

# **Lions Clubs District 105SC**



**An Introduction  
to what it means  
to be a Lion**

# **The International Association of Lions Clubs**



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

TO EMPOWER volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions Clubs

## **VISION STATEMENT**

TO BE the global leader in community and humanitarian service

## **LIONS INTERNATIONAL PURPOSES**

- \* 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; and
- \* TO ENCOURAGE service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward.



If you want to serve your community, if you enjoy the company of men and women who share your ideals and objectives and you place self-fulfilment, fellowship and commitment above material reward, then you may well have all the qualities you need to be a Lion. Please read on.

We serve...

Melvin Jones, Founder of Lions Clubs International



# **What do Lions do?**

Lions are very active out in their community, most often easily recognised by their distinctive tabards with the Lions logo that is seen all over the world.

To be a good Lion you must be prepared to partake fully in your intended Club's activities and the usual process is to attend at least two Lions Club meetings to assess for yourself whether or not the enthusiasm and commitment demonstrated by the members present is what you want to aspire to.

Each year the Lions Clubs all over the country invest financially in the local community. Often funds are donated to local good causes but often moneys will be spent helping deserving individuals, local people who slip through the nets cast by government, local authorities and even other charities. Where there is a need there is always a Lion...

Anyone can make an application to their nearest Lions Club for support and every application is given long and serious consideration. All Lions are expected to play their part in these considerations using the benefit of their own life experience.

# **How can Lions Clubs afford to do what they do?**

Lions Clubs are indefatigable and innovative fundraisers. In order to benefit those needing help, Lions Clubs need to raise funds to be able to do so. Unlike in some countries, where funding is found from the members' own pockets, Lions in Britain raise funds by staging events that the general public and commercial sponsors will want to support. Many of these activities have become much looked-forward-to annual events which year after year attract those vital funds. Every one of these activities requires participation of every active member of the Club.

The Lions' activities, whether they involve raising money or spending it, are governed by the Club's Board of Directors who act exactly as they would running a commercial company.

Lions Clubs are ultimately guided by a constitution laid down by Lions Clubs International but while it is the role of the Directors to manage the Club's affairs, every major decision requires the participation of every member.

# **How is the Lions Club organised and where would you fit in?**

All Lions Clubs are members of Lions Clubs International and all Lions are a member of their Club rather than the international body.

Every Club is governed by a Board of Directors elected by the members and its activities are carried out by a number of sub-committees, each usually chaired by a member of the Board who reports to the Board on their activities. Typical sub-committees are likely to be directed towards:

- *Community Service*
- *Constitution & Membership*
- *Fundraising*
- *Project Investigation*
- *Social*

Each Club will determine for itself how many and what each committee shall be and usually each committee comprises a number of Lions nominated to it. Each Club decides how the committees are structured and, often depending on the number of Club members, on how many committees a Lion will be expected to serve.

In addition the President (who like the Directors is elected or re-elected by the Club membership each year) will appoint Lions to manage certain functions:, e.g. *Drugs and Diabetes Awareness, Health and Safety, Historian, Medic*

*Alert, Nominations, Scrapbook and Sight, Hearing and Speech.* Any Lion might well fulfil more than one of these roles and indeed, depending on the Club, more or fewer functions.

Every Lion pays a subscription which includes a national and international levy and meets other Club costs.

Every Lions Club asks its members to make a commitment - to the concept of serving the community, to devoting time and energy to Club activities, to be an active member of a motivated team using acquired life skills for the benefit of others.

Each Club itself is within a Zone within a District. There are currently eight Districts of Multiple District 105 which comprises the British Isles. Each Zone has a Zone Chairman and each District has its own District Governor.

The headquarters of the Lions Clubs of MD105 is in Birmingham and the international headquarters is in Chicago, USA.

Lions Clubs International itself is governed by a Board of International Directors with the head of the organisation being the International President. The term of the International President lasts for just one year. Unlike officers at Club and many at District level, District Governors and officers at Multiple District and International level are not eligible for re-election for a second term.



## **Becoming a Lion means taking on a commitment**

A Past President of a Lions Club in this District once said that anyone joining his Club should write-off Monday evenings. Traditionally that Club's meetings took place on a Monday evening - Club business meetings on the second Monday of the month, Club committee meetings on the third Monday and Club Directors on the fourth.

Not every Lion will be able to record a 100 per cent attendance by attending every meeting, for it is always accepted that being a Lion also means that family and career commitments come first.

However to be a good and active Lion you have to be there to participate in discussions and decision-making and if you have other interests which habitually take up the times when your Lions Club meets, then it is going to be much harder to be a good Lion and even harder to be perceived as one.

When the Lions' founder, Chicago businessman Melvin Jones, decided that the Chicago Business Circle should go beyond promoting good business practices and embrace selfless service to others, he sought to create a better community and a better world - for all. For Lions everywhere was devised the motto: "We Serve".

When you become a Lion, you are joining a family with more than 1.5 million members in 45,000 Clubs in more than 200 countries, making it the world's largest volunteer community service organisation.

Once you have become a Lion, your time is valued, your volunteer spirit is valued and we welcome the participation, if they wish, of your entire family.

What's more your fellow Lions are committed to helping you become the best Lion you can be.

However, if the likelihood is that the impact on your time that being a Lion will demand will be too great then being a Lion, however good your intentions, may not be for you.



# Lions Clubs 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 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 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; and
- **To be careful** with my criticism and liberal with my praise: to build up and not destroy.

# Why I am a Lion

BY LION JO LAWSON

*I am a Lion – you ask me “Why?”*

*My first reply must be  
“With the efforts of many others  
I help the blind to see.”*

*Children who might have to walk  
The earth with wide unseeing eyes  
Never knowing the beauties of  
The flowers, birds and butterflies,  
And never see a crimson sunset  
Nor the different greens of the trees;  
It's good to be a Lion  
When know I am helping one of these.*

*Parents who are handicapped  
By the tragic loss of sight  
Can't properly care for their family  
Without the benefit of light;  
Their problem might be corrected  
But there's a lack of adequate funds  
Lions anticipate the need  
And once again the job is done.*

*There is aid for the underprivileged  
As well as the lame and the blind.  
My aspiration as a Lion is  
To be a brother to all mankind;  
And by working with fellow members  
In doing what needs to be done,  
More is accomplished collectively  
Than I can ever do alone.*

*Yes, I belong to a Lions Club  
And I have told you why in part.  
Its motivating power is compassion –  
It's an organisation with heart.*



## **Do YOU have what it takes to be a Lion?**

Having read these pages and you still want to be a Lion, if you still want to serve your community in the company of men and women who share your ideals and objectives and you place self-fulfilment, fellowship and commitment above material reward, then you are likely to have all the qualities you need to be a Lion.

Find out the next steps to becoming a Lion from your local Lions Club or from the District 105SC website - [www.lions105sc.org.uk](http://www.lions105sc.org.uk)

