

WHAT THE HECK IS A TAIL TWISTER?

A NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION GUIDE

BY
MICHIGAN DISTRICT 11-B1
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL



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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 toward my fellow man, to resolve such doubt against myself.

TO HOLD friendship as an end not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

ALWAYS BEAR in mind my obligation 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 my fellow men by giving my sympathy to them 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 not destroy.

LIONS INTERNATIONAL OBJECTIVES

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, provide however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by the club.

TO ENCOURAGE service-minded men and women 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

HAVE YOU NOTICED

Some members keep their organization strong.
While others join just to belong.

Some dig right in,
Some serve with pride.

Some go along just for the ride.
Some volunteer to do their share,

While some lie back and just don't care...
On meeting days some always show,

While there are those who never go...
Some always pay their dues ahead,

Some get behind for months instead,
Some do their best...some let things go,

Some never help their organization grow.
Some drag... some pull,

Some don't and some do,
Consider now...which of these are you?

Lion Joe Emerson, 1975

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT LIONISM

**“It’s a long way from Tail Twister in Plains, Georgia
to the Presidency of the United States,”
President Jimmy Carter, District Governor 1967-68.**

LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

The International Association of Lions Club 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.

Jones' own group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed. After contacting similar groups around the country, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. The new group took the name of one of the groups invited, "Association of Lions Clubs." And a national convention was held in Dallas in October of that year. A constitution, by-laws, objectives and code of ethics were approved.

Among the official objectives adopted in those early years was one, which read, "No club shall hold out the financial betterment of its members as its objective." This objective has remained one of the association's main tenets ever since.

Just three years after its formation, the organization became international when the first club in Canada was established in 1920. Major international expansion continued as clubs were

established, particularly throughout Europe, Asia and Africa during the 1950s and 60s.

Perhaps the single event having the greatest impact on the association's service commitment occurred in 1925 when Helen Keller addressed the Lions at their international convention in Sandusky, Ohio, USA. It was there that she challenged Lions to become "Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."

In 1990 Lions launched their most aggressive sight preservation effort to date, SightFirst. The more than US\$146 million-plus program strives to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness by closing the gap between existing health care services and those that remain desperately needed.

Broadening its role in international understanding, the association helped the United Nations form the Non-Governmental Organizations sections in 1945, and continues to hold consultative status today. Each year, during The Lions Day with the United Nations ceremonies, an award is presented to the grand prizewinner of the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

Since those first years, the association has grown to include over 1.4 million men and women in more than 46,000 clubs located in approximately 192 countries and geographical areas.

A NOTE ABOUT YOUR SPONSOR

Welcome to the world of Lionism. Your sponsor, familiar to you, shares a major responsibility for your familiarization with club activities and its members. As such, they share the primary responsibility for your attendance, your participation in club programs and in all project or service activities, for leadership training and your growth in Lionism, during the next year. Whether it's a question or inquiry about an issue, the first place to go is to your sponsor. The editors, however, by your reading this booklet, are optimistic many of your most obvious questions, are about to be answered.

WHAT A LIONS CLUB DOES IN THE COMMUNITY

Works: With the blind and visually impaired.

With the handicapped to make life a little easier for them.

To improve our communities to make them a fine place to live.

With local eye physicians to furnish eye examinations, glasses and surgery to those in need.

And plans projects to help in the raising of funds so we can do these things for the needy.

Sponsor local youth activities to help them stay busy and away from drugs and alcohol.

Becomes part of an organization, which crosses religious and political boundaries in the common cause of serving mankind.

Enjoys enlightening, entertaining and educational programs brought to you through regular attendance at Club meetings.

Participate in fellowship of Lionism at regular meetings.

Be part of the family of Lionism with Leo and Lioness Clubs.

Gain a unique opportunity for personal growth through the organizational structure of Lions Clubs International.

Enjoy Lionism through Club, Zone, Region, District, Multiple-district and International activities.

Receive both the state magazine "Michigan Lions Pride" and "The Lion" our international magazine.

Participate in the community to aid the people who are in need.

Participate with the local school with funds and help for projects, scholarships, youth educational trips and in classroom needs.

Receive the deep inner satisfaction that comes from simply helping others... these are the many rewards for your service.

depend upon us that we ask you to commit yourself to helping our Club grow through your assistance in building our membership strength. When we grow our Zone, District and State grows. Essentially, it amounts to "the more we are, the more we can do"! Only together can we strengthen our Club and the only tool we have is encouraging people with your values, to accept your invitation to join!

To assist in the screening of any prospective Lions, review the RECRUITING WHEEL, a simple, yet effective instrument for stimulating your thinking of who your prospect might be. Keep your notes in this pamphlet, and when our next "Lions Open House" is scheduled, you'll be ready.



Business Associate _____
 Church _____
 Neighbor _____
 Friend _____
 Someone You Do Business With _____
 Relative _____
 Professional Person _____
 Social or Civic Organization _____

OPENING THE DOOR FOR NEW LIONS

Membership in a Lions Club is secured through invitation only. When you extend an invitation to a friend to become a Lion, you open a door, into a rich, new world - a world in which we live, work, dream, sing, serve and accomplish. You widen the new Lion's horizon, lift their spirit, and open up new vistas of their future. You open a door that will enlarge their circle of friends, increase their opportunities, and bring fullness into their life. The following information is presented for your education, reading, and learning about your new service club affiliation at an accelerated rate.

OUR LIONS EMBLEM...

Our emblem contains a capital "L" in its center. It stands for Law, Liberty, Labor, Loyalty, Love and Life. It's on a circle representing Lions and Lions Clubs, around the world, all bound together as one. Lions heads, profiled, looking in opposite directions, are representing a Lion looking in every direction for an opportunity to give unselfish service. Back toward our accomplishments over 82 years and ahead for opportunities yet to present themselves.

THE LIONS COLORS...

To Lions, purple stands for loyalty to country, friends, and to one's self, and to integrity of mind and heart. Gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgment, purity in life and generosity of mind and heart toward all.

MY LIONS PIN

Lions often inquire, "Where and when should I wear my Lions pin?" The simple and straightforward answer is **everywhere**. You should wear the pin on your lapel or collar, pinned to a sweater where it's clearly visible etc. The number of people with whom you come in contact, who will notice your pin, will surprise you and this will often initiate immediate conversation.

THE MOTTO... "WE SERVE"

LIONS SONG

DON'T YOU HEAR THOSE LIONS ROAR?

(Key of B Flat)

Don't you hear those Lions roar?
Don't you hear those Lions roar?
You can hear them roaring ev'ry where,
As they feed and growl for more.
You should hear those lions roar,
They're snarling rumbling roar -
So, roar Lions!
Bite 'em Bite 'em Bite 'em
Don't you hear those Lions, hear those Lions,
Hear those Lions roar!

LIONS TOAST

NOT ABOVE YOU
NOT BENEATH YOU
BUT WITH YOU

fortunate. Age is no barrier to a man or woman who desires to become part of our great Association. One of our Past International Presidents selected as his theme, WE SERVE BETTER - TOGETHER, and this includes men and women of all ages, cultures and backgrounds. The one common denominator we all share is the same high quality of spirit which leads us to become Lions.

Introducing men and women to Lionism is a year-around activity. However, special efforts have customarily been made in the Fall to place greater emphasis on membership and building our strength through a membership program. In recent years, a very unique membership "open house" concept has been developed in our district and this membership orientation manual is a direct outgrowth of the program's success.

New Lion members often ask, "What are the qualities that make a man or woman a "good" Lion?" Just look inside yourselves and you will find the answer. It is men and women like you that we need to keep our Clubs and Lions Clubs International an active force for good throughout each of our communities and thus, the world.

We are optimistic, that you as a new Lion will grasp the Spirit of Club and Association and the inner joy that comes in simply helping others. You will be rewarded "internally" for your service. And, if you find a relative, friend or neighbor to sponsor, you will receive an attractive pin from Lions International signifying your efforts of sponsorship. Once a new member has been inducted into the Club, share with them the same things that has made Lionism such a meaningful part of your life.

You will be encouraged to become involved in the club by both service and fund-raising activities. You will be provided an opportunity for responsible assignments, committee participation and committee chairmanships. We guarantee that as a new Lion, you have now become a definite asset to our community.

For many decades, Lions have been instrumental in improving lives and yes, saving lives! It is for these people who

follow the Governor.

3. When addressing the District Governor or an International Officer, their appropriate title should be used. For example: "Governor Glen"... "Director Ken".... "President KJ"... etc. At regular club meetings, all Lions should address the Club officer as "President Bob" ... etc.

NOW, YOU HAVE, "OPENED THE DOOR TO LIONISM"

You now know much better what Lionism is. You have learned of its ideals and high aims, its humanitarian objectives and its incomparable record of service founded on the Golden Rule. You know WHAT Lionism has done for you personally. You know the friendly spirit of Lions everywhere. SO OPEN THE DOOR to that friend of yours. Extend them an invitation to membership in your Lions Club give them an opportunity to share the gifts of life's enrichments with you!

WORKING TOGETHER TO BUILD MEMBERSHIP

The Lions, as an association, have long been committed to a tradition of selfless service to others. As human needs grow, so must our ability to meet these challenges both successfully and with enthusiasm.

It is for this reason that you are being asked to look around you, to also reach out to other men and women who share your same humanitarian instincts for improving life for the less

MEMBERSHIP THROUGH INVITATION

Lions are men and women who voluntarily give of their time, talents, skills and knowledge to humanitarian endeavors. Membership is by invitation and is open to men and women 18 years of age and up. A sponsor makes nominations, by completing the Nomination Form and submitting it to the Club Membership Committee. The membership committee, upon review, presents the nominees to the Board of Directors for confirmation. Any member who shall absent themselves from four consecutive meetings, without acceptable cause, shall be brought to the attention of the Board of Directors for investigation as to reason. The name of any member who fails to pay an indebtedness due the Club within 60 days after receipt of written notice, shall be submitted to the Directors who shall decide whether said member should be dropped from membership.

SERVICE HISTORY

Worldwide, Lions clubs are essentially recognized for their service to the blind and visually impaired. This service history began through the challenge issued by the first woman to address the Association in convention, Helen Keller. She urged at the conclusion of her address, for those assembled to become "Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." This was in 1925 at the Sandusky, Ohio convention. The focus has never changed though many activities and projects outside this "umbrella" have supported this generally accepted concept.

Today, Lions extend their commitment to sight conservation through a myriad of local efforts, as well as through the Lions Clubs International Foundation and the SightFirst program.

PRIMARY FOUNDATION PROGRAM:

SIGHTFIRST

In 1900, Lions through its foundation (LCIF) established SightFirst, a \$146 million-dollar plus global initiative to rid the world of preventable and reversible blindness. The unprecedented program joins leading blindness prevention experts, blindness organizations, governments and Lions volunteers in an effort to establish long term solutions in eye health care infrastructure, training of eye care professionals, treatment and public education.

Without intervention programs like SightFirst, the World Health Organizations estimates the number of people who are blind in the world could double from 40 million to 80 million in less that 25 years. This program is supported by Lions world-wide and has exceeded the original financial projections and also the numbers of blind citizens served through this huge humanitarian effort

OTHER SIGHT-RELATED ACTIVITIES

In addition to the SightFirst program, Lions Clubs continue to support other sight-related initiatives, to wit:

- Lions provide over 600,000 free professional glaucoma screenings and are responsible for making over 25,000 corneal transplants possible each year.
- Lions establish and support a majority of the world's eye banks, hundreds of clinics, hospitals and eye research centers worldwide.
- Lions provide thousands each year with free quality eye care screening and examinations, eyeglasses, Braille-writers, large print texts, white canes and Leader Dogs.

- It shall submit all matters of new business and policy to the respective Special or Standing Committees for study and recommendation to the Board.
- It shall not authorize, nor permit, the expenditure for any administrative purpose of the net income from projects or activities of the Club for which funds are raised from the public.
- It shall be responsible for the timely submission of reports to the state and federal government as required bylaw.

BASIC LIONS PROTOCOL

As you might imagine, any association that has served communities for 82 years has developed its own protocol. Protocol is simply the code for formal procedures that are applied when circumstances warrant same. Though much has been written, for this manual, we only present the basics for our new members, by which all good Lions and Lions Clubs abide.

1. The Chief Executive Officer of a Lions District is the DISTRICT GOVERNOR. When the Governor is introduced at any Lions assembly, all Lions and their spouses should respond, showing their respect, by standing. The same protocol applies to International and Past International Officers when they are the Clubs' guest.
2. If the assembly happens to be a function where food is being served, the Governor and Spouse (or guest) should be the first served. This applies to either a planned, sit-down, or buffet-type food service. If current International Officers were present, they would be first through the food line, or served. A Past International Officer and spouse would be the first to

BOARD of DIRECTORS –

Shall have responsibility for the following duties:

- It shall constitute the Executive Board of the Club and be responsible for the execution, through the Club Officers, of the policies approved by the Club. All new business and policies of the Club shall be considered and shaped, first, by the Board of Directors for presentation to and approval of the Club members at a regular or special Club meeting.
- It shall authorize all expenditures and shall not create any indebtedness beyond the current budgeted income of the Club. It shall not authorize disbursement of Club funds for purposes that are inconsistent with the business and/or policies as authorized by the Club's membership.
- It shall have the power and authority to modify, override or rescind the action of any officer of the Club.
- It shall have the books, accounts, and operations of the Club audited annually, or, at its discretion, more frequently, and may require an accounting or have an audit made of the handling of any Club funds by an officer, committee or member of the Club. Any member of the Club in good standing may inspect any such audit or accounting upon request at a reasonable time and place.
- It shall appoint, on recommendation of the Board Members, a bank or banks for the deposit of Club funds.
- It shall name and appoint, subject to approval of the Club membership, the delegates and alternates to District, Multiple District and International Conventions.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH PROGRAMS

Lions for over a quarter century have made a strong commitment to youth through several international programs:

- Lions Youth Outreach: Through this comprehensive program, young people develop essential life and citizenship skills. As part of this effort, the Lions Quest "Skills For Growing" and "Skills for Adolescence" programs each year help students in over 35,000 schools in 35 countries develop the skill to make healthy decisions and resist the pressure to use drugs and alcohol. The Lions Quest "Skills for Action" programs for high school student's combines those skills with community service activities.
- Lions International Peace Poster Contest: Each year, over 200,000 students, ages 11 - 13 from about 45 countries, creatively share personal ideas about world peace through artwork judged at local, district, national and international levels. These young artist renderings have huge audience appeal when they are displayed at the International Lions Convention.
- Leo Club Program: Lions Clubs in 125 countries sponsor more than 5,000 Leo Clubs worldwide. The more than 125,000 members, age 12 - 18, perform various community service activities and support a special worldwide Literacy and Cultural project. Lions Clubs are strongly encouraged to develop this youth program as a conduit for Lions members upon maturity.
- International Youth Exchange: in 1998-99, more than 5,000 students, ages 15 - 21, stayed with Lions host families in 65 countries. This program is an incredible

opportunity for students to use their foreign language skills in a "home" environment abroad. All Lions Clubs are urged to involve students to use this program for international travel and educational enhancements.

ENDOWMENTS

The Lions Foundation is endowed through:

INDIVIDUAL GIFTS: Many Lions commit personal funding to the Foundation, Sometimes over a period of years. A "unit" of \$1,000 gift results in the designation of an individual being named a MELVIN JONES FELLOW.

CLUB GIFTS: Lions clubs frequently accumulate its designated funds for LCIF and when a unit of \$1,000 is available, they designate a member of the club as a MJF for each thousand-dollar gift.

CORPORATE GIFTS: Corporations that are generally tethered to the concept of sight conservation, often provide gifts to the Lions Clubs International Foundation.

GRANTS

Lions Clubs International Foundation, the charitable branch of Lions Clubs International, disburses its donated funds in the form of grants for humanitarian services, disaster relief, vocational and medical assistance projects initiated by local Lions Clubs. Grant applications have two open windows annually and sums up to \$250,000 are available on a matching fund basis.

- Expend moneys in payment of all Club obligations only upon the authority given by the Board of Directors. It is recommended that all checks and vouchers be signed by the Treasurer and countersigned by other officers as determined by the Board of Directors.
- Have custody and keep and maintain general records of Club receipts and disbursements.
- Prepare and submit monthly and semi-annual financial reports to the Club Board of Directors.

LION -TAMER - Shall have charge of and be responsible for the Club's property and paraphernalia of the Club, including its flags, banners, gong, gavel, song books and member identification buttons. He/she shall put each in its proper place prior to each meeting and return same to the proper storage area following each meeting.

WHAT THE HECK IS A . . .

TAIL TWISTER - Shall creatively promote harmony, good will and fellowship, life and enthusiasm in the meetings through appropriate stunts, games and other activities with a judicious imposition of fines on club members. The Club Board of Directors determines the maximum fine on a member at a meeting. A unanimous vote is required of the members present at a meeting, to fine the Tail Twister. The lone exception is that a District Governor or an International Officer may assess a fine on the Tail Twister

MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN - He/she will actively work to promote programs to increase Club membership and with the Membership Committee, work diligently to maintain strong membership participation through a member retention program.

VICE-PRESIDENTS - If the President is unable to perform the duties of the office for any reason, the Vice-President, next in rank shall occupy the position and perform the President's duties with the same authority as the President. Each Vice-President shall, under the direction of the President, oversee the functioning of such committees of the Club, as the President shall designate. In many Clubs, the First Vice-President serves as the program chairman during his/her term. All Vice-Presidents have a vote on the board.

SECRETARY - Serves under the supervision and direction of the President and Board of Directors and shall act as the liaison officer between the Club, the District and Lions Clubs International (LCI). He/she shall:

- Submit monthly reports to LCI and the District Governor's Cabinet as required by the programs set forth by LCI and the District.
- Cooperates with and be an Active Member of the District Governor's Advisory Committee of the Zone in which the club is located.
- Has custody and keeps and maintains general records of the Club, including records of Minutes of the Club and Board meetings, attendance, committee activities, elections, addresses, telephone numbers of members.
- Shall receive all moneys from members for dues, projects and fund-raising activities.
- Shall prepare and submit a list of all bills due for payment by the Club each month.

TREASURER – Shall:

- Receive all moneys from the Secretary and otherwise, and deposit same in a Bank as recommended and approved by the Board of Directors.

LIONS BOARD MEETINGS

Who can attend a Lions Board Meeting? All members of the Club are invited to participate. A board meeting is held once a month. Ask your sponsor to take you. All of the Club business reports, committee reports, future activities, and approval of payments for invoices due, are handled at this meeting. This is the place where a Lion can learn about the function of the Club, in the shortest period of time. Only elected Board Members in good standing are permitted to vote on matters brought before the Board, but good leadership recognizes the importance of visiting, so members generally, are encouraged to present their thoughts and ideas prior to any final decisions. Boards usually meet at the same time and place, but not necessarily at the location of regular Club Meetings.

THREE NOTABLE LION MEMBERS

Over the course of Lions history, three Presidents of our great nation have been members of the Lions Association. First is President Ronald Reagan. He joined the Association in Dixon, Illinois and ultimately became a Life member. Secondly is President Gerald Ford. He was an active member of the Grand Rapids Host Lions Club and a Life Member. Lastly, is President Jimmy Carter from Plains, Georgia. He served as District Governor in the years of 1967-68.

AGENDA FORMATS

Agenda formats may vary somewhat from club to club. Here are the formats used at the Club Meeting and the Board Meeting.

TYPICAL CLUB MEETING AGENDA

Call to order by the President
One verse of "America" or another well known
Patriotic song.
Pledge allegiance to the Flag
Invocation or other non-sectarian religious blessing
Singing of the Lions Song
Introduction of all guests present
The meal
Introduction of the program (Program Chairman or
1st Vice President)
Business germane to the Meeting
a. Distribution of minutes of previous
Meeting.
b. Reports of officers and/or committees
c. Announcements and correspondence
important to members
d. Old or Unfinished Business
e. New Business
50/50 Drawing
Tail twisting (A bit of club levity by the Tail
Twister)
Membership Drawing
Recognition and thanks to guests for attending
Adjournment
(A meeting should last about 1 1/2 hours)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING AGENDA

Call to order by the President
Roll call
Remarks/report by the President
Reading and Approval of previous minutes

Report of the Treasurer
Reading of communications (Secretary)
Reports of Officers and/or Committee Chairpersons
Old or Unfinished Business
New Business
Acknowledgment of Lions as guests
Adjournment
(Board meetings could require 1 to 1 1/2 hours)

CLUB OFFICERS

President	Tail Twister
1st Vice President	Lion Tamer
2nd Vice President	One Year Directors
3rd Vice President	Two Year Directors
Secretary	Membership Chairman
Treasurer	Immediate Past President
(Bulletin Editor - Non-Voting)	

CLUB OFFICER'S DUTIES

PRESIDENT - Also referred to in many Clubs as the King Lion, is the chief executive officer of the club. He/she presides at all Club meetings, attends organizational, advisory and Zone Meetings in the District, and will make decisions that are in the best interest of the Club and Lionism. The President is a member of the District Governor's Advisory Committee and serves a one-year term in office.

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT - Serves as a voting member of the Board of Directors, along with all other elected officers. Will serve as an advisor when advice from the President is sought.