



"We Serve"



*"50 Years of Excellence"
1966-2016*



-South Attleboro Lions Club-
The Lions Club of Attleboro (South Attleboro)
Lions District 33S- Massachusetts

Chartered- November 17, 1965 / "Charter Night"- February 27, 1966 / 50th Anniversary – April 2, 2016

"A Brief History"

-Rev: April 4, 2016

-Lions Clubs International: The History, the Mission, and the Causes...

In 1917, **Melvin Jones**, a Chicago business leader, told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world. His group, the "Business Circle of Chicago", agreed. After contacting similar groups around the United States, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois. The new group took the name of one of the invited groups, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas in October of that year. A constitution, by-laws, and a code of ethics were approved. Within three years, Lions became an international organization, especially dedicated to serving the blind and visually impaired, a commitment made after **Helen Keller** challenged the Lions organization to become her "**Knights of the Blind**" in the Crusade Against Darkness in **1925**. Since then, Lions Clubs International has earned high marks for both integrity and transparency as a well-run organization with a steady vision, a proud history, and a clear mission of *"To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace, and promote International understanding through Lions Clubs"*. Today, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest and most active service Club organization with over **1.4 million members**, in over **46,000 Clubs**, in over **200 countries** worldwide. **Lions causes** include the **number one cause-Sight Conservation**, and also, hearing services, diabetes awareness, environmental services, youth programs, international relations, the measles initiative, and a wide range of local community service projects. In **2016**, the **South Attleboro Lions** celebrate a rich tradition of **fifty years of service** to the **South Attleboro community** and the world around them.

-The Beginning of the South Attleboro Lions Club...

Chartered by Lions International on **November 17, 1965** as a member of **Lions District 33S**, one of the five Lions Districts in the state of Massachusetts (Lions MD33), the **South Attleboro Lions Club** began with thirty four Charter members. Co-sponsored by the Attleboro Lions Club and the North Attleboro Lions Club, the South Attleboro Lions Club were led in their first year by Club President Rodney F. Blythe , who at that time, along with Lion Charter Night Chairman, Lion Frank C. Seyboth, Jr., recognized the following for their important roles in the organization of the original South Attleboro Lions Club– Lion District Governor George M. Powers III, Lion Wendell D. Ring, I.C., Lion Zone Chairmen Bill Armstrong and Harle G. Kingsford of the North Attleboro Lions Club, the late Sherman Strom of the Attleboro Lions Club, Lion Secretary Stan Gavlik, and South Attleboro Lion Charter Committee members, Lions Ed Mottau, Bill Frizzell, and Don Leedham.

-The Lions Causes...

The efforts of the South Attleboro Lions Club have touched the lives of countless people during the past fifty years. A total of nearly **\$700,000.00** has been raised by the Club and donated to Lions causes, community individuals and families in need, and community organizations. This total includes just under a quarter of a million dollars, **\$241,003.00**, to the **Massachusetts Lions Eye Research (MLERF)**. Key areas of support given by the Club throughout the years include the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF), the Massachusetts Lions Eye Research, the District 33S Eyemobile, and the 33S Hearing Foundation. Also, local support to the South Attleboro community include the D.A.R.E. program, hospice care, Boy Scouts, the "Gift of Sight" program, the Attleboro Youth Center, and South Attleboro and Attleboro Youth Sports programs.

-South Attleboro Lions Activities...

The South Attleboro Lions Club have evolved with their activities, events, and fundraisers over their fifty year history to support Lions District 33S, Lions MD33, and Lions Clubs International programs and causes each year. **Past Programs** included the "Las Vegas Nights", the "Up With People" concerts, the "Magical Evening of Giving", , the "Chuck Wagon", hosting the Lions District 33S Bowling Tournament, participation in the South Attleboro Memorial Day Parade, "Texas Hold 'Em Nights", "Community Appreciation Night", and the "7 Month Club Dinner". **Today**, the Club offers many long term, and new, activities, events, and fundraisers including- the "Annual Car Show, the Lees Pond Festival, the

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“Desmarais-Quilitzsch Thanksgiving Dinner for the Elderly“, the “Annual Golf Tournament”. “Meat Raffles”, “Christmas is for Kids”, the “Country Breakfast” and “Breakfast with Santa”, Lions “White Cane Day“, the “D.A.R.E. Student Excellence Awards Dinner”, trips to the Providence Bruins, Eye Glass and Hearing Aid Collections and Recycling, the “Lees Pond Clean Up Day, the “Dave Allard Memorial Park Clean Up Day”, student scholarship awards, the “Gift of Sight” program, the “Outreach- Food Packaging” program and “Valentine’s Dance”, the “Handicap Ramp Construction” program, the “Funds for Children with Special Needs” program, the “Veteran’s Committee”, the “Lions Mints” program, the “Breakfast Placemat Ads” program, the “Pennies for Sight” program, the “Youth Speech Contest”, the “Massachusetts All State Band”, the “Peace Poster” Contest, “Lions Day at McCoy Stadium (PawSox)”, the Guide Dog program, and the “Walk Along for MLERF”. The South Attleboro Lions Club take pride in collaborating in service activities and projects with the **South Attleboro Village Lions Club** and proudly co-sponsors the High School version of Lions Clubs, our future Lions members, the **Greater Attleboro Leo Club**, with the **Village Lions**.

-Recognition from the Lions District 33S, Lions MD33, and Lions Clubs International...

The South Attleboro Lions have been recognized as the “**Top Lions Club**” in Lions District 33S and Lions MD33 (Massachusetts) a number of times, including the 1993-1994 Lions year, under the leadership of Lion President Scott Brockelbank, the 2007-2008 Lions year under the leadership of Rick Bliss, and the 2014-2015 Lions year under the leadership of President Ken “Benny” Benoit. The Club has traditionally participated in, and supported, the annual Lions District 33S Mid Winter Conference, serving as co-hosts during the 1997-1998, 2004-2005, 2009-2010, and 2012-2013 Lions years, and also the Annual Lions MD33 State Lions Convention. The South Attleboro Lions are regular recipients of the Lions Clubs International “**Club Excellence Award**”.

Members of the **South Attleboro Lions** have provided quality leadership to District 33S over the years. The South Attleboro Lions Club is the home Club to three past **Lions District 33S District Governors**- the late Lion PDG Donald Leedham in 1984-1985, Lion PDG Ray Hebert in 2009-2010, and Lion David A. Barbour in 2012-2013. Lion PDG Ray Hebert and Lion PDG David Barbour currently serve on the **District Governors Honorary Committee**. The late South Attleboro Lions Club Honorary Member PDG Harle G. Kingsford served as the District Governor in 1969-1970 for the North Attleboro Lions Club. Former South Attleboro Lions member Raymond Moreau left the Club in 2011 to form the new Attleboro Tri Boro Community Lions Club in the District and later served as District Governor in District 33S in 2013-2014 as a member of the Tri Boro Lions. Serving the **District** as the **Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer** were the late Lion PDG Donald Leedham, in 1981-1982, past Lion PCST Jack Medeiros 1984-1985, current Lion PDG Ray Hebert who served two terms as the District’s C.S.T. in 1990-1991 and also in 1996-1997; current Lion PDG David Barbour in 2009-2010; past South Attleboro Lion member PDG Raymond Moreau served as the Cabinet Treasurer in 2010-2011, and past South Attleboro Lion Dr. Ash Fry served as the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer in 2012-2013. Many South Attleboro Lions have served in other leadership capacities within the Lions District 33S and Lions Multiple District 33 over the years.

-The Membership...

-Forty one (41) past and current, members of the South Attleboro Lions Club have served as the **Club President** over the history of the Club. Lion Jesse Armell III, the current President of the Club in 2015-2016, is the first member to serve three terms as Club President. Lion Bob Hines, Jr. will become the Clubs second three term President in the 2016-2017 Lions year. The following ten members have served two terms as Club President- the late Lion PDG Don Leedham, the late Lion Tom Reilly, Lion PDG Ray Hebert, the late Lion Roger Fedelia, Lion Bob Hines, Jr., the late Lion Dave Allard, Lion Mike Sumner, Lion Rick Bliss, Lion Mike Olson, and Lion Ken “Benny” Benoit.

-Four (4) South Attleboro Lions members have been honored with “**Lions Life Memberships**”- the late Lion PDG Don Leedham, the late Lion Louie LaCivita, the late Lion Thomas Reilly, and Lion PDG Ray Hebert.

-Twenty nine (29) South Attleboro Lions have been recognized internationally for outstanding leadership and service both to Lionism, and to their community, as recipients of one of the Lions Clubs highest honors, the Lions Clubs International Foundation’s “**Melvin Jones Fellowship**” award. **Lion recipients include-** the late PDG Donald Leedham, PDG Ray Hebert, the late Al Cannon, the late Louis LaCivita, Maurice Desmarais, the late Herb Fisher, the late Bill Pitas, Carl Quilitzsch, the late Thomas Reilly, Joe Robichaud, Ray Bourque, Brian Sullivan, Andy Charpentier, the late Roger Fedelia, Ken Kingsford, the late Dave Allard, Gene Hoover, Jesse Armell III, Charlie Jette, Mike Sumner, Bob Hines, Jr., Mike Olson, PDG David Barbour, Rick Bliss, Clint Ferguson Jr., Ken Benoit, Joe Gallagher, Len Halko, and Bailey Long.

-Six (6) current members of the South Attleboro Lions have served the Club for **over 30 years-** Lion PDG Ray Hebert, King Lion Jesse Armell, Lion Andy Charpentier, Lion John Case, Lion Fred McCormick, and Lion Jim Sweeney.

-Today and the Future-

Currently, the **South Attleboro Lions Club** consists of **fifty dedicated members**. Each of the Club’s members possess a wide variety of skills, talents, abilities, and resources, that, when combined and working together, enable the Club to strive towards the Lions mission and goal of serving the needs of the community and the world we live in. The **South Attleboro Lions Club** truly lives up to the **Lions Clubs International motto** of ... “**We Serve**”