



District 2-S3
New LION
Orientation



WELCOME

You are now part of the world's largest and most effective community service organization, with about 1.4 million members. Your club is one of more than 46,000 Lions clubs in over 200 countries and geographic areas. Regardless of what language they speak, religion they practice or politics they espouse, all Lions are dedicated to seeking out and helping those in need.

Your association has a proud heritage of service dating to 1917. With your help, the future will be even greater. The first step is active participation in your club's service, fundraising, and social activities. Learn all you can as soon as you can. This booklet will help give you a basic understanding of the history, structure, and activities of the association. But it is only from your fellow club members that you will learn what this means in your own community.

As you become active and more knowledgeable, please share your experiences and pride of accomplishment with your friends and family. Few things can be as gratifying as bringing another person into our community of service.

WHO ARE LIONS?

Lions are...

- ◆ members of the world's largest and most active service club organization.
- ◆ men and women who believe that by working together they will accomplish far more than would be possible as individuals.
- ◆ members committed to solving worldwide health and social problems, and who realize that solutions are possible when every Lions club does its share.
- ◆ people who cherish the fellowship of their own club, but who also feel a close kinship with Lions throughout the world.
- ◆ patriotic citizens of their own countries and, who, in the global community, strive for a world at peace.
- ◆ individuals dedicated to maintaining the highest ethical and moral standards in their club - and in their personal lives.
- ◆ people who are serious about their commitment to humanitarian service, but have fun along the way.

Lions are people like you!



HISTORY

In 1917, a Chicago insurance agent named Melvin Jones convinced his luncheon club, the Business Circle of Chicago, that it should align itself with other independent clubs to form a national organization that would be dedicated not only to networking for business and social purposes, but to the improvement of the community as a whole.

Among the groups invited was the Association of Lions Clubs, headquartered in Evansville, Indiana and led by Dr. W. P. Woods. At the time of the meeting, June 7, there were several Lions clubs already in existence, some having been organized in 1916. They were an outgrowth of a now-defunct fraternal organization called the Royal Order of Lions.

The Business Circle and other clubs agreed to rally under the Lions name, and a convention was called for October at Dallas, Texas. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states, including Texas, heeded the call, approved the "Lions Clubs" designation, and elected Woods as the first president. Guiding force and founder Melvin Jones was named acting secretary, thus beginning an association with Lions that ended only with his death in 1961.

The convention also began to define what the association was to become. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, the colors of purple and gold approved, and a start made on the Lions Clubs Objects and Code of Ethics. Both the Objects and Ethics encouraged Lions to put service ahead of profit, and to uphold the highest standards of conduct in business and professions.

Community leaders soon began to organize clubs throughout the United States. The association became "International" with the formation of a club in Windsor, Ontario, Canada in 1920. Clubs were later organized in Mexico, China and Cuba. By 1927, membership stood at 60,000 in 1,183 clubs.

In 1935, Panama became home to the first Central American club. The first club in South America was organized in Columbia the following year. Sweden, then France, brought Europe into the association in 1948. Japan had clubs by 1952, and the so-called "Eastern Bloc" was unblocked in 1989 with the formation of clubs in Hungary, Poland, and Estonia. In 1990, a club was chartered in Moscow and Lions Clubs have been demonstrating the value of service in countries once closed to voluntary action.

A highlight of the association's early history was a speech at the 1925 convention, when Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." They responded, and Lions are now best known for our sight-related programs, including *SightFirst*, the world's largest blindness prevention program.



MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

The work of Lions since 1917 has resulted in...

- ◆ the creation of *SightFirst*, a blindness prevention program that aims to eliminate preventable and reversible blindness worldwide.
- ◆ the establishment and operation of a majority of the world's eye banks, resulting in approximately 10,000 sight-restoring corneal transplants every year.
- ◆ development of the *Lions-Quest* curricula which have provided millions of young people with the tools to make responsible decisions regarding drugs, alcohol and other threats to a healthy future.
- ◆ hospitals, clinics, playgrounds, parks and thousands of facilities that enhance day-to-day life in our communities.
- ◆ services to the blind, including dog guides, white canes, and a wide variety of employment opportunities and vocational training.
- ◆ immediate disaster relief and support for rebuilding efforts.
- ◆ Leo clubs, youth exchange and youth camps that help instill a philosophy of service in young people around the world.

Name

The official name of the association is "The International Association of Lions Clubs" or simply "Lions Clubs International." The name Lions was chosen because of the symbolism of what a lion animal represents – courage, strength, activity and fidelity.

Emblem

The emblem of Lions Clubs International consists of a gold letter "L" on a circular area. Bordering this is a circular area with two Lion profiles facing away from the center. The Lions face both past and future - showing pride in heritage and confidence in the future. The word "Lions" and "International" appear at the top and bottom, respectively.

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 and Slogan

The official **Motto** of the association is "*We Serve*." What better way to explain our mission?

The **Slogan** of Lions Clubs International is "*Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety*."



LIONS PURPOSES AND CODE OF ETHICS

Lions Clubs International 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 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 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 is a guideline for the personal values that each Lion should exemplify.

- ◆ **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 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 state and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in work, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor 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 CLUBS

Lions Clubs are the most important part of Lionism; this is where the majority of service is performed. Clubs carry out the programs and activities that have made Lions International what it is today - the largest and most active humanitarian service organization in the world.

Membership in a Lions Club is by invitation only, and clubs usually meet at least twice each month. A typical Lions Club is governed by a Board of Directors, which usually meet at a separate day and/or time from the club meetings. The table below depicts the members of the club's Board of Directors.

Complete the table with the appropriate individuals names, emails and phone numbers for your club.

Board of Directors

President	_____
Immediate Past President	_____
1 st Vice President	_____
2 nd Vice President	_____
3 rd Vice President	_____
Secretary	_____
Treasurer	_____
Lion Tamer	_____
Tail Twister	_____
Membership Director	_____
Directors (four or more)	_____

The **President** serves as the club's chief executive officer and presides at all meetings of the club and board of directors. The President calls for regular and special meetings in accordance with the club's by-laws or procedures, plans the agenda and ensures that the status of each committee activity is reported. The President is also an active member of the District Governor's Advisory Committee of the zone in which the club is located.



The **Vice Presidents** perform the duties of the President if he/she is unable to perform the duties of office for any reason. Each Vice President, under the direction of the President, oversees the functioning of various committees of the club.

The **Secretary** acts as a liaison officer between the club and both the District and International Headquarters. Responsibilities of the Secretary include submitting membership and/or activity reports, maintaining club records (including club and directors meeting minutes) and issuing financial statements to club members.

The **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. Treasurers should maintain two separate bank accounts: The first is to handle the administrative expenses of the club, such as International dues, postage, copying, member meals, etc. The second is for the service and charitable activities of the club. Club fees and dues are used to pay the club's administrative costs. ***Money raised from fundraising must never be used to defray administrative expenses, it can only be used for legitimate community or public needs.***

The **Lion Tamer** is the custodian of club property such as flags, banners, podiums, badges, meeting supplies, etc. The Lion Tamer also serves as a sergeant at arms during meetings and distributes materials as needed at meetings.

The **Tail Twister** serves to promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm at club meetings through the judicious imposition of fines on members. One common way for a member to be fined is to forget to address a fellow member as "Lion". The Tail Twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present.

The **Membership Director** chairs the Membership Committee and is responsible for developing membership growth programs, implementing recruitment and retention programs, and preparing orientation sessions.

Assisting the Board of Directors are various administrative and activity committees. Committees are established to plan the club's activities and/or coordinate various functions. A chairperson or co-chairs are appointed by the President. Committee members are either appointed by the President or solicited by the committee chair. There are some core committees that most clubs will establish, however, many committees are unique to individual clubs. Ask your club President for a list of the committees. There is a table on the next page that can serve as a reference for describing your club's committees.



<i>COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON</i>	<i>PURPOSE OF COMMITTEE</i>



Dues and Membership Categories

As mentioned under the Club Treasurer description, all money raised from the public must be used for service projects and community needs. As a result, Lions Clubs charge dues to its members to pay for administrative expenses.

Typical dues structure for a club in District 2-S3 is as follows:

International Dues - Currently \$43.00 per year (see below for exceptions)

State Dues – Currently \$7.00 per year

District Dues – Currently \$6.00 per year

Texas LIONS Camp Dues – Currently \$21.00 per year

Promote Texas Fund – Currently \$.50 per year

State Convention Dues – Currently \$.25 per year

District Convention Dues – Currently \$.25 per year

Club Dues – Each club establishes its own annual dues amount to cover the administrative costs to provide resources to the LIONS Club and its members.

Club Meal Cost – Either included in club dues or paid personally by the member at each meeting

There are a few special membership categories in which International dues are billed to the club at a reduced rate. These include:

- ***Family Membership*** – After the first adult family member paying full International dues, additional adult family members living at the same address pay half International dues. (\$21.50 per year)
- ***Student Membership*** – Students enrolled in an educational institution and between the ages of 18 through 30 pay half International dues (\$21.50 per year) and are exempt from entrance fees when they join a Lions Club. Students must also pay the following dues:

State Dues – Currently \$3.50 per year

District Dues – Currently \$3.00 per year

Promote Texas Fund – Currently \$.25 per year

Texas LIONS Camp Dues – Currently \$10.50 per year

Club Secretaries should ensure the appropriate paperwork is completed to take advantage of these savings to the club's administrative expenses through the International dues billing. There is currently no program for reduced dues other than for Students at the District or State level. Each club is responsible for deciding how to pass these savings on to its members.



DISTRICT INFORMATION

District leadership is guided by the District Governor (DG) and two Vice District Governors (VDGs), who are officers of the international association. The 2nd VDG is elected by delegates from the clubs in the district at the Spring Convention, which is usually held in April or May of each year. After serving as 2nd VDG for a one-year term, the individual is normally elected to the office of 1st VDG the following year and DG the year after that.

The DG and the VDGs assume their respective offices at the close of the international convention, or generally July 1st. District clubs are divided into regions, which are further divided into zones. Regions and Zones have chairmen who monitor the clubs in their areas.

The District Cabinet is the group of Lions who serve as advisors to the DG. The Cabinet is made up of the VDGs, Immediate Past District Governor, Cabinet Secretary, Cabinet Treasurer, Global Membership Team (GMT) Chair, Global Leadership Team (GLT) Chair, Region Chairs, Zone Chairs, and Activity or Program Chairs.

Cabinet meetings are usually held at least once per quarter. The Cabinet meeting held in January is designated as the Mid-Winter Conference

District 2-S3 Cabinet. Please fill in the names for the current year

District Governor _____

1st Vice District Governor _____

2nd Vice District Governor _____

Cabinet Secretary _____

Cabinet Treasurer _____

Immediate Past District Governor _____

Global Leadership Team Chair _____

Global Membership Team Chair _____



MULTIPLE DISTRICTS

Districts are usually organized along national, state or provincial borders. Where warranted by the number of clubs and Lions, districts can be broken down into sub-districts. The State of Texas is a Multiple District, and the information below depicts the growth of Lionism in Texas from a single district into the sixteen sub-districts that presently operate. A sub-district is to have a minimum of 35 clubs and 1,250 members.

Texas as a Single District – 1918 to 1930
Texas divided into 5 Districts – 1930 to 1942
Texas divided into 7 Districts – 1942 to 1947
Texas divided into 8 Districts – 1947 to 1958
Texas divided into 9 Districts – 1958 to 1959
Texas divided into 15 Districts – 1959 to 1989
Texas divided into 16 Districts – 1989 to

Multiple district leadership is guided by the Council of Governors. The Council is made up of the sixteen current District Governors, and a Council Chair who is elected from the Past District Governors (PDG).

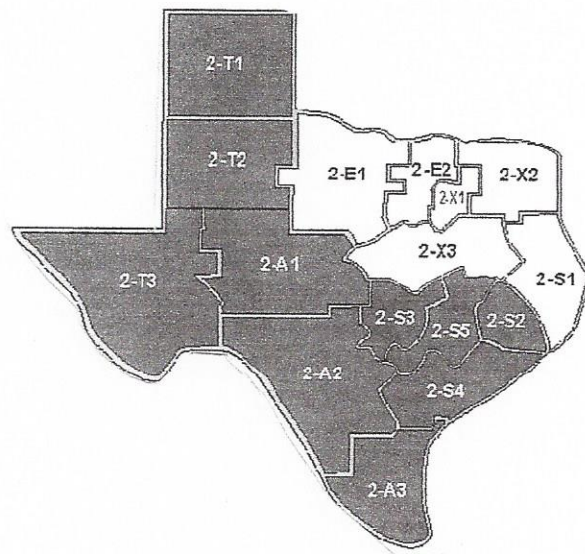
Who's Who in Texas Lions Leadership

Past International Presidents

Everett "Ebb" Grindstaff 1982-1983
Jimmy Ross 2006-2007

Past International Directors

Joe Al Picone 2011-2013
Beverly Stebbins 2008-2010
Connie De LaGarza 2000-2001
Marshall Cooper 1993-1995
Roy Hughston 1990-1992
Mike Butler 1984-1986
Edwin Flood 1976-1978
Don Buckalew 1974-1976





INTERNATIONAL

Lions Clubs International holds a week-long international convention in late June or early July of each year. This is the annual meeting of the members of the association. Some of the activities held during the convention include voting on constitutional amendments, electing members to the Board of Directors, attending seminars of interest to all Lions, the District Governors-elect seminar, general business sessions and the parade of nations.

International officers and directors act during the fiscal year, which runs from July 1 to June 30.

The International Board of Directors consists of:

International President	1 st Vice President	34 International Directors
	2 nd Vice President	
	3 rd Vice President	

The International Directors represent every area of the world where Lionism is active, and are elected to a two-year term; approximately half of the positions are elected each year. The only remaining contest among international offices is for 3rd Vice President. The other offices advance one step each year until they are elected (by acclamation) International President.

The International Board of Directors meets four times each year to set policy and monitor the ongoing programs of the association. During interim periods, the Executive Committee (the president, vice presidents and one international director) is authorized to act on the Board's behalf when necessary. All actions of the Executive Committee must be approved by the Board at its next regular meeting.

Lions International supports service programs in almost every imaginable focus area. The international office has resources that are available to clubs and Lions members for little or no charge. Some of these programs are:

Drug Awareness	Health Services
Diabetes Awareness	International Services
Sight Conservation/Work with the Blind	Social Services
Hear and Speech Action/Work with the Deaf	Leo Clubs
Citizenship Services	Lioness Clubs
Educational Services	Youth Exchange
Environmental Services	International Youth Camps
Public Services	Recreational Services

The International Headquarters is located in Oak Brook, Illinois. This facility serves as the association's central administrative and information source.

Eleven operating divisions divide the responsibilities of the International Headquarters: Club Supplies and Distribution, Convention, Information Technology, District and Club Administration, Executive Services, Extension and Membership, Finance, International Activities and Program Development, Leadership, Legal, Public Relations, and Production.



Lions Clubs International Foundation

Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) is the grant-making arm of Lions Clubs International (LCI). Established in 1968, the Foundation's mission is to support the efforts of Lions Clubs around the world in serving their local and global communities by funding humanitarian service projects.

Grants provide both immediate assistance following natural disasters and long-term disaster relief for reconstruction efforts. Grants help preserve sight, combat disability, promote health or serve youth.

LCIF is an efficient and effective charity. Every dollar donated to LCIF goes toward a grant. Lions support is crucial as donations from Lions provide the majority of LCIF's revenue. LCIF receives a small amount of funding from foundations and corporations. It receives no club dues. LCIF is truly Lions helping Lions.

Since the first grant of \$5,000 in 1972 for flooding, LCIF has awarded more than US\$941 million in grants to improve the lives of people worldwide. Often, these are matching grants that double the funds raised by the local club or district.

The association's Immediate Past President is an international officer that serves as chairman of the LCIF Board of Trustees which manages the grant program. LCIF funds *SightFirst*, the Lions' global initiative to fight preventable and reversible blindness worldwide. Other LCIF grant programs are:

- ◆ **Standard** – a program designed to assist Lions in carrying out humanitarian service projects that are beyond the local district's financial capacity.
- ◆ **Emergency** – an immediate-assistance program available to Lions' districts when local natural disasters such as flooding, tornadoes and hurricanes strike.
- ◆ **International Assistance** – the newest LCIF grant program involves Lions in a sponsoring country partnering with Lions in a host country to provide primary health care, food self-sufficiency, environmental protection, literacy and similar projects.
- ◆ **Major Catastrophe** – a grant program established to provide assistance in times of catastrophes of national or international proportions.
- ◆ **Major International Service Program** – a structure that supports the association's major service commitments.

LCIF grants are made possible by contributions received from personal donations from Lions, Lions clubs and districts, corporations and other foundations. The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) is the backbone of LCIF, providing 70 percent of its revenues. A recognition of humanitarian work, a MJF is given to those who give \$1,000 to LCIF or to people for whom a donation was made by others. Melvin Jones Fellows receive an attractive lapel pin, a plaque and a congratulatory letter.

The Melvin Jones Fellowship Progressive program recognizes people who donate \$1,000 or more or people in whose name a donation has been made, beyond the initial Melvin Jones Fellowship donation of \$1,000.



SightFirst: Lions' Vision for All

Since its inception in 1990, the SightFirst program has played a key role in reducing blindness worldwide. It is only through the collaborative efforts of Lions, our partners, local health authorities, eye care professionals and other non-governmental organizations that SightFirst has been able to help 30 million people have improved or restored vision. SightFirst serves as a leading member of VISION 2020, the global initiative for the elimination of avoidable blindness.

SightFirst's strategy is extraordinarily effective and remarkably efficient. On average, just US\$6 can restore a person's vision or prevent blindness.

Since 1990, SightFirst has...

- ✓ Prevented serious vision loss for 30 million
- ✓ Provided close to 148 million treatments for river blindness
- ✓ Restored sight through 7.7 million cataract surgeries
- ✓ Improved eye-care services for hundreds of millions
- ✓ Built or expanded 315 eye hospitals, clinics and wards
- ✓ Upgraded over 325 eye centers with equipment
- ✓ Trained more than 300,000 ophthalmologists, ophthalmic nurses, other professional eye-care workers and village health workers
- ✓ Launched world's first-ever initiative to combat childhood blindness in partnership with the World Health Organization. Thirty-four pediatric eye-care centers have been established or strengthened, an additional 16 centers are to be established.

SightFirst II

SightFirst was extraordinarily effective but Lions' "Vision for All" has not been realized. The growth and aging of the world's population pose new challenges. Changing patterns of eye disease, barely discernable when SightFirst began, are serious threats to sight world-wide.

- ♦ Cataract, a disease closely tied to aging, remains the world's leading cause of blindness.
- ♦ Today, more children than ever before suffer from blindness or low vision.
- ♦ River blindness and trachoma, which take the sight of millions, can be controlled, but increased global awareness and funding are required.
- ♦ Diabetes and glaucoma silently stalk the vision of millions who may not even know that they are at risk.

The SightFirst approach is a three-part strategy to halt and roll-back this onslaught. The goals of Campaign SightFirst II reflect this plan.

- ♦ Goal 1 - US\$100 million to contain and eliminate where possible the leading causes of avoidable blindness.
- ♦ Goal 2 - US\$50 million to combat emerging threats to sight.
- ♦ Goal 3 - US\$50 million as a "challenge goal" to provide "Vision for All" through research, rehabilitation and reaching-out to vulnerable populations.

Lions did it again! The challenge goal was met by the close of the campaign in 2008 with US\$205 million having been raised for Campaign SightFirst II!



International Publications

The **Official Directory of Lions Clubs** contains a list of all the clubs in the world. The listing includes the name, address and phone number of the club president and the meeting time and place for each club. Basic information from this directory is available on the website to the public looking for Lions Clubs; it is also available in the Members Area of the Lions web site.

The Lion magazine is a publication of Lions Clubs International that is sent regularly to every member of the association. The annual subscription price is included in the international dues.

Lions Clubs International Web-Site is located at www.lionsclubs.org. This site contains a wealth of information about the association and its programs. There are also downloadable materials, online Club Supply sales, a club directory, and online report filing.



HOW CAN I BE A GOOD LION?

A good Lion is one who is excited about the wonderful services that Lions world-wide provide to those in need. A good Lion is one who is active and enjoys meeting new people and experiencing new situations.

The most beneficial thing that you can immediately do as a Lion is to go to your club meetings. The fellowship and informal interaction will help you get to know more about the people you will serve beside. No one is comfortable being a stranger among a group of friends, so don't let this happen to you.

The next thing you should do is learn as much as you can about the association. If there are programs or activities that intrigue or interest you, notify the contact person and get more information. Also, don't be afraid to ask questions!

The most refreshing, but unfortunately underutilized, aspect of being a Lion is being able to see the benefits of your efforts. The most active Lions are those who have taken the opportunity to visit people and organizations supported by our Lions funds and programs. Witnessing the results of your hard work revitalizes you and keeps you exciting about being a Lion.

Take some time to think about your skills, talents, or interests. What do you like to do? What excites you? What would you or can you do to make a difference? Get involved with specific causes or activities that motivate you. If these do not currently exist, make a proposal to add that activity to your club's agenda. Take advantage of the association's programs to develop new skills and leadership abilities – don't be afraid to go for it.

Finally, be proud to be a Lion and wear your lapel pin!



TEXT OF 1925 SPEECH BY HELEN KELLER TO LIONS

Invited to address the 1925 International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, Helen Keller pointed Lions in a direction that would change the lives of millions.

"Try to imagine how you would feel if you were suddenly stricken blind today. Picture yourself stumbling and groping at noonday as in night, your work, your independence, gone. In that dark world, wouldn't you be glad if a friend took you by the hand and said, 'Come with me and I will teach you how to do some of the things you used to do when you could see?'

You have heard how through a little word dropped from the fingers of another, a ray of light from another soul touched the darkness of my mind and I found myself, found the world, found God. It is because my teacher learned about me and broke through the dark, silent imprisonment which held me that I am able to work for myself and for others. It is the caring we want more than money. The gift without the sympathy and interest of the giver is empty. If you care, if we can make the people of this great country care, the blind will indeed triumph over blindness.

"Will you not help me hasten the day when there shall be no preventable blindness; no little deaf, blind children untaught; no blind man or woman unaided? I appeal to you Lions, you who have your sight, your hearing, you who are strong and brave and kind. Will you not constitute yourselves Knights of the Blind in this crusade against darkness?"

The Lions responded and are now best known for our sight-related programs!



LANGUAGE OF LIONS

Commonly used acronyms

CC	Council Chairman
DG	District Governor
DGE	District Governor-Elect
GLT	Global Leadership Team
GMT	Global Membership Team
ID	International Director
IP	International President
LCI	Lions Clubs International
LCIF	Lions Clubs International Foundation
LSLEB	Lone Star Lions Eye Bank
PCC*	Past Council Chairman
PDG*	Past District Governor
PID*	Past International Director
PIP*	Past International President
TLC	Texas Lions Camp
TLERC	Texas Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center
VDG	Vice District Governor
VDGE	Vice District Governor-Elect

*Placing the letter "I" in front of these terms specifies "Immediate"