



Puyallup Lions Orientation Part Three

Who Lions Are

Lions are men and women dedicated to serving those in need, in our own community and around the world. The 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs in over 207 countries are different in many ways, but share a core belief – community is what we make it. In addition to humanitarian service, Lions enjoy fellow- ship and develop leadership skills.

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: “We Serve.”

Slogan: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety

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.

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** to 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, 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.

Membership

Membership in a Lions club provides people with the opportunity to meet and work with other individuals in a spirit of fellowship, striving toward the common goal of helping those in need. Through your mutual concern for others, members can improve both local and global communities while developing valuable personal and professional skills. New members are expected to give freely of their time and energy whenever possible, attend club meetings, be available for committee assignments, be knowledgeable about the aims and objectives of Lions and support club officers.

The benefits of Lions clubs membership are numerous, and include:

- Helping those in need
- Making a difference in your community
- Having an impact on those in need worldwide
- Developing leadership skills
- Enhancing communication skills
- Utilizing planning and organization skills
- Working hands-on to meet community needs
- Meeting new people – from your community and abroad
- Opportunities to network
- Opportunities to travel

There are several categories of Lions club membership, including:

- **Active:** A member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club implies.
- **Member-at-Large:** A member who has moved out of the community and is unable to regularly attend meetings and desires to retain membership in the club. This member cannot hold office or vote at conventions and must pay dues.
- **Honorary:** An honor bestowed by a club to an individual who is not a member of the Lions club to recognize outstanding community service or service to the club. The club pays the entrance fee and international dues, however the member does not have any privileges of active membership.
- **Privileged:** A member who has been a Lion for 15 or more years, who because of illness, infirmities or advanced age or other legitimate reason, must

relinquish his or her active status. A privileged member may vote, but may not hold office.

- **Life Member:** A member who has maintained active status for 20 or more years, or for 15 years and is at least 70 years of age can be granted life membership. The members' Lions club, in lieu of future dues, pays a one-time payment to the association. Life members have all the rights and privileges of membership.
- **Associate:** A member who holds his/her primary membership in another club, but maintains residence or is employed in the community of the club served by this club. Associate members can vote on club matters, but may not serve as a club delegate at district, multiple district or international conventions, and are not eligible to hold office.
- **Affiliate:** An individual who is currently unable to fully participate in the club, but wishes to support the club. Affiliate members pay dues and may vote on club matters, but may not hold office or represent the club at district, multiple district or international conventions.

Members cannot simultaneously hold membership – other than Honorary or Associate – in more than one Lions club.

District and Multiple District

Organizational Structure

The district is your club's connection to the wider world of Lions Clubs International. The world's Lions clubs are grouped into approximately 750 districts with 35 or more clubs and at least 1,250 Lions club members. Each district has a district governor who is elected for a one-year term and is responsible for the overall success of our mission of service in the district. The responsibilities of the district governor are shared with the district governor team (DG Team), comprising of the district governor and first and second vice district governors. The team works together to supervise overall district operations, develop team strategies and encourage the invitation of new members and formation of new clubs. The district governor also supervises other district officers, including the cabinet secretary and treasurer. The officers and various committee chairpersons make up the district cabinet. Club presidents and secretaries are often in contact with the district cabinet and serve as an informal advisory committee.

Some large districts are divided into regions of 10 to 16 clubs, and regions are broken down into zones of 4 to 8 clubs. Where this is the case, region and zone chairpersons also work closely with the district cabinet.

Multiple districts are formed by two or more districts within a territory, typically organized along national, state or provincial lines. Stand-alone districts are called single districts. Subject to the association provisions, each multiple district supervises the administration of its own affairs and may choose officers, hold meetings, administer

funds, authorize expenditures and exercise other administrative powers as provided in its respective multiple district constitution and by-laws.

District and multiple district leadership includes:

- **District Governor:** The district governor serves as the chief administrative officer of the district. He or she is elected at the district convention to serve a one-year term. The new governor takes office at the close of the international convention. The district governor's responsibilities are as follows:
 1. Represent the association in the district.
 2. Oversee the Global Membership and Leadership Teams at the district level.
 3. Promote Lions Clubs International Foundation, international service projects and all service activities of the association.
 4. Supervise the organization of new Lions clubs.
 5. Administer and promote membership growth through various means.
 6. Preside over district meetings
 7. Supervise district officers.
 8. Ensure the DG team visits each Lions club in the district.
 9. Be responsible for district expenditures and deliver financial records to his/her successor.
- **First Vice District Governor:** The first vice district governor assists the district governor with membership development, the chartering of new clubs and the promotion of district events. The vice district governor's specific responsibilities are to:
 1. Further the purpose of the association.
 2. Perform administrative duties assigned by the district governor.
 3. Participate in district meetings.
 4. Help review clubs and plan for district-wide leadership development.
 5. Supervise district committees at the request of the district governor.
 6. Help plan for next year, including the district budget.
 7. Become familiar with the duties of the district governor.
 8. Serve as a liaison between the Global membership Team and DG Teams.
- **Second Vice District Governor:** The second vice district governor assists the district governor with membership retention and increasing awareness among Lions about the associations various pro- grams. The second vice district governor also serves as a liaison between the Global Leadership Team and DG Teams.
- **Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer:** The cabinet secretary-treasurer acts under the supervision of the district governor and is responsible for recording and maintaining district proceedings, reports and funds.
- **District Chairpersons:** District committee chairpersons assist the district governor, region chairperson and zone chairperson in the work with their clubs. A district governor may add other district chairpersons as he or she deems necessary. Lions Clubs International officially recognizes the following district chairpersons:
 - Convention
 - Diabetes

Awareness
 Environmental
 Hearing & Speech Action and Work with
 the Deaf Honorary
 International Understanding and
 Cooperation Cultural and Community
 Activities Information Technology
 Leo Club
 Lions Clubs International
 Foundation Lions International
 Peace Poster Contest Public
 Relations and Lions Information
 SightFirst
 Youth Exchange
 Youth Outreach
 Lions Opportunity for Youth

- **Zone Chairperson:** The zone chairperson is the chief administrative officer in the zone and is given direction and supervision by the district governor and/or region chairperson. The zone chairperson is responsible for serving as chairperson of the district governors zone advisory committee, taking an active role in organizing new clubs and reports on the activities and well being on all the clubs in their zone. The zone chairperson is a member of the district governor’s cabinet. Usually, the governor appoints them; however in some districts they are elected.
- **Council of Governors:** According to the Lions Clubs International Constitution, the governors within a multiple district constitute a council of governors for each multiple district. The district council may include one or more immediate past district governors, provided that the total number of immediate past district governors does not exceed one-half the number of district governors. Each member has one vote on each question requiring action of the council. A district council may also include past and present international presidents, vice presidents and past and present directors of the association as advisory, but are non-voting members.
- **Global Membership Team (GMT) District and Multiple District Coordinators:** GMT district and multiple district coordinators, supported by the District Membership & Club Growth Team, Club Success Team, DG Team and the GMT constitutional area leader, are responsible for setting membership goals and implementing actions plans. The Membership & Club Growth Team can appoint specialists, such as the family & women’s specialist. GMT coordinators serve a three-year term and work as an action-oriented, parallel, mutually supportive team with the Global Leader- ship Team.
- **Global Leadership Team (GLT) District and Multiple District Coordinators:** GLT district and multiple district coordinators, supported by the DG Team, GLT constitutional area leader and other qualified Lions, are responsible for identifying potential Lion leaders and ensuring the delivery of quality training

and development programs. GLT coordinators serve a three-year term and work closely with the GMT.

District Convention

The annual district convention, sometimes held as part of a multiple district convention, is the chief deliberative body of the district. District conventions are held to conduct general district business, take action on district matters, adopt resolutions, elect the district governor and other district-elected officers, vote on convention sites, conduct seminars, sponsor events important to the district and develop fellowship among the Lions of the district.

Communications

Most likely, your district and multiple district have many ways of communicating with its members. Your orientation trainer will review various district communication mediums which may include but are not limited to:

- Area newsletter
- Area Web site