**Lions Clubs Objectives**

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 morale 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 persona financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

**Lions 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 of 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.*

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.

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

Remarkably, considering the materialism of the era, both Objects and Ethics encouraged Lions to put service ahead of profit, and to uphold the highest standards of conduct in business and the 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 America club; the first club in South America was organized in Colombia the following year.  Sweden, then France, brought Europe into the association in 1948.  Japan had clubs in 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.

**ETHICAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT (Club Officer)**

Ours is an association of service, and the manner in which the service is rendered is fully as important as the service itself. Our members, your fellow club officers, your District Governor, the International Board of Directors, the Executive Officers, the Administrative Officers, the International Office staff and our communities expect honest and ethical conduct from each of you every day. No act or request on the part of Lions clubs and their members, officers, board of directors or staff within our association with whom, or the community for whom, we render services can justify the breach of this guideline.

Honest and ethical conduct is defined by four core values that serve as the foundation for our Ethical Standards:

**Integrity** – Lions Clubs International insists on the highest standards of personal and professional integrity. We must all make every possible effort to safeguard the association’s assets. We must also comply with all association policies and applicable laws.

**Accountability** – Lions Clubs International expects all club officers to honor commitments as authorized and made on behalf of the association and take individual responsibility for all actions and outcomes. It has no tolerance for ethical violations.

**Teamwork** – Lions Clubs International seeks to maintain a service environment that encourages innovation, creativity and positive results through teamwork. We must all practice leadership to train, inspire and promote full participation and individual development for all Lions. We encourage open and effective communication and interaction.

**Excellence** – Lions Clubs International is dedicated to fair treatment, mutual respect, diversity and trust. We must challenge each other to improve our services, our processes and ourselves. We must strive together to serve our membership and communities and help the association achieve its goals.

Your responsibilities begin with understanding of the core values and Ethical Standards of Lions Clubs International. Your role in the association demands an ongoing vigilance to maintain these standards of honest and ethical conduct. Lions Clubs International has adopted several policy statements that concern the association’s Ethical Standards, such as our Mission Statement, Code of Ethics, Anti-Discrimination Guidelines for Service Activities and Membership, Obligations of a Chartered Club, Use of Publicly Raised Funds, Rules of Audit, Conflict of Interest, Solicitation, and Privacy. The International Constitution and By-Laws, the Club Officer Manual and the International Board Policy

Manual provide information about these policy statements and additional guidance in the areas of ethical standards and conduct. In many instances, ethical standards intersect legal requirements. If an ethical or legal compliance issue arises that raises a question in your mind, you have a ***responsibility*** to bring that issue to the attention of the appropriate International Board committee or International Office division (for example, the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee reviews Conflict of Interest issues; the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and/or Legal Division review Legal issues). You may also bring ethical or legal concerns to the attention of your District Governor, the International Board of Directors, the Executive Officers, or the Administrative Officers of the association. The core values of the Ethical Standards of Lions Clubs International, along with the policies of the International Board of Directors, provide a guide and framework to help you understand what is expected from you and to help you make good decisions. As they are not all inclusive, your good and best judgment is essential in doing the “right” and ethical thing. Please join us in continuing Lions