



**REFRESH...RENEW...REIGNITE...  
REVITALIZE...RECONNECT**  
**Lions Orientation Refresher Series**  
**Your International Association**



## Your International Association

We all recognize the importance of new member orientation, but did you know that periodic overviews are beneficial for even the most seasoned, active Lion? This Orientation Refresher Series has been developed to facilitate “re-orientation” in your club. Each session can be presented by the club president or membership chairperson in approximately 10-20 minutes. This series makes a great presentation for club members during meetings, or can be conducted in a small group setting. The sessions are all similarly designed and include presentation suggestions, session materials and interactive exercises.

This series is designed to **REFRESH** members’ knowledge of Lions Clubs International, **REVITALIZE** their enthusiasm for helping those in need, **RECONNECT** them with their reasons for being a Lion and **RENEW** their commitment to membership development, extension and leadership initiatives.

### Planning

This refresher series is easy to plan and conduct. However, there are a few simple steps you can take to ensure that the presentation runs smoothly and has maximum impact for members.

**Scheduling** Series sessions can be scheduled intermittently throughout the year or presented once a meeting for five meetings. They can also be made into mini-workshops that are given at a separate time and place. However, for greatest effect, it is suggested that they be used during a regular club meeting when a majority of the membership is likely to be in attendance.

**Customizing the Presentation** Each guide has a presentation outline with notes, content, suggestions for localizing content when appropriate and exercises. Also included are **Try This!** suggestions to add an additional twist or element to the presentation. Present the series sessions as is, and they are effective tools for reigniting members’ passion for serving those in need. However, if you desire, individual parts of the series may be personalized to suit your presentation style.

**Create Anticipation** It is a good idea to create anticipation for this series by explaining to members the importance of “keeping the edge sharp” and refreshing their knowledge and commitment to the association. Be enthusiastic and let them know that these brief series sessions will have a big impact on their membership in Lions.

**Materials** These series sessions are easy to plan and implement, and use minimal resources. Some segments have reproducible items that should be copied for distribution during the presentation. It is also an excellent idea to encourage participants to have paper and a pen for taking notes. (You might want to have a few extras on hand in case someone has forgotten.)

**There are five segments in the series, which cover the following topics:**

- **Our Illustrious History –**  
Where we came from and where we are going
- **Purpose & Ethics & You –**  
The basic tenets of the association and how they guide those dedicated to service
- **Your Club, Your District –**  
Specific information about the local club and district, and how the individual Lion fits into the picture
- **Your International Association –** Details about the association at the international level, how it impacts the individual Lion and available resources
- **Membership Development, Extension and Leadership –**  
Explores the available avenues for expanding Lions club membership through recruitment and new clubs, as well as leadership opportunities for members

## **Session 4: Your International Association**

### **Session Suggestions/Outline**

**1) The Importance of “Re-orientation”** Even the most experienced, dedicated Lion can benefit from a review of the foundations of the association. Together, through these sessions, members will review different aspects of lions clubs international to help reconnect them with why they became Lions and help them set personal goals for continued development.

**2) Association Overview** Review the items in the presentation content from “At a Glance” through “Lions International Web Site”. These topics cover the organization of the association on an international level, as well as the functions of International Headquarters.

**3) Discussion Points** You can use these questions to stimulate thought and interaction during the presentation. There are no “right” or “wrong” answers to these questions.

- Ask if any of your club members have attended an international convention. If so, what are the benefits to the individual member of attending? Did it help them understand the international nature of the organization? Did they feel more connected to their fellow Lions worldwide?
- How do you use the resources available from International Headquarters? How does International Headquarters best serve Lions worldwide?
- What is the most interesting or unusual thing you know about the association or International Headquarters?

**4) Program Overview** There are many programs available to Lions clubs on an international level. Review the presentation content from “Lions Clubs International Foundation” to the end of the presentation content section.

**5) Discussion Points** You can use these questions to stimulate thought and interaction during the presentation.

- What international programs does your club sponsor? How do they help your club fulfill its mission of community service?
- What additional international service project do you think your club should participate in? Why?
- Does your club sponsor any sight conservation initiatives? If not, which one do you think would suit your club the best?

**Try This!** Interested in giving your members some take-home materials to reinforce what they have learned during the session? You can photocopy the presentation content section of this guide as a handy reference. International Headquarters also has some appropriate printed materials suitable for distribution. Many can be downloaded from the association’s Web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

Suggestions for this session include Lions...We Serve (ME-4)

## Presentation Content

In 1935, Panama became home to the first Central American club; the first club in South America was reorganized in Colombia 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 today over 100 Lions clubs are demonstrating the value of service in countries once closed to voluntary action.

### At a Glance

#### *Your International Association*

<b>Founded:</b>	1917 in Chicago, Illinois, USA
<b>Founder:</b>	Melvin Jones
<b>Motto:</b>	We Serve
<b>Official Colors:</b>	Purple and Gold
<b>Slogan:</b>	Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety
<b>Primary Activity:</b>	Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind
<b>Membership:</b>	More than 1.4 million men and women comprising 45,000 Lions clubs in approximately 191 countries and geographic areas worldwide

**How the Association is Organized:** The individual Lions club is the most important unit of your association. As an individual, you belong to the club. It is the club that belongs to the association. This means that when it comes time to elect international officers and directors, or to amend or change the International Constitution and by-laws it is the club that cast the necessary votes through its authorized delegates.

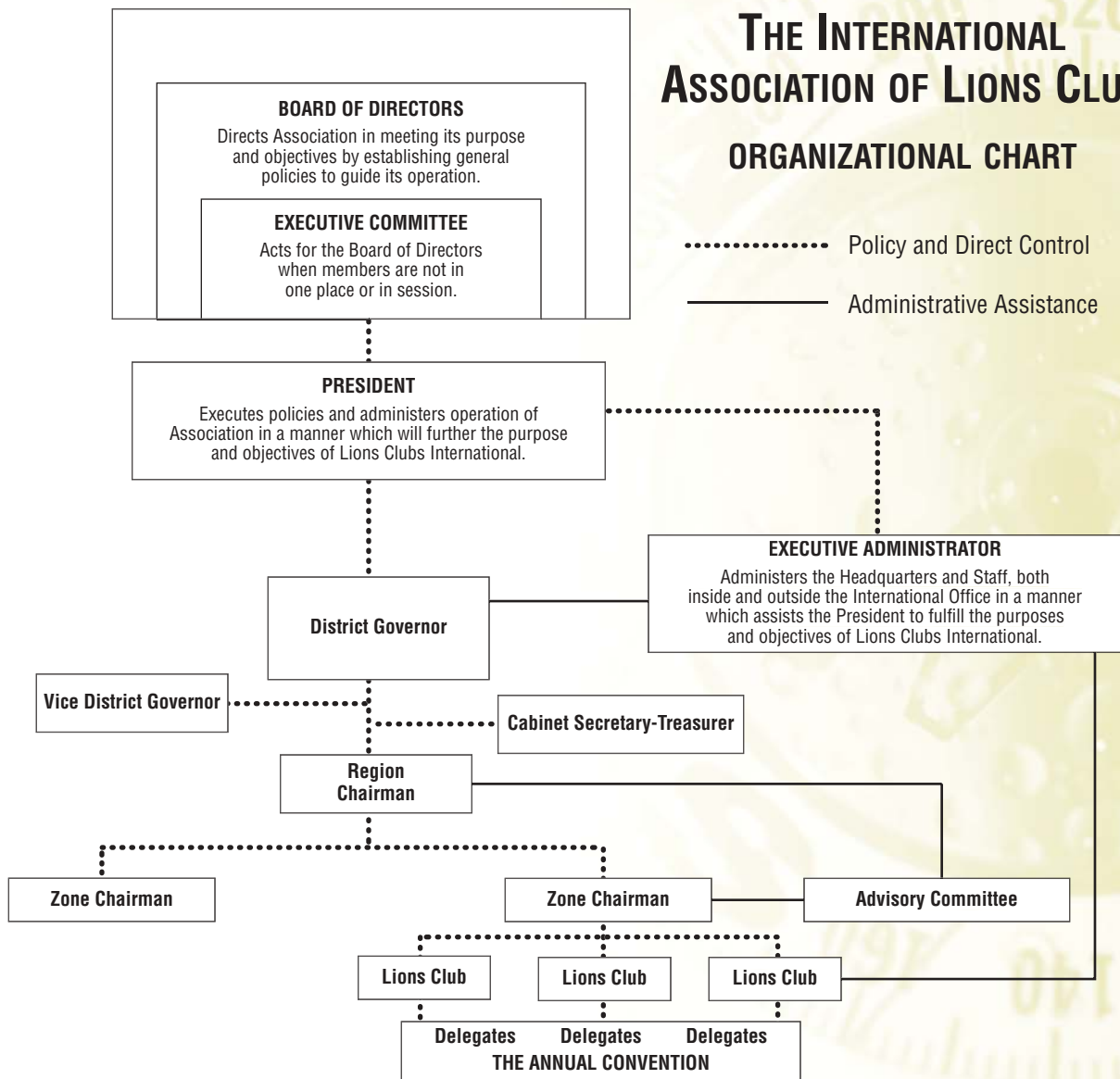
Every Lions club in good standing is entitled to send at least one delegate and alternate to vote at the international convention, regardless of the number of members it has. Most clubs are entitled to more than one vote, since the rule provides for one delegate or alternate for each 25 members or major fraction thereof. Delegates can be appointed by club's board of directors, or elected by the membership.

At the international convention, the delegates elect the international officers and directors who will act for them during the coming fiscal year (July 1-June 30). Officers elected include the international president and first and second vice president. Constitutionally, a contest exists only for the office of second vice president with the other officers advancing one step each year until elected international president. The immediate past international president is also an officer of the association and serves as chairperson of the LCIF Board of Trustees. Since the close of the 1997 International Convention the officers of the

**Try This!** If you have Internet access available, take a few minutes to demonstrate the features of the Lions Clubs International Web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org). There is also a PowerPoint presentation about International Headquarters available for downloading on the Web site.

International Association of Lions Clubs include the president, immediate past-president, first vice president, second vice president and 33 directors representing various areas of the world. International directors serve two-year terms, with approximately one-half being elected each year.

## THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUB ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



**International Headquarters:** The International Headquarters, with a staff of under 300 full-time employees, is located in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA. Although branch offices exist, the International Headquarters serves as the association's central administrative and information source.

Many services are provided to Lions through the Oak Brook office, including issuing charters to new clubs, providing brochures, activity guides and newsletters to members and maintaining all association records.

The staff is led by an executive administrator, who oversees all headquarters operation and works to carry out the policy decisions made by the International Board of Directors. Assisting the executive administrator is the association's secretary and the treasurer.

Eleven operating divisions divide the administrative responsibilities of International Headquarters. They are Club Supplies and Distribution, Convention, Information Technology, District and Club Administration, Executive Services, Extension and Membership, Finance, International Activities and Program Planning, Leadership, Legal and Public Relations and Production. The Lions Clubs International Foundation is also housed in the International Headquarters building.

**International Convention:** The annual International Convention is held in late June or early July. It constitutes the annual meeting of the members of the association. Some of the activities held during the convention include voting on constitutional amendments, electing new members to the board of directors, seminars of interest to all Lions, district governors-elect seminar, general business sessions and the parade of nations. In addition, district governors-elect take office during the final business session of the convention.

Attending an international convention provides members with a wonderful opportunity to rekindle their dedication to those in need, meet Lions from all over the world, learn new tips and techniques for being the best Lion he/she can be and obtain valuable resource materials.

**Official Directory of Lions Clubs:** The 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. It also provides information on the executive officers, and international directors, as well as the names and addresses of all district governors, cabinet secretary-treasurers, council chairmen and extension representatives. The directory is available through the Club Supplies and Distribution Division at International Headquarters. A listing of clubs is also available on the Lions Clubs International Web site at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

**Try This!** Enhance your presentation with a video. The International Program video is recommended. It highlights the association's major initiatives for the year. Check with your district governor to see if he or she has a copy that may be borrowed. The video can also be purchased from Club Supplies at International Headquarters.

**THE LION Magazine:** The official magazine of Lions Clubs International, THE LION Magazine, was established in November 1918. It is sent regularly to every member of the association. The annual subscription price is included in the international dues.

THE LION is published in English, Chinese, -Danish, Dutch, Finnish, Flemish-French, French, German, Greek, Hindi, Icelandic, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Norwegian, Portuguese, Spanish, Swedish, Thai and Turkish.


THE LION Magazine has four major functions:

- To inform members of official notices
- To serve as a central reference point for service and fundraising ideas and the best methods for ensuring their success
- To supply information about countries and areas in which Lions are active, enabling all members to better understand and support international program objectives and to promote worldwide peace and understanding
- To present the story of Lions Clubs International in the best possible manner so that not only Lions, but casual readers as well, will receive a favorable impression of the association.

**Lions Clubs International Web Site:** The official Lions Clubs International Web site, located at [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org), 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. Additionally, the site has various newsletters, an online version of THE LION Magazine, message boards and online training courses. The site is updated monthly. Lions are encouraged to visit often to learn the latest news and updates.

**Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF):** Lions Clubs International Foundation is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. The foundation was chartered in 1968 to support the efforts of Lions clubs around the world in serving their local communities and the world community through humanitarian service, major disaster relief and vocational assistance programs.

SightFirst, the aggressive global service initiative that mobilizes Lions resources at all levels, responds to worldwide needs for the prevention of blindness. LCIF SightFirst grants are supporting projects that meet critical needs in both developing and developed countries. The SightFirst program has already provided over one million cataract surgeries, initiated eye health awareness programs, supported eye disease treatments plans, constructed hospitals and funded training for ophthalmic personnel worldwide.



The newest LCIF grant program, “Core 4,” provides grants of up to US\$ 200,000 for high impact Lions service projects. The Core 4 program addresses the larger humanitarian needs in the communities where Lions serve. LCIF Core 4 grants are limited to a list of specific types of projects consistent with the top four humanitarian concerns of Lions: preserving eyesight, combating disability, promoting health and serving youth.

Donations to LCIF support grants in these categories: LCIF SightFirst, Core 4, Standard, International Assistance Grants (IAG), Emergency, Major Catastrophe and Major International Service Program.

LCIF honors donors with a variety of awards and forms of recognition. The highest form of recognition is the Melvin Jones Fellowship. Other recognitions include Honor Roll and Contributing Membership.

**Leo Club Program:** A Leo club is an activity sponsored by a Lions club. Leo clubs provide young men and women with an opportunity to serve others in their community and around the world. Leo clubs can be school affiliated or community based.

Leo club activities include meetings, organizing and conducting community service projects and social functions. The Leo motto – Leadership, Experience, Opportunity – is fulfilled as members work together to respond to the needs of others. Participating in Leo activities and projects helps young people prepare for the future by developing leadership, organization and social skills. Through their service efforts, Leos develop a positive self-image and personal growth as they meet new challenges and responsibilities.

**Lions Youth Outreach Program:** The mission of the Lions Youth Outreach Program, “Changing Tomorrow Today,” is to help and challenge youth to learn, to achieve and to serve. Emphasis is placed on the many opportunities available for young people to volunteer in their communities in order to help them gain responsible citizenship skills. A video program is available to help Lions clubs implement a youth outreach program in their community.

The Lions Youth Outreach program also emphasizes drug awareness prevention through education. Alcohol, tobacco and other drug abuse threaten the lives and future of young people everywhere. To counter these negative influences, Lions sponsor educational programs in thousands of schools. The Lions-Quest Skills for Growing (Grades K-5), Skills for Adolescence (Grades 6-8) and Skills for Action (high school) teach youth how to make healthy decisions and to say “no” to drug abuse and other negative behavior. All three Lions-Quest programs also include community service and violence prevention/conflict resolution components.

### **Additional Service Activities**

There are probably as many different humanitarian services performed by Lions clubs worldwide as there are clubs. Each club is in tune with the needs of its local community and responds appropriately with projects that will improve the lives of those less fortunate. However, there are several programs that are commonly supported by a great many clubs around the globe. They are organized into seven categories:

1. **Community Services** (such as building homes for the visually impaired with Habitat for Humanity)
2. **Diabetes Awareness** (such as community education, screenings and Lions Eye Health Program)
3. **Environmental Services** (such as tree plantings and recycling)
4. **Hearing and Speech Action and Work with the Deaf** (such as hearing aid recycling, aid to deaf and hearing impaired and screenings)
5. **International Relations** (such as club twinning, interclub assistance programs and Lions Day with the United Nations)
6. **Lions Opportunities for Youth** (such as Leo clubs, Lions Youth Outreach, Lions International Peace Poster Contest and Lions-Quest)
7. **Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind** (such as screenings, assistance to the blind and visually impaired, SightFirst, Recycle for Sight, Eye Banks and World Sight Day)

More information about these and other programs is available on the Lions Clubs International Web site, in THE LION Magazine, Adopted Service Programs of Lions Clubs International (IAD 223) and from the International Activities and Program Planning Division at International Headquarters.



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