



The
LIONESSE BRIDGE
Program

Linking a Proud Past...

Lionesses have been faithfully serving alongside Lions since 1975, making significant contributions to communities worldwide. However, because they are not Lions club members, there are several rights and privileges that Lionesses have not been afforded, such as the right to hold an association office or vote. Now, through the **Lioness Bridge Program**, Lioness clubs that are currently an activity of their sponsoring Lions club can become full-fledged Lions clubs in their own right and gain increased autonomy as well.

...To a Promising Future

Participating in the **Lioness Bridge Program** will open up a new world of opportunity for former Lioness clubs. By forming a Lions club, Lionesses can continue to work alongside their sponsoring Lions club, if they wish, collaborating on projects and serving their communities. However, as Lions club members, they will now have a voice in the association by having the ability to send a delegate to the international convention to vote for members of the board of directors and on constitutional amendments. The administrative support of International Headquarters will also be at their disposal, and the contributions they will be able to make to their districts will be enhanced. Members will enjoy new leadership opportunities because they can serve as a club officer – or even pursue zone, region, district or international office.

The **Lioness Bridge Program** makes it possible for Lionesses to honor and acknowledge their proud past while enjoying all the benefits, rights and privileges associated with Lions club membership.

Program Components

The program combines three special elements to help Lionesses worldwide charter Lions clubs or branches of Lions clubs that honor their distinguished service history.

- **Use of “Lioness” in Club Name:** Lions clubs may be chartered with the word “Lioness” in their name. The ability to include the word “Lioness” in their club name will honor the tradition of service that these dedicated volunteers have given their communities while serving with their Lions club. The name will be a source of pride for club members and an instantly recognizable moniker for the community that the Lionesses have served for many years.

When naming the new Lioness club, the word “Lioness” is always placed before the words “Lions Club” to read as “Lioness Lions Club.” The complete club name, using Oak Brook as an example, would be the Oak Brook Lioness Lions Club. If the club uses “of” in the name, the word “Lioness” still comes before the words “Lions Club,” for example, the Lioness Lions Club of Oak Brook. If a club branch is formed, the branch would be known as the “Lioness Branch of the Oak Brook Lions Club.”

- **Lioness Conversion Program:** The Lioness Conversion Program, which began in January 1996, credits Lioness service years when Lionesses become Lions or charter a Lions club.
- **Special Lioness-Lions Pin:** Lionesses who become Lions receive a distinctive Lions pin featuring the Lioness “L” logo to recognize their past service. This is the perfect symbol of the bridge built between the Lionesses’ proud past and their promising future as a Lions club member.

Build a Bridge to the Lionesses in Your Area

This remarkable opportunity isn't limited to those Lioness groups still in existence. Former Lionesses may also take advantage of the *Lioness Bridge Program* as well.

In order to charter a Lioness Lions club, the requirements of chartering a traditional Lions club apply:

- 20 or More Charter Members
- A Sponsoring Club, zone, region, district cabinet or district committee
- District Governor's Approval
- Completed Charter Application
- Required Charter Fee

(If the Lionesses do not have the minimum number of charter members, they can form a branch of the sponsoring club. A minimum of five members is recommended to form a club branch. Club branch members have all the same rights, benefits and privileges as members of their parent club.)

To begin the transition, the *Lioness Bridge Building Kit* is available from the New Clubs and Marketing Department at Lions Clubs International. The kit contains all the necessary forms to charter a *Lioness Lions Club*, as found in the traditional New Club Extension Kit, along with the Lioness Conversion Program form and this brochure. For more information about this program, visit the association's Web site at www.lionsclubs.org.

To Learn More

The *Lioness Bridge Program* offers an excellent opportunity for current and former Lionesses worldwide to expand their service initiatives, as well as offering members new avenues for personal growth through Lions clubs membership. For more information about this exciting new program or to order a *Lioness Bridge Building Kit*, please contact:

New Clubs and Marketing Department

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