



Orientation - Gasport Lions Club

Our Motto

"We Serve"

What is this thing called Lions?

Lions are men and women dedicated to serving those in need, whether in their own community or halfway around the world. Membership in a Lions Club provides people with the opportunity to meet and work with other individuals in a spirit of fellowship, striving toward the common goal of helping those in need.

The Gasport Lions Club is only part of the full picture. We are part of Region 1, Zone 2. which covers Barker, Gasport, Lockport, Newfane and Olcott. The Region is part of District 20 N which encompasses the counties of Niagara, Erie, Chautauqua and a very small portion of Cattaraugus. These counties make up Multiple District 20. At this time there are 11 Districts.

The Multiple is part of Lions International.

The International office is headquartered in Oakbrook, Illinois. We have an International President and first and second Vice Presidents. In addition, there are 36 International Directors whom are elected from all over the world.

News lines you will receive as a Lion

The LION Magazine - comes from International

Multiple District 20 Lion District 20 N Newsletter Club's News letter

Most of these come by e-mail. 2 of them come hard copy in the mail and the others are e-mailed.

Web Sites

Lions International has a web site. -. www.lionsdubs.org. If you have access to the Web. take some time and go in and see what they are all about. You can learn a lot from this site.

Also. our District has its own web site - www.district20nlions.org Our District webmaster is doing an excellent job with this site. It enables you to learn lots of good stuff about what is going on in District 20N!

Multiple District (NYS and Bermuda) www.md20lions.com The State office is in Syracuse.

MISSION STATEMENT

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

History of Lions Clubs International

Lions Clubs International began in June, 1917 when a young Chicago Insurance agent. Melvin Jones presented to a group of separate business clubs the idea of consolidating the individual clubs into one strong influential club with the goal of helping the community and serving

humanity. The official name of our association is
"Lions Clubs Intemational". The name

Lions was chosen because of the symbolism of what a lion animal represents...courage, strength, activity and fidelity.

The first annual convention was held in Dallas, Texas at the Adolphus Hotel, October 8 - 10, 1917. Twenty-three Clubs participated. There are now more than 40,000.

1920 - Association became international with the formation of the first Club in Canada

1925 - Helen Keller asked the Lions to become "Knights of the Blind"

1931 - first Club in Latin America chartered

1945 - Association helps form the non governmental organizations section of the United Nations

1947 - First Club in Australia chartered

1948 - First Club in Europe chartered

1953 - First Club in Asia and first Club in Africa chartered

1987 - Lions Clubs International becomes the first service club to admit women

1990 - Sight First, a major blindness prevention initiative was launched worldwide

Colors of Lions

The colors of dark blue and gold were selected as the official colors of the association. To Lions, dark blue represents loyalty to country, friends, to one's self and to the integrity of mind and heart.

It is the color of strength, courage and dedication to a cause. Gold symbolizes

sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgment, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and purse towards mankind.

The Lions Motto "We Serve" was adopted in 1954 from more than 6,000 suggestions from members worldwide.

Slogan: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety

Official Emblem: (or Logo) was adopted in 1919. The gold letter "L" sits on a circular blue field. Bordering this is a circular gold with two Lion profiles facing away from the center. The Lions face both the past and the future, showing both our past accomplishments and our future commitment to mankind. The word "Lions" appears at the top, and International at the bottom.

**Always wear your Lions emblem proudly.
It's a great way to advertise this great organization we belong to.**

Multiple District 20N

Our Multiple is made up of all the members in New York State and Bermuda.

We are led by the Council of Governors which includes a Governor from each District and the Council Chairman. This Council meets four times a year to discuss information passed along from Lions International and to manage the workings of our Multiple.

There is one paid position within the Multiple.....the State Secretary/Treasurer, including his staff of one person. At this time, the State office is in Syracuse, N.Y.

Our District is District 20N

We are led by a District Governor. Voting members of the District at District Cabinet meetings include the Governor, 2 Vice District Governors, Immediate Past District Governor, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Treasurer, and Zone Chairs.

District Governor - serves as the chief administrative officer for the district. He or she is elected to serve a one-year term. This election takes place each year at the Multiple Convention. However, the nomination of this office takes place at a Cabinet meeting held within our District.

The new Governor takes office at the close of the International Convention which is held in July each year.

The District Governor's responsibilities include representing the association in the District, supervising District officers, furthering the Objects and Ethics of the association, promoting the goals of the International Program, supervising the organization of new Lions Clubs and presiding over District meetings.

The Vice District Governors have the responsibility of assisting the District Governor. He or she is nominated and elected in the same manner as the Governor. During this term of office, the Vice District Governor becomes familiar with the Governor's duties so that should the need arise, the VDG can perform the administrative duties.

Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Treasurer - these two positions can be combined into one or split into two. It is at the discretion of the sitting Governor. Each one acts under the supervision of the Governor. Their specific duties are detailed in a manual for these positions.

Cabinet Meetings are generally held four times a year with the time and place decided by the District Governor.

Every Lion in the District is encouraged to attend. It is here that we learn about new programs being instituted by International. It is also a great place to learn what other Clubs are doing and what kind of things are going on in our District.

Regions in our District

There are 4 Regions in our District. In most regions there are 2 Zones. The Zone chairs act as a liaison between the Governor and the Zone Clubs. If a Club has a question, they should first consult their Zone Chair, then their 1st Vice District Governor and finally the Governor.

District Committee Chairs

The District Governor shall appoint these chairmen or co-chairmen as her or she sees fit.

Among those District Committees are the following which are recommended:

- Convention
- Diabetes Awareness
- Environmental
- Extension
- Hearing & Speech
- Leadership
- Leo Clubs
- LCIF (Lions Club International Foundation)
- Membership
- Lions International Peace
- Poster Contest
- Public Relations
- Sight First
- Youth Exchange
- Youth Outreach

At the discretion of the District Governor, other committees and chairpersons are added as needed. Each Club President and Club Secretary receives a District Directory.

All committees and chairpersons can be found in that directory.

About Your Lions Club

Chartered on- May 5, 1951

Sponsored by - The Wilson Lions Club

Your Club expects certain things from you as a member of their Club. You made a commitment when you joined. It includes:

Financial Commitments

Meals, drink or two, tail twister fines and purchasing raffle tickets and 50/50 drawings.

It also includes the payment of dues which include District, State and International dues as well as a charge for the District News Letter.

Time Commitments

Social members are always willing to join! However, what Lions need are individuals who are willing (if physically able) to roll up their sleeves, get involved and work side by side with their fellow Lions. There are a number of work projects throughout the year. Only by pitching in, can your Club complete these projects successfully. **You are expected to help with these projects!!!!**

Committee Chairmen and committee members are needed. Every active member of the Club should be on at least one committee.

Eventually you may wish to take your place in the line of officers. A successful organization is one that utilizes different Lions as officers. Different people bring

different ideas to the table and this keeps the organization fresh and moving forward.

Officers and Board of Directors: A Lions Club is governed by a board of directors, normally consisting of the president, immediate past president, vice presidents, secretary, treasurer, tamer/greeter, tail twister, 7 directors, the membership chairman. New terms take effect July 1st each year. It is wise to have the directors on a rotating basis so that they do not all change in one year. Meetings of the board are usually held once each month.

President: serves as the Club's chief executive officer and presides at all meetings of the club and board of directors. The president issues the call for regular and special meetings in accordance with the Club's constitution and by laws, and ensures that all committees are given an opportunity to report on their status.

The President is responsible for making sure that regular elections are held and that due notice of the same is posted in advance, according to the Club's by-laws.

The president is an active member of the District Governor's advisory committee of the Zone in which the Club is located, and therefore should attend the Zone meetings. These are referred to as ACM's.

Immediate Past President: along with other past presidents should serve as greeters of the members and their guests. They should also be available on an as needed basis to act in an advisory position to the current President.

Vice Presidents: in the event the President should be unable to perform the duties of the office for any reason, the vice president next in rank shall perform the duties of the President.

In most clubs, each vice president will also be assigned specific duties including overseeing certain committees.

Secretary: Under the supervision and direction of the President and the Board of Directors, the Secretary acts as the liaison officer between the Club and both the District and International headquarters. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of the official meetings of the Club, keep attendance of the members, and complete such reports as required by the District, the Multiple and International. He or she prepares an agenda for each meeting.

Treasurer: is responsible for all Club financial matters. Duties include receiving all monies and paying Club obligations, maintaining financial records, preparing financial statements and submitting financial reports and billing members.

Lion Tamer: serves as custodian of Club property. Duties include being responsible for Club property such as flags, banners, gavels, etc. He or she also serves as a sergeant at arms during meetings and distributing materials at meetings.

In many Clubs, this Lion also serves as the official greeter, greeting guests and making sure they have a place to be seated, as well as introducing them to other Lions.

Tail Twister: serves to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at Club meetings through the judicious imposition of fines on members. The tail twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present. Any funds collected by the tail twister are immediately turned over to the Treasurer. A good Tail Twister can really keep a meeting lively and fun.

Membership Director or Chairman: serves as the chairman of the membership committee. His or her responsibilities include development of membership growth programs, implementation of recruitment and retention programs and preparation of orientation sessions.

Types of Membership

Active: a member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all the obligations which membership in a Lions Club implies.

Member-at-large: a member who has moved out of the community and is unable to regularly attend meeting and desires to retain membership in the Club. This member cannot hold office or vote at conventions and must pay dues.

Privileged: a member who has been a Lion for over 15 years and because of illness, infirmity or advanced age or other legitimate reasons, must relinquish his or her active status. A privileged member may vote, but may not hold office.

Life Member: a member who has maintained active status for 20 years or more, or for 15 years as has reached the age of 70 years can be granted Life Membership. A one-time payment is paid to International on behalf of the Life member in lieu of future dues. They have all the rights and privileges of an active member. District and Multiple dues are still required. Many Clubs pay this on behalf of the Life member in honor of their many years of service.

Associate: a member who holds his or her primary membership in another club, but maintains residency or is employed in the community in which he or she attends. Associate members can vote on Club

matters, but may not serve as a delegate at district, multiple or International conventions. They are also not eligible to hold office in the Club.

Affiliate: an individual who is currently unable to fully participate in the Club, but wishes to support the Club. He or she may not hold office and may not represent the Club at District, Multiple District or International conventions. They may, however, vote on Club matters.

IMAGE

Imagine Making **All** Guests
Enthusiastic **about joining your**
Lions Club!

It is up to each member of this Club to make the meetings fun and interesting to attend. This is achieved with a meeting that is well planned out by the president, a tail twister that adds to the enthusiasm and fun of the meeting and the sincere effort of each Lion to leave their problems at the door and for a time, just enjoy the fellowship of one another.

In short, if you work hard and play hard, being a Lion will be a "roaring experience"!