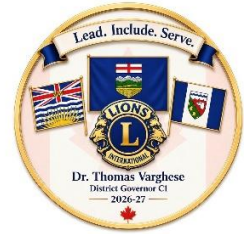


Li ns Link

Lions Clubs International District C-1 Newsletter



THOMAS VARGHESE
DISTRICT GOVERNOR
780-893-6442 [EMAIL](#)

ZELLA GARDINER
VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR
780-387-4620 [EMAIL](#)

MICHAEL HENNIG
2ND V. D. GOVERNOR
[EMAIL](#)

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NEXT NEWSLETTER
SUBMISSION DEADLINE:
25TH OF CURRENT MONTH

MICHAEL CLULOW
LIONS LINK EDITOR
780-263-6674
NEW [EMAIL](mailto:MISCHAC@SHAW.CA)
MISCHAC@SHAW.CA



District Governor's Message

Dear Lions Family,

It is hard to believe that one month has already passed since I was installed as your District Governor. Time goes by very quickly, and I am excited about the months ahead.

Before I say anything else, I would like to thank all of you for the warm welcome and encouragement Angela and I have received since the International Convention. Your kind words, messages, and support have meant a great deal to us. Thank you for your friendship and encouragement.

It has been a busy first month. Since Day 1, our District Team has been planning, meeting, and getting organized. We held our first District Cabinet Meeting on the 26th, and I was honoured that Past International President Dr. Patti Hill installed our District Cabinet. We had a full agenda and discussed many important items. I look forward to sharing the highlights and key decisions from the meeting. We also held our first Club Officer Training on the 25th at the Millet Lions Hall. Thank you to the Millet Lions Club for providing the facility and taking such great care of us over the two days.

District C1 also launched its new public Facebook page. I encourage every club to share your service projects, fundraising events, and club news on the District page, as well as on your own club page. The more we share our stories, the more people will learn about the wonderful work Lions are doing across our District.

This month, I also had the opportunity to meet with many Lions and community leaders to discuss projects and partnerships that will benefit our communities.

I attended the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club's cheque presentation to the University of Alberta. The Club has committed \$50,000 toward the new Kenneth and Sandra Wong Gallery. This is an exciting project.

Continued next page

If clubs across our District work together and contribute \$250,000 over the next three years, a room in the gallery will be named the District C1 Lions Room. Just imagine the visibility Lions will receive from the students, researchers, educators, families, and visitors who come through the gallery each year. This is a wonderful opportunity to leave a lasting Lions legacy.

I also met with Kelly Sysak from the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation to discuss Lions' continued support of the RetCam project. This is another opportunity for our clubs to make a real difference in the lives of children and their families.

I continue to support the Veterans House project that I mentioned in my last newsletter. These larger projects give our clubs the opportunity to work together and create an even greater impact in our communities.

Over the past month, I have also been meeting with community leaders, professionals, and volunteers about starting new Lions Clubs. I believe there are many people who want to serve. Sometimes, all they need is someone to invite them. Whether it is a traditional club or a specialty club, we can grow Lionism by bringing together people who share a passion for helping others.

At the International Convention in Hong Kong, International President Mark Lyon introduced his theme, **Rooted in Service**. I was inspired by this theme. Even before the International Convention, I had chosen **Lead • Include • Serve – Building Stronger Lions, Stronger Clubs, Stronger Communities** as our District theme. I was amazed by how well the two themes fit together.

Rooted in Service reminds us why we became Lions. Service is the foundation of everything we do.

Our District theme tells us how we put that foundation into action.

We **Lead** by helping others grow and become leaders.

We **Include** by inviting new members, welcoming new ideas, and building partnerships with schools, universities, businesses, hospitals, and other community partners.

We **Serve** by seeing a need and doing something about it.

I encourage every club to look beyond its regular projects. There are many opportunities around us. When we work together with other service organizations and community partners, we can accomplish far more than we can on our own.

I also encourage every Lion to invite one person to experience Lionism. Every new member brings new ideas, new energy, and another pair of hands to serve.

As we begin our second month of this Lions year, I invite each of us to think about three simple questions:

- How can I lead?
- Who can I include?
- How can I serve?

If each one of us answers these questions with action, I know District C1 will have a wonderful year.

Thank you for everything you do for your clubs and your communities. I look forward to visiting your clubs, listening to your ideas, working alongside you, and celebrating the difference we will make together.

Together, let us remain **Rooted in Service** as we **Lead, Include, and Serve**.

Yours in Service, Dr. Thomas Varghese
District Governor 2026–2027
Lions Clubs International District C1

The Lions Pledge

Going forward, we will use the Lions Pledge shown below. Please note that the revised pledge includes an additional line. All Clubs and Lions are requested to use this updated version at all meetings and official Lions functions.

"I pledge allegiance to my country and to the cause of peace throughout the world. I believe in the principles of Lionism as contained in the Code of Ethics, and will embody these principles by serving my community and supporting our global foundation. I am proud to be a Lion supporting our global foundation. I am proud to be a Lion, dedicated to the service of others".

Thomas Varghese DG- District C1

SAVE THE DATE

	USA/Canada Lions Leadership Forum	Sept 03-05 2026	Memphis USA	REGISTRATION	WEBSITE
	C1 NOMINATIONS CLOSE	OCTOBER 01, 2026			SEE PAGE 33
	WEEK OF SERVICE VISION	OCTOBER 08-18, 2026	Amplify your club's impact		SEE PAGE 32
	LIONS YOUTH CAMP Annual General Meeting	7:00pm October 20, 2026	Via ZOOM	For Zoom link Contact chassell@shaw.ca	
	C2 CONVNTION	October 23-24 2026	Cochrane Alberta	Details to follow	See Page 28
	C1 CONVENTION 2026/27	November 06-07..2026	Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre, Alberta	Details to follow	SEE PAGE 29
	St. Albert Host Lions 75th Anniversary	February 12, 2027	St. Albert Alberta	Details to follow	
	WEEK OF SERVICE YOUTH	FEBRUARY 13-21, 2027	Amplify your club's impact		SEE PAGE 32
	WEEK OF SERVICE ENVIRONMENT	MAY 29 – June 06 2027	Amplify your club's impact		SEE PAGE 32
	LCI CON 2027	July 2-6 2027	Washington DC, USA	Details to follow	
	RESERVED FOR YOUR CLUB'S SPECIAL EVENT				

The DGs Travels

LIONS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION 2026

The 108th Lions International Convention was held in Hong Kong from July 3–7, 2026, at AsiaWorld-Expo (AWE). More than 17,000 Lions and Leos from over 140 countries and regions attended this global event.

The five-day convention featured keynote speeches, educational sessions, leadership training, fellowship events, and the installation of international officers and DGs. Delegates had many opportunities to learn, share ideas, make new friends, and strengthen their commitment to service.

On July 4, the Canadian delegates gathered to receive updates on LCIF, the Lions of Canada Consultative Committee, the GenWell Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), the 2026 Special Olympics, Lions Quest, and other important initiatives. The session was led by Past International President Dr. Patti Hill, International Director Debbie Dawson, and Past International Director Marvin Chambers.

One of the highlights was a moving performance by the China Disabled People's Art Troupe. Their talent, determination, and inspiring performance touched the hearts of everyone.

The 108th Lions International Convention was a wonderful celebration of friendship, learning, leadership, and service. It reminded us that, although we come from different parts of the world, we are united by one mission:

WE SERVE.



Tai Chi Session Highlights



(Photo Courtesy: Lions from Canada)

Breakout Sessions

There were many excellent breakout sessions during the Convention, and unfortunately, we do not have space to summarize them all. Mission 1.5: Growing Membership through Diversity session focused on the importance of welcoming people from different backgrounds and experiences to strengthen our Lions clubs. One of the panellists was our own Past International President, Dr. Patti Hill. All three panellists shared their insights on diversity, inclusion, and growing our Lions family.

Below is a summary of the thoughts from the conversation.

Diversity is not just about recognizing the different categories of people. It is about the richness that comes from bringing different people, perspectives, and experiences together around a shared vision. For Lions, diversity is a source of strength, never a barrier. Our greatest asset is that we are united in service, regardless of how we speak, dress, or where we come from. Every individual has something valuable to contribute.

Genuine inclusion requires more than simply inviting people into the room. We must ask not only who is in the room, but whether every opinion is valued and every voice is heard. Inclusion takes intentional effort: listening before assuming, involving people in decisions that affect them, advocating for those who are overlooked, and having the courage to speak up when exclusion occurs, because silence allows it to continue.



The challenge shared during the session is for every Lion to take action—to move beyond "business as usual" and create a more inclusive Lions community. This means responding to the diverse needs of the communities we serve, welcoming and mentoring new members, and opening doors for everyone to participate. Genuine inclusion is demonstrated through everyday actions: offering a smile to someone who is different from us, listening with an open mind, and treating every individual with equal respect—whether they decorate the room or contribute \$50,000. Each of us has the opportunity and responsibility to make a difference and help build a stronger, more welcoming future for Lions.



"Diversity is being invited to the room; inclusion is being invited to the table; belonging is having your voice heard and valued."

Closing Keynote: From Knowledge to Transformation

The keynote speaker for the final session was Mahatria Ra, an Indian spiritual leader, motivational speaker, and author. He is the founder of *Infinithism*, a spiritual movement that encourages people to live a balanced life by being healthy, wealthy, loving, and blissful. Before becoming a spiritual teacher, he was a successful software entrepreneur.

Mahatria Ra shared a powerful message: knowledge by itself does not change our lives. Today, we have access to more information than ever before, but real growth happens only when we put what we learn into practice. The purpose of attending a conference is not just to gain more knowledge, but to allow that knowledge to change the way we think, live, and serve others.

He pointed out that many people spend their lives collecting information through books, podcasts, and seminars, but often fail to apply what they have learned. Real transformation happens when we reflect on what we learn and make a conscious effort to live differently. He explained that true change comes from within, just as a flower's fragrance naturally comes out from within.



Photo by Lion James Varghese (San Francisco, CA)

Mahatria Ra spoke about four important areas of life: health, wealth, love, and bliss. He said that these four areas help us live with purpose, find fulfillment, and make a positive difference in others' lives.

He encouraged everyone to ask themselves an important question: Are we simply gaining knowledge, or are we applying it in our daily lives? The way we live serves as an example to others, especially the next generation. We can choose to be an example worth following through our actions, values, and the way we treat people.

Speaking about health, he said that taking care of our bodies is the foundation for everything else. Just as an artist needs a canvas to create a painting, we need good health to serve others and fulfill our purpose.

He explained that being wealthy is not just about having money. It also means using our time, energy, and attention wisely. When we focus on what we can influence rather than worrying about everything around us, we can make a greater impact.

When talking about love, he reminded us to invest in our closest relationships. In today's busy world, it is easy to neglect our family and friends. We need to make time for meaningful conversations, be fully present, and show genuine care for the people who matter most.

Finally, he described a blissful life as one filled with gratitude, joy, and appreciation for the gift of life. Although people may differ in culture, language, beliefs, and background, we all share a common humanity. Recognizing this helps us treat others with kindness and use our lives to make the world a better place.

He ended his session by encouraging everyone to become givers rather than simply contributors. When we choose to live with purpose, love, gratitude, and responsibility, we not only change our own lives but also inspire positive change in others.

NOTICE

C-1 District Awards and Nominations are now open

**Please direct Awards questions and
submissions to:**

Awards Committee Chair

Lion Brian Barnes

Phone: 780-307-6582

Email:

brianlionszonechair@gmail.com

Please direct Nomination submissions to:

Nominations Committee

Lion Ron Wackenhut

email r0lyn@telus.net

Lion Paul Benson

email pbspare1@shaw.ca

President Mark Lyon Installed at the 108th Lions International Convention

During the 108th Lions International Convention in Hong Kong, International President Mark Lyon was officially installed. After taking the oath of office, he shared an inspiring message that set the direction for the coming Lions year.



Known by many as "*The Lion of the People*," President Lyon is respected around the world for



his humility, authenticity, and lifelong commitment to service. The son of a pastor, he remains active in his church, and his faith continues to guide his leadership. He is also known for his signature smile, reminding us that service is a privilege, not a burden.

President Lyon introduced his Presidential Theme, "*Rooted in Service*." Using the example of a tree, he explained that it is the roots that give the tree strength and stability. In the same way, Lions are strengthened by our purpose, our shared values, and our commitment to serving others. If we want our clubs to grow and thrive, we must remain rooted in service because service is the foundation of everything we do.

He also shared four priorities for the coming year:

Service remains the heart of Lionism. Whether we are building a clinic or serving a meal to someone in need, every act of service makes a difference.

Membership is the key to growing our impact. President Lyon encouraged every Lion to support Mission 1.5 by inviting new members into our clubs. More members mean more service and stronger clubs.

LCIF (Lions Clubs International Foundation) enables Lions to extend their service worldwide. By supporting LCIF, we increase our ability to help people during disasters, health initiatives, and humanitarian projects.

Advocacy means making Lions visible in our communities, working with partners, and sharing the story of Lionism so that others are inspired to serve.

President Lyon also reminded us that challenges are part of every journey. Instead of avoiding them, we should use them as opportunities to grow. Just as rain strengthens the roots of a tree, challenges help us become stronger leaders and stronger Lions.

He concluded by reminding us that every act of kindness creates a ripple effect. One act of service can inspire many others and make a lasting difference. As Lions, we are called to remain *Rooted in Service* and continue making our communities and our world a better place.



108: More Than Just a Number

As we all know, the International Lions Convention in Hong Kong was the 108th. For many of us, 108 simply represents the number of times the International Convention has been held in different parts of the world. However, during his address, International President A.P. Singh spoke about the significance of the number 108. He explained that 108 has deep spiritual, astrological, astronomical, and mathematical significance.



As someone who is interested in numbers, I found this very interesting. I thought many of you might enjoy learning about it as well. The information below is based on what President Singh shared during his address.



In Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, and Yoga, the number 108 represents completeness and harmony. Hindu tradition recognizes 108 Upanishads (ancient sacred texts). Many deities are worshipped by chanting their 108 names, and japa malas (prayer bead garlands) have 108 beads that are used for prayer and meditation. In Buddhism, 108 represents the human desires or attachments that people try to overcome.

Many Buddhist temples in Japan ring their bells 108 times on New Year's Eve as a symbol of purification.

In Vedic astrology (the traditional Hindu system of astrology), the number 108 appears in several ways. There are 27 Nakshatras (lunar constellations), and each is divided into four padas (quarters), giving a total of 108 (27×4). Another example is the 12 zodiac signs and the 9 Navagrahas (the nine planetary influences). Together they also make 108 (12×9).



The number 108 also appears in astronomy. The average distance between the Earth and the Sun is about 108 times the Sun's diameter. The average distance between the Earth and the Moon is about 108 times the Moon's diameter. This is why the Sun and the Moon appear almost the same size in the sky during a total solar eclipse.

The number 108 also has a place in mathematics. It is the interior angle of a regular pentagon, which is a five-sided shape with all sides and angles equal. The pentagon is also closely connected to the golden ratio, a mathematical proportion that is often found in nature, art, and architecture.

It is interesting to see how the number 108 appears in so many different fields.

Thank you, Council Chair Christine

On June 30, Council Chair Christine Lank completed her term with the Multiple District C Council. Lion Christine served for two years, first as Vice Council Chair and then as Council Chair. During her time in leadership, she guided the Council with grace, wisdom, and professionalism through some challenging times. Her positive attitude, warm smile, and laughter brought warmth to every meeting and made it a pleasure to work alongside her.



A sincere thank you also goes to Past International Director Ben Apeland for his guidance and support. His experience, encouragement, and steady leadership were greatly appreciated throughout the year.

Lion Christine, thank you for your dedicated service, outstanding leadership, and unwavering commitment to Lionism. We wish you all the very best as you continue to serve your district and Multiple District C in other leadership roles.

The Multiple District Council now welcomes PDG Lyle Gustafson to the Council. We wish him every success as he begins his new leadership role

RetCam Envision Project

District Governor Dr. Thomas Varghese and VCC Lion Lyle Gustafson recently met with Kelly Sysak, Sr. Development Office Philanthropy of the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation, to learn more about the RetCam Envision project. The project will provide a RetCam to the Eye Institute of Alberta (EIA), enabling specialized eye screening for approximately 3900 high-risk patients each year. The EIA handles roughly 45,000 clinic visits each year and serves a population of more than 3 million people across northern Alberta, B.C., Saskatchewan, and the Northwest Territories. By detecting serious eye conditions such as Retinopathy of Prematurity (ROP) in NICU babies and retinoblastoma at an early stage, the RetCam allows care teams to begin treatment as early as possible, preventing blindness for infants and vastly improving outcomes for young children experiencing retinoblastoma.

The visit highlighted the life-changing impact this project will have on preterm babies, children, and vulnerable patients of all ages. Lions have a long history of supporting vision care, and the RetCam Envision project reflects our ongoing commitment to protecting sight and improving lives in our communities

*- Kelly Sysak, Sr. Development Officer,
Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation*



The meeting provided an opportunity to better understand the project's impact and to explore how Lions can continue supporting this important initiative.

District C-2 Develops Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy

Congratulations to District Governor Danielle and her Cabinet for their excellent work in developing an Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Policy.

DG Danielle shared that, over the past few months, the committee has reviewed the Lions Clubs International Constitution and By-Laws, studied policies from other districts, and identified best practices. Their goal is to create a safe, respectful, and welcoming environment for all Lions in District C-2.

The committee has prepared a draft policy that outlines expectations for member conduct, defines bullying and harassment, and includes reporting procedures and a fair process for addressing concerns. The draft is now under review and refinement before it is presented to the Cabinet for approval.



This is an excellent initiative. Congratulations to District Governor Danielle and her Cabinet for their leadership and commitment to creating a positive Lions experience for everyone.

July 18, International Nelson Mandela Day

July 18 was International Nelson Mandela Day. Although this newsletter is reaching you much after that date, the message behind the day is worth remembering.

Our First Vice District Governor, Dr. Manoj Shah, shared the following message on Facebook and

other social media to mark the occasion. I thought it was worth sharing with all of you.

"Today, we celebrate the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela, a leader whose unwavering commitment to justice, dignity, and service transformed not only a nation but inspired the world.

Madiba taught us that leadership is not measured by personal achievement, but by our ability to uplift others and create opportunities for those most in need. His belief that each individual has the power to make a difference continues to resonate across generations.

As Lions, we share this commitment to service. Every act of kindness, every project completed, and every life touched strengthens our collective ability to build a more compassionate and inclusive world.

Mandela's legacy reminds us that lasting change begins when ordinary people choose to serve with extraordinary purpose.

Although Nelson Mandela Day has passed, its message remains as relevant as ever. Let us recommit ourselves to serving humanity with courage, humility, and compassion. Together, we can continue creating a legacy of hope and opportunity for generations to come."





Congratulations!
TO OUR
**2026-2027
LIONS INTERNATIONAL
LEADERSHIP TEAM**
WE SERVE. ROOTED IN SERVICE.

MARK LYON
INTERNATIONAL
PRESIDENT

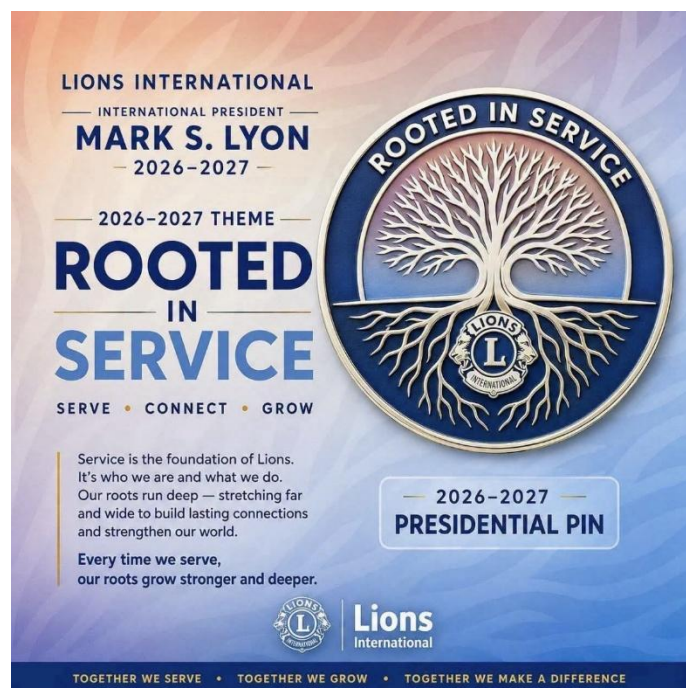
DR. MANOJ SHAH
INTERNATIONAL
VICE PRESIDENT

TONY BENBOW
INTERNATIONAL
2ND VICE PRESIDENT

C. ROBERT RETTBY
INTERNATIONAL
3RD VICE PRESIDENT

TOGETHER, WE SERVE.
TOGETHER, WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

**LIONS CLUBS
INTERNATIONAL**



LIONS INTERNATIONAL
INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
MARK S. LYON
2026-2027

2026-2027 THEME
**ROOTED
IN
SERVICE**
SERVE • CONNECT • GROW

Service is the foundation of Lions.
It's who we are and what we do.
Our roots run deep — stretching far
and wide to build lasting connections
and strengthen our world.

Every time we serve,
our roots grow stronger and deeper.

2026-2027
PRESIDENTIAL PIN

Lions
International

TOGETHER WE SERVE • TOGETHER WE GROW • TOGETHER WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE



**LIONS
INTERNATIONAL**

Executive Officers
2026-2027

Mark S. Lyon
Intl. President

A.P. Singh
LCIF Chairperson

Dr. Manoj Shah
Intl. First Vice President

Tony Benbow
Intl. Second Vice President

Robert Rettby
Intl. Third Vice President

Know Your District LEADERS

Strong leadership is the foundation of strong clubs and a strong District. Our District leaders bring a wealth of experience, diverse professional backgrounds, and a deep commitment to service. In this and the coming issues of the newsletter, we will introduce the dedicated Lions who serve on our District Team. By getting to know these leaders, we can better appreciate the individuals working behind the scenes to support our clubs, strengthen Lionism, and advance our mission of service.

In this issue, we are pleased to introduce our Committee Chairs and Advisers. We hope you enjoy learning about their Lions journey, professional achievements, and vision for the future of District C1.

Convention Advisor: PCC Betty Ann Robson

PCC Betty Ann Robson is a dedicated Lion leader with extensive experience at the club, district, and multiple district levels.

She has served in numerous leadership roles, including Council Chair, District Governor, District Convention Chairperson, Multiple District GLT Coordinator, and Multiple District Convention Chairperson.

A strong advocate for leadership development, Betty Ann has served as faculty for several Lions Leadership Institutes, mentoring and inspiring Lions across Canada. Through her work with the Global Leadership Team, she continues to help develop current and future leaders within our organization.

With her extensive experience in planning and leading conventions at both the district and multiple district levels, Betty Ann serves as a



valuable Convention Advisor. Her knowledge, guidance, and leadership will be instrumental in supporting the Convention Team and helping ensure a successful and memorable District Convention.

GLOBAL ACTION TEAM COORDINATORS

GMT – Membership Coordinator

Walter Calahasin



Lion Walter Calahasin joined the Lions Club of Leduc in 2004 and currently serves as Club President, leading one of the largest clubs in the District. A

dedicated community volunteer and passionate Lion leader, Walter has served as District C1 GMT (Global Membership Team) Coordinator for 2024–2025, 2025–2026, and 2026–2027. During 2025–2026, he also served as Multiple District C GMT Coordinator, supporting membership growth, retention, and club development across Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

Born and raised in Edmonton, Walter spent 45 years in the automotive and heavy-duty truck parts industry, where he learned the importance of building relationships, effective communication, and earning trust. He has also volunteered as a hockey and baseball coach and served as an ice scheduler in Spruce Grove.

Walter is passionate about helping clubs grow through membership development, leadership training, mentoring, and member engagement. His vision is to build stronger, healthier, and more visible clubs by focusing on membership growth, member retention, and leadership development. He believes that by creating welcoming club environments, strengthening community visibility, and developing future leaders, Lions can continue to expand their service impact while preserving the traditions and values that make Lionism strong.

"People support what they help build."

GST – Service Coordinator- Aida Mustapic

Lion Aida Mustapic serves as the District C1 Global Services Team (GST) Coordinator and Environment Chair, bringing a wealth of professional

experience, leadership expertise, and a deep passion for community service.

Aida has worked with the Government of Alberta for nearly 20 years, serving in a variety of departments and supporting senior leadership through executive assistant, issues coordination, Cabinet coordination, and policy support roles. Her work has included positions with Housing and Urban Affairs, Human Services (Indigenous Relations), and Executive Council. As part of collaborative government teams, she has twice received the Alberta Premier's Award of Excellence for her contributions to *A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 Years* and the development of the Government of Alberta's mandate tracking tool.

Originally trained as a Chemical Engineer, Aida is a strong advocate for environmental stewardship, food security, and community engagement. She is a Certified Organic Master Gardener, founder of the St. Albert Backyard Gardening Group, and serves as a Board Director (Alberta North) with the Master Gardeners Association of Alberta. Through her volunteer work, she promotes sustainable gardening, pollinator conservation, environmental education, and improved access to healthy food for vulnerable community members.

As District Service Coordinator and Environment Chair, Aida brings vision, creativity, organization, and a results-oriented approach to service. Her collaborative

leadership style, ability to build partnerships, and commitment to making a meaningful difference will help strengthen service activities across the District. She is passionate about empowering clubs, sharing best practices, and inspiring Lions to expand their impact in their communities.

Aida's dedication to service, environmental sustainability, and community well-being exemplifies the spirit of Lionism and will be a tremendous asset as District C1 continues to grow its service footprint and transform lives.

**GLT Leadership Coordinator
PDG Claude Carigan**

PDG Claude has dedicated more than five decades to Lionism, beginning his journey with the St. Albert Leo Club in 1970 before joining the St. Albert Host Lions Club in 1972.



Throughout his Lions journey, he has demonstrated a strong commitment to service and leadership.

Claude's extensive Lions leadership experience includes serving as District Governor (2004–2005) and Multiple District 37 Council Finance Chair (2005–2006). Over the years, he has held numerous leadership positions at the club, district, and multiple district levels, giving him a broad understanding of Lionism and the challenges and opportunities facing clubs today. His contributions have been recognized through multiple International awards and fellowships. He is a member of the MD37 Hall of Fame and was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Platinum Jubilee Medal for his service to both Lionism and the community.

Beyond Lions, Claude has demonstrated a lifelong commitment to youth development through his involvement with the St. Albert Air Cadets. Beginning as a cadet in 1967, he later served as Supply Officer and Sponsoring Chairman, helping guide and support generations of young Canadians.

Professionally, Claude worked in banking for 11 years before retiring after a distinguished 28-year career with the Canada Revenue Agency. Throughout his career, he developed strong skills in leadership, administration, communication, and organizational development.

As District Leadership Coordinator, Claude brings a wealth of Lions knowledge, exceptional facilitation skills, and decades of leadership experience. Having served in numerous positions throughout the organization, he understands the importance of developing future leaders and strengthening clubs through effective training and mentorship. His ability to engage, encourage, and guide Lions makes him an outstanding facilitator and mentor. Claude is passionate about helping Lions reach their full potential and ensuring that the next generation of leaders is prepared to carry Lionism forward.

Claude and his wife, Mickey, have been married for 48 years and are proud parents of their daughter, Christina.

GET- Extension Coordinator **PCC Lynne Coulter**



PCC Lynne Coulter brings a lifetime of leadership, service, and community involvement to his role as District C1 Global Extension Team (GET)

Coordinator. Born in Guelph, Ontario, Lynne moved to Alberta in 1960 and has called the province home ever since.

Lion Lynne joined the Ponoka Lions Club in 1969 and later transferred to the Grande Prairie Lions Club, where he remains an active member and currently serves as Club Secretary. Throughout more than five decades of Lionism, he has held numerous leadership positions at the club, district, multiple district, and national levels. He served as District Governor twice, MD 37 Council Chair, and MD 37 Finance Chair. He also served nine years on the Lions Foundation of Canada Board of Directors, including a term as Chair. He coordinates Lions Project Maple Leaf, a program that annually provides thousands of Canadian flags and certificates to Grade One students through Lions Clubs, fostering citizenship and pride in Canada among young people.

Beyond Lionism, Lynne enjoyed a distinguished career with the City of Grande Prairie and Aquatera Utilities and has served on numerous boards and committees, including the Grande Prairie Public Library Board, the Peace Library System Executive Committee, and several municipal appeal boards. His extensive experience in governance, strategic planning, and community development has earned him the respect of colleagues and fellow volunteers alike.

As GET Coordinator, PCC Lynne brings exceptional leadership, mentorship, and facilitation skills to the District Team. His wealth of Lions experience, combined with his ability to inspire and guide others, makes him a strong advocate for club growth, extension, and leadership development. He is passionate about helping Lions build strong, vibrant clubs that will continue serving their communities for generations to come. Lion Lynne also brings a thoughtful and steady leadership style to the District Team. He is known for his reliability,

preparedness, and strong commitment to follow-through. Whether participating in strategic planning, completing leadership development programs, contributing to SWOT analyses, or helping shape District goals and vision, Lynne consistently responds with enthusiasm and professionalism. His willingness to embrace new learning opportunities and support District initiatives reflects his belief that effective leadership begins with personal growth, teamwork, and a commitment to excellence.

ADVISORS

PIP Dr. Patti Hill



PIP Dr. Patti Hill is a respected Lion leader, educator, psychologist, and advocate with a lifelong commitment to service. A member of the Edmonton Host Lions Club since 1990, she has served in

numerous leadership roles within Lions Clubs International, most notably as International President (2023–2024) and Chair of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF) (2024–2025). She continues to serve Lions International in various leadership and advisory capacities.

Dr. Hill holds a PhD from the University of Alberta and has worked as a teacher, certified teacher of the deaf and hard of hearing, registered psychologist, principal, post-secondary instructor, and consultant. Throughout her career, she has been passionate about mentoring others and advocating for children and youth who are deaf or blind.

Throughout her Lions journey, PIP Patti has been actively involved in leadership development, membership growth, environmental initiatives, vision programs, and numerous service projects. Her outstanding contributions have earned her many honours, including the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest recognition presented by Lions Clubs International.

Lion Patti's wealth of experience, international perspective, and deep understanding of service and organizational development will be a tremendous asset to the District Team. Her ability to mentor, inspire, and develop future leaders makes her an invaluable resource for Lions. She believes that effective leaders help others grow, and she continues to inspire Lions through her example of service, excellence, and compassion.

PID Marvin Chambers

PID Marvin Chambers has devoted more than five decades to Lionism, community service, and leadership. An agricultural consultant and former Mayor of Fillmore, Saskatchewan, Marvin has made a lasting impact through his service to both Lions Clubs International and the communities he has served.



Currently a member of the Medicine Hat Lions Club and serving as LCIF Trustee, Lion Marvin began his Lions journey in 1971 with the Fillmore and District Lions Club. Over the years, he has held numerous leadership positions, including Club President, Zone Chair, Region Chair, District Governor, and International Director of Lions Clubs International. Elected at the 94th International Convention in Seattle in 2011, he served a two-year term on the International Board of Directors. He has also served as a Guiding Lion, Convention Chairperson, and

extension leader, helping charter three Lions Clubs and a Leo Club.

Marvin's outstanding service has been recognized through numerous Lions awards, including the 100% Club Secretary Award, 100% Club President Award, International President's Certificates, and International President's Awards. He is also a Melvin Jones Fellow, a Judge Brian Stevenson Fellow, and a life member of both the Saskatchewan Eye Bank and the Saskatchewan Foundation.

Beyond Lionism, Marvin has been actively involved in many community and professional organizations. His service has included leadership roles with the Fillmore Recreation and Cultural Board, the Hospital Foundation for Fillmore District, Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities, the Village of Fillmore, and several local community organizations.

Marvin's dedication to community service has been recognized nationally through the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers, awarded by the Governor General of Canada for exceptional volunteer contributions. This prestigious honour reflects his lifelong commitment to serving others and strengthening his community.

Known for his gentle nature, thoughtful approach, and willingness to support others, Marvin is highly respected by Lions who have had the privilege of working alongside him. He leads with humility, wisdom, and a genuine concern for people. His ability to listen, encourage, and offer sound advice has made him a trusted mentor and friend to many Lions throughout the organization.

Marvin and his wife, Lynne, also a Lion, have five children and five grandchildren. His extensive Lions experience, steady leadership, and passion for helping others continue to be a tremendous asset to Lionism.

PID Bill Webber



PID Bill Webber has dedicated more than six decades to Lionism, leaving a lasting impact at the club, district, multiple district, national, and international levels. A member of the St Albert Host Lions Club since 1964, and an Associate

member of the Calgary North Hill Lions Club since 2026, Lion Bill is widely recognized for his commitment to service, leadership development, and improving the lives of others through Lions programs.

In 1989, Lion Bill was elected to serve a two-year term as an International Director of Lions Clubs International, representing Lions from around the world at the association's highest levels of leadership. Throughout his Lions journey, he has served in numerous leadership positions, including Club President, District Governor, and Council Chair. His extensive experience and dedication have made him a trusted leader and mentor to generations of Lions.

PID Bill has provided leadership to several significant Lions initiatives. He served as a Director and Vice Chair of Lions Quest Canada, helping promote youth development and life-skills education. He was also a Coordinator for Lions Project Pride, a Director and Chair of the Eye Bank, and the National Coordinator for Campaign SightFirst, Lions global initiative to prevent blindness and preserve sight. Through these roles, Bill helped advance service projects that have positively impacted countless individuals and communities.

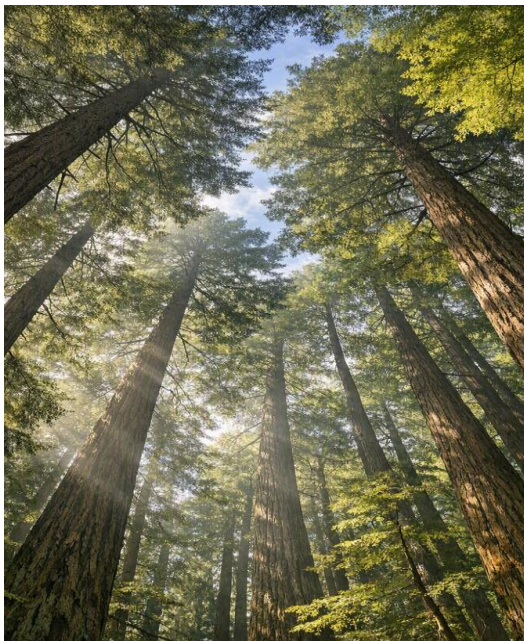
His outstanding service has been recognized with numerous honours, including the 100% District Governor Award, six International Certificates of Appreciation, eight International President's Awards, and the prestigious

Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honour bestowed by Lions Clubs International. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

Beyond Lionism, PID Bill has been an active community leader. He served on the Edmonton Emergency Planning Committee, the Canadian Gas Association Customer Service Committee, and the St. Albert Board of Education. Professionally, he enjoyed a successful career as a district manager with a utility company before retirement.

As a District Advisor, PID Bill's wealth of experience, wisdom, and commitment to service will be a tremendous asset to District C1. Known for his pleasant demeanor, thoughtful approach, and genuine concern for others, he is always willing to share his knowledge and support fellow Lions. His leadership, mentorship, and servant-hearted spirit have inspired generations of Lions and left a lasting impact on both Lionism and the communities he has served. His guidance and experience will be invaluable as District C1 continues to strengthen clubs, develop leaders, and expand its service to others.

Past Director Webber and his late wife, Joan, have two daughters, two sons and nine grandchildren.



Congratulations to our District Treasurer,

Lion Rehann Onyschuk!



Thank you, Lion Rehann, for accepting the position of District Treasurer.

Lion Rehann Onyschuk has been a proud Lion of Radway Lions Club for the past six years and is a third-generation Lion. She grew up in a Lions family, where service to the community was a way of life. Rehann was inspired by the positive impact Lions have in their communities. She was also inspired by her family's long tradition of service. Her father has been a Lion for 27 years, and her late grandfather was deeply committed to serving the community. Following their example, Rehann chose to continue this proud family tradition. Over the past five years, Rehann has served as Club Treasurer, supporting the club's financial operations while contributing to a wide range of community initiatives. This past year, she also served as District Service Coordinator (GST). Rehann is no stranger to the role of District Treasurer. She previously served in this position during District Governor Lion Dave Leschyshyn's year and did an outstanding job managing the district's finances. Her experience, attention to detail, and commitment to accountability make her exceptionally well qualified for this important leadership role. District C-1 is fortunate to have her serving once again as the District Treasurer.

Rehann is committed to supporting the clubs and members of District C-1. She believes that collaboration, teamwork, and responsible stewardship are essential to a strong district. She looks forward to working with the District Cabinet and helping ensure the district's finances are managed responsibly throughout the coming Lions year.

Welcome to Area GAT Leader PDG**September Stokes**

District C-1 extends a warm welcome and congratulations to Past District Governor September Stokes on her appointment as *Area Global Action Team (GAT) Leader for Constitutional Area 2, Group A*.



In this role, she will support the District and Multiple District GAT teams in Alberta (Districts C-1 and C-2) and the Canadian districts of British Columbia (Districts 19-I, 19-L, and 19-O). She will provide guidance,

resources, and support to help strengthen membership, leadership, and service, and will work closely with Districts and Multiple Districts throughout the region.

PDG September is a member and current President of the Coquitlam River Lions Club and has been a Lion for 34 years. She has served in numerous leadership roles and brings a wealth of experience to her new position.

We congratulate PDG September and look forward to working with her throughout the coming Lions year.

LIONS IN ACTION**Edmonton Chinese Lions Club**

The Edmonton Chinese Lions Club (ECLC) has pledged \$50,000 toward the new Kenneth and Sandra Wong Gallery to support public programming at the University of Alberta. The club is spearheading the establishment of a Lions Clubs Legacy Fund to support this exciting initiative. On July 14, 2026, the Club presented the first \$25,000 installment of its pledge to the University. The cheque was presented by Club President Lion Henry Lung, District Governor Dr.

Thomas Varghese, and Lions Eugene Chow, Bill Cheung, and Helen Cheung to Kelly Spencer, Associate Vice-President at the University of Alberta.



The University of Alberta is home to the largest academic museum network in Canada, with more than 10 million items in its collections. These include art, fossils, rare books, textiles, meteorites, scientific specimens, and many other treasures. The new 5,000-square-foot Kenneth and Sandra Wong Gallery will provide a permanent public space to showcase these collections through rotating exhibits, workshops, lectures, educational programs, and community events. The gallery will be open free of charge to students, researchers, educators, K-12 school groups, community members, and visitors.



The Edmonton Chinese Lions Club is inviting Lions Clubs across District C1 to join this meaningful project. The goal is to establish a District C1 Lions Legacy Fund of \$250,000 over the next three years. This is a unique opportunity for Lions across the District to leave

a lasting legacy that will benefit future generations. Once this goal is achieved, the University will recognize District C1's contribution by naming a room in the gallery the "District C1 Lions Room". A permanent plaque will also recognize every Lions Club that contributes to the Legacy Fund. This recognition will remain at the University for generations to come, showcasing Lions' commitment to education, community service, and public engagement while continuing to promote Lionism to students, researchers, educators, and visitors for many years.

Helen Cheung

Mill Woods Breakfast Lions Club

A Visit to Alberta's Historic Bailey Theatre

In May, the Mill Woods Breakfast Lions Club welcomed Mike Ploner and David Roth from the Bailey Theatre Society to share the remarkable story of the Bailey Theatre in Camrose. Their presentation was an inspiring reminder of what a community can accomplish through vision, dedication and volunteer spirit.

Built in 1911 by businessman and rancher Camile David, the Bailey Theatre is recognized as Alberta's oldest live performing arts theatre. Over the years, it has hosted everything from lively vaudeville shows and silent movies to political rallies and community dances. Following the Second World War, it became primarily a movie theatre and joined the Landmark Theatre chain in 1975.

When the theatre closed in 1988, many feared its story had come to an end. Instead, a newly formed Bailey Theatre Society purchased the building for just \$1. Volunteers then began the enormous task of restoring this historic landmark to its former glory.

Today, the Bailey has been beautifully restored and modernized with outstanding lighting and sound systems while preserving its historic charm. More than \$8 million has been invested in the project, transforming it into a first-class venue for concerts, theatre productions and community events.

The Society has recently launched its "Boost the Balcony" campaign to replace the aging balcony seats, which are now beyond repair. Supporters can help purchase new theatre seats and have their names permanently recognized on one. Working with Edmonton's Citadel Theatre, the installation of classic deluxe theatre seating is already underway.



Our club is proud to support this campaign with a \$1,000 donation.



On May 31, members attended a performance by the CFCW Bailey Buckaroos and thoroughly enjoyed the show. If you're looking for a wonderful day trip filled with music, theatre, and history, we highly recommend a visit to the Bailey Theatre. It truly is a shining example of what passion, perseverance and community support can achieve.

Wendy Cooper & Joan Richardson

Lions Club of Radway

Saturday, July 25th was all about family, service, and community.

Our day began in the Pioneer Days Parade, and it was wonderful to see the streets lined with friends, family, and neighbours.



Seeing so many children digging for treasure and families spending time together is what Pioneer Days is all about.



It was especially nice to have our families involved, with grandchildren helping decorate our float and enthusiastically waving to and engaging with the parade spectators who lined the streets.



Pioneer Days is a true community effort, with local organizations, businesses, volunteers, and residents all coming together to create a day everyone can enjoy.

From there, our members got to work running the outdoor concession for the Radway Agricultural Society and hosting our signature Sand Dig Treasure Hunt.



We're proud to play our part and look forward to connecting with our community again at our upcoming events this fall and winter. *Lion Tammy.*



LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES



WHAT DOES A HEALTHY CLUB LOOK LIKE?

People. Purpose. Partnership. That's a Healthy Club.



A HEALTHY CLUB
SERVES MORE.
GROWS STRONGER.
CHANGES MORE LIVES.



ENGAGED MEMBERS

- Members are involved, feel valued and connected.
- Everyone has a place to belong and a way to contribute.

We build relationships that last.



CLEAR PURPOSE & IMPACT

- The club has a clear plan and meaningful service.
- Members understand how we make a difference in our community and the world.

We serve with purpose and see the impact together.



STRONG LEADERSHIP

- Officers are prepared, supported and lead by example.
- Leadership roles are shared and developed.

We lead together and support each other.



TRAINED & CONFIDENT OFFICERS

- Officers receive training and have the resources they need.
- Knowledge builds confidence and helps us mentor others.

*We learn.
We grow.
We lead.*



MEMBER DEVELOPMENT & MENTORING

- New members are welcomed, mentored and empowered.
- We invest in people so they can lead tomorrow.

We mentor today for tomorrow's leaders.



COMMUNICATION & CELEBRATION

- We communicate well and celebrate our wins.
- Recognition keeps members motivated and proud.

We share, celebrate and inspire each other.



PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- We build strong relationships and collaborate for greater impact.
- Together, we can accomplish more.

We are stronger together.



STRONG CLUBS. STRONGER TOGETHER.

- ✓ Retain Members
- ✓ Develop Leaders
- ✓ Serve More People
- ✓ Grow Our Impact



When we take care of our club, our club takes care of our community.



BE THE PRIDE. BUILD A HEALTHY CLUB.
TOGETHER, WE CAN DO MORE.

Lions Clubs
International



“What Does a Healthy Club Look Like?” **(A script for learning & training)**

Good evening, everyone and thank you for allowing me a few minutes tonight to talk about something that affects every Lions Club in this room — the health of our clubs and the future of our membership.

When we look at this poster, the first thing we see is a very important message:

“A Healthy Club Serves More, Grows Stronger, and Changes More Lives.”

That is really the bottom line.

Healthy clubs are not always the biggest clubs. They are not always the richest clubs either.

Healthy clubs are clubs where members feel involved, appreciated, trained, respected, and inspired to serve.

A healthy club starts with **ENGAGED MEMBERS!**

People want to belong. They want purpose. They want to feel needed. If members only come to meetings and never feel connected, eventually they drift away quietly. We’ve all seen it happen.

Healthy clubs make members feel welcome and involved.

The next area is **CLEAR PURPOSE & IMPACT!**

Members today — especially newer and younger members — want to know:

“What difference are we making?”

People stay when they can see the impact of their service.

When members see lives being changed, pride grows.

And when pride grows, membership grows.

Another key area is **STRONG LEADERSHIP!**

Strong leadership does not mean one person doing all the work.

That’s actually how clubs burn people out.

Strong leadership means building teams, sharing responsibility, mentoring future officers, and preparing people before they move into leadership positions.

A club cannot grow if the same two or three people carry the entire load year after year. Eventually the engine starts sputtering like an old farm truck in January. Even Lions need an oil change once in awhile.

That leads directly into one of the most important parts of this poster:

TRAINED & CONFIDENT OFFICERS!

This is critical.

Untrained officers often struggle with communication, planning, membership retention, conflict resolution, technology, reporting, and motivating members.

Training builds confidence.

Confident leaders create stable clubs.

Stable clubs retain members.

And retained members become future leaders.

When officers receive training through Lions Clubs International, Zone meetings, District learning opportunities, and mentorship, they become far more effective.

The strongest clubs are usually not the clubs with the smartest people.

They are the clubs where leaders continue learning.

The next section is **MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & MENTORING!**

If we want clubs to survive long-term, we must develop people intentionally.

New members should never feel like outsiders sitting quietly at the back of the room wondering why they joined.

We need to mentor them.
Give them responsibilities.
Invite their ideas.
Help them grow.

Because today's new member may become tomorrow's Club President, Zone Chair, District Governor, or Global Action Team member.

Then we come to **COMMUNICATION & CELEBRATION!**

Healthy clubs communicate often and celebrate success.

Recognition matters.

Sometimes a simple thank you means more than a plaque.

Members need to hear:
"You matter."
"We appreciate you."
"We are glad you're here."

Poor communication damages clubs faster than almost anything else.

And finally, **PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY INVOLMENT!**

Healthy clubs do not operate like isolated islands.

We build partnerships with schools, businesses, municipalities, youth groups, seniors organizations, and other service clubs.

The more connected we are to our community, the stronger our visibility becomes.

And visibility drives membership growth.

At the side of the poster it says:

STRONG CLUBS. STRONGER TOGETHER.

- Retain Members
- Develop Leaders
- Serve More People
- Grow Our Impact

That is exactly what healthy clubs do.

I'll close with this thought:

The future of Lions Clubs will not depend only on tradition.

It will depend on our willingness to develop leaders, train officers, mentor members, modernize communication, and create clubs where people truly feel valued.

Because when we take care of our club.....our club takes care of the community.

Thank you everyone.

We Serve.



REPORTS

LCIF GALA Report To MD C

Dear Fellow Lions and Friends, On behalf of the 2026 Multiple District C LCIF Gala Organizing Committee, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped make the 2026 Multiple District CLCIF Gala, held in Spruce View, Alberta, such a tremendous success.

Approximately 80 Lions from across Multiple District C attended the evening, providing an outstanding opportunity for fellowship, entertainment, and, most importantly, support of the Lions Clubs International Foundation (LCIF).

The evening reflected the generosity and spirit of Lions while highlighting the importance of supporting the life-changing humanitarian work of LCIF. The evening featured an inspiring talk by our guest speaker, Lion Aida Mustapic, who delivered an outstanding presentation on the importance of environmental stewardship. Lion Aida spoke passionately about the catastrophic loss of trees resulting from wildfires and disease and reminded us that, as Lions, we have both the opportunity and the responsibility to help restore our environment by planting trees.

She also encouraged Lions to consider planting fruit trees wherever possible, providing not only environmental benefits but also a sustainable source of food for our communities and support for local food banks. Her message was thought-provoking and served as a reminder that even small actions can have a lasting impact on future generations.

We also had a wonderful, heartfelt talk from PIP Dr. Patti Hill on reflecting on the generosity and spirit of Lions while highlighting the importance of supporting the lifechanging humanitarian work of the Lions Clubs International Foundation

One of the gala's greatest accomplishments was the financial support generated for the Foundation. Through the generosity of clubs in the surrounding area, together with individual contributions and fundraising activities held throughout the evening, approximately \$10,000 was raised in support of LCIF.

As of the date of this report, \$7,900 has been forwarded to Lions Clubs International Foundation on behalf of the Lions and guests who supported the gala. The remaining funds were sent directly to LCIF by individual clubs supporting both the gala and the Foundation. In addition, the Spruce View Lions Club, which operated the bar throughout the evening, will also be forwarding the proceeds from the bar to LCIF.

Guests enjoyed an excellent meal prepared and served by the Spruce View Lions Club. Their exceptional hospitality, attention to detail, and outstanding organization contributed greatly to the success of the evening and ensured that everyone felt welcome and appreciated.

I would also like to remind all Lions who supported the gala financially that all eligible donations made through the silent auction, live auction, duck race, individual contributions, and other qualifying donations were credited to each donating Lion's LCIF giving record. These contributions will appear on each donor's LCIF statement and will count toward future recognition, including progress toward the donor's next Melvin Jones Fellowship level.

The duck race was shaping up to be another highlight of the evening and would undoubtedly have been a tremendous success had Lion Brent's computer not unexpectedly frozen. Fortunately, a quick change to a Heads and Tails draw kept the excitement going and proved to be a great success. Congratulations to Lion Trish Sullivan, who was the lucky winner of the inflatable swans generously donated by Lion Lyle.

Special thanks are extended to the Sylvan Lake Lions Club for their invaluable assistance with the financial management of the event. Their members efficiently handled ticket sales, cash receipts, and credit card transactions using their Square payment system, ensuring the evening's financial operations ran smoothly and professionally.

The success of this gala was truly a team effort. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to every member of the organizing committee for the many hours of planning, preparation, and hard work that made this event possible. A special thank you is extended to Lion Lyle and Lion Ted for their leadership, dedication, and unwavering support throughout both the planning and execution of the gala.

continued next page

Finally, on behalf of the organizing committee, I extend our heartfelt gratitude to the Spruce View Lions Club, the Sylvan Lake Lions Club, our volunteers, donors, attendees, and everyone who contributed to making this evening such a memorable success.

Together, we demonstrated the generosity, compassion, and commitment of Lions throughout Multiple District C while making a meaningful contribution to the mission of the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Your support will help LCIF continue changing lives around the world through disaster relief, humanitarian service, vision initiatives, childhood cancer programs, diabetes awareness, and many other impactful projects. Thank you once again for your generosity, your fellowship, and your continued commitment to serving others.

Respectfully submitted.

Yours in Lionism and Service

Lion Brent Johnson

Acting LCIF Chair

Multiple District C

LCIF Constitutional Area II Co-Leader.

District C-1 Holds First Leadership Training of the Lions Year

On July 25, District C-1 held its first Leadership Training of the 2026–2027 Lions year at the Millet Lions Hall. The training was coordinated by PDG Claude, District Leadership Coordinator (GLT).



The day began with a welcome and land acknowledgement by PDG Claude, followed by opening remarks from District Governor Dr. Thomas Varghese. The faculty included PDG Claude, Lions Certified Instructor PDG Suzanne, PCC Betty Ann, PCC Lynne, Lion Barb, Lion Eugene, and Lion Walter, who facilitated a variety of leadership learning sessions.



A special thank you to our faculty for sharing their time, knowledge, and experience. Their commitment to developing current and future leaders made the day both informative and engaging. Congratulations to everyone who attended. By investing a day in your own leadership development, you have also invested in the future of your club and District C-1.



A sincere thank you to the Millet Lions Club for hosting the event. Special thanks to President and Zone Chair Lion Trish, Lion Janelle, and everyone who helped prepare and serve lunch. We also appreciate the club for making their Lions Hall available for the training.

Thank you as well to First Vice District Governor Zella Gardiner and Second Vice District Governor Mike Hennig for their support throughout the day. Their willingness to assist in many different ways helped ensure the training ran smoothly.



Leadership development is one of the key priorities of District C-1 this year. Additional training opportunities will be offered throughout the year, both in person and by Zoom. Advance notice will be provided so Lions can plan to attend.

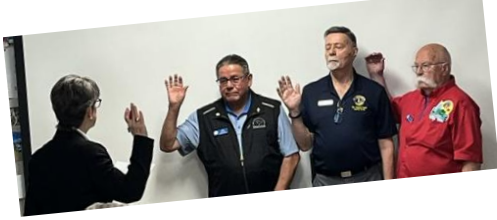
PASSING OF THE GAVEL

District C-1 officially began the 2026–2027 Lions year with the installation of District Governor Dr. Thomas Varghese and the District Cabinet. The



installation ceremony was conducted by Past International President Dr. Patti Hill, marking the beginning of a new year of service,

leadership, and opportunity.



One of the most meaningful moments of the ceremony was the passing of the gavel. The gavel was passed from the earliest Past District Governor present to each Past District Governor in attendance, in chronological order of their terms as District Governor.



It finally reached Immediate Past District Governor Ted Mikkelsen, who presented it to District Governor Dr. Thomas Varghese. This meaningful tradition symbolizes the continuity of leadership and the responsibility entrusted to each District Governor.



Clubs, Stronger Communities,
ROOTED IN SERVICE!

The 2026–2027 Lions year will be guided by District C-1's theme, *Lead • Include • Serve – Building Stronger Lions, Stronger*

DISTRICT CABINET HOLDS FIRST MEETING OF THE 2026–2027 LIONS YEAR

Following the installation of the District Governor and District Cabinet by Past International President Dr. Patti Hill on July 26, the District Cabinet held its first meeting of the 2026–2027 Lions year at the Millet Lions Club.

The meeting included thoughtful discussions on several important matters affecting the District.

Cabinet members shared valuable insights and approved several motions to strengthen financial oversight, improve accountability and transparency, and ensure the smooth management and transition of the District's financial and administrative records.

Among the motions approved were the Quarterly Finance Review, Annual Financial Review, Treasurer Transition Policy, Financial Review Policy, and Access to Financial Records.

A summary of these motions and other key decisions made by Cabinet will be published in the next issue of *Lions Link*.



PEACE

2026-2027

39TH ANNUAL
LIONS INTERNATIONAL
PEACE POSTER CONTEST



ORDER NOW

Harmony in Humanity

International Peace Poster Contest and join clubs worldwide in sharing children's visions of peace with your community.

How the Contest Works

Only a Lions club can sponsor the contest in a local school or organized youth group. The contest is open to students 11-13 on November 15, 2026. Participating students are asked to create posters visually depicting the contest theme, "The Future of Peace."

One winner for each contest sponsored by a club is chosen to advance to the district governor for judging. On the district level, one winner is selected to go on to the multiple district competition and from there one winner is forwarded to International Headquarters for the final judging. Entries are judged at all levels on originality, artistic merit and portrayal of theme.

During the final judging, 23 merit award winners and one grand prize winner are chosen to represent the many entries submitted from around the world.

Awards

Artists of posters advancing to the final international judging are recognized as follows:

- **International Grand Prize Winner** receives a trip to an award ceremony where he/she will receive a cash award of US\$5,000 (or local equivalent) and an engraved plaque. Two family members (one being the winner's parent or legal guardian) and the sponsoring Lions club president or a club member (as designated by the club president) will accompany the winner to the award ceremony.
- **23 Merit Award Winners** each receive a cash award of US\$500 (or local equivalent) and a certificate of achievement.

How to Enter

Lions clubs must order a Peace Poster Contest kit from the Club Supplies Sales Department at International Headquarters. Available in all 11 official languages, it costs US\$11.95, plus shipping, handling and applicable taxes. Each kit contains everything your club needs to sponsor one* school or organized, sponsored youth group:

- **Official Club Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Official School or Youth Group Contest Guide & Rules**
- **Participant Flyer** may be duplicated and given to each participating student to take home
- **Sticker** to place on back of winning poster
- **Certificates** for contest winner and school or youth group

*Clubs can sponsor more than one contest in either the same or multiple school(s) and/or youth group(s) by purchasing more than one kit. Clubs will send one poster per each contest sponsored to the next level of judging.

The Lions International Essay Contest entry form is also included in this kit and on the LCI website.

PR-785 EN 10/16

Kits are available January 15 – October 1, 2026.

Purchase your kit early to allow adequate time for shipment and contest planning.

To order Peace Poster Contest kits (PPK 1), submit this form to the Club Supplies Sales Department at Lions Clubs International at clubsupplies@lionsclubs.org; call (630) 571-5466 or 1-800-710-7822 (U.S., Puerto Rico, U.S. Virgin Islands and Canada only) or fax this form to (630) 571-0964. Note: All credit card orders must be placed online. Visit www.lionsclubs.org [search: Peace Poster]. For more contest information, deadlines, to download a video and view past finalists' posters.

NOTE: Kits can also be downloaded on line to save on postage & handling.

Language Required _____ Qty. @ US\$11.95/each _____ Tax \$ _____
Peace Poster Contest Kit (PPK-1) _____
(available in all official languages.) _____ Postage & Handling \$ _____
Total \$ _____

Method of payment

Club/District Acct. # _____

Lions Club Name _____

Officer's Signature (Required) _____

The protection of your payment data is important to us. Your credit card* purchases of Lions merchandise must be made directly online at www.lcistore.org. Please do not include your credit card number in any written communication or correspondence. *Visa, MasterCard, Discover.

Ship order to:

Name _____

Address (No P.O. Boxes) _____

City _____ State/Province _____

Zip Code _____ Country _____

Daytime Phone # (Required) _____

E-mail Address _____

Postage/handling Charges:

United States/Canada - Postage/handling charges will be added at the time of processing your order. An additional charge will be added if second day service is required.

Overseas - Postage/handling charges will be added at the time of processing your order. Duty/taxes may be required upon receipt of your order. Lions Clubs International is not responsible for payment of these duties or taxes.

Sales Tax:

We are obligated to charge sales tax in Illinois and Canada.

Contact PDG Claude Carignan for any questions.

Email: carignan@shaw.ca



Save the Date!

C2 CONVENTION
October 23, 24 2026



Cochrane Lions Club
EVENTS CENTRE

Join Us for the District C1 Convention!

Hosted by the Edmonton Chinese Lions Club, the Convention Committee, under the leadership of Convention Chairs PDG Henry Lung and Lion Stacy Chan has planned an exciting lineup of sessions, inspiring service activities, and amazing food. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn, celebrate achievements, and enjoy great fellowship with fellow Lions.

We are honoured to welcome International Director Gary Steele as our special guest.



All are invited to the District C1 Convention on November 6 and 7 at the Edmonton Inn and Conference Centre.

Mark your calendars, plan ahead, and don't miss this incredible gathering!

Date: November 6 and 7, 2026

Venue: Edmonton Inn & Conference Centre, 11834 Kingsway NW, Edmonton, AB T5G 3J5



Canadian Lions Eyeglass RECYCLING Centre

Centre canadien de recyclage des lunettes Lions
CLERC, an act of sight opportunity to aid the vision impaired of the world

Bay #2, 1216 – 34th Ave. NE
Calgary, Alberta, T2E 6L9

eMail: info@clerc.ca

Phone: 403-640-1056
or 1-888-200-5779



Canadian Lions Eyeglass Recycling Centre

Wednesday Work Parties
9:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Saturday Work Party Bookings: On a first come first served basis. Schedule on www.clerc.ca on Events tab.

Please when sending glasses do not include hard glass cases or loose lenses.

We also accept Hearing Aids

Glasses Distributed to Countries:

7,062,566

as of December 2025

*Financial Donations
from Lions Clubs, private
sector & individuals are
necessary and welcomed*





You Are Welcome to Attend Lions Youth Camp Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, October 20th, 2026
7:00pm via Zoom

Contact: chassell@shaw.ca for link.

Hear how the Lions Youth
Camp is providing a safe
and inspiring space for
the Youth of our
communities.
All Lions & non-Lions of
MD C are welcome.

New Board members are
always appreciated.
Contact LYC Chair
Dennis Stevenson at
pdg37e@sunraybase.ca.

Serving the Youth of our communities.



Amplify your club's impact during Weeks of Service Vision, Youth, Environment

This initiative unites Lions and Leos worldwide to address the critical issues of vision, youth and the environment. By participating, you'll be part of three impactful weeks dedicated to creating positive change and making a difference in communities around the globe — together. So get involved and help drive collective action for a better future!

-Mark your calendars

Vision | October 8–18, 2026 Plan a service activity for World Sight Day on October 8 or [International White Cane Day](#) on October 15! The new [Vision Service Project Ideas resource](#) can help you get started with popular service activities such as vision screening and eyeglass recycling as well as some new ideas. Join Lions and Leos around the world as they improve the lives of the visually impaired and help prevent avoidable blindness. Learn more about vision programs and service ideas on the [vision global cause webpage](#).

Youth | February 13–21, 2027 Join in a Week of Service focused on serving children and youth across all of Lions International's global causes! Plan a service project in honor of [International Childhood Cancer Day](#) on February 15, conduct a [Lions KidSight](#) vision screening, plan a [hunger project](#) for children, or learn more about Lions [Diabetes Camps](#) and [Youth Camps & Exchange](#).

Visit the [youth global cause webpage](#) to learn more about serving and partnering with youth.

Environment | May 29–June 6, 2027 Take part in a week of service focused on protecting the environment and creating a more sustainable world. Celebrate [World Environment Day](#) on June 5 with a service project that creates a healthier community and mobilizes for global action. The [Environmental Awareness, Education and Advocacy resource](#) will help you raise awareness, educate your community and create positive change.

Explore additional service ideas on the [environment global cause webpage](#).

2026 DISTRICT C1 NOMINATIONS



District C-1 Nominating Committee

Lion Ron Wackenhut and Lion Paul Benson have been appointed as Chair of the Nominating Committee for the District C-1 Convention to be held on November 06-07, 2026 at Edmonton, Alberta.

All voting will take place in person at the District C-1 Convention.



NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN

District C-1 Nominating Committee is accepting nominations for the following positions:

- District Governor Elect
- 1st Vice District Governor
- 2nd Vice District Governor
- Vice Council Chair Candidate

DEADLINE: October 01, 2026

Refer to: District C-1 Constitution and By-Laws

Bylaws: Article II; Section 2 & 3

Bylaws: Article VI; Section 10

Please send your nominations or questions to:

Lion Ron Wackenhut email r0lyn@telus.net

Lion Paul Benson email pbspare1@shaw.ca

Do You Know a Lion Who Deserves Recognition?

District C-1 Awards will be presented at the District Convention for the following categories:

Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) Donations Award

To be awarded to the club that donated the greatest per capita donations to L.C.I.F., for the Lions year, **July 1 to June 30**. Information will be obtained from International's quarterly reports to the current District Governor.

District C-1 Convention Attendance Award

To be awarded to the club that had the largest percentage of their membership in attendance at the District C1 Convention. It will be the responsibility of the Convention Host Club to forward this information to the District Awards Chairperson before **October 1, 2026**. This award will be presented at the subsequent District C-1 Convention.

PDG Robert J. (Bob) Gibb Club Membership Growth Award

To be awarded at the District C-1 Convention to the Lions club with the largest net increase in members per Lions year. A trophy will be presented to the winning club by Lion Vi Gibb and said trophy shall be held by that winning club until the next District C-1 Convention. The information as to what club had the largest net increase in membership will be obtained from the District Governor.

District C-1 Youth Activities Award – Submission deadline is **October 1, 2026**

The District Governor will make the decision on the club that is to be presented with the award based upon the following criteria. To be eligible for this award, a Club must have done at least six of the following in the Lions year:

1. Participated in Lions Youth Exchange through their club member or members personally hosting a youth exchange student
2. Provided a financial contribution to the District C-1 Youth Exchange Program or the Multiple District C Youth Exchange Program
3. Sponsored youth(s) to travel on a Lions Youth Exchange or attend a Lions Youth Camp.
4. Participated in or financially supported Lions Quest Canada
5. Participated in or financially supported at least two local youth organizations such as Scouts, Girl Guides, minor hockey, minor ball, minor soccer or other organized and recognized non-profit youth groups
6. Provided financial support to the District C-1-and District 306A1 Sri Lanka Foster Child Program
7. Made a financial contribution to Camp He Ho Ha
8. Made a financial contribution to Camp Tamarack
9. Sponsored a new LEO club in their community
10. Provided funds to purchase equipment for children who have special medical needs
11. Participated in the Peace Poster Contest
12. Participated and/or financially supported Project Pride

**Please direct questions and awards submission to:
Lion Brian Barnes, District C-1 Award Chairperson Phone: 780-307-6582 ,**

Email: brianlionszonechair@gmail.com

Dr. Lynn G. Hall Leadership Award for Outstanding Leadership in Lionism – Submission deadline is **October 1, 2026**

This award was established in 1997 in recognition of the outstanding Leadership qualities as were displayed by the late Lion Dr. Lynn G. Hall. Lion Lynn was a member of various clubs for over 50 years and also served as District Governor 1952-53 and 1975-76. Always quick to step forward, no matter what the project, he was a leader by example. He was an active participant in many a fundraiser and a great Lion. Lion Lynn exemplified what Lions is all about. His professional life including teaching, school superintendent, school inspector, provincial director of school administration as well as serving as Mayor of Lac La Biche and Councilor of Wainwright.

Award Criteria

1. A Lions member in good standing with a Lions club for a minimum of 10 years
2. A Lion who has demonstrated continuous leadership for a minimum of three (3) years
3. A Lion whose leadership may be at the community, club, district or International level or a combination thereof

Application Criteria

1. Application may be made by a Lions member in good standing within District C-1.
2. A letter is to be written which includes the following
 - Name of award applied for
 - Name of the Lion
 - Name of the club
 - When the Lion became a member
 - Commitment to Lions based on the above criteria
 - Biography of applicant, (marital status, family, interests, etc.)

Please direct questions and awards submission to:

Lion Brian Barnes, District C-1 Award Chairperson Phone: 780-307-6582 ,

Email: brianlionszonechair@gmail.com

District C-1 Citizen Of Distinction – Submission deadline is **October 1, 2026**

Purpose

To bring recognition to a deserving citizen living within the boundaries of Lions District C-1. The program will also raise the profile of Lions Clubs International.

Who will be recognized?

The Lions District C-1 Citizen of Distinction will be selected from those persons who demonstrate a personal commitment to service. Service shall be broadly defined and may include, but not be limited to, work with youth, seniors, handicapped, the needy, support for global initiatives, or humanitarian service through governments or other agencies. *Lions are ineligible to be considered for this award.*

How will he/she be selected?

- All Lions clubs within District C-1 shall be encouraged to submit a resume of a deserving individual to the selection committee. (*Clubs may wish to conduct a local program within their community*). Individuals and agencies may submit resumes for those they consider deserving of this prestigious recognition.
- Submissions from Lions clubs, individuals, and agencies may be made in memory of someone who is deceased.
- *The deadline for submissions to be received is November 25. Submissions shall be valid only for the year in which they have been submitted.*

Selection Committee

The *committee* shall be made up of: District C-1 District Governor (chair), a Past International Director, and the District C-1 Awards Chairperson.

What is the recognition

Public recognition of the individual and their cause will be emphasized. A biography will be provided and the recipient will be named a Melvin Jones Fellow. Every effort should be made to have press/TV coverage. If that should not be practical, the District C-1 Public Relations chairperson shall ensure that news outlets are notified.

Funding requirements

Funds to purchase a Melvin Jones Fellowship to come from District C-1 and will be a budgeted item.

Where and When

The presentation will be made annually at the District C-1 Convention.

Please direct questions and awards submission to:

Lion Brian Barnes, District C-1 Award Chairperson Phone: 780-307-6582 ,

Email: brianlionszonechair@gmail.com

MDC Hall Of Fame – Submission deadline is **October 1, 2026**

Criteria

- Any Lion, Lions Club, Zone or Region may nominate a candidate from their District to the MDC Hall of Fame.
- There is no nomination fee.
- The awards will be presented to up to four (4) candidates, a maximum of two (2) per District, inducted into the Hall of Fame each year.
- The District Governor must receive nominations at least 45 days prior to the District's Annual Convention.
- Each individual District will hold an election to determine the successful candidate(s).
- The award may be presented posthumously.
- Each candidate must have 15 years of service and not be a member of the current Council of Governors.
- Each candidate should have qualifications above and beyond the call of duty including social and human endeavors. He/She should be of good moral character and have a good reputation in his/her community.
- All sponsors shall use the standard MDC nomination form. No other application formats will be accepted.
- The sponsor(s) will ensure the candidate, or a representative, will attend the Multiple District Convention.
- All successful candidates will be inducted to the Hall of Fame at the next MDC Convention.
- The presentation of the MDC Hall of Fame Awards is the responsibility of the MDC Council Chairperson.
- A brief biography of each inductee shall be announced to the delegates attending the Annual MDC Convention, and published in the subsequent MDC Newsletter.
- The District Governor of each District will be responsible to ensure that the MDC Hall of Fame Application Form, Candidate's bio and photograph are supplied to the MDC office at least one month prior to the MDC convention.

Please direct questions and awards submission to:

Lion Brian Barnes, District C-1 Award Chairperson Phone: 780-307-6582 ,

Email: brianlionszonechair@gmail.com

District C-1 Dan & Dorothy Claypool Volunteer Award. Submission deadline is **October 1, 2026**

Award Criteria

The Dan & Dorothy Claypool Volunteer Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate exceptional commitment to volunteerism, community service, and the spirit of giving. Nominees should exemplify the values of dedication, compassion, and leadership in strengthening their community.

Eligibility

- Open to individuals of all ages who volunteer their time and talents for the betterment of their community.
- Nominee must reside in, and have made a significant impact on, the community served by the award.
- Current members of the award selection committee are not eligible.

Criteria for Selection

Nominees will be evaluated on the following:

1. **Commitment to Volunteerism**
 - Demonstrated long-term dedication and consistency in volunteer service.
 - Willingness to contribute time, skills, and energy without expectation of personal gain.
2. **Impact on Community**
 - Significant, measurable difference made in the lives of individuals, groups, or the broader community.
 - Initiatives or contributions that improve quality of life, promote inclusion, or strengthen community connections.
3. **Leadership and Inspiration**
 - Ability to motivate, mentor, and inspire others to engage in volunteerism.
 - Shows initiative in identifying needs and developing solutions.
4. **Embodiment of Values**
 - Reflects the spirit of compassion, service, and generosity exemplified by Dan & Dorothy Claypool.
 - Demonstrates integrity, kindness, and a collaborative spirit.
5. **Legacy of Service**
 - Contributions with lasting impact, sustainability, or long-term benefit for the community.
 - Volunteerism that serves as a model for future generations.

Nomination Process

- Nominations may be submitted by individuals, organizations, or community groups.
- A completed nomination form must include:
 - Nominee's name and contact information
 - A description of the nominee's volunteer activities
 - Specific examples of contributions and their impact
 - Letters of support (optional but encouraged)

Nomination Form

Presented by District C1

Nominee Information

- Full Name: _____
- Address: _____
- Phone: _____ Email: _____

Nominator Information

- Full Name: _____
- Organization (if applicable): _____
- Phone: _____ Email: _____

Volunteer Service Information

1. Please describe the nominee's volunteer activities (organizations, roles, years of service):

2. How has the nominee made a significant impact on the community? (please provide examples):

3. Describe how the nominee demonstrates leadership, inspires others, or goes above and beyond in service:

4. How does the nominee embody the values of compassion, integrity, and generosity?

Supporting Materials

- Optional: Please attach letters of support, testimonials, or news clippings highlighting the nominee's volunteer service.

Declaration

I hereby nominate the above individual for the Dan & Dorothy Claypool Volunteer Award'

Signature on Nominator _____ Date _____

Please direct questions and awards submission to:

Lion Brian Barnes, District C-1 Award Chairperson Phone: 780-307-6582 ,

Email: brianlionszonechair@gmail.com



2026-2027 Excellence Awards

**New clubs chartered after January 1, 2027, are not eligible for the award.*

Club Excellence Award criteria

Membership:

- Achieved a net growth of two (2) members or 10% or more members, **whichever is greater**. (Reinstated members and charter members above the minimum 20 members will qualify.)

OR

- Sponsored a new Lions club or Club Branch

Service:

- Report a minimum of four (4) service activities.
(Three (3) must align with our [Global Causes](#) around Youth, Vision and Environment (one in each Global Cause) these service projects can be completed throughout the 2026-2027 Lion year.)

Leadership & Organizational Excellence:

- Clubs in Good Standing: not in Status Quo or Financial Suspension. Club dues paid and no unpaid balance with Lions International greater than US\$50 outstanding 90 days or more.
- Report newly elected club officers for the 2027-2028 Lions year in the [Lion Portal](#) by May 15, 2027, of the current Lions year.
- Club officers (**President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer**) to attend instructor-led club officer training (in person or virtual), organized and reported in Learn by GLT coordinator, between March 1, 2026 – October 31, 2026.
- The club president for the current Lion year must not have served in that role more than two consecutive years.
- 10% of the club's members complete any three (3) courses in the Lions Learning Center.

LCIF:

Contributed to LCIF a minimum of the club's membership total at the start of the 2026-2027 Lion year multiplied by US\$20.

District, Region and Zone criteria

For the District, Zone Chairperson and Region Chairperson, 50% of the clubs must earn the club excellence award for them to receive this award.