

# Lions Education (Orientation)

It has proven to be more effective to divide this information into several segments and present at two or three different meetings rather than all at once, because there is so much information.

- Example:
1. The first presentation could cover Club projects and activities including social events.
  2. The second Education Session could explain the District organization including Zone Chairs and District Cabinet positions. If your District has one particularly outstanding project that the entire district supports, such as a youth camp or Lions Quest, a speaker could be brought in to talk about this particular project as part of the education seminar.
  3. The final presentation could include a general overview of Lionism touching on the history of Lions and the International organization with the International officers and projects.

These presentations could be at a regular club meeting and take the place of an outside speaker; or they could be presented at a special club meeting, which would include spouses; or at a regularly scheduled Zone Meeting.

## Lions Clubs International

### **Mission Statement of International Association of Lions Clubs:**

“To create and foster a spirit of understanding among all people for humanitarian needs by providing voluntary services through community involvement and international cooperation.”

**Lions’ Motto:** “We Serve”

### **General Information about the Lions today:**

Please update the following information from the most recent Lions magazine before presenting.

Membership: Members	1,378,057
Clubs	44,833
Districts	738
Countries & Geographical Locations	186

Lions International Headquarters: Oak Brook Illinois, USA

Multiple District 19 Headquarters: Bellingham, WA

International Officers, 2002-2003: Kay K. Fukushima International President  
(Update information from International Roster) J. Frank Moore, III Immediate Past President  
Dr. Tae-Sup “TS” Lee 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
Clement F. Kusiak 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President  
33 Board Members from around the world

Multiple District 19 has been well represented on the Lions International Board with 15 Lions from MD19 having served as International Directors over the years.

## **In the Beginning . . . . .**

Our founder was Melvin Jones, a Chicago insurance agent. The first organizational meeting was held June 17, 1917 at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. Melvin Jones presented to a group of separate business clubs the idea of consolidating the individual clubs into one strong influential club with the goal of helping the community and serving humanity.

The first annual convention was held in Dallas Texas in October 1917, with 36 delegates from 22 clubs and 9 states attending. William P. Woods of Indiana was elected as the association's first President. Founder Melvin Jones was named acting Secretary, a position he held until 1961. The Constitution and By-Laws were adopted. The colors of Purple & Gold were adopted as the Lions official Colors.

The color purple represents loyalty to country, friends, to one's self and to the integrity of mind and heart. It is the color of strength, courage and dedication to a cause.

The color gold symbolizes sincerity of purpose, liberality in judgement, purity in life and generosity in mind, heart and purse toward mankind.

## **An International Organization Created:**

Lions became truly international in 1920 with the formation of the Border City Lions Club in Windsor, Ontario. Clubs were later organized in China, Mexico and Cuba,

By 1927 there were 60,000 Lions in 1,183 Clubs

In 1936 Panama became the first Central American club and Columbia became the first South American club.

In 1948 clubs were chartered in Sweden, Switzerland and France.

In 1952 clubs were chartered in Japan. During that same year a milestone was reached when Lions International reached 1,000,000 members.

The Lioness Program was started in the 1970's.

The Leo Program was started in 1957.

Women were invited to become Lions in 1987.

We have continued to form new clubs in countries around the world including countries that were formerly behind the Iron Curtain of communism.

For more information read [We Serve: A History of the Lions Clubs](#) by Paul Martin (Lions Clubs International)

# **Multiple District 19**

## **Mission Statement of Multiple District 19 Lions:**

The MD19 Lions vision is to strengthen their local and global communities through service and fellowship fulfilling the Lions motto, "We Serve".

## **History of Multiple District 19:**

Currently includes all of Washington, Northern Idaho (panhandle) and most of British Columbia  
When Lions International first came to the northwest, the states of Washington, Idaho, California and Nevada formed one large District.

The groundwork for the first clubs in Washington began in the 1920's and the following 9 clubs became District 19:

March	1920	Seattle-Central	May	1920	Everett-Central
February	1921	Vancouver, B.C.	November	1921	Tacoma
March	1922	Spokane-Central	March	1922	Wenatchee
October	1922	Bellingham-Central	December	1922	Yakima
November	1923	Longview-Pioneer			

In 1921, the International Board of Directors completely redistricted Lions International. California and Nevada became a separate district and Washington, British Columbia and Northern Idaho became District 19.

The first District 19 convention was held in Seattle in 1923 with a representation of 9 clubs and 465 members.

At the District 19 convention held in Spokane WA, in 1948, District 19 became Multiple District 19 with 5 Districts: A, B, C, D, & E. Each District had its own District Governor. The position of Cabinet Secretary (later called Multiple District Secretary & Executive Secretary/Treasurer) was instituted. At that time, we had 15 Zone Chairmen, 136 clubs and 7595 members.

In 50-51 District F was created from Districts E&D Multiple District.

In 63-64 District G was created from District C Multiple District.

In 66-67 District H was created from District A Multiple District.

In 70-71 District I was created from Districts A&H.

Since its humble beginning in 1921, Multiple District 19 has grown to

9 Districts                      510 clubs                      70 Zones                      14,727 members.

(Please update this information from the MD19 Newsletter – *The Border Crossing*)

For a more detailed history read the attached: "A History" by PID Orly Sorrel & Past Executive Secretary/Treasurer Gordon Smith. (MD 19 Office)

## **Council of Governors:**

The MD 19 Council of Governors is charged with the responsibility of overseeing the operations of the Multiple District. This governing body meets at least three times a year and these meetings are open to any Lion wishing to attend.

The Council of Governors is made up of the following:

Council Chair

Vice Council Chair

Immediate Past Council Chair

District Governors & Immediate Past District Governors from

Districts A, B, C, D, E, F, G, H, & I.

The seated International Director from Multiple District 19, if there is one, and the Executive Secretary/Treasurer sit on the Council as non-voting members.

## **Council Officers today:** (Please update this information from the current MD19 Roster)

Council Chair,

Surinder Gahir

Vice Council Chair, Jim Knight  
 Past Council Chair, Bob Bradford  
 Seated International Director from MD19  
 Executive Secretary/ Treasurer, Patty Allen  
 9 District Governors and 9 Immediate Past District Governors

**Your District, 19- \_\_\_\_ :**

District Governor \_\_\_\_\_

Vice District Governor \_\_\_\_\_

#\_\_\_\_\_ Zone Chairs (List names and their home Clubs in each Zone)  
 Zone Name Home Club

#\_\_\_\_\_ District Committee Chairs such as Diabetes Awareness, CARE etc. (List)

**Officers of Your Lions Club:**

President \_\_\_\_\_ Membership \_\_\_\_\_  
 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Lion Tamer \_\_\_\_\_  
 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ Tail Twister \_\_\_\_\_  
 Secretary \_\_\_\_\_ Past President (Greeter) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Treasurer \_\_\_\_\_  
 Directors 1 year \_\_\_\_\_  
 2 year \_\_\_\_\_

**Multiple District 19 Projects and Foundations:**

- In 1958 the CARE Program was adopted.
- In 1969 The Sight Conservation Eye Bank Program, now known as the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing, was adopted. The MD19 Lions support the White Cane Days and Golden Ears Days, which are two of the annual fund-raisers for this Foundation.
- In 1970 The Lions Society for Crippled Children, now known as the B.C. Lions Society for

Children with Disabilities, was adopted at the Convention in Penticton.

- In 1980 the MD 19 Hearing Foundation was approved. The Hearing program now has two foundations: The B.C. Hearing Conservation Society and the Northwest Lions Foundation for Sight and Hearing.
- We also support and promote Diabetes Awareness, Environment Awareness, Journey for Sight, LCIF, Lions Foundation of Canada, Lions Youth Outreach, Lions Youth Exchange Program, Lions Quest and Drug Awareness

## **Your District 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Projects and Foundations:** (List)

### **Your Local Lions Club Projects:** (List)

All Lions Clubs have projects and fundraisers that are specific to their clubs and the variety of these are too numerous to mention. *(When presenting this portion of the program, you should mention the projects specific to your club.)*

### **How to Be A Well-Informed Lion:**

There are a variety of ways Lions can keep up to date with what is happening in their Club, Zone, District, Multiple District and Lions International:

#### **Attend:**

Your own Club Meetings	District Cabinet Meetings
Visit other Clubs	MD 19 Council Meetings
Zone Meetings	District & Multiple District Conventions

#### **Read and or Help Produce:**

Club Monthly or Semi-monthly Newsletter  
Zone Chair's Monthly Newsletter  
District Governor's Monthly Newsletter  
MD 19 Semi-monthly Newsletter – *The Border Crossing*  
International Magazine – *The Lion* Each Lions member receives a copy of this publication.

Ask your Secretary to distribute or post the various newsletters that come to your club. This is for your information as a Lions Member. If you have questions, ask your Zone Chair, District Governor, or the MD 19 Office.

### **General Information. (Trivia)**

1. Lions International is the only service organization to have consultant status at the U.N.
2. *The Lion* – The official Lions magazine First volume published in 1918  
Currently *The Lion* is published in 27 Editions and 13 Languages .
4. Lions Flag carried by Admiral Byrd to the North Pole in 1926 and the South Pole in 1929.
5. Lion George A. Bonham of Peoria, Illinois noticed the need to have identification for the Blind. From this came the first White Cane with a red band to identify sight-impaired people. By 1956 all states had passed the White Cane Safety Laws.

6. LCIF founded in 1968 has evolved into the most ambitious project undertaken by Lions Clubs International; Under the umbrella of LCIF, the SightFirst program was created with a goal of \$130 million US to reverse preventable blindness. It was estimated that 80% of the blindness in the world is preventable. One person every 30 seconds goes blind.

## **Conventions & Leadership Seminars to Attend:**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| International Convention    | A 5-day convention attended by Lions from around the world. It is held in various locations in late June or early July. Voting for International Officers and amendments to the International Constitution & By-Laws, exchange of ideas between Lions from around the world and panels are some of the activities of this convention. |
| M.D. 19 Annual Convention   | A 3-day convention attended by MD19 Lions. It is held each May at various locations within the boundaries of MD19. Voting for Multiple District Officers and amendments to the MD19 Constitution & By-Laws, Contests & Awards competitions, and panels are some of the activities of this convention.                                 |
| M.D. 19 Fall Forum          | A 2-day MD19 leadership seminar held within the boundaries of MD19 each fall (usually the last weekend in September or first weekend in October). The location varies.  |
| USA/Canada Forum            | A 3-day leadership forum for Canadian and US Lions held in either Canada or the US during September each year. Great speakers and leadership panels are offered at this forum.  |
| District Spring Conference  | A 1 or 2-day event held annually within each District. Election of District Officers, voting on District Constitution & By-Laws amendments, panels, and social events are activities of this Conference.  |
| Lions Leadership Institutes | These leadership enhancement sessions are a great investment in the leadership of a club, district or multiple district. They are conducted by Lions Clubs International in the fall and spring each year.  |

## **Duties of Multiple District, District, Zone and Club Officers:**

### **Council Chair**

Chairs the three Council Meetings held each year at the Fall Forum, the Winter Council Meeting and at the Annual Convention. Appoints MD19 Committee Chairs and members for his/her year in office. The selections must receive final approval of the Council of Governors. Chairs the General Plenary Sessions at the Fall Forum and Annual Convention.

### **MD 19 Office**

The purpose of the MD 19 Office is to serve as the central administrative point for Multiple

District 19. It exists to provide service to the multiple district/district/zone/club officers and the Lion, Lioness and Leo members of MD19. It maintains the membership and financial records for each district and MD19.

The MD 19 Office is the networking link of the Multiple District. Under the MD19 Constitution & Bylaws, the office plans the two major MD19 conventions each year, prepares and mails bulletins to all clubs, publishes an MD19 Roster which is mailed to each club, and publishes the Contest and Awards Booklet. It is also responsible for overseeing mailings for, and the organization of, Council Meetings.

## **District Governor**

The District Governor is the official Lions Clubs International representative within the District and as such visits each of his/her clubs at least once during his/her term of office. He/she sends a monthly newsletter to each club within the District to share vital information about the District. Each year the Governor hosts a District Spring Conference, working with the Conference Chair to insure that all processes are in place for voting, panels, Contest & Awards and a Memorial Service giving the Lions, Lioness and Leos the opportunity for fun, fellowship and learning.

## **Vice District Governor**

The Vice District Governor assists the District Governor in much the same manner that a Vice President assists a President. He/she works with weak clubs, following up on problems within the clubs as well as filling the role as Facilitator of the District's Leadership, Extension, Membership / Public Relations Team.

## **Zone Chair**

The Zone Chair is the liaison between the District Governor and the clubs within the Zone. He/She closely associates with the clubs and holds three Zone Meetings to provide an opportunity for the clubs to share ideas and information. The Zone Chair produces a monthly newsletter to keep his/her clubs informed. He/She visits each club within the Zone prior to the District Governor's visit to inform the clubs of protocol required for the District Governor's visit and accompanies the District Governor on his/her official visit.

## **Club President**

He / She is the Chief Executive Officer of the club and chairs all regular and board meetings. With the assistance of the Board of Directors, appoints committee. The Club President is an active member of the Zone Advisory Committee in which his/her club is located. The Club President should be familiar with standard parliamentary procedures and be able to conduct a meeting according to these procedures. The Leader who inspires and motivates.

## **Immediate Past President**

Assists the President in any way possible without infringing on the position of President. He/she should be available to offer advice and support to the President when asked.

## **Vice President(s)**

A President in Training who is available to step in to conduct a meeting if the President is unable to perform this duty. In some clubs the Vice Presidents oversees selected Committees.

## **Secretary**

He/she keeps all records pertaining to the operation of the club, the status of the members. Submit required membership and activities reports to MD19, Lions Clubs International, the District Governor, Vice District Governor, and Zone Chair. The Secretary is responsible for all club correspondence and should act on instructions from the Board of Directors. The Secretary is responsible (unless a Lion has been appointed to this task) for ordering all club supplies. The Secretary or Treasurer is responsible for issuing statements to members for dues and any other items due the club. The Club Secretary is an active member of the Zone Advisory Committee.

## **Treasurer**

The Treasurer is the banker for the club and is responsible for the distribution of any funds within the club. He/she is required to set up accounts as directed by the Board of Directors and to insure regular financial reports are available to the Board of Directors and members of the club. At the direction of the Board of Directors, the Treasurer pays all bills. The Treasurer shall insure that any checks/cheques issued by the club have two signatures on them and are properly recorded. He/she may be asked to collect the money for meals at each meeting.

## **Lion Tamer**

The Lion Tamer is the caretaker of the club's paraphernalia and is responsible for having all equipment in place before the meeting starts. In some clubs the Lion Tamer is responsible to greet guests and supply a list of these visitors to the President before the meeting starts so they can be introduced properly. The Lion Tamer may be asked to collect meal money at the meetings to be given to the Treasurer.

## **Tail Twister**

The Tail Twister creates fun at the regular club by playing pranks, imposing fines (in good taste) for various reasons and running contests. The funds raised can be used for any administration purpose the club decides on. A good use of Tail Twisting funds is for the club convention fund and is used to assist members financially to attend district conferences and multiple district conventions.

## **Directors**

Assist the President in the formation of the policies and procedures of the club and insure that these are followed. Directors shall also oversee the various committees of the club and insure reports are submitted to the club on the status and progress of such committees.