina Lions Foundation, the North Carolina Eye Bank, and the North Carolina Boys and Girls Home.

Past Director **Ron Huber** is the retired owner of a retail-vending corporation. He has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the North Carolina Eye and Human Tissue Bank and served as a member of the North Carolina Commission for the Blind. He has also been active with the USA/Canada Forum with supervising sales in the Forum store.

Past Director **Sid Scruggs, III** is a retired international airline captain. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy he served as a pilot aboard several aircraft carriers during the Vietnam Conflict leaving the U. S. Navy with the rank of Lieutenant Commander. Appointed by the Governor of North Carolina, he serves on the Board of Directors of the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Governor Morehead Foundation and the Board of Directors of the Raleigh Industries For The Blind.

In addition to the above elected Directors, Lion Hugh Monteith was appointed by International President Dudley L. Simms to serve as Chairman of the Board of International Relations. By virtue of his appointment, Lion Moneith was an ex-officio member of the International Board of Directors in 1958-1959. He was the only North Carolinian to be honored in this way. This board has since been eliminated.

All North Carolina Lions salute with pride the accomplishments and leadership that these great Lions have rendered. They have provided not only outstanding service to their clubs, districts, and North Carolina, but they have also brought humanitarian aid to people worldwide who have had their lives touched by Lionism.

NORTH CAROLINA MULTIPLE DISTRICT 31

The History

Five years after the eight charter member states participated in the founding of Lionism in 1917, North Carolina joined the National Association. Although North Carolina was not one of the first states, it was certainly one of the most receptive to Lionism. In 1922, ten clubs were organized, however none of them received their charters before the end of the year. Many of the places where these clubs held their organizational meetings no longer exist, and those that are still standing would be unrecognizable to the club members of 1922. Those early Lions and the plans they made at their meetings left a permanent imprint on Lionism in North Carolina. In the years that followed, Lionism spread rapidly across the state inspiring North Carolinians with its philosophy and goals of community service.

In 1922, **Winston-Salem** was the largest city in North Carolina and became home to the first Lions Club in the state. The Winston-Salem club was organized on March 13th at the Robert E. Lee Hotel, and less than a month later it sponsored the **Albemarle** club as the second club in North Carolina. Albemarle held its organizational meeting the evening of April 21st in the store of P.J. Hunnicut & Co. The Lions Club of **Raleigh** became the third club in the state and was organized on May 12, 1922. On May 15th, a fourth club was formed in **Wilmington** and chartered with 50 members. The fifth Lions Club was organized July 2nd, in **Fayetteville**. As Lionism continued to spread throughout the state, a new club was formed in **Durham** in July. In early September a group of Greensboro businessmen and civic leaders began their efforts to organize the **Greensboro** Lions Club. On September 22nd, the **Wilson** Lions Club elected their officers from the 25 members that had held an organizational meeting in the J.W. Dailey building over the *Daily Mirror*. Thanks to all the activity of the eight previous clubs springing up around the state, Lionism was making an impact on the public and capturing the imagination of civic leaders throughout North Carolina. **Charlotte** and **Ashville** became the last of the ten pioneer clubs of 1922.

These first ten clubs generated a wave of interest and enthusiasm for Lionism throughout the state. North Carolinians strongly identified with this new concept of a club dedicated to unselfish service, and they were ready to shape the future with their commitment. From 1922 to 1966, the number of clubs increased dramatically. On December 9, 1949, the 200th club chartered in Zebulon. The chartering of the 300th club was in Haw Creek on July 25, 1952. By 1966, there were 391 clubs in North Carolina, each with its own programs and plans for service to humanity.

North Carolina Lions celebrated many milestones during those first 45 years. The state grew from a single district in 1922 into a multiple district in 1937 with districts N and C. In 1939, the number increased to three: A, B, and C. Lionism further expanded to six districts in 1950: A, B, C, D, E, and F. In 1954, G, H, and J were added completing the present number of nine districts. In 1937, the State Council, comprised of the current District Governors, was formed. Today each year's State Council continues to serve as the administrative body of the Multiple District, and it transacts all statewide Lionistic business.

NORTH CAROLINA LIONS FOUNDATION, INC.

A Working Partnership to Serve

On January 29, 1935, four thousand people gathered at the Memorial Auditorium in Raleigh to hear an address by Helen Keller. The next day she spoke to the North Carolina General Assembly, and her message of concern for the blind received favorable response. Just over one month later legislation was passed creating the state funded North Carolina Commission for the Blind.

The guiding light behind these events was the North Carolina State Association for the Blind, an organization created September 26, 1934 in Statesville. Over the years it became obvious that only a coordinated statewide effort would be able to create significant new opportunities in the lives of visually impaired persons. In 1967, the office of the North Carolina Association for the Blind was separated from the state offices of the Commission for the Blind. In 1974, Lions Clubs International gave the Association permission to use the name Lions in its title. In 1986, the North Carolina Lions Association for the Blind was relocated to Camp Dogwood from its office in Raleigh. Finally, on July 1, 1986, the North Carolina Lions Association for the Blind became the North Carolina Lions Foundation, Inc. combining the operation of Camp Dogwood and the established work of the Association. Since its initial success in focusing public attention on the needs of the visually impaired through the establishment of a state agency, the Foundation has steadily expanded its work as a complement to the Commission for the Blind.

Lions clubs have been active in projects to help the visually impaired in the state as early as 1922 when the first 10 Lions clubs were formed. In partnership with local Lions Clubs throughout the state, the Foundation offers humanitarian services that are constantly increasing the opportunities of the visually and hearing impaired to enjoy life more fully and productively.

Service in Action

Prevention: Yearly, thousands of people are screened for eye disease in Lions sponsored clinics and mobile vans across North Carolina. The Foundation has endorsed and helped fund recent innovative screening techniques for children and senior adults being done by the Prevent Blindness of North Carolina organization.

Eye Donations: Over the years the Foundation has helped support the North Carolina Eye Bank, Inc. in Winston-Salem. Recent support has been for equipment and educational needs. Individual Lions most valuable contributions are: securing eye wills, educating the public, volunteering their services, and transporting corneas and eye tissue.

Research: Foundation funds continually sponsor medical school research as part of its prevention of blindness efforts. At Duke University, some of the contributions to research are: ocular surface lab (for a study of cornea transplant techniques), contact lens technology, disease research studies such as retinitis pigmentosa (a hereditary condition that may result in loss of sight), and a gift of \$500,000 to the North Carolina Lions Pediatric Ophthalmology Endowment Fund. Interest on the endowment fund will be used to support research, education, and the treatment of children's eye diseases. At Bowman Gray School of Medicine at Wake Forest, some Foundation research contributions include: eye research using sophisticated photographic equipment and techniques, the North Carolina Lions Genetic Research Retinitis Pigmentosa Project, the establishment of the North Carolina Lions Clinical Eye Research Division, and a \$200,000 grant

for eye research. At the University of North Carolina, the purchase of several pieces of major laboratory equipment and the establishment of the North Carolina Lions Diabetic Eye Center was made possible with Foundation assistance.

Education: Educational grants are made available to children of the visually impaired. Approximately 40 young people attend college annually as a result of this program.

Recreation: The ability to participate in sports and recreation is an opportunity most people take for granted, but for the visually impaired, facilities and programs are quite limited. The Foundation has addressed this need with the establishment of beautiful Camp Dogwood located on Lake Norman near Charlotte. Here more than 800 visually impaired and their families enjoy a variety of vacation activities including swimming, boating, fishing, horseback riding, crafts and other activities each summer. Several hundred other deaf and visually handicapped enjoy weekend outings at various times during the year. The Foundation also has been a longtime contributor to the athletic program at the Governor Morehead School for the Blind. The Foundation through its support has made possible the continuation of the school's extremely successful wrestling program, as North Carolina state funds are not available for athletics.

The Foundation continues to support the Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Fishing Tournament held each year on the North Carolina coast.

White Canes: The distribution of *white canes* from the Foundation takes place on the local level through the Lions Clubs of Multiple District 31. White canes are provided free of charge to the visually impaired. More than 1500 canes are provided each year.

Radio Reading Service: These special radio stations read newspapers, stories, and various articles to the visually impaired giving them news they would not hear any other way. The Foundation helps with transmitter and receiver equipment purchases.

Low Vision Centers: The Foundation assists with the purchase of Low Vision Instruments that are loaned to needy visually impaired persons until they can afford to buy them.

Independent Living Mini-Centers: The Foundation helps with funding of some of these centers. Blind and visually impaired persons learn cooking, diet programs, cleaning, grooming, mobility, and other skills for independent living.

Braille, Large Print Material, and Audiotapes: The Foundation helps fund the production of these items to meet the need of supplying the increased demand of these materials to the blind and visually impaired persons in our state.

Hearing Aids and Matching Funds: For needy individuals, Lions clubs can secure a new behind the ear hearing aid from the Foundation. Matching funds are also made available to Lions clubs meeting the various needs of visually impaired persons in their communities.

The very first Lions in North Carolina made a commitment to the blind of our state. It was a commitment of the heart. That commitment is alive and strong today. It guides our work as we search for new ways to improve and enlarge the lives of the blind and visually impaired. Helen Keller asked of us all, "Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided?" The Lions of North Carolina will go on responding to her query with a resounding "Yes!"

White Cane Dollars at Work

From July 1, 2002 to June 30, 2003 contributions to **White Cane** provided the following programs and services:

- Over 531 Hearing aids were provided to the hearing impaired across North Carolina.
- 1,555 White canes were given to the visually impaired.
- 138,791 Pairs of glasses were recycled providing improved vision to thousands of individuals.
- 10,054 Individuals were screened with the Vision Van.
- Over 850 Campers attended Camp Dogwood for a week.
- 28 Sighted students of visually impaired parents received Educational Grants.
- Over 998 Eye exams were provided through Matching Funds.
- Over 1,443 Pairs of eyeglasses were purchased through Matching Funds.
- 100+ Miscellaneous requests for assistance were provided through Matching Funds.

White Cane contributions also provided assistance to:

- V.I.P. Fishing Tournament and their 500+ visually impaired participants.
- Blind Center in Washington providing services to the visually impaired.
- Governor Moorehead School for the Blind athletic program.
- Division of Services for the Blind for the production of over 55,000 pages of Braille, 10,500 pages of large print, and 350 audio tapes.
- Radio Reading Services in purchasing radio receivers for 75+ visually impaired individuals.
- DSB Mini Centers providing services to over 700 visually impaired individuals.

North Carolina Lions Foundation Budget for 2003-2004 - \$ 1,592,800

Income:		Expenditures:	
White Cane Club Donations.....	48%	Programs.....	86%
Camp Dogwood raffle ticket sales.....	16%	Overhead.....	7%
Eye Research.....	4%	Fund Raising.....	7%
TV/Car.....	8%		
Matching Funds & Other Revenue.....	19%		
Jack Stickley Fellowship.....	3%		
Memorials	2%		

CAMP DOGWOOD

A Recreational Facility for the Blind

A miracle in North Carolina Lionism occurred on July 7, 1964, when the Secretary of State of North Carolina impressed the Seal of the State upon the Articles of Incorporation of Camp Dogwood, Inc. This act established a way of meeting an unmet need for the blind, and fulfilled an idea conceived by a group of blind persons among who were North Carolina Lions.

In 1959, the president of the North Carolina Association of Workers for the Blind, an organization made up largely of alumni of the State School for the Blind in Raleigh, appointed the Committee to Consider the General Welfare of the Blind of North Carolina. It is significant that three Lions, all of who were blind, served on this committee. They were Coleman C. Cates, Jr., William Joyce, and Ben Eason. At the 1960 annual convention of the Association of the Blind, Lion Cates suggested the project of establishing and developing a recreational camp for the blind people in North Carolina would be in the purport of the objectives of Lionism throughout North Carolina. He proposed the camp project should be presented to the Lions throughout the state for their support. While the committee began a search for the location of the camp, Cates started to discuss the project with leaders in Lionism throughout the state. The proposal met with warm and favorable response.

After considerable traveling and inspection of many potential sites by the Camp Committee, a tract of land near Pilot Mountain was selected. At the annual meeting of the Association for the Blind in August 1964, Cates received approval for the camp project. In the summer of 1964, the dream became Camp Dogwood, Inc. On June 8, 1965, at the annual meeting of the North Carolina Lions, Lion Coleman Cates presented Camp Dogwood to the assembled delegates. A resolution endorsing Camp Dogwood as a Lions' project was enthusiastically adopted.

On August 7, 1966, the Board of Directors of the Association for the Blind made the decision to move the new camp to a 40 acre site on Lake Norman. The new site was purchased from Clarence White for \$40,000 and today is the permanent home of Camp Dogwood.

At Camp Dogwood, the Lions of North Carolina have built more than brick and mortar facilities. They have helped create wonderful experiences and lasting memories for hundreds of people each year. The visually impaired come from the smallest villages and the largest cities. They represent all races, religions, ages, and walks of life. At Camp Dogwood they are not in the minority. Here they enjoy all the joys of a full range of recreational activities. As one camper said, "I think heaven is going to be a lot like Camp Dogwood!"

Camp Dogwood has grown into the remarkable facility that it is today because Lions all over the state, and other generous people interested in improving the lives of the blind, were willing to work together. They have made a deep personal commitment to a common vision, and from the beginning, they were not satisfied to settle for anything less than the best. With imagination and renewed sense of purpose, the future will be just as remarkable as the past. For the inspiration behind Camp Dogwood is the very heartbeat of Lionism - touching and changing lives through unselfish service.

BOYS AND GIRLS HOMES OF NORTH CAROLINA, INC.

Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina, Inc. is a residential group care home for abused, neglected and dependent children at Lake Waccamaw, North Carolina. Chartered in 1954, the home is licensed to care for children age nine through eighteen. The residents live in six cottages for boys (Lions, Civitan, Jaycees, Kiwanis, Rotary, and Optimist) and three cottages for girls (Huntersville, Wakefield, and Stango). Each cottage houses eight children.

Lion Daniel L. Todd was among the Columbus County citizens who were concerned about boys who were neglected and underprivileged with some having no home at all. A small group of businessmen and civic leaders were determined to help these boys. They founded Boys Homes at Lake Waccamaw in December 1954. That year the first five boys came to live. Mr. A.D. Peacock, one of the founders, was the first executive director. He became a member of the Lake Waccamaw Lions Club. In 1957, Lion C. Coleman Cates, a member of the Burlington Lions Club, was instrumental in having the Lions of North Carolina adopt Boys Homes of North Carolina as a major project. In 1960, the North Carolina Lions Cottage, which would care for 16 boys, was dedicated. Lion C. J. Wiggs, who served as Lions' Liaison Officer to Boys and Girls Home and Statewide Boys Home Chairman from 1961 until his death in 1963, directed the campaign for the cottage. In 1970, Boys Home expanded to a second campus at Huntersville, North Carolina, and in 1972, the Lions of North Carolina opened another Lions Cottage on the Huntersville campus. On December 8, 1970, Lion A. D. Peacock led the establishment and chartering of Girls Haven in Burnsville. In 1974, Girls Haven was moved to Asheboro, and in 1979 it was moved to the Huntersville facility and merged with Boys Home. Finally in February 1988, the Girls Haven and Boys Home at Huntersville were moved to Lake Waccamaw and the Huntersville facility was sold.

Today, the Lake Waccamaw campus is a self-contained helping community creating a total living and learning environment. A teaching family program uses the on campus school, a fully equipped vocational building, and the Boys and Girls Homes farm in a help effort to develop the unique individuality of each child. This day by day and hour by hour interaction of the children in this setting is a powerful force for positive growth and change.

From the beginning, Lions have been involved in this important work. The Lions make individual member and club visits with the children in the Lions Cottage. They make personal and club contributions, and take part in refurbishing and replacing items for the cottage when needed. They also enjoy visiting with the children of the cottage on occasional off campus trips.

A special Lions Memorial Fund has been established to give Lions Clubs and other friends a special way to assist in providing funds for special repairs, capital additions, and capital replacements for the Lions cottage. Boys and Girls Homes is heavily dependent upon charitable contributions from individuals, civic clubs, corporations and foundations.

The annual C. Coleman Cates Award is named in honor of Judge C. Coleman Cates, Jr. Although he lost his eyesight at an early age, he was a graduate of the Governor Morehead School, UNC at Chapel Hill, and the University Law School. He served as a judge in Alamance County for 56 years and more than 20 years as Vice Chairman for the Boys and Girls Homes.

NORTH CAROLINA EYE BANK, INC.

The North Carolina Eye Bank, Inc. is a non-profit organization established in October 1951 for the purpose of obtaining, processing, and distributing corneal tissue to eye surgeons for corneal transplants. This establishment was achieved by a group of people who saw the future possibilities of using human eye tissue for corneal and scleral transplant operations. Through their efforts, the North Carolina General Statute 90-216 was passed, making possible the founding of the North Carolina Eye Bank. These visionaries included Lion Dr. L. Byerly Holt - the Eye Bank's first Surgical Director, Mrs. Martha Borthwick - the Eye Bank's first president, Mr. Harry Borthwick - first Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. J.C. Casstevens - owner of Casstevens Hospital, Dr. Ruth O'Neal, Dr. Norma Ware, Dr. John Perry, Jr., Mrs. Mildred Wood, Lion Crist Blackwell; and many Lions across the state. The North Carolina Eye Bank was the 7th Eye Bank formed in the United States.

With the growing number of eye banks nationally, there was a need for an overall organization to distribute information, standardize procedures, and establish better communications. Under the leadership of Dr. Holt, the Eye Bank Association of America was formed in 1961 and Dr. Holt served as its first surgical president. The Association functions in conjunction with the American Academy of Ophthalmology.

Mrs. Martha Borthwick, the first president, spent ten years of her life visiting physicians, hospitals, community meetings, funeral homes, lawyers, nursing associations and others to solicit their donor support. Many hurdles were overcome in alleviating donors of their fears of signing donor forms and donating eyes when the opportunity came. Lions John Googe, Crist Blackwell and Dr. L.B. Holt approached the Babcock Foundation, the Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the Winston-Salem Foundation and other foundations for support and laid the groundwork to secure grants later on. Until May 1, 1994, there were four satellite eye bank laboratories in the state. The Charlotte office was established in 1984, the Raleigh/Durham and the Greenville offices in 1985 and the Asheville office in 1986, all with funds from the Kate B. Reynolds Health Care Trust. The Charlotte and Asheville offices separated from the North Carolina Eye Bank and are under the direction of LifeShare of the Carolinas. The Greenville office was closed in April 1994. In December 1996, a new satellite office was opened in Pinehurst. The space for the Sandhills Branch was provided by Moore Regional Hospital, and a bequest from the estate of Hattie Smith Miller helped to make the new facility a reality. That facility is now closed.

Since its first formal meeting on October 12, 1951, the North Carolina Eye Bank has kept pace with the steady progress of eye banking and strives to adhere to the medical standards of the Eye Bank Association of America. As a founding member, it strongly supports the association's programs. The Eye Bank presently operates 3 offices, with the main office in Winston-Salem.

Since the Eye Bank receives no state or federal funds, it relies on processing fees, contributions, memorial, and gifts for its operating budget. The Lions of North Carolina and the North Carolina Lions Foundation have continued their commitment over the years. Today, their support is in the area of educational and volunteer services rather than providing funds for programs and services. More than a dozen Lions have served as president of the North Carolina Eye Bank.

V.I.P. Fishing Tournament

The History

Local fishing piers and boats bulge at the seams on the Outer Banks of North Carolina the Tuesday following Columbus Day Monday. Approximately 525 people participate in a three-day event during the annual NC Lions Visually Impaired Persons (VIP) Fishing Tournament.

They come to the coast displaying blind faith and dreaming about catching the big one. A dream made possible because of North Carolina Lions. North Carolina Lions Foundation officers, district governors, vice governors, and Lions statewide stand shoulder-to-shoulder on five fishing piers and two head boats to make sure the visually impaired participants have a successful trip. They also will walk many steps carrying breakfasts, lunches, and dinners during this service project to make sure their guests have a good time.

The project has gained momentum from its humble beginnings in 1983 with increased VIP participation and subsequently the need for increased financial support. It started with 12 participants and now has more than 500. The tournament has been credited by at least one woman as a life-saving experience. Cathy Goodnight of Rowan County lost her sight. She also lost her will to live. She was coaxed, almost coerced, into attending the fishing tournament with a VIP group called the Rowan Ramblers.

"What I saw, felt, did, and learned at the VIP Fishing Tournament actually turned my life around," Goodnight wrote the board of directors. "People with little or no sight can still actually do things, can learn to do for themselves, feel independent again, and can take charge of their lives. I was amazed! I came home with a completely different attitude about my future. As a result of this marvelous event, I have now regained my sense of self-worth and am much more positive about my life. I wonder if the Lions know that this isn't just a 'vacation' for visually impaired people, but, at least in my case, a life-saving event," she wrote. "All of the talking in the world could never convey the message I learned at the tournament. I will be forever grateful!"

The tournament is funded through the community, an \$18,000 donation from the North Carolina Lions Foundation, a program called "adopt a fisherman", and club donations. For \$25, a person can sponsor a participant.

The Dare County Lions Clubs (Manteo, Wanchese, Nags Head and First Flight) incorporated a non-profit organization to sponsor the annual affair. The three-day event includes entertainment, three-nights lodging, six meals, educational workshops, exhibits and an awards banquet. The Columbia and Plymouth Lions Clubs take care of Monday night's bar-b-cue. If the Lions had to pay for everything donated it would cost more than \$200,000. John DeLuca, director of the North Carolina Division of Services for the Blind, calls this the largest public/private partnership in which the division is involved. The participants attend lectures and while exhibitors display new products for low vision use.

The 13-member VIP Board of Directors works year-round to coordinate this massive undertaking. Anyone interested in donating time or money should call Bill Hood, tournament chairman, at 252-441-1774 or Executive Director Gwen White at 252-441-4966.

NORTH CAROLINA LEOS

The History

Today's international Leo Club program began in 1957 with a single club at Abington High School, in Abington, Pennsylvania. It was organized under the guidance of Lion Bill Ernst and the Glenside Lions Club. Other Lions clubs soon began organizing youth service clubs, and in 1967, Leo Clubs was adopted as an official program of Lions International. As of August 30, 2003, the Leo program has grown to include more than 139,325 Leos in over 137 countries representing 5,573 clubs. The Leo motto - *Leadership, Experience, Opportunity* - is fulfilled as members work together in response to the needs of others. By sharing in service activities and by volunteering their time and talents for the benefit of others, Leos learn firsthand the value and rewards of community service.

Leo Clubs can be found in public, private, preparatory, military, technical and parochial schools. The supervision by the sponsoring Lions Club is exercised in full cooperation with the school authorities. The Leo Club is subject to the regulations and policies established for all student organizations and activities. A faculty advisor serves as a liaison between the school and the Leo Club.

The Future

Under the leadership of PDG Johnnie Clark and his wife Barbara, the Leos clubs of North Carolina became a Leo Multiple District on March 13, 1995. At the end of July 2003, there were 42 Leo clubs in the state. The program goal is to have Leo clubs in each District.

Leo Clubs are an investment in the future of the community. These young people have the capabilities and the desire to make a difference in the world around them, and with the help of the Lions, opportunity can be provided.

LIONESSES AND LADY LIONS

Lioness at Work

Since the beginning of Lionism in North Carolina, Lionesses have provided invaluable assistance in the growth of Lions Clubs and the effectiveness of their projects. Lionesses encourage and support their husbands' activities, taking care of many of the details that help make these activities so successful. As Lionism expanded in new directions, Lionesses stepped into the forefront, increasing the number of active Lioness clubs and taking on significant projects of their own.

The International Association of Lions Clubs officially recognized Lioness Clubs in 1975, although these ladies had served the Association for many under various names prior to this time. The first official Lioness Club was the Mt. Pleasant Lioness Club chartered July 5, 1975 in Mt. Pleasant, North Carolina.

In 1987, Lions Clubs International became a non-gender organization, and in 1992 Lions Clubs International dropped administrative support of the Lioness organization. In 1996 the association adopted a Lioness conversion program to allow Lioness to convert to become Lions. Some Lioness Clubs in the state still remain active today.

WOMEN BECOME LIONS

In 1987, Lions Clubs International gave permission for Lions clubs to admit women and to form all women clubs with equal standing to the men's clubs. In 1988, the Four Seasons Lions Club became what is thought to be the world's first all female Lions Club! North Carolinians are proud to be out front in this innovative policy to extend the opportunity to serve as Lions. In 2002, Lioness clubs who converted to Lions clubs were allowed to keep the name Lioness in the official name of the club, i.e.: the Greensboro Lioness Lions Club.

JACK STICKLEY FELLOWSHIP

The Jack Stickley Fellowship is modeled after the Melvin Jones Fellowship and is one of the gifting plans of the North Carolina Foundation. This fellowship, created in 1989, is named for John L. Stickley, North Carolina's first International President. It is an honor; not an award. The fellowship recognizes North Carolina Lions for their humanitarian service. The moneys received are placed in escrow so that the interest one day will be sufficient to provide for the operating expenses of the Foundation.

A Jack Stickley Fellowship is presented when a contribution of \$500 is made to the NCLF. The presentation is to individuals in whose name such a donation has been made. An individual, Lions Club or District, can make donations. The recipient of the award is presented with an inscribed plaque and a lapel pin. The Jack Stickley Progressive Program recognizes additional gifts made in increments of \$500.

WILLIAM L. WOOLARD "Partner-in-Service" PROGRAM

The William L. Woolard "Partner-in-Service" Program was created to honor Past International Bill Woolard who became North Carolina's second Lions Clubs International President. During his year as International President he coined the phrase "Partner-in-Service". Donors to this program may be anyone, Lion or otherwise, willing to improve the lives of the blind, visually and/or hearing impaired. Donations to the North Carolina Lions Foundation for this program will be allocated one-fourth to the current year's programs and three-fourths to the William L. Woolard "Partners-in-Service" Endowment. The interest of the endowment will be used for the operating expenses of the Foundation.

Levels of recognition begin with a donation of \$100, which designates the donor as a "Founder". Each additional level requires an additional gift of only \$200 or \$250 until the total of \$1,500 is reached. Each donor will receive a letter from the Foundation President with a certificate and a special lapel pin for each level of giving. Upon reaching the "Partner" level, the highest level, a "Partner-in-Service" Medallion will be presented.

NORTH CAROLINA LION MEMORABILIA

The Stickley Building at Camp Dogwood is home to a growing display of North Carolina Lion memorabilia. Included on display are artifacts from the presidency of Jack Stickley and Bill Woolard. Additional displays depict articles from each District in the Multiple District. A trip to Camp Dogwood should include a trip to the second floor of the Stickley Building.

LEHP - The Lions Eye Health Program

Funded by LCIF SightFirst, LEHP is a community outreach program in which Lions educate at-risk populations about the dangers of glaucoma and diabetic eye diseases. Each Lions club participating in LEHP receive a Community Outreach Super Kit containing videos, brochures, posters and implementation guidelines. With the help of eye care professionals and other community organizations, Lions are able to maximize their efforts in spreading the message of the importance of eye exams and eye care. This is an excellent program for a new Lion to be involved with.

Ambassadors Of Goodwill

Each International President has a small limited number of Ambassador of Goodwill awards that he can recognize a Lion with. This award is the highest award bestowed by Lions Clubs International. The following North Carolina Lions have received this award: James R. Morrill, Jr., Voris Brookshire, E. B. Graeber, John L. Stickley, Louis K. Day, Wallace I. West, Dr. Lacy M. Presnell, Jr., Grady R. Pulliam, Jr. William L. Woolard, Rev. Robert T. Lawson, Dr. Ted L. James, Thomas R. Topping, Charles D. Smith, Leon P. Spencer, Virginia S. Woolard, E. Howard Stallings, Ronald L. Huber, and Sid L. Scruggs, III.

WHO IS A LION ?

“He has achieved success who has lived well, laughed often and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of little children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem or a rescued soul; who has never lacked appreciation of earth’s beauty or failed to express it; who has always looked for the best in others and given the best he has; whose life was an inspiration, whose memory a benediction. He Is A Lion!”

Reprinted from the first Lions Club Magazine dated November 1918

MELVIN JONES

Founder and Secretary-General of Lions International

1879 - 1961

Melvin Jones, Founder and Secretary-General of Lions International, passed away peacefully at his home in Flossmoor, Illinois on the afternoon of Thursday, June 1, 1961, at the age of 82.

“Once in every generation or era a man appears and in his fleeting hour upon the stage leaves an indelible imprint upon the lives of his fellow men, and upon generations yet to come.

Such a man was Melvin Jones. All over the world today he is the symbol of man’s concern for his fellow man; the guiding spirit of a great movement for human welfare; the eternal inspiration for men of good will who find unselfish rewards in human service.

Today, in death, countless hosts revere and bless this kindly man whose dream has brought happiness into the hearts and lives of the poor, the stricken and the handicapped of the world.

The good works of Melvin Jones under the Lions emblem will go on and on in spirit and deed, for in its moment of sorrow the World of Lionism takes new heart and new pride in his memory.”

Finis E. Davis, President, Lions International

MELVIN JONES

Melvin Jones was born at Fort Thomas, Arizona on January 13, 1879. His father, Captain Calvin Jones of the U.S. Army, commanded a troop of scouts under General Nelson Miles. His mother, the former Lydia Gobler, nurtured her infant son under constant threat of Indian raids.

Melvin's boyhood memories were a melange of horses and blue-clad troopers, bugles and war cries, wagon trains, gaunt settlers and dust. With Army transfers, the Jones family made stops at St. Louis and Quincy, Illinois where Melvin attended public schools in both cities. As he grew to young manhood, he filled his varied education with a course in the Union Business College and a smattering of law at Chaddock College in Quincy. However, when he moved to Chicago in his twenties, he decided on a job with the insurance agency of Johnson & Higgins.

By 1913 he was sole owner of the Melvin Jones Insurance Agency. In 1909, he met, wooed, and married a pretty Chicago girl who was on her way to becoming one of the great woman golfers of her time. Rose Amanda Freeman Jones climaxed a spectacular golfing career by winning the National Women's Open Golf title in Pinehurst, North Carolina in 1925.

At the age of 33, a business acquaintance invited him to lunch, "to meet some of the boys." The "boys" turned out to be members of the Business Circle of Chicago. Jones accepted the offer to join their ranks, and in 1915 he was elected as Secretary of the Circle. As a member of almost 200 successful, influential men, Jones pondered the impact this group could have for good in its community. Pursuing his thought of group action, Melvin began in 1916, to write letters to other clubs, feeling them out on the question of forming a national association for community service. His insurance office became his campaign headquarters. He and his wife worked many nights on question and answer correspondence. Out of his responses came growing enthusiasm for a new idea in club service. In 1916 in that little office, the spirit of Lionism, if not in fact, was born.

On June 7, 1917 at the invitation of Jones, 20 delegates representing 27 clubs from various parts of the United States met in the East Room of Chicago's Hotel LaSalle. A new organization of clubs was formed and adopted the name of one of the groups invited, the "Association of Lions Clubs". A national convention was held in Dallas, Texas in October of that same year, and Melvin Jones was elected Secretary of the new Association. In 1950, when Lions membership had passed the 400,000 mark, the International Board of Directors conferred upon Melvin Jones the title of Secretary-General of Lions International for life. In 1958, the Board changed his official title to Founder and Secretary-General.

Many honors came to Melvin Jones. In 1939 the Cuban government decorated him with the National Merit Order of Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, and in 1945 he was awarded the Order of Merit and Honor of the Cuban Red Cross. In 1932 President Herbert Hoover named Jones to a select group of business executives to discuss economical problems. In 1945 Melvin Jones was an attendee for the preliminary planning of the United Nations, and in April he represented Lions International as a consultant, in San Francisco, at the historic organization of the U.N.

Melvin Jones continued his insurance agency in Chicago until 1926, but it was a sideline to his main business of Lionism. His "perfect attendance" record was broken by death on June 1, 1961. He will live forever as the symbol of the great Association he founded, and through its programs of unselfish service will multiply his influence for humanitarian service to the end of time.

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL

The History

The International Association of Lions Clubs began as the dream of Chicago businessman Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large. In 1917, Jones convinced his luncheon club, the Business Circle of Chicago, that it should ally itself with other independent clubs to form a national organization with a goal of community service.

After contacting similar groups around the country, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois. Among the several groups invited was the "Association of Lions Clubs," headquarters in Evansville, Indiana and led by Dr. William P. Woods. Despite the wide range of interests and personalities involved, the meeting went smoothly and the consensus favored the formation of an association. The only sticking point came on the choosing of a name. Melvin Jones had anticipated this, and prior to the meeting he did considerable research into legend, heraldry and zoology. He was convinced the lion stood for courage, strength, fidelity and vital action. Aided by members of the Business Circle, a secret ballot was taken, and it was tentatively decided to call the new group the "Association of Lions Clubs".

A convention was called for October in Dallas, Texas. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states attended this first convention. The assembled delegates approved the "Lions Clubs" designation and elected Dr. Woods as the first president. The guiding force and founder of the new organization, Melvin Jones was named acting secretary. Thus began Melvin Jones' illustrious association with Lions, an association that ended with his death on June 1, 1961.

The convention in 1917 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. Remarkably, considering the materialism of the era, both Objects and Ethics encouraged Lions to put service ahead of profit, and to uphold the highest standards of conduct in business and profession.

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 with 1,183 clubs. A milestone was achieved in 1973 when membership reached the one million mark.

In 1935, Panama became home to the first Central American club. The first club in South America was organized in Colombia the following year. Sweden and France brought Europe into the association in 1948. Japan had clubs by 1952, and the so-called "Eastern Bloc" was unlocked in 1989 with the formation of clubs in Hungary, Poland and Estonia. In 1990, a club was chartered in Moscow, and today over 100 Lions clubs are demonstrating the value of service in countries once closed to voluntary action.

Since those first years, the association has grown to include 1.4 million men and women in more than 45,730 clubs located in approximately 192 countries and geographical areas.

The Challenge - “Knights of the Blind”

(It was a summer day in 1925 when Helen Keller stood on the stage in Cedar Point, Ohio to address the Lions at their 8th Annual Convention. In a ringing voice, unaided by electronic gadgets, she challenged her audience to help the world conquer her own affliction - blindness. The following is her address to the Lions of the world.)

Dear Lions and Ladies. I suppose you have heard the legend that represents opportunity as a capricious lady, who knocks at every door but once, and if the door isn't opened quickly, she passes on, never to return. And that is as it should be. Lovely, desirable ladies won't wait. You have to go out and grab 'em.

I am your opportunity. I am knocking at your door. I want to be adopted. The legend doesn't say what you are to do when several beautiful opportunities present themselves at the same door. I guess you have to choose the one you love best. I hope you will adopt me. I am the youngest here, and what I offer you is full of splendid opportunities for service.

The American Foundation for the Blind is only four years old. It grew out of the imperative needs of the blind, and was called into existence by the sightless themselves. It is national and international in scope and in importance. It represents the best and most enlightened thought on our subject that has been reached so far. Its object is to make the lives of the blind more worthwhile everywhere by increasing their economic value and giving them the joy of normal activity.

Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in the 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?*” That is just the kind of friend the American Foundation is going to be to all the blind in this country if seeing people will give it the support it must have.

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.

The opportunity I bring to you, Lions, is this: To foster and sponsor the work of the American Foundation for the Blind. Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind child untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knight of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?

I thank you.

Address of Miss Helen Keller obtained from the Public Relations Division, LCI

The Name

The legal name of your association is “The International Association of Lions Clubs.” It’s entirely proper, however, to use the shorter form of “Lions Clubs International.”

The Emblem

The current Lion emblem was adopted at the 1919 convention. Today, Lions throughout the world are recognized by this symbol. The emblem consists of a gold letter “L” on a circular purple (or blue) field. Bordering the letter “L” is a circular gold 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. Always wear your Lions emblem pin proudly. The Lions emblem is a registered trademark in most countries, and therefore it may never be used for commercial or fundraising purposes without prior permission from the Legal Division of Lions Clubs International.

PROUD
PAST



BRIGHT
FUTURE

The Motto

In the 1950s, the motto “We Serve” was officially adopted. What better way is there to explain the mission of Lions Clubs around the world?

The Slogan

The slogan is:

Liberty

Intelligence

Our

Nation’s

Safety

Official Colors

The royal colors of purple and gold were selected as the official colors when the association was organized in 1917. Purple stands for loyalty to friends and for integrity of mind and heart. Gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgment, purity in life, and generosity in mind, heart and purse to those in need.

Lions Clubs Activities

Your Lions club is involved in many service activities that benefit your local community directly, and indirectly through our International Association. You should learn about these activities as soon as possible, as you will very likely be asked to participate in the planning or implementation of one or more of these endeavors.

In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the International Convention and challenged the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind." The Lions of the world have accepted that challenge. Projects such as SightFirst: Lions Conquering Blindness, LEHP - Lions Eye Health Program, world wide eye clinics, and clinical research have taken aim at the elimination of preventable and reversible blindness around the world. While all local blindness prevention efforts are considered part of SightFirst, official SightFirst funded projects must comply with stringent standards established by the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

Approved by the International Board of Directors of the association in November 1993, a continuing major international activity of the association is **Lions Youth Outreach: Changing Tomorrow Today**. This program's objective is to help young people develop essential life and citizenship skills such as sound judgment, self discipline, acceptance of responsibility, ability to communicate with various age groups, ability to get along with others, critical decision making ability with regard to drugs and alcohol, and to develop a desire to serve others. Lions Youth Outreach replaces the former, more-limiting **Lions Drug Awareness Program**, and it includes the internationally respected **Lions-Quest** educational program, which is owned by Lions Clubs International.

Other major service activities of Lions Clubs International include:

- Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind
- Hearing and Speech Action and Work with the Deaf
- Environmental Services
- Disaster Relief
- The Leo Club Program
- Youth Exchange
- International Relations and Understanding

Clubs are also involved in a variety of citizenship, educational, health, social, recreational and public services. Clubs also sponsor Scouting programs, International Youth Camps, and Lioness Clubs. Literature and guide materials on these and other programs are available from the International Activities and Program Development Division at International Headquarters.

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 my fellow men, 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 to them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

To aid my fellow men by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

To be careful with my criticisms and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

Lions Clubs International Objects

TO CREATE and foster a spirit of understanding among 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 men 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 Clubs International Foundation

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is a public, non-profit, tax-exempt corporation that was formed in 1968 as the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. The mission of LCIF is to support the efforts of Lions clubs around the world in serving their local communities and the world community through humanitarian service, major disaster relief and vocational assistance programs.

Since its beginning, the foundation has directed the use of millions of dollars toward medical research, projects for the disabled and disadvantaged, and other endeavors that have benefited humanity around the world. The foundation is governed by a board of trustees, composed of the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors plus two appointed members. The immediate past international president always serves as chairperson of the foundation.

Lions clubs and individual members worldwide are primary contributors. Support of LCIF is an act of service in the worldwide effort of Lionism. Through the additional financial support of corporations, businesses, foundations, governments or individuals who are not otherwise associated with Lionism, the service activities sponsored are further enhanced.

All operational expenses are paid from interest on investments. No portion of donated funds is used to cover such costs.

LCIF's main gifting plans include:

- Melvin Jones Fellowship - gift of \$1,000
- Honor Roll recognition for a gift of \$100 or a Contributing Membership for a gift of \$20
- Corporation recognition for contributions of \$1,000 or more
- Major Gifts program which recognizes donations of \$10,000 to \$100,000
- Heritage Club membership composed of individuals who name LCIF as a beneficiary of their estate.

Melvin Jones Fellowship

One of LCIF's gifting plans is the Melvin Jones Fellowship. The fellowship, created in 1973, is named for Melvin Jones, the founder of Lions Clubs International. It is an honor; not an award. The fellowship was established as LCIF's highest form of recognition to acknowledge an individual's dedication to humanitarian service. The personal nature of the fellowship restricts it to individuals only. The honor cannot be given to any group or organization.

A Melvin Jones Fellowship is presented when a contribution of US \$1,000 is made to LCIF. The presentation is to individuals in whose name such a donation has been made by an individual, Lions Club or District. The recipient of the award is presented with an inscribed plaque and a lapel pin. Additionally, the Melvin Jones Progressive Program recognizes gifts in increments of US \$1,000 up to US \$60,000.

(Editor's Note: It is my hope that this North Carolina "*Pride Book*" will give you a better understanding of the value and pride in being a member of your Lions Club.)