

District A12

Orientation Manual



MISSION STATEMENT

To empower Lions clubs, volunteers, and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian services and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding.

Welcome...to the Lions family! It is a large family with 1.4 million members in 47,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographic areas, making it the world's largest volunteer service organization. You are now an integral part of this worldwide network of people dedicated to seeking out and helping those in need.

The size and scope of our organization is a big advantage. We have a worldwide reach and can draw on global resources. But our focus is local. We serve people one community at a time, sometimes one person at a time. When we provide hundreds of millions of dollars for sight programs and disaster relief, local Lions joined by Lions from all over the globe – pitch in and get the job done.

You became a Lion to give something back to your community through direct action. You will also have fun. The fellowship of working together can make Lions club membership one of the most enjoyable experiences of your life. The opportunities for personal and leadership development can make it one of the most rewarding.

We value your time, appreciate your volunteer spirit and welcome your enthusiasm and ideas. The association is committed to helping you become the best Lion you can be. Together with your mentor and other materials, this book will give you the knowledge and information needed to begin your journey of service.

It's time to get started!

ABBREVIATIONS

BOD	Board of Directors	MDA	Multiple District "A"
CC	Council Chairperson	MJF	Melvin Jones Fellow
CST	Cabinet Secretary Treasurer	PCC	Past Council Chairperson
CVC	Canine Vision Canada	PDDG	Past Deputy District Governor
DG	District Governor	PRC	Past Region Chairperson
GLT	Global Leadership Team	PVDG	Past Vice District Governor
GMT	Global Membership Team	PDG	Past District Governor
GST	Global Service Team	PID	Past International Director
HED	Hearing Ear Dogs of Canada	PP	Past President
ID	International Director	PZC	Past Zone Chairperson
IPDG	Immediate Past District Governor	RC	Region Chairperson
JBSF	Judge Brian Stevenson Fellow	SSD	Special Skills Dogs of Canada
LCI	Lions Clubs International	VDG	Vice District Governor
LCIF	Lions Clubs International Foundation	VP	Vice President
LFC	Lions Foundation of Canada	ZC	Zone Chairperson

OUR HISTORY

1917: The Beginning Chicago business leader Melvin Jones asked a simple and world-changing question – what if people made a commitment to improving their communities? Over 100 years later, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with more than 1.4 million members in more than 47,000 clubs and countless stories of Lions acting on the same simple idea: when Lions come together for the good of humanity, there's nothing we can't achieve.

1920: Going International Just three years after our founding, Lions became international when we established the first club in Canada. Mexico followed in 1927 and in the 1950s and 1960s international growth accelerated, with new clubs in Europe, Asia and Africa.

1925: Eradicating Blindness Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind." Since then, we have worked tirelessly to aid the blind and visually impaired.

1945: Uniting Nations The ideal of an international organization is exemplified by our enduring relationship with the United Nations. We were one of the first nongovernmental organizations invited to assist in the drafting of the United Nations Charter and have supported the work of the UN ever since.

1957: Organizing Youth Programs In the late 1950s, we created the Leo Program to provide the youth of the world with an opportunity for personal development through volunteering. There are 177,000 Leos in 7,100 Leo clubs in 147 countries and geographic areas worldwide.

1968: Establishing Our Foundation Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) assists Lions with global and large-scale humanitarian projects. Through our Foundation, US \$1.1 billion has been awarded through more than 17,000 grants to Lions to help them meet the needs of their local and global communities.

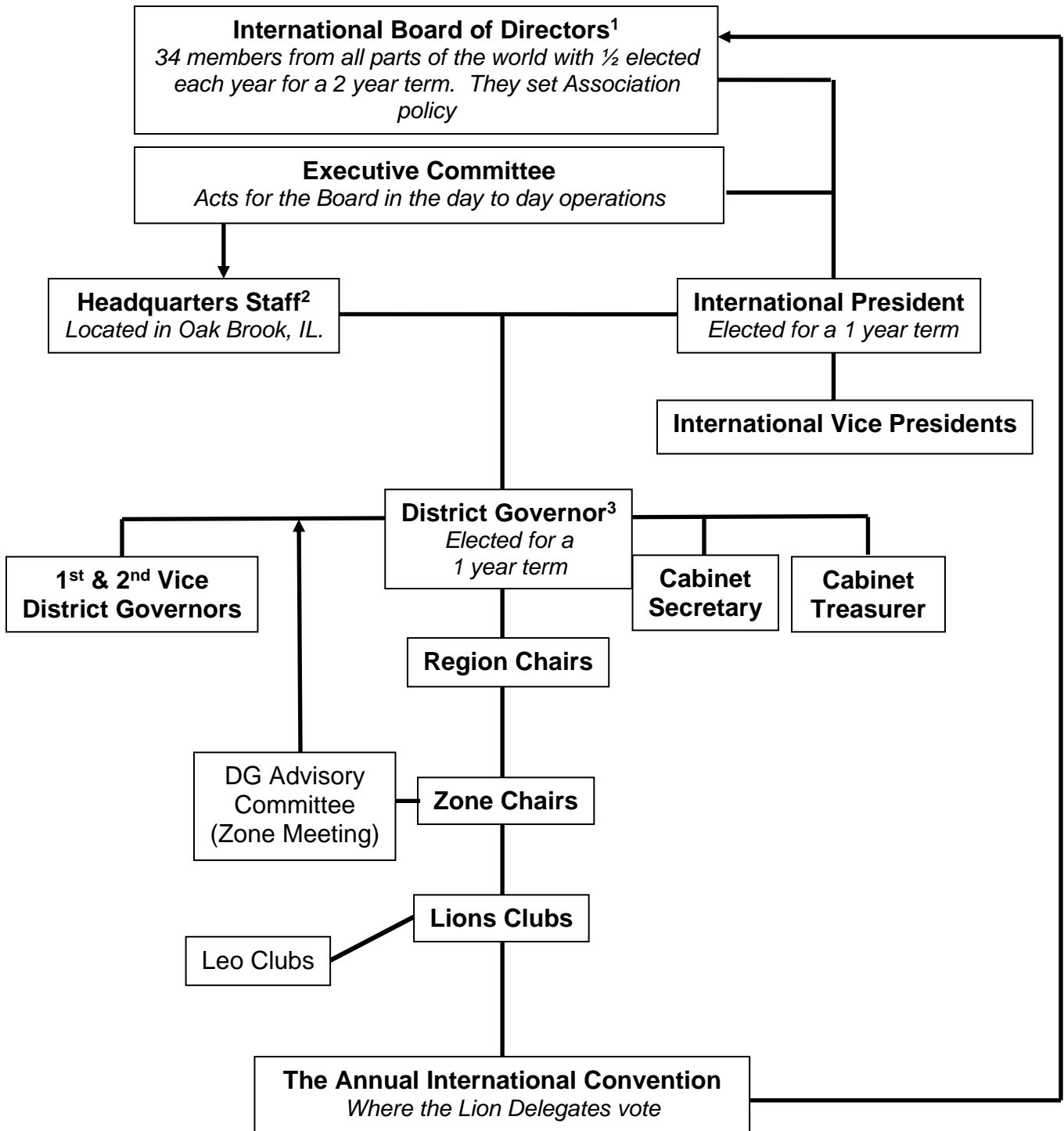
1990: Launching SightFirst Through LCIF, Lions are restoring sight and preventing blindness on a global scale with the SightFirst program. Launched in 1990, Lions have raised more than \$415 million for this initiative. SightFirst targets the major causes of blindness: low vision, trachoma, river blindness, childhood blindness, diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma.

2017: Centennial Service Challenge Lions Clubs International celebrated the Centennial by providing service to over 250 million people through projects impacting youth, vision, hunger and the environment.

2020: Canadian Lions celebrated their Centennial by planting hundreds of thousands of trees, building municipal parks, and dozens and dozens of other projects benefiting our communities.



The International Association of Lions Clubs Organization Framework



1. Canada has one representative on the International Board.
2. HQ staff are the only paid people in the Organization
3. There are approximately 750 Districts in the world.

STRUCTURE

With Lions Clubs active in over 200 countries, it would be very difficult for the International Board of Directors to exercise control without the help of knowledgeable and dedicated local Lions. The association has therefore organized into approximately 750 Districts. The chief executive officer, the District Governor, is an officer of the International Association.

Voting delegates from the clubs in a District elect the District Governor at the District convention. Because of the importance of this office, District Governors-Elect from around the world gather just prior to the International Convention for a series of seminars designed to broaden their knowledge of the Association and its programs. They take office at the close of the International Convention for a term of one year.

THE NAME

The legal name of our Association is "The International Association of Lions Clubs" and the short form is "Lions Clubs International". The abbreviation "*LCI*" is also used.

THE MOTTO is *We Serve*

THE EMBLEM

Adopted at the 1919 convention with a few modifications since. It consists of a gold letter "L" on a circular purple or blue field. Bordering this are two Lions, profiles facing away from the center, facing both past and future.



LIONS PURPOSES

- To organize, charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions Clubs
- To coordinate the activities and standardize the administration of Lions Clubs
- To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- To promote the principals 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 politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- To encourage service-minded people 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.

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 of quality and 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 rights or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

To hold friendship as an end and 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 obligations as a citizen to my nation, my province, and my community, and to give to them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labour and means.

To aid others by giving my sympathy to those 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 and not destroy.

LIONS GRACE

O Lord, thy blessings now let fall,
Upon these Lions as we call.
May all our ties of friendship be,
Forever strengthened, Lord, by Thee.

OUR GLOBAL CAUSES

Diabetes



Diabetes is a global epidemic, affecting an increasing number of men, women, and children all over the world. As Lions and Leos, we see and feel the effects of diabetes in our communities and are doing something about it together.

Vision



Lions are known throughout the world for their work to improve the lives of the visually impaired and prevent avoidable blindness. LCIF proudly serves their continued efforts by offering unique and impactful initiatives, programs and grants.

The Eyeglass Recycling Program facilitates processing, cataloging, and dispensing used eyeglasses where needed throughout the world.

Started in 2004, Lions volunteer to visit elementary schools and conduct basic eye tests. The program has proven very successful and is now being done throughout the District. Where deficiencies are detected, parents of the young students are asked to take their child for a full examination.



Hunger



We serve to improve human flourishing. We see how the global hunger and nutrition crisis bears upon our local communities, and believe true community improvement depends on the thriving of its members.

Environment



The earth sustains human life. We've seen how our stewardship of natural resources can improve quality of life and increase engagement in our local communities. Our environment is more than a background: it's our home. And we're committed to caring for it. A few years ago, the International President challenged the Lions to plant a million trees. By the end of the Lions year, the Lions around the world planted over 15 million trees!

Childhood Cancer



The next generation's ability to thrive is closely tied to the supports of the local community. Lions and Leos have seen and felt the effects of cancer on children and their families, and continue to bring hope through tangible service and support.

In addition to these causes, Lions around the world, also focus on the following:

Youth

Lions ensure our global efforts support youth in need, while also giving young people the opportunity to serve.

A Leo Club is an activity sponsored by one or more Lions Clubs, and is open to young people between the ages of 12-18. A Leo Club's function is to develop leadership skills in young people through community service; to provide young people with valuable life experience, enabling them to become compassionate and self-reliant members of society; to offer opportunities for personal growth through achievement and responsibility

Youth Exchange is a short-term cultural exchange program that offers young people aged 15-21 years, four to six week home-stays with Lions Club approved host families. Exchanges are arranged between clubs in different countries.



Hearing Conservation

This would include the collection and distribution of used hearing aids, the support of the Bob Rumball Camp of the Deaf, the Lions Homes for Deaf People, mobile testing units, dog guides, educational and vocational training and employment opportunities.

Disaster Relief

Because of the world-wide scope of our organization and the motto "We Serve", the community of Lionism extends beyond clubs to include districts, nations and the international community of mankind. Whenever and wherever disaster strikes, Lions are often among the first to offer aid..

Humanitarian Efforts

The humanitarian efforts of Lions have been notable and celebrated for over 100 years. We have the unique privilege of providing clubs with large-scale support that can be directly applied toward some of the world's most worthwhile and valuable projects.

For instance Lions are making measles a thing of the past. In partnership with internationally renowned non-profits and organizations such as the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the GAVI Alliance, lions have been helping the effort to fight measles across the planet.

Lions Clubs International Foundation www.lcif.org

Since 1968, Lions Clubs International Foundation has awarded more than 17,000 grants totaling more than \$949 million in support to Lions' humanitarian projects. As the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs International, LCIF helps Lions improve the lives of millions of people through four pillars of service: saving sight, supporting youth, providing disaster relief and meeting humanitarian needs. Through the Foundation's generous support of large-scale humanitarian initiatives, Lions are able to extend their reach from local communities to the global community in order to serve those who need us most.



Lions Clubs International
FOUNDATION

MULTIPLE DISTRICT "A" www.mdalions.org

Your District A12 is one of ten districts that form Multiple District "A" (also referred to as MD"A"). The Multiple covers a vast area from Windsor on the west, Lake Ontario on the south, dipping into Quebec on the east and to James Bay in the north. The Districts are designated: A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, A711, A9, A12, A15, A16.

As of the end of June 2019, MD"A" has 12,622 members.

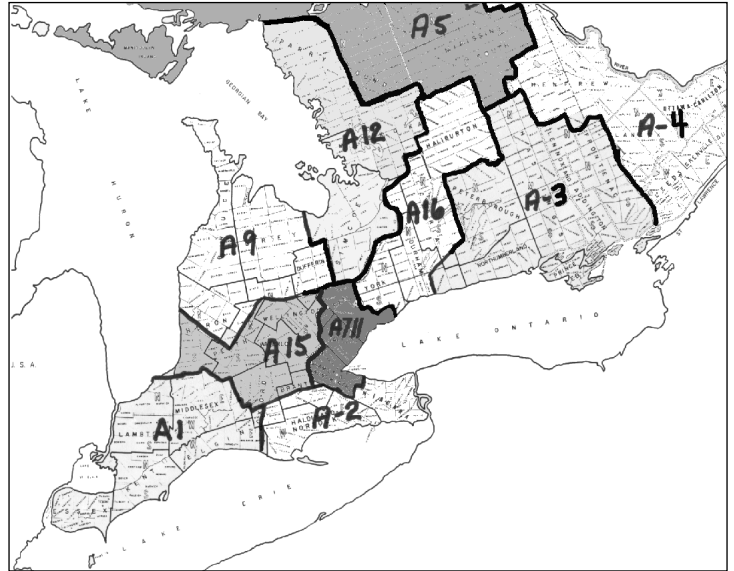
A short history of the creation of MD"A" is...

1920 - Lions Clubs International came to Canada and became truly international as Windsor was the first club outside the USA.

1994 - The Lions of Quebec Districts A8, A10, A14 and A17 left MD"A" and formed their own Multiple District "U".

1999 - District A6, which was located to the north of District A5, joined with District A5

2002 - Districts A7 and A11 combined to become District A711. Also on that date, the seven clubs of Zone 17 South were transferred from District A5 to A12 to become Zone 21 North.



DISTRICT A12 www.A12Lions.org

For administrative purposes our district is divided into three Regions and seven Zones. The clubs in each zone are as follows:

Region 8, Zone 8 North

Angus & District, Angus Lioness Lions, Elmvale & District, Elmvale Lioness Lions, Innisfil, Stayner, Thornton & District and Wasaga Beach

Region 8 – Zone 8 South

Alliston, Bradford, Schomberg and Tottenham

Region 21 – Zone 21 North

Almaguin Highlands, Burk's Falls, Emsdale, Kearney, Magnetawan, South River, Sundridge and Whitestone-McKellar

Region 21 – Zone 21 East

Baysville, Bracebridge, Dorset, Dwight, Gravenhurst, Huntsville and Stephenson & District

Region 21 – Zone 21 West

Britt, MacTier & District, Parry Sound, Peninsula, Port Carling and Windermere & District

Region 36 – Zone 36 East

Barrie, Barrie South, Orillia, Oro District, Springwater-Vespra and Washago & District

Region 36 – Zone 36 West

Baxter-Ward, Coldwater, Midland, Penetanguishene, Port McNicoll, Tiny Township, and Victoria Harbour & District

Leo clubs are located in Bradford and Midland.

YOUR CLUB

The Lions Club is the most important single element of Lionism. Clubs carry out the program and activities that have made our Association what it is today - the largest and most active humanitarian service organization in the world.

Your club has been chartered by the International Association and has agreed to abide by the International Constitution & By-Laws.

Your sponsor should be able to advise you when your club was chartered and the name of the sponsoring club. He/she should also tell you about the major fund raising projects and service projects your club does.

A typical Lions Club is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of some or all of the following...

The President is the chief executive officer of the Club who presides at all meetings of the Board of Directors and the Club. He/she appoints the standing and special committees and ensures that regular elections are called.

The Immediate Past President greets members and guests at Club meetings and acts in an advisory capacity on the Board of Directors. (Some Clubs may choose to appoint an Official Greeter, other than the Immediate Past President)

The Vice Presidents perform the duties of the President in his/her absence. Each Vice President shall oversee the functioning of committees as designated by the President.

The Secretary has custody of all general records of the Club, including the minutes of meetings, attendance, committee reports, elections, membership histories, addresses and telephone numbers.

The Treasurer receives all monies from fundraising, dues etc, disburses all monies on authority given by the Board of Directors. The Treasurer has custody of and maintains records of the Activities, Administrative and Member accounts.

The Lion Tamer has charge of and is responsible for the property and paraphernalia of the club, including the gong and gavel, flags, fine box etc.

The Tail Twister promotes harmony, fun and fellowship at the meetings with stunts, games and imposing fines. The Tail twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present.

The Membership Director is responsible for developing a growth program for the club, and encouraging Lions to invite new quality members. The membership committee is comprised of chair, vice chair, and committee member.

The Board Of Directors comprised of the above, formulates and executes the policies and resolutions of the club. All new business is discussed by the BOD first and its recommendations are then presented to the club at the general meeting. Note that the positions of Lion Tamer and Tail Twister are not Board members in some clubs.

Leadership Development Programs

Lions International, Multiple District "A" and District A12 offer a wide range of training for Lions seeking higher office, or even Lions merely wishing to expand their knowledge of our Association while improving their own skills. These topics include:

- Lions Learning Centre – a series of online courses at www.lionsclubs.org
- Emerging Lions Leadership Institute - www.lionsclubs.org
- Advanced Lions Leadership Institutes - www.lionsclubs.org
- Faculty Development Institute (train the trainer) - www.lionsclubs.org
- Regional Lions Leadership Institutes – www.MDALions.org
- Lions University – www.lionsuniversity.org
- District A12 Lions Learning Weekend – www.A12Lions.org
- USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum – www.LionsForum.org

The forum is held each September in various locations in North America. The event focuses on providing all members of the Lions family with an opportunity to develop their leadership skills and take back information to their clubs. The programs are packed with outstanding motivational speakers, Lions' Leaders, seminars, workshops and lots of fun and fellowship.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES

The **Lions year** runs from July 1 to June 30th.

Each Club must have two separate accounts. The **Activities Funds** of a Club are funds raised or donated from the public and **must** be used only to satisfy some community or public need. Under no circumstances may these funds be used for administrative purposes.

The **Administrative Funds** are funds collected from the Lions and are used for the administration of the Club. Each Club levies an entrance fee and annual dues to its members. Clubs use these monies for administration purposes and to defray the International dues, MD"A" dues and District dues as shown below:

International	\$43.00 US*
MD"A"	\$17.50 CD
District A12	\$ 9.00 CD
Lions Learning Weekend	\$ 6.00 CD

*For family members in the same club, living at the same residence, the first family member will pay the full US \$43. Subsequent members to a maximum of four, will only pay US \$21.50 per year.

Financial Obligations include club dues, a meal at a meeting, Tail Twister fines, raffle tickets or auctions held at a meeting. You may also spend additional money on refreshments before the meeting, visits to other clubs, attending zone meetings, or social events. Some Lions also purchase a vest or club shirt.

The biggest expense of being a lion is not financial. It is the time that you decide to devote to Lionism. You will be expected to work on some major projects, and work on some committees. You are not however expected to put all your free time into Lionism.

You are a volunteer, and as such, should give of yourself that which only you can decide. However, there is a certain obligation to being more than just a social member.

TIME RESPONSIBILITIES (AKA MEETINGS)

Club Meetings

When a Lion takes his oath of membership, he/she pledges to attend meetings regularly, which usually includes two meetings per month.

The Board of Directors meeting is in addition to this and is open to any Lion of that club, however only members of the board are entitled to vote. No proxy votes are allowed at any time in Lionism.

The normal procedure for handling business is that items are presented to the Board of Directors first and their recommendation is then brought to the general membership at the following meeting.

Zone Advisory Meetings (also called District Governor Advisory Meetings)

There are a minimum two zone meetings per year hosted by various clubs in the zone. The Club President and Secretary are expected to attend along with representation from each club. There are reports detailing each club's activities since the last zone meeting, some District Chairs may make a presentation and there may be a guest speaker.

Region Rallies

Region Rallies are hosted approximately 30 days prior to the District Convention, in a central location for the local clubs in each of the three regions. This is intended as an evening of fun, fellowship and campaigning for the candidates for District office (Governor, Vice Governor and Region Chairperson). No reports are given except an update for the upcoming District Convention.

Cabinet Meetings

There are three or four Cabinet meetings each year usually held on a Sunday. District business is discussed, financial reports presented and Cabinet Officers and District Chairpersons give reports. Attendance provides an opportunity to learn more about Lionism at the district level and about the programs we support.

CONVENTIONS

These events are open to all Lions and their partners, not just restricted to voting delegates from the Clubs.

District A12 Convention is held at least 30 days prior to the MD“A” Convention. In addition to learning opportunities and voting for District leaders and constitutional items, there are several social activities. Each club in good standing is entitled to one voting delegate for every ten members or major fraction thereof.

Multiple District “A” Convention is held each year in late May/early June prior to the International Convention. It is attended by Lions from Ontario and parts of Quebec.

Clubs are given the opportunity to vote on constitutional items. Each Club in good standing is entitled to one voting delegate for every ten members, or major fraction thereof.

International Conventions are held late June or early July and are one of the largest conventions in the world with more than 20,000 Lions in attendance.

The activities include a spectacular parade, interesting presentations and lots of social opportunities. Each Club is given the opportunity to vote for Leaders and constitutional items. Each Club in good standing is entitled to one voting delegate for every twenty-five members or major fraction thereof. More information about the international conventions is available in the Lion magazine or on-line.

LIONS FOUNDATION OF CANADA

In 1983 the Lions of Canada created this charitable foundation to provide service to physically challenged Canadians in the areas of mobility, safety and independence. An old schoolhouse in Oakville was purchased and renovated to house the Foundation, through the fund-raising efforts and labour donated by the Lions.

The Foundation is governed by an elected Board of Directors comprised of 10 Lions representing all the provinces including the Yukon and Northwest Territories. Each Director serves a three year term.

There are several projects at the Lions Foundation of Canada

Canine Vision Canada

The Canine Vision Canada program is the longest standing program. Since 1985, Canine Vision Dog Guides have been enriching the lives of Canadians who are at least 12 years old and are blind or visually impaired. These Dog Guides are trained to assist their handlers in navigating obstacles typically found on most daily routes, including curbs, steps and crowds.

With the knowledge that they are capable of traveling freely and safely, handlers feel self assured every time they leave their homes with their Dog Guide. The confidence that they gain allows them to pursue education, careers and activities in their communities.

The cost for a club, group or individual to sponsor a CVC dog is \$6000.

Diabetic Alert Dogs of Canada

Diabetic Alert Dog Guides assist people aged 10 or older who are insulin dependent with hypoglycemic unawareness. They are trained to detect sudden drops in their handler’s blood sugar through scent and alert them so that they can ingest something sweet. They can go get help within the home or activate an alert system if needed. Their ability to detect and react to hypoglycemic episodes helps their handler’s avoid loss of consciousness and subsequent life-threatening effects. Ultimately, these specially trained Dog Guides provide increased safety, security and independence.

The cost for a club, group or individual to sponsor a dog is \$8000.

Facility Support Dogs of Canada

Facility Support dogs are for use by professional agencies with individuals in traumatic situations. These dogs are trained to provide comfort to victims or witnesses of a crime or sudden tragedy. Facility Support dogs will provide on scene support when requested to those most vulnerable in our community, as well as provide added support to persons providing difficult disclosure to police for crimes such as child abuse, sexual assault, etc.

The cost for a club, group or individual to sponsor a dog is \$9000.

Hearing Dog Guides of Canada

Hearing Dog Guides assist individuals who are 10 years of age or older and who are deaf or hard of hearing to detect sounds they are unable to hear on their own. They have been taught to distinguish sounds, make physical contact with their handlers and lead them to whatever is making the noise; be it someone at the door, an alarm clock, or a ringing telephone.

Since 1988 graduates of the Hearing program have gained an increased sense of security knowing that they will

always have a link to the world of sound through their Dog Guide. This allows handlers to be more at ease in their home environment.

The cost for a club, group or individual to sponsor a hearing dog is \$4000.00.

Service Dog

Since the introduction of the Service (formerly known as Special Skills) program in 1991, people 10 years of age or older with physical or medical disabilities have discovered a renewed sense of safety and independence through the use of one of these Dog Guides.

On a daily basis, Service Dog Guides help their handlers retrieve objects, open and close appliances, and open and close doors. These Dog Guides are also trained to bark or activate an alert system when help is needed. Their ability to perform such a wide range of tasks puts Service Dog Guides in high demand and has proven them to be a vital aid for many individuals.

The cost for a club, group or individual to sponsor a dog is \$10,000.

Seizure Response Dogs

Before becoming its own distinct program in 2001, Dog Guides for people with epilepsy were trained under the Service (formerly Special Skills) program. Since becoming a separate program, these Dog Guides have gained greater recognition for the incredible service they provide to their handlers.

Trained to assist individuals 10 years of age or older with epilepsy, Seizure Response Dog Guides are capable of activating an alert system or barking for help in the event of a seizure. Their ability to respond and react quickly makes them a trustworthy companion, and provides their handlers with the confidence to live independently. Seizure Response Dog Guides allow clients a greater feeling of safety and independence.

The cost for a Club, group or individual to sponsor a SRD is \$10,000.

Autism Assistance Dogs

Autism Assistance Dog Guides help children between 3 and 12 who are on the autism spectrum. These Dog Guides provide safety, companionship, and unconditional love. They offer a calming relief for children in high anxiety situations, and reduce the stress commonly experienced in public places.

The cost for a Club, group or individual to sponsor a AAD is \$12,000.

Foster Puppy Program

Dogs are received for the programs from generous breeders, as donations of adult dogs, and from our own breeding program. At eight weeks puppies are placed in approved foster homes for approximately twelve months. The foster family is asked to raise the pup, socialize and teach proper house manners and basic obedience.

Memorial Forest

This is a fund-raiser for the Foundation, and has been a tremendous success. For a donation of \$250 a tree will be planted and marked with a memorial plaque. Many Clubs and individuals have dedicated trees to deceased loved ones and each year in June attend the dedication ceremonies at the Breslau facility.

LIONS SUPPORTED CAMPS in A-12

- **Bob Rumball Camp for the Deaf** is located 12 kms south of Parry Sound and provides a camp experience for deaf children and their families
- **Camp Huronda** is located just west of Huntsville on the shores of Lake Waseosa. The camp provides two weeks of vacation for 8 to 15 year-olds with Type 1 diabetes.
- **Campfire Circle** (formerly Camp Oochigeas and Camp Trillium) is located near Rosseau. This camp provides a wonderful experience for children with childhood cancer.
- **CNIB-Lake Joseph Holiday Centre** is located on Lake Joseph near MacTier. It provides a vacation opportunity for children and adults who are blind, deaf-blind and/or visually impaired.
- **Lions Camp Dorset** is located a few km east of Dorset. It provides a vacation opportunity for patients requiring dialysis and their families. Patients can enjoy their vacation and make use of the medical facilities on-site.