

Last Updated: Nov 2, 2014

# Orientation Guidelines for New Members

## Dell Rapids Lions Club

### - Membership Committee:

- Christine Snyder - Chair
- Peg Nelson
- Sue Hovey

### - Orientation for New Members – led by membership committee person

#### 1. Review the presentation we created

- a. Review the Presentation “**District Lions Club**” that the club put together.
  - 1) Proud Lion Award - how they can accomplish it & then help them do so if they want
  - 2) Review the “**Lions Club International**” in this same presentation – some background & history
- b. Review the presentation “**Dell Rapids Lions Club “We Serve”**” that came in their recruiting packet.
  - 1) General Lions background
  - 2) Dell Rapids Lions Club Officers and elections
  - 3) Communication – show them examples of:
    - a) Dell Rapids Lions Club e-mail newsletter
    - b) SD Lions District newspaper
    - c) Lions Club International magazine
  - 4) Meetings – time, date & prayer
  - 5) Fundraising activities and what they entail & how they can help
  - 6) Projects – what they are, who is chair and how they can help
  - 7) Expenses – discuss dues, **vest cost**, where to purchase pins

#### 2. Review the website

#### 3. Meetings:

- a. Attend the first couple of meetings with them.

- b. Sit with the new members at meetings & explain what is going on during the meeting.
4. **Encourage participation:**
    - a. If they are interested in a fundraiser – help them get involved and signed up
    - b. Go with them to that fundraiser to help show them the ropes and introduce them around.
  5. **Encourage them to have their friends and/or family join the club.**
  6. ***Harness New Recruit Enthusiasm:*** Getting new members involved immediately is important. It will keep them interested and motivated.
  7. **Encourage new members to give their input on club activities, functioning, etc.** Their fresh perspective may help an activity run better, offer a solution to a problem, or open up new service areas for your club.
  8. **Obtain a short Biography** from the new member. Take a picture of new member and sponsor at Induction Ceremony. Put the Bio and picture out on our web site under the Members section.

## APPENDIX

### A. Induction guidelines for Membership Director:

- 1) Begin by inviting each new member and their sponsor individually by name to the front of the room.
- 2) Welcome all the participants to the ceremony and share your joy for their attendance.
- 3) Give a brief history of the distinguished history of Lions Clubs International.
- 4) Present a short history about your club and its current activities.
- 5) Administer the pledge.
- 6) ***Have the sponsor present the pin from Welcome Packet to new member.***
- 7) Close the ceremony with presentation of the certificate from the Welcome Packet with a welcoming statement on behalf of your club and district and an explanation of the sponsor's responsibilities.

### B. Induction Speech for New Members

- 1) **Call to Order** - We are about to begin our New Member Induction Ceremony, in which we will induct a new member into our club. At this time, I would like to call the new member (*name of new member*) and their sponsor (*name of sponsor*) to come forward.
- 2) **Welcome** - Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the officers and members of the Dell Rapids Lions Club, I want to express our sincere pleasure at your presence at this meeting. You have been invited to become a member and we are all extremely proud that you have accepted membership in our club and Lions Clubs International.
  - i. Membership in a Lions club is a privilege.

- ii. You have joined the world's largest and most active service club organization; a group of approximately 1.3 million men and women in more than 46,000 clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas around the globe, who are dedicated to making a difference.
- iii. Through your membership, you will help our club reach out to people in need in our community, and throughout the world.

**3) Lions Clubs International History** - You are becoming part of a distinguished service history that dates back to 1917, when Lions Clubs International began as the dream of Chicago insurance man Melvin Jones. He believed that local business clubs should expand their horizons from purely professional concerns to the betterment of their communities and the world at large.

- i. Jones' own group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed. After contacting similar groups around the country, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago, Illinois, USA.
- ii. The new group took the name of one of the groups invited, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of that year.
- iii. Thirty-six delegates representing 22 clubs from nine states were in attendance.
- iv. The convention began to define what the association was to become. A constitution, by-laws, objects and code of ethics were approved.
- v. Since that humble beginning, Lions club members have volunteered their time and talents to meet needs wherever they exist.
- vi. Lions are especially dedicated to serving the blind and visually impaired, a commitment made after Helen Keller challenged our members to become her "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" during the 1925 convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA.
- vii. Our motto, "We Serve" perfectly exemplifies the dedication to helping those in need felt by Lions worldwide.
- viii. Your membership in the Dell Rapids Lions Club will help us carry on this tradition of service for many years to come.

**4) Local Club History** - Our own club was founded in September of 1944. For years we have been tirelessly serving those in need in Dell Rapids.

- i. With projects ranging from Paper Recycling to donations to the Leader Dog School for the Blind, the Dell Rapids Lions Club is committed to bringing the unparalleled services of Lions Clubs International to our community.
- ii. We continue to support our community through donations to various needs such as: Christmas for our Kids, Dell Rapids Community Haven, Dell Rapids FCCLA, Dell Rapids Museum – Festival of Trees, Dell Rapids Boy Scouts, Dell Rapids Baseball Association, Dell Rapids Special Olympics, Dell Rapids Back Pack Program, Dell Rapids Food Pantry, Dell Rapids Carnegie Library and others.
- iii. You will find that membership in our Lions club will offer many opportunities for personal growth. Not only can you experience the incomparable feeling you receive from volunteering, but you will also have the chance to hone leadership, communication and organizational skills.
- iv. You can develop friendships that last a lifetime, meet other Lions from all corners of the world and contribute ideas that will help our club be an even more valuable part of our community.

- v. Your membership in the Dell Rapids Lions Club will allow us to reach more people in need, in both our local and world communities.
  - vi. The officers and members of this club are thrilled that you have chosen to help us continue the legacy of Lions Clubs International by improving the lives of the less fortunate and making our community an even better place to live.
- 5) **Pledge** - "Since you have expressed a desire to affiliate with this club, and with Lions Clubs International, I now **ask that you repeat after me** the Obligation of Membership:
- i. I do hereby accept membership in the Dell Rapids Lions Club knowing that such membership encourages me to participate in functions of the club.
  - ii. To the best of my ability I will abide by the Lions Code of Ethics, and contribute my share to the programs of my club, district and Lions Clubs International.
- 6) You are now officially a member of the Dell Rapids Lions Club. **Your sponsor will now present** to you the Lions emblem pin which signifies membership.
- 7) **Pin Presentation** – To the sponsor say, "**I would like to ask the sponsor**, Lion (*sponsor name*) to respond to my words with a simple 'I will.'" **Will you fulfill the following obligations:**
- i. Be a sponsoring 'mentor' for your new lion – I will -
  - ii. Make your new member feel welcome – I will -
  - iii. Introduce your new member to all club members – I will -
  - iv. Provide your new member with information about the club, its officers and constitution – I will -
  - v. Be ready and willing to answer any questions that might arise – I will -
  - vi. Encourage the new member to discuss with you any problems and offer possible solutions – I will -
  - vii. Assist the new member in developing into an outstanding Lion – I will -
- 8) **Closing Statement** - "Fellow Lion (*insert new member name*), wear this emblem with pride, for it represents your membership in the world's largest service club organization; an association that has a distinguished legacy of meeting needs worldwide.
- I. Let me congratulate you and welcome you to the greatest of all service club organizations ... The International Association of Lions Clubs.
  - II. On behalf of the club, **I now present you with your official Certificate of Membership** and welcome you to our club.
  - III. We are all extremely proud and happy to have you as a member of the Dell Rapids Lions Club."