

LAKE ORION LIONS CLUB



Est.1938

New Members Handbook

Introduction

Welcome to the Lake Orion Lions Club. Our motto is “**We Serve.**” This New Members Handbook, with support from your sponsor and fellow members, will help you understand your role as a Lion. Serving our community is the best way to learn what being a Lion means.

This guide covers:

- Who Are Lions
- Lake Orion Lions Club
- Lions Organizational Structure



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Who Are Lions

LIONS ARE members of the world's largest and most active service club organization.

LIONS ARE people who have decided to give something back to their community, who are dedicated to helping people in need and who meet those needs in an efficient caring way.

LIONS ARE men and women who believe that by working with other dedicated Lions, they will accomplish far more for their communities than would be possible alone.

LIONS ARE committed to solving major, worldwide health and social problems, and realize that solutions are possible when every Lions club does its share.

LIONS ARE people who cherish the friendship and fellowship within their own club, but also feel a close kindship with fellow Lions in over 200 countries.

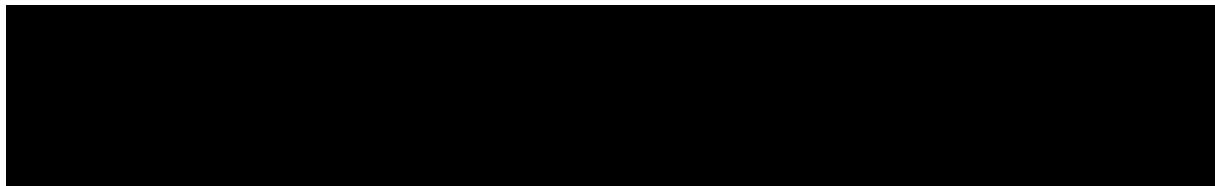
LIONS ARE patriotic, giving allegiance to their country, while recognizing that all people must someday learn to live in peace.

LIONS ARE dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical and moral standards in their club and in their personal lives

LIONS ARE PEOPLE JUST LIKE YOU!

Making a global impact		Vision Statement: To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service. Mission Statement: To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs. Motto: "We Serve"
1.4 million Lions serving	50,000 Lions clubs	200 countries and regions served

Global Causes



We Serve



Childhood Cancer



Youth



Humanitarian



Hunger



Disaster Relief



Environment



Diabetes



Vision



Benefits of Lions Clubs Membership

Becoming a member of your local Lions club benefits your community and you:

- Make a difference.
- Serve with pride.
- Build your network.
- Gain Lion credibility.
- Develop new friendships.
- Show your leadership.



Lions Emblem



On 17th July 1917 at the Invitation of Melvin Jones, delegates met in Chicago, The only point of contention was the selection of a name the New Organization.

Melvin Jones researched the idea of calling the New Organization Lions. He was convinced that lion stood for strength, courage, fidelity and vital action. On a secret ballot the name LIONS was chosen over several others.

The Lions Emblem

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

Lionism

Objectives of Lionism:

- To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
- To unite the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan 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.



Lake Orion Lions Club Key Milestones

The Lake Orion Lions Club has marked numerous achievements since its inception, growing through service, innovation, and community involvement.

- 1938: The club was established, proudly sponsored by the Pontiac Lions Club.
- 1944: Pencil sales began, with proceeds supporting Leader Dogs—a tradition that laid the foundation for decades of fundraising.
- 1980: The Jubilee fundraiser was launched, expanding the club's charitable reach.
- 1982: With 120 members, the club earned a Top 10 Award from Lions Club International for providing CPR training to over 1,700 people in the Orion area over five years. “It was inspiring to see our community come together to learn lifesaving skills,” reflects a long-time member.
- 1983: A second Top 10 Award recognized the club's summer camp for blind youth at Franklin Settlement Camp.
- 1995: Margaret DeGroff broke new ground as the first woman to join the club, opening doors for greater inclusion.
- 2020: The Lake Orion Lioness Club became a Branch Club, strengthening the organization's community network.
- 2023: The club creatively repurposed retired mailboxes as Recycled Eyeglasses boxes, supporting vision initiatives.

Fundraising Traditions

Fundraising has always been at the heart of the club's mission, with innovative events supporting a wide range of causes.

- Leader Dogs Support (since 1944): The club's partnership with Leader Dog began with annual pencil sales and continues today, earning "Top Dog" status for donating at least \$5,000 each year for over a decade. "We've been making a difference for those with vision challenges for generations," says Lion Jim Leach, Jr.
- Bear Lake Camp Support (since 1981): The club has maintained ongoing commitment to Bear Lake Camp, assisting with both fundraising and hands-on support.
- Jubilee Fundraiser (since 1980): This event was introduced to diversify fundraising and benefit multiple charities, reflecting the club's broadening impact.
- Goodfellow Paper Sale and Christmas Basket Program (since 1948): Recognizing community needs during tough times, the club began selling Goodfellow Papers to ensure "No Child went without a Christmas." The funds launched the Christmas Basket Program, which has since brought holiday cheer to thousands of families and seniors.

Annual Events

The club's calendar is filled with longstanding events that unite members and support the community, blending tradition with service.

- Christmas Basket Program (since 1948): Each year, the club assembles and delivers baskets to those in need, a program born out of compassion and sustained by dedication.
- Flare Night on Lake Orion (since 1945): Originally started by the Rotary Club, the Lions have continued the tradition of selling flares, lighting up the lake and community spirit.
- Orion Lighted Parade (since 1995): When the parade moved to nighttime, the club crafted the floats for Santa and Mrs. Claus. Over the years, floats featured giant sleighs, Christmas baskets,

and even a hot air balloon basket—famous for its fiery torch. “Marching alongside those floats on cold nights, huddling for warmth, brought us closer together,” recalls Lion Jim Leach, Jr.

- Installation Dinner (every June): The club honors new board members with a celebratory dinner. Once a grand event, it has become more intimate but remains a cherished tradition, growing in scale during charter anniversaries.
- Club Picnic (September): The annual picnic kicks off the fiscal year, bringing members together after summer break. Originally held at the club’s former property, it continues in various locations.
- Club Christmas Party (December): This festive gathering has evolved from “Ladies Night” dances to lively auctions, inspiring the “Christmas for Everyone Auction” and fostering camaraderie.
- Meals at Bear Lake Camp: For decades, club members have cooked and served meals at camp, engaging directly with campers, staff, and visitors—a hands-on tradition that strengthens member bonds.

Bear Lake Camp History

Bear Lake Camp stands as a testament to the club’s commitment to youth and accessibility. Its story is one of vision, perseverance, and community collaboration.

- Origins: In the early 1920s, Charles A. Dean offered his Lake Orion cottage and 200 acres to Franklin Settlement for a summer camp, giving inner-city Detroit children a taste of nature.
- Serving the Visually Impaired: Lion Al Kassin, with his wife Elsie, pioneered a two-week camp for blind and visually impaired children each August, assembling volunteers and funding to make the experience possible.

- **Growth and Relocation:** After the sale of Franklin Wright camp in the late 1980s, the program moved between several sites before finding a permanent home at Bear Lake in Lapeer County. The property, a former Presbyterian camp, was purchased with help from the Lake Orion Lions and other clubs statewide.
- **Building Together:** The Lake Orion Lions constructed one of the camp cabins, with volunteers—including Marine Corps members—contributing labor and resources. “Seeing the camp grow year by year fills me with pride,” shares a veteran club member.
- **Legacy and Impact:** Over time, the camp added new facilities and activities like a rock-climbing wall and ropes course. The Lions’ efforts ensured the camp’s success and accessibility for future generations.

Through decades of service, innovation, and fellowship, the Lake Orion Lions Club’s legacy endures. Members, past and present, can be proud of their role in shaping the club’s rich history and bright future.



How to be a Good Lion

- Attend meetings regularly
- Join fundraisers and service projects
- Go to charity “Kick Off Dinners”
- Learn the club’s history
- Wear your lapel pin
- Help share tasks and use your talents
- Offer ideas to improve the club and community
- Consider board positions
- Follow and share Lake Orion Lions events on Facebook
- Invite other to join



Club Roster Book

The club roster book is made available in an electronic format to all members. It is emailed by the club secretary. It can also be located on the website on the members only page. It is updated when new members are added to the club and annually once elected board members start their new term. The content of the roster book includes:

<p>Lake Orion Lions Club</p>  <p>We Serve</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Club Objectives○ Club Officers○ District 11-A2 Cabinet Officers○ Past Presidents○ Melvin Jones & Progressive Melvin Jones Fellows○ Active members contact information○ Deceased members○ Committees and Chairs○ Board Position Description○ Policy Manual○ Opportunities○ Benefits○ Costs
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Lake Orion Lions Club Fundraisers

Fundraisers are events our club holds to collect money for charities.

The Lake Orion Lions' main fundraisers include:

- ❖ Lion Races
- ❖ Jubilee Carnival/Beer Tent
- ❖ Flare Sales
- ❖ Charity Car Show
- ❖ Charity Poker
- ❖ Christmas Auction/Dinner

Photos of past events can be seen on the Lake Orion Lions Club website [Events and Photos](#) .



Club Service Projects

Our club takes part in service projects to give back to our local community. Signature service projects of the Lake Orion Lions include:

- ❖ Christmas Basket Program
- ❖ Project Kidsight
- ❖ Adopt a Highway
- ❖ Recycled for Sight Program
- ❖ Eyeglasses and Hearing Aid Assistance
- ❖ Santa's Christmas Party

All our upcoming fundraiser and service projects are published on our meeting agendas, on our website [Events and Photos](#) page, and in our newsletter [Club News](#).



Local Programs Supported

Some local programs supported by our club include:

- ❖ Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry [Oxford/Orion FISH Food Pantry - Home](#)
- ❖ LoveINC [Love Inc North Oakland](#)
- ❖ Monday Night Meals [Community Meals - United Methodist Church of Lake Orion](#)
- ❖ Lake Orion High School Scholarship
- ❖ Lake Orion Youth Baseball and Softball sponsorship
- ❖ Lake Orion Schools Robotic Teams sponsorship



District, State and International Programs Supported

- ❖ Leader Dogs for the Blind [Welcome to Leader Dogs for the Blind |](#)
- ❖ Lions Bear Lake Camp [Home](#)
- ❖ Penickton Center for Blind Children [Penickton Center for Blind Children – Private non-profit, providing care and support to children who are visually impaired with multiple disabilities.](#)
- ❖ Eversight [Michigan](#)
- ❖ Madonna University Deaf and Hearing Program [Deaf or Hard of Hearing \(MAT\) | Madonna University](#)
- ❖ Corewell Health (previously Beaumont) Silent Children's Fund
- ❖ Michigan All-State Band [Lions of Michigan All State Band | Home](#)
- ❖ Recycled for Sight Program [Eyeglasses and Hearing Aids Recycling | Lions Clubs International](#)



New Member Opportunities

New members are invited to volunteer for activities they enjoy. Signup sheets for roles are available at meetings and in the newsletter.

Attend “Kick Off Dinners”: New members can join these events, held for supported charities, free of charge during their first year.

The Kick Off Dinners include:

- District 11-A2 Project Kidsight – Usually in September
- Penrickton Center for Blind Children – Usually in October
- Leader Dog for the Blind – Usually in December
- Lions Bear Lake Camp – Usually in February
- Corewell Health (previously Beaumont) Silent Children’s Fund – Usually in May
- Madonna University Deaf and Hearing Program – Usually in April

All members can propose a fundraiser or community service project:

- Choose a project that matches the Lions' mission and values.
- The Community Services Committee chaired by the 1st Vice President shall meet with any member proposing to add a new community service project to discuss the proposal and assist the member in clarifying and presenting that proposed project for consideration by the Club. (Constitution and Bi-Laws No. 13).
- The Ways and Means Committee chaired by the 2nd Vice President shall meet with any member proposing to add a new fundraising project to discuss the proposal and assist the member in preparing a budget and and presenting that proposed fundraiser for consideration by the club (Constitution and Bi-Laws No. 13).

Club Meetings

General membership meetings **are scheduled on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from September to June.** For specific dates, see the schedule on our website under [Events and Photos](#)

Members can use the Zoom Workplace app to attend meetings online if they're unable to be there in person. A Zoom link is sent to all members by email before each meeting.

The meeting agenda is emailed ahead of time and includes updates on ongoing projects and activities, as well as information about any guest speakers.

Joker Poker is played at club meetings and participation is optional. If you draw the joker, you win half of the accumulating pot. Members must be present during the drawing to win. The winning member gets the honor of running Joker Poker until another winner is chosen.

Money raised goes into the Administrative Fund.

The club Tail Twister may fine members during meetings, with fines limited to \$1.00 per member per meeting. Money collected from fines also goes to the Administrative Fund.

At every meeting, the Member's Choice Raffle gives each member a free raffle ticket. The selected member chooses a charity to receive a \$100 donation.

Board meetings are generally held on the third Wednesday of each month after the general membership meeting. Check the upcoming schedule under [Events and Photos](#).

All members receive the board meeting agenda and are encouraged to attend the meeting, although only board members can vote.

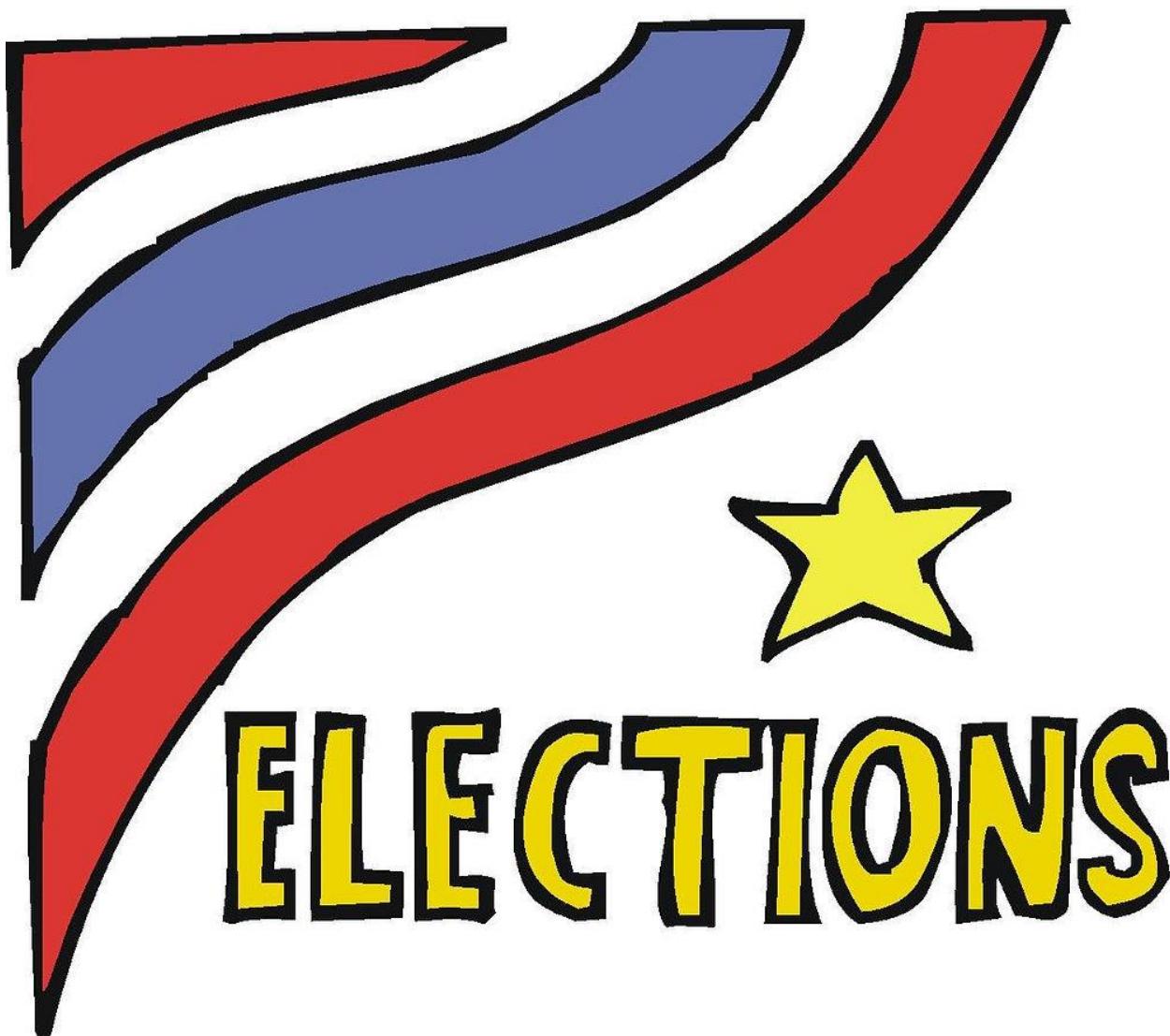
New Member Installation Ceremony

The installation ceremony marks the symbolic start of a member's journey as a Lion and plays an essential role in long-term member retention. Typically, this ceremony takes place during a membership meeting.



Club Board Elections

Our club's board of directors includes the president, immediate past president, vice presidents, branch club president, secretary, treasurer, membership chair, tail twister, lion tamer, and 12 directors. Officers are elected each spring for terms starting July 1. Board members are installed at a June dinner. The current board members with their pictures are on the Lake Orion Lions Club website on the [Club Officers](#) page.



Club Officer Installation Ceremony and Dinner

The board installation ceremony takes place in June at a location chosen by the new president. A theme is announced so attendees can dress accordingly. All members may sign up to attend.



Club Communications

Some of club communications that members can expect include:

- ✓ Emails distributed to all members by the club secretary
- ✓ Website [Lake Orion Lions Club](#)
- ✓ Lake Orion Lions Club FaceBook [Facebook](#)
- ✓ Newsletter [Club News](#)
- ✓ Lion Pride [Index of /images/pride](#)
- ✓ Lion Magazine [Home - Lion Magazine](#)

The Lake Orion Lions Club offers private website pages for members to access documents and share information. New members receive the link upon joining.



Club Dues



Membership Dues and Fees Chart

Annual dues are \$100 (July 1–June 30), with first-year fees for new members adjusted based on installation month. Additional family members pay a lower annual rate. Dues are distributed as follows:

- Lion Club International: \$52
- MI Lions: \$11
- 11A2: \$10
- MI Mag: \$4.50
- Lake Orion Lions: \$22.50

New members should pay upon installation. The club secretary sends yearly dues notices.

Budget



We are a 501(c)(3) non-profit (Tax ID: 38-3633253) with two required funds: an administrative account and an activities (charities) account. The treasurer manages the administrative fund for dues, supplies, postage, club events, and member perks; public-raised funds cannot be used for administration. Our charities fund supports events and annual donations, with separate accounts for Jubilee and Charity Poker—required by Michigan law. Excess funds from these accounts are transferred to the main charities account each year.

Lions Club Apparel

New members will receive a T-shirt featuring the Lions Logo during installation. If a member wishes to add Lions club patches to their own clothing, they must fill out the Club Apparel form and pay the required fee.



[Order form \(click to open and print\)](#)

1 of 1

LAKE ORION LIONS CLUB
APPAREL ORDER FORM

Member Name: _____
Phone: _____
Email: _____

Please attach this order form to the item or items and return to
Lion Joe Hildebrand at any meeting.

Lion Logo on Front \$12
 Name: _____ On right chest \$5 (optional)
 Big Lion Logo on Back \$30
 Hat/Visor \$8
Total \$ _____

Make check payable to **ACTION DESIGNS**
Cash also accepted.
Questions call Lion Joe @ 248-762-1393 or email
joe.hildebrand@sbcglobal.net

Awards

Awards for service and leadership

- [**Humanitarian Award**](#): The association's highest honor, given for exemplary humanitarian efforts. It includes a large grant from the [**Lions Clubs International Foundation \(LCIF\)**](#).
- [**Melvin Jones Fellowship**](#): A prestigious award to recognize outstanding Lions and members of the public who have demonstrated dedication to humanitarianism.
- [**Chevron Award**](#) Program: Recognizes Lions for their long-term service in 5-year increments, starting at 10 years.
- [**Excellence Awards**](#): Acknowledge clubs and leaders for outstanding leadership, membership growth, and impactful service.
- [**Presidential LCIF Recognition**](#): Honors leaders who have made an extraordinary impact through their dedication and achievements.
- [**Kindness Matters Service Award**](#): An annual award for a handful of Lions and Leo clubs that perform outstanding and innovative service projects.

Awards for membership

- [**Membership Key Awards**](#): Awarded to individual Lions who sponsor new members.
- [**MISSION 1.5 Premier Club Award**](#): A multi-tiered award system to encourage membership growth.

Other recognitions

- [**International President's Certificate of Appreciation**](#): Awarded for distinguished achievements in service.
- [**Lion of the Year**](#): A local award given by individual clubs to a member who consistently goes above and beyond.

Club Social Events

The club provides an hour of social time before meetings. Annual events include:

- A potluck picnic at the September meeting
- Entry in the lighted boat parade (beginning 2025)
- A Christmas party at a December meeting
- Participation in the Orion Lighted Parade in December



Storage Unit

The club maintains a storage unit at Spare Box Storage, 180 W. Church Street, Lake Orion. Items for most events are kept in the storage unit.



District 11-A2

The Lake Orion Lions Club is part of [**Lions District 11-A2 of Michigan.**](#)



LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT 11-A2

Lions and Leos Clubs Proudly Serving Oakland and Macomb Counties, Michigan U.S.A.

[Home](#) [Newsletters](#) [Calendar](#) [District Officers](#) [District Committees](#) [District Club Info](#) [Convention/Forum](#) [Web Links](#) [Our Charities](#) [Downloads](#) [About Lionism](#)
[Michigan History](#) [Past Lion Officers](#) [Award Recipients](#) [Contact Information](#) [Roster Changes](#) [MMR / Resource](#) [Youth Exchange](#) [Webhosting](#)

The district includes all clubs serving Oakland and Macomb Counties, Michigan. The world's Lions clubs are grouped into approximately 750 districts. Each district has at least 35 clubs and at least 1,250 Lions club members. Each district has a district governor who is elected for a one year term and is responsible for the overall success of our mission of service in the district.

Club Websites of 11-A2

[Armada Lions Club](#)

[Pontiac Lions Club](#)

[Beverly Hills Lions Club](#)

[Rochester Lions Club](#)

[Clarkston Lions Club](#)

[Rochester Hills Lions Club](#)

[Eastpointe Lions Club](#)

[Royal Oak Lions Club](#)

[Fraser Lions Club](#)

[Selfridge Chesterfield Lions Club](#)

[Lake Orion Lions Club](#)

[Shelby Township Lions Club](#)

[Mount Clemens Lions Club](#)

[Sterling Heights Lions Club](#)

[Ortonville Lions Club](#)

[Troy Community Lions Club](#)

[Washington Lions Club](#)

District Convention

District conventions handle business, elect officers, vote on sites, hold seminars and events, and foster fellowship among Lions.

Our District 11 A2 convention usually takes place in early April at a nearby hotel, running from Friday evening to Sunday morning. Attendees have free time for socializing and exploring the area. About 20 club members typically attend, and all are encouraged to join the convention experience.



Lions of Michigan

Lions of Michigan, www.lionsofmi.com, is made up of over 330 clubs and 8600 members.



Welcome to the Lions of Michigan Foundation...



The Lions of Michigan Service Foundation

The Lions of Michigan Foundation is a public charity that was created in 1984 to help Michigan Lions Clubs provide community services. We work in partnership with our member Lions Clubs and other organizations to provide disadvantaged individuals and families with access to affordable medical care and services designed to help improve their quality of life.

While our programs encompass many areas, through screening, diagnosis, treatment, education and research, we primarily help underserved populations and financially struggling individuals who require assistance with eye care, hearing aids or an unexpected life event. Our services are offered statewide with a focus on helping Michigan residents succeed academically, develop normally, maintain independence and prosper in life.

Lions Club International (LCI)

Lions Clubs International www.lionsclubs.org **is the world's largest service club organization.** We have 1.4 million members in [more than 48,000 clubs](#) worldwide.

Lions are everywhere. We're active men and women in more than [210 countries and geographic areas](#).

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

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

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

Our [Leo Program](#) provides the youth of the world with an opportunity for personal development through volunteering. There are approximately 191,788 Leos and 7,700 Leo clubs in more than 150 countries worldwide.

Lions award grants. Since 1968, the [Lions Clubs International Foundation \(LCIF\)](#) has awarded more than US \$1.3 Billion with over 20,000 grants to support Lions humanitarian projects around the world. LCIF was also ranked the number one nongovernmental organization in a 2007 study by *The Financial Times*.

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

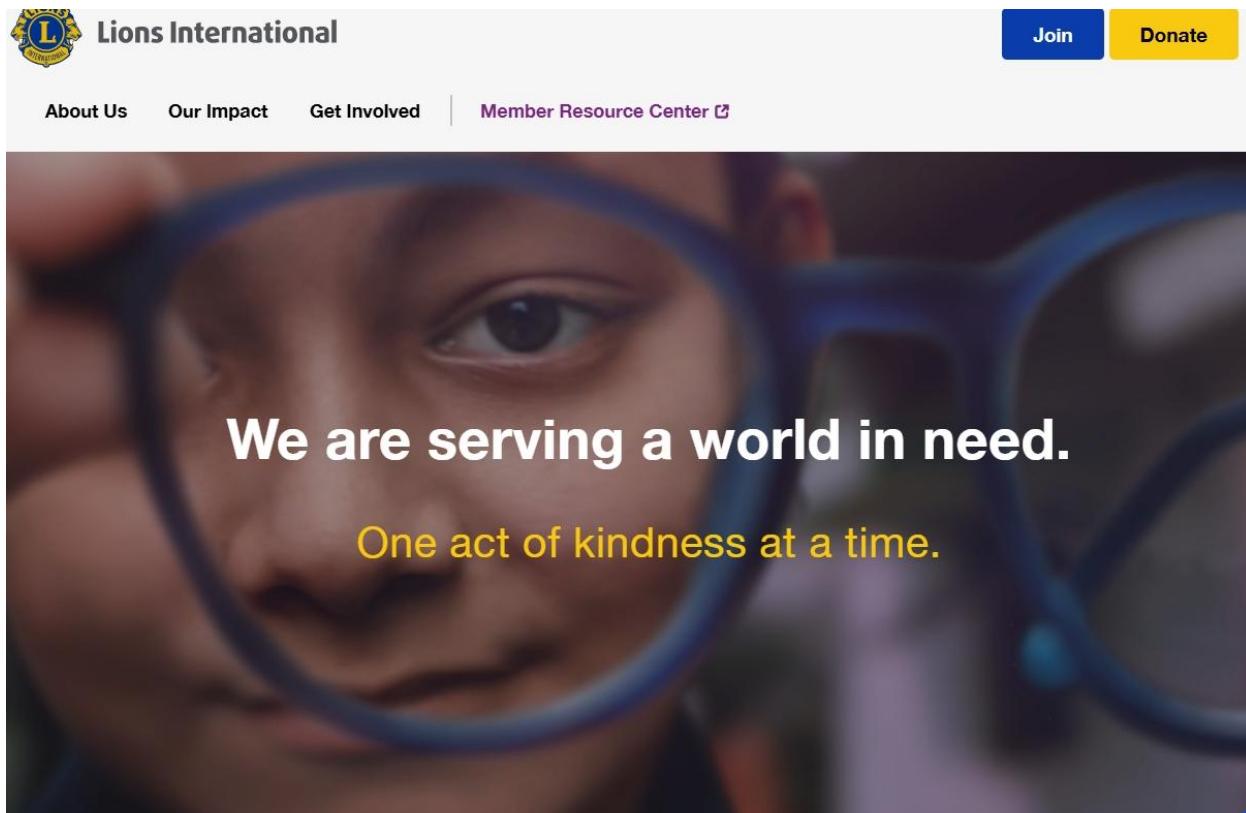
International Headquarters



- **Located in Oak Brook Illinois**
- **Approximately 275 staff members in 11 divisions:**
 - Convention
 - District and Club Administration
 - Finance
 - Information Technology
 - Leadership Development
 - Legal
 - Lions Clubs International Foundation
 - Marketing
 - Membership
 - Member Operations and Support

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF)

[About Our Foundation | Lions Clubs International](#)



What is LCIF's mission?

LCIF's mission is to support the efforts of Lions clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants.

Learn more <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/discover-our-foundation/mission>

Appendix

LAKE ORION LIONS CLUB APPAREL ORDER FORM

LAKE ORION LIONS CLUB APPAREL ORDER FORM

Member Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Please attach this order form to the item or items and return to Lion Joe Hildebrand at any meeting.

Lion Logo on Front \$12

Name: _____ On right chest \$5 (optional)

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