

# **DISTRICT A15**

## **New Lions Orientation**



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This orientation session is intended to instill knowledge and pride in all new & seasoned members, with the hope that an increased level of participation and loyalty can be achieved.

Current members who wish to refresh their understanding of our organization and spouses, who wish to learn a bit more about Lions, are more than welcomed.

Although clubs and sponsors have an obligation to educate new members on the policies, procedures, projects and benefits of their club and about Lions in general, a district orientation session, which enthusiastically and meaningfully expands on the benefits of membership, hopefully can help in motivating both new and experienced Lions.

Therefore we hope that this session will be a fruitful and fun process.

#### Our Goal

- Increase the spirit of club participation among those attending.

#### Our Objective

- To develop within each Lion a greater appreciation for Club, District and International membership.
- To give each new member sufficient knowledge about Lionism in order to function effectively as an active club member.

#### What is a Lions Club?

- A Lions Club is a group of individuals, operating under the auspices of Lions Clubs International, which is known all around the world. Without the International organization we would just be a group of community minded individuals but without a real purpose or cause.
- In a community, a Lions Club becomes a force because it unites men and women, all creeds, all races, all colours and all languages under one emblem.

#### Who are Lions and what do they do?

- Lions are men and women who are willing, if not anxious; to serve those in need, not only in their communities but also worldwide.
- They do not expect anything for themselves in return, except to feel they have accomplished something worthwhile.
- In addition to humanitarian service, they enjoy fellowship while developing leadership skills.

- The International Association of Lions Clubs is the way we, as Lions, can attain our goals.
- Anything that Lions can conceive and believe in, they can achieve.
- You are part of this organization and you do make a difference that is felt throughout your community and around the world, you change people's lives.

#### Why a Lions Club?

- Because a group of twenty or more citizens in a Lions Club, can accomplish more than individual citizens trying to do a project by themselves.

#### What does the name "Lions" stand for?

- It is the slogan of our Association: Liberty, Intelligence, and Our Nations Safety.

#### The name Lions:

- The official name Lions is "The International Association of Lions Clubs" or simply "Lions Clubs International". The web site is [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)

#### The Aims and Accomplishments of Lionism:

- The primary aim of Lionism is service, first to our own community then to those in need, wherever they may be. Thus our motto of "We Serve" was adopted by the Fonthill Lions Club in Fonthill, Ontario.

#### The Lions Club Objects and Code of Ethics

- When you were inducted and became of member of Lions you should have received a booklet outlining the Lions Objects and the Code of Ethics. If you have not received a copy ask your Club Secretary.
- The Objects and Ethics were adopted at the St. Louis International Convention in 1918.
- A Code of Ethics is a standard of acceptable conduct and along with the Objects allows us to dissolve geographic boundaries, varying cultures, religious beliefs, political entities and economics conditions in our quest to serve humanity throughout the world.
- This probably explains the fact of why Lions is now in 208 countries.

### Lions Emblem:

- The single letter “L” over a Lion’s head was adopted on December 21, 1921. It actually depicts a two headed Lion, one looking to the achievements of the past and one looking to the future and the many works of service yet to be accomplished.
- The power, spirit and benefits of being under the umbrella of Lions Clubs International are shown by the many activities and programs that are in place.
- Sight conservation and work with the visually impaired
- Hearing conservation and work with the hearing impaired.
- Citizenship, educational, health and social services.
- Youth programs – drug education, community outreach.
- Diabetes detection and research.
- International cooperation – peace poster, youth exchange, international youth camp

### “LCIF” Lions Clubs International Foundation:

- Since its inception in 1968, LCIF has awarded more than 9,000 grants worth over 650 million of dollars for humanitarian assistance worldwide.
- It began as Sight First and more recently as Sight First II
- Campaign Sight First II raised over \$200 million dollars
- Funded 82 eye clinics and hospitals that have been completed or under construction
- Provided more than 2.5 million cataract surgeries
- Trained over 3,000 ophthalmic personnel
- Major Catastrophe funding most recently to -Tsunami in Southeast Asia, Hurricane in the USA, Earthquake in Sichuan, China
- Core 4 Grants such as Lions Quest ( Thrive)
- Since 2001 have screened over 100,000 Special Olympic athletes through Opening Eyes Program.
- Standard grants- LFC Oakville and Breslau locations, W. Ross MacDonald School, Woodstock Hospital to name a few.

- From 1999 – 2000 over 41 million dollars was earmarked by LCI and MD”A” received 1.5 million. This assisted projects such as Camp Dorset, x-ray equipment, eye equipment and many more. The Lions Quest program was granted \$190,000 over three (3) years.
- Partnered with Habitat for Humanity & built over 1,000 homes.

“LFC” Lions Foundation of Canada:

- Since 1983 more than 700 men and woman ages 8 to 84 have been enriched by the services of specially trained guide dogs from LFC. From Newfoundland to British Columbia they have experienced a sense of freedom, independence and companionship.
- Training and administration facility in Oakville
- Breeding facility in Breslau

There are four main categories:

- Canine Vision Canada Dog Guides for Canadians who are blind or visually impaired
- Hearing Ear Dog Guides for Canadians who are deaf or hard of hearing
- Special Skills Dog Guides for Canadians with a medical or physical disability
- Seizure Response Dog Guides for Canadians who have epilepsy
- Dog Guides for Autistic Children

Other significant accomplishments by Lions:

- Baby Blindness was cured as a result of research sponsored by Lions over 50 years ago.
- In 1931, Lions Clubs International adopted the promotion of white canes for people who were blind as a National program.
- In the year 2000, over 11,000 corneal transplants were completed in North America because of the efforts of Lions.

Club Organization

President:

- As Club President a Lion is responsible for the effective regular operation of the club and all committees which make up the club structure. The President is responsible to the District Governor to ensure the Club operates in accordance to policies of the constitution and bylaws. He/she is required to attend all Zone meeting in their Zone and all District Cabinet meetings during their year in office and the Office. Attendance at the District convention is not compulsory but highly recommended.

Vice Presidents

- These officers oversee many committees and in the absence of the President or by direction conduct meetings. Normal two (2) VP positions some clubs have three (3).

### Treasurer

- Receives all money and pays out all money authorized by the Board of Directors. The treasurer has the custody of and maintains general accounting records of Club receipts and disbursements.
- Two accounts are kept, one for the club Administration and the other for club Activities. Administration money is from the collection of dues, fines and other in house projects.
- Activities account is created via public fund raising functions. This money can not be used for club administration purposes.

### Secretary

- Records all meetings and keeper of correspondence. Corresponds with the District, Multiple District and International. The Secretary is required to attend all the Zone meetings.
- Prepares reports for distribution as required and orders awards and necessary club items.

### Lion Tamer

- Is responsible for club property, acts as the official Greeter, and the Sergeant at Arms and ensures the facility is set up for the meeting.

### Lion Tail Twister

- Shall promote harmony, good fellowship and enthusiasm through appropriate stunts and games and the judicious imposition of fines on Club members.
- Fines for sitting in the same place every meeting or not wearing a lions pin are some examples.
- The fine may not exceed what the club has set and the Tail Twister may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present.

### Directors

- Usually one and two year terms and may head various committees within the club.

### Administration Committees

- Some examples of club administrative committees are as follows:

#### Membership:

- Develops strategies for new member growth. Proper screening of prospective members, along with the development and retention of members.

- The Club Membership Director is also a mandated position to the Board.

#### Attendance:

- Promotes attendance at meetings and monitors month to month attendance.

#### Finance:

- Responsible for prompt paying of bills, collection of dues, adequate insurance coverage, audit of club's financial records preparing financial reports and assisting in fund raisers.
- This committee may vary with clubs, as some just develop the yearly budget and earmark donations and expenses.

#### Constitution and Bylaws:

- Is an advisory committee to the Board of Directors. Interpretive in nature and acts when called upon by the Board for clarification. Ensures clubs policies are in line with Multiple District and Lions International.
- All club officers should/must attend the District School of Instruction.

#### Attendance Policy

- Members who attend all meetings of the club during the year received 100% attendance pins. Pins usually depict the International Presidents home location, State and/or Country.
- A missed meeting can easily be made up by attending a club function or another Lions club meeting, a zone or region meeting or a club committee. Most Clubs have a policy that working at an activity is considered being present at a regular meeting.
- Attending the club's Board of Directors meeting is another makeup possibility, as well as a committee meeting.
- It is incumbent upon the member to notify the Secretary if a meeting is to be missed and/or if a makeup occurred.

#### Elections

- Club officer elections are usually in March or April but no later than the 15<sup>th</sup> of April.
- A Nominations committee is usually made up of past Presidents.
- The slate is presented to the club and nominations can be made from the floor. After the slate of nominees is complete the election is held two weeks later or next meeting.

### Obligations

- Each club, to remain in good standing shall:
  - Ensure all dues and expenses are paid to District, MD”A” and International
  - Abide by the constitution and bylaws
  - Resolve or attempt to resolve all disputes that arise at club level otherwise request assistance from the District
- Should a club fail to meet the obligations, their charter may be place in status quo or have its charter cancelled.
- Any club in status quo forfeits all rights and privileges pending final determination of its status.
- A club may resign its charter but acceptance can be withheld until all debts are paid and property properly disposed of.

### District A-15

Our District was formed July 1, 1976 with the first District Governor being Lion Dougald Campbell (deceased) from the Elmira Lions Club. Website address is [www.a15lions.org](http://www.a15lions.org)

### District Governor

- The District Governor performs the duties as set out in the International and the MD”A” Constitution.
- Also a member of the MD”A” Governor’s Council

### 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Governor

- The 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Governor, subject to the supervision and direction of the Governor and is an administrative assistant. Further duties are noted in the Constitution & Bylaws.

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Governor

- The 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Governor, as above and other duties as assigned.

### Cabinet Secretary and Treasurer

- Cabinet Secretary and Treasure have the same responsibilities as club level positions but liaise with MD “A” and International as required.

### Region Chair



- There are three (3) positions in our District. They oversee the activities and clubs in their region and ultimately report to the Governor. They perform tasks as assigned by the Governor and are responsible for the Zone Chair. The Region Chair serves at the option of the District Governor.

#### Zone Chair

- In our District there are six (6) zone chairpersons. They are required to hold at least three zone meetings during the year and receive reports from clubs in their respective zone. May be tasked by the Governor or Region Chair to complete other duties.

#### Some of the various committees with a Chairperson appointed.

- Diabetes, Effective Speaking, Sight, Convention, LCIF, Environment, Hearing, Youth Exchange, Membership, Constitution & Bylaws, Long Range Planning, Lioness, Leo, GMT & GLT, District Bulletin, Lions Opportunity for Youth and Peace Poster.
- Committee members do not vote at cabinet meetings.

#### Convention & Voting

- A convention is held annually in various parts of the district and usually in the second weekend of April.
- Elections for the various required cabinet positions are held. As well, voting on any constitutional or bylaw amendments shall be done at the convention.
- Even though the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice District Governor is in line for the position of District Governor, the individual must obtain 50% of the votes cast plus one (1).
- The same holds true for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor position.
- Each club has at least one vote but is entitled on one vote for every 10 members in the club, plus the alternate delegate.
- A voting member must be a Lions member for a minimum of one year and a day.
- The convention is a venue to share ideas and the Lions spirit. A forum to renew acquaintances and make new ones.

#### Multiple District "A"

- A District should be comprised of at least 35 Clubs with a membership of 1250 Lions.
- When a district is too large it is divided along geographic lines to form 2 or more districts. Each has its own number or letter.

- Each district is then divided into regions and zones. A region will contain 16 clubs or less and a zone 8 clubs or less.
- A-15 belong to Multiple District “A” or otherwise known as MD”A” along with 9 other districts. As of December 2011, our district has 53 clubs and 2 Branch Clubs totaling 1525 members.
- Multiple Districts supervise the administration of its own affairs and may choose officers, hold meetings and administer funds and programs.
- MD”A” has a Constitution and Bylaws in line with International’s but provides guidelines for its structure, convention, Rules of Audit, the requirements for positions for district positions, outline the duties of district officers and the procedures for various committees or programs.
- According to the International Constitution, the Governors of the various Districts constitute a Council of Governors with a Council Chair being elected. This person is usually an immediate past Governor. They meet four (4) times a year.
- A Multiple District convention is held annually and always after district conventions are completed but no later than the first weekend of June.

#### History of Multiple District “A”

- The very first Lions Club in Canada was chartered as Windsor Border City on March 12, 1920. The club is now called Windsor Downtown. Shortly after Toronto Central and Hamilton Central were found.
- In October of that year the International Executive met in Toronto and granted the three clubs district status, District “A”.
- The first Governor (Fred Ketcheson) was appointed.
- The first convention was held in Toronto and Louis Livingston was elected Governor.
- As Lions Clubs were formed the District naturally grew and in 1938 single District “A” became MD”A” with sub-districts A-1, A-2 and A-3 with a total of 74 clubs.

#### Points of interest:

- Harry A Newman of the Lions Club of Toronto was the first Canadian Lion to be President of Lions International in 1924.

Followed by these Lions:

- Walter E. Fisher, Lions Club of St. Catherine’s in 1949.
- Tris Coffin, Lions Club of Montreal in 1973.
- Judge Brian Stevenson, Lions Club of Calgary in 1987.

- Only one MD”A” convention has been held outside of Canada and that was the 5<sup>th</sup> one in 1925 at Cedar Point, Ohio. This was done in conjunction with the International Convention, so that they could honor President Harry Newman, who was coming to the end of his term.
- It should be noted that at this convention Helen Keller was in attendance as a guest speaker and at that time she challenged the Lions of the world to become “Knights of the Blind in the Crusade against Darkness”.

### Meeting Guidelines

- In having spoken about the various levels of Lionism it should be noted that the parliamentary procedure used by all, is in accordance with the Robert’s Rules of Order.

### Membership

- To be a member in the Lions organization is by invitation only and open to men and women who are of the age of majority.
- The biggest expense of being a Lion is not financial. It’s the amount of time that you devote to Lionism. You will, of course, have your name put forth to a few committees and expected to work on some major club projects/functions.
- However, you are not expected to put all your free time into Lionism. Your membership in the Club is not reliant upon you burning yourself out on Lions activities. You are a volunteer and as such should give of yourself that which only you can decide.

### Members

There are several types of memberships.

- Active
- Affiliate
- Associate
- Honorary
- Life
- Member At Large
- Privileged

### Annual Club Dues

LCI yearly dues:	US \$39 (US \$30 for Chartering Club)
LCI Initiation:	US \$25 (new Lion or Lion reinstated after 6 months)
MD"A" yearly dues:	Cdn \$14.50
District yearly dues:	Cdn \$11.25 (Consists of \$8.50 dues, \$1.00 Convention levy, \$1.50 New club levy, \$0.25 International Director levy)

Note: The club usually sets the dues slightly higher than the actual cost of \$74.65 shown above to cover the clubs cost of stationary, postage and misc office expenses. The Club Treasurer or Secretary will advise you of the club's Annual Dues.

- Therefore a club should set its dues in excess of that amount to operate administratively.
- Again, fund raising monies from the activities account can not be used for administration purposes.
- Fines gathered at Club meetings usually go to Administration but can be earmarked anywhere.

What MD"A" Dues pay for:

- The administration of the MD"A".
- For expenses of the Zone and Region Chairpersons. They are reimbursed when making Club visitations and Cabinet meetings, under the Rules of Audit. There are set monetary allotments for meals, motel rooms and mileage. The Governor must approve the submitted expense.
- The Council Chairperson and all appointed District Chairpersons receive no pay but are reimbursed for mileage, conferences and meetings. Again, Rules of Audit apply.
- The remainder of the dues is divided into the programs, Lions magazine, Friendship Arches, Diabetes, Hearing Conservation, Membership, Extension, Training Forums, and so forth.

What International Dues pays for:

- Three (3) items are totally Constitutional mandated
  - International Convention fund
  - The Lions Magazine
  - Emergency reserve Fund
- Other distribution of dues:

Expenses for District Governors and District Governors Elect.

- Liability insurance
- Special Club Programs (extension, membership, Leadership, Club member awards)
- General operations
- The International President, elected officers, Directors and District Governors receive no pay but are reimbursed up to certain amounts as provided in the Rules of Audit.

### Lioness History

- Formerly known as Lions Club Auxiliaries, ladies and spouses worked along side Lions Clubs in raising funds.
- In October 1975 the Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International voted to give international recognition to the women who had been serving in this capacity.
- Thus that year in Mount Pleasant, North Carolina the Mount Pleasant Lioness Club was formed.
- Within six (6) months, 496 Lioness Clubs had been formed with over 12,400 members.
- We have 6 Lioness clubs in A15.
- Lioness Clubs are sponsored by a Lions Club and follow the same format of being a Lions Club with the exception they pay no International dues and have no voting privileges.
- Many Lions are Lioness and many Lionesses are Lions. In 1989 International President William Woodward was inducted into the Mount Pleasant Lioness Club. The Lioness program is entrenched under the MD”A” bylaws.

### Leo Program

- On December 5, 1957, the Glenside (Pennsylvania) Lions presented a charter to the Abington High School Leo Club.
- The group chose maroon and gold - their school colors - to serve as the Leo club colors.
- As the world's first Leo club, the group created the Leo acronym - Leadership, Equality, Opportunity (Equality was later changed to Experience).
- In October 1967 Lions International fully endorsed the Leo program.
- There are 139,000 youthful volunteers who call themselves Leos. In 138 nations worldwide, there are more than 5,000 Leo clubs. Each club is sponsored by a Lions club.
- Leo club members are between the ages of 12 and 28. Like the members of their sponsoring Lions club, Leo club members volunteer to serve their communities
- We have 3 Leo clubs in our district as January 2012.