

Guide to Sponsoring a
New Century Lions Club

*Moving Our Proud Past
to a Promising Future*



New Format for a New Age

The New Century Lions Club is a new club format designed for today's active, community-minded young adults. It's a Lions club for our changing world – dedicated to the traditions and ideals of helping those in need – but tailored more closely to the realities of young adults.

The New Century Lions Club gives young adults through age 35 the ability to create a Lions club that fits their lifestyle, including needs for flexibility, hands-on projects and use of technology for club administration. Members of New Century Lions Clubs have the same rights, privileges and responsibilities common to all Lions clubs members.

This *Guide to Sponsoring a New Century Lions Club* provides general guidelines to help you sponsor a New Century Lions Club in your community. Club administrative functions will vary depending on the state, country and area. However, all clubs must abide by local laws along with the rules and regulations in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Why Sponsor a New Century Club?

Since 1917, Lions clubs have offered people the opportunity to give back to their communities and help those in need. As community needs have increased or changed, Lions have broadened their focus to meet those needs. Research shows that young men and women are volunteering more than ever before, but due to their busy lives, they want to use their time effectively. They would prefer to get right to the hands-on aspects of volunteering rather than spending time at lengthy club meetings. The New Century Lions Club provides us the opportunity to tap into this valuable resource for the benefit of our communities. New Century Lions Clubs will allow Lions to continue proud service traditions and introduce these traditions to a new generation.

Sponsoring New Century Lions Clubs strengthens the Lions organization, enhances our ability to help people in need and offers volunteer opportunities to individuals. There are no limits to the number of Lions clubs that

New Century Lions Clubs are backed by the outstanding reputation and service tradition of Lions Clubs International, but are designed with the active young adult in mind.

can be established in an area, or where they can be organized. Community needs, resources, and the availability of potential members should be considered when sponsoring a New Century Lions Club.

Just as New Century Lions Club members are entitled to all the same rights, privileges and responsibilities common to all Lions clubs members, they also enjoy the following benefits of club membership:

- Help people in need in their local and world communities
- Develop leadership skills
- Meet peers in the community
- Expand personal and professional network
- Build prestige as an active community volunteer
- Be a part of the world's largest service club organization



***Club Name and Insignia:
New Century Lions Clubs have a special emblem that is featured on the club charter, member pins, member certificates and other materials relating to the new club.***

Starting a New Century Lions Club

Guidelines for chartering a New Century Lions Club are similar to those for traditional clubs. You will need:

- 20 or more charter members
- A sponsoring club, zone, region, district cabinet or district committee
- Your district governor's approval
- Completed application for charter
- Report of charter members

Membership: For the first seven years following the club's charter date, only adults through age 35 can be invited to join. There is no requirement to leave the club when the member exceeds age 35. The members have all the rights, privileges and responsibilities common to all Lions clubs members.

Length of Program: Seven years from the club's charter date the club may recruit adult members of any age. The club can continue to use the name New Century Lions Club.

Administrative Requirements: New Century Lions Clubs may submit their Monthly Membership Report (MMR) quarterly. Reports should be filed via the association's Web site at www.lionsclubs.org using a secured log-on and password. Contact the Information Technology Division at International Headquarters for more information.

Meeting Schedule: Each New Century Lions Club schedules the day and time of its meetings each month.

Role of the Sponsoring Club

The sponsoring club recruits enthusiastic members and assists with the formation of the new club. Since flexibility and autonomy are two important facets to this new club format, New Century Lions Clubs should be encouraged to handle club business and activities in a way that fits members' lifestyles. The best way the sponsoring club can help is to ask the New Century members what they want and let those ideas guide the new club.

The Role of the Guiding Lion

The Guiding Lion and/or Certified Guiding Lion is an experienced Lion, selected by the district governor, with the skills to guide the new club through its first two years. The district governor should be encouraged to appoint two Guiding Lions and/or Certified Guiding Lions who understand the needs of younger adults.

STEP ONE:

DEVELOP A LIST OF PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

Begin by creating a list of potential members - men and women through age 35. These might include:

- Young professionals
- Current or former Leos
- Emerging community leaders
- Young parents
- Former Campus Lions Club members
- Children, grandchildren or other relatives of current members

Ask club members, the district governor, cabinet members, other Lions and local business people to help develop the prospect list.

STEP TWO:

HOST AN INFORMATIONAL MEETING

Once a list has been developed, you may either hold an informational meeting to generate enthusiasm for the club or visit prospective members personally. If an informational meeting is held, consider the following discussion topics:

- How the club can help the community (consider using the "Making It Happen" (NC-10) brochure to help direct discussion.)
- Sponsoring club projects that would appeal to young adults and potential New Century Lions Club members
- Club structure and purpose (stress flexibility and autonomy)
- Support provided by local Lions and the international association (liability insurance, leadership development, networking, etc.)

- Brief testimonial from an enthusiastic Lion who has benefited personally or professionally from membership
- Gather completed charter applications and entrance fees from charter applicants. Collect names and contact information about other interested people for further follow-up and recruiting.

Interest from enough qualified potential members indicates that the next step can be taken: the organizational meeting.

□ STEP THREE:

HOST AN ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

The organizational meeting is the first meeting of the proposed new Lions club. The meeting is conducted by the district extension chairperson, past officer or any designated, qualified Lion. Future members of the new club, sponsoring club representatives, the district governor, cabinet members and the Guiding Lion or Certified Guiding Lion attend the organizational meeting. During the meeting, all the essential administrative topics for the club are covered, including:

- Club operations, such as submitting club reports
- Membership responsibilities
- Basic structure and short history of the association
- Descriptions of each office
- Entrance fees and annual dues amount
- Activity suggestions – refer to “Making it Happen” (NC-10) in this kit
- Charter night arrangements (if the New Century Lions Club decides to hold a celebration)
- The election of the New Century Lions Club officers
- Date and time of the next meeting

Entrance Fees

Each charter member (any member who joins before the charter celebration night or 90 days following the charter approval date, whichever occurs first) must pay a charter fee of US\$30 for a new charter member or US\$20 for a

transferring charter member. These funds cover administrative and supply costs related to chartering a new club. Checks or money orders, made payable to Lions Clubs International, are accepted for charter fee payment. In countries outside the United States and Canada, the club sponsor should submit a duplicated deposit slip from a recognized banking institution showing that funds were credited to the account of The International Association of Lions Clubs. The official organization date of the club is the date on which the association officially approves the charter application (all reports and fees must be received).

Dues

New Century members pay annual international dues, plus club, district and multiple district dues (if any). International dues cover many member benefits, including a subscription to THE LION Magazine. The amount of club dues should be established at the organizational meeting and should be collected as soon as possible. Dues are often collected with charter fees.

Upon receiving 20 or more charter applications, the sponsoring club, new club officers and the district governor should complete the charter application. Then submit the application, list of charter members and entrance fees to Lions Clubs International.

If the sponsoring club is unable to recruit 20 members, consider forming a New Century Branch.

□ STEP FOUR:

SUBMITTING THE CHARTER APPLICATION

Submit the following documents to Lions Clubs International:

- Completed application (NC-1)
- Report of charter members (NC-3) listing 20 or more adults through age 35
- Entrance fee payments or the appropriate entrance fee waiver form

See charter application for guidelines on determining the club name and other policies.

CHARTER NIGHT (OPTIONAL)

New Century Lions Clubs may want to celebrate their charter with a charter night celebration. During the event the district governor presents the new club with its official charter. Contact the New Clubs and Marketing Department to request the Charter Night booklet to help organize the event.

THE NEW CLUB'S FIRST YEAR

Administrative Requirements: The club should begin submitting the Monthly Membership Report (MMR) following the club's charter close or 90 days after charter approval, whichever comes first. New Century Lions Clubs may submit their MMR quarterly. The report should be filed via the association's Web site at www.lionsclubs.org using a secured log-on and password. Contact the Information Technology Division at International Headquarters for more information.

Board of Directors: The club president, three vice presidents, secretary, treasurer and four elected directors comprise the New Century Lions Club board of directors. These officers and directors serve until the close of the first fiscal year. (The fiscal year for the association is July 1 through June 30.) Charter officers often serve through the club's second fiscal year, but this requires that they be re-elected by the members.

Committees: New Century Lions Club presidents may appoint committees for administration and activities, as they deem necessary.

Insurance: New Century Lions Clubs are automatically covered by liability insurance. The club secretary will receive a comprehensive booklet explaining this coverage and the information is also available on the association's Web site.

Fundraising: Each Lions club has two treasury funds. One is the "administrative fund" which contains dues and other monies collected from club members to cover the club's operating expenses. The second fund, the "activities

fund," contains all the money raised from public fundraising projects that should be used for charitable purposes as directed by the members of the club. These two funds must always be kept as separate accounts or funds.

Activities: New Century Lions Clubs have the flexibility to choose service activities that are relevant to their communities and to their members. Encourage the members to read the publication "Making it Happen" (NC-10) that is included with this kit. Emphasize that new members are free to become involved with activities that best suit them. New Century Lions Club members are not required to do the same projects that local clubs currently support or that International Headquarters sponsors. However, they should be informed of these programs because they might fit their interests. The needs of the community and desires of the members should determine the activities they pursue.

District Support: District officers appointed by the district governor are available to assist New Century Lions Clubs if needed. These officers can provide suggestions on raising money, planning programs, and developing worthwhile projects.

International Headquarters Support: International Headquarters has many resources available for both programming and administrative assistance. Encourage New Century Lions Club members to visit the association's Web site at www.lionsclubs.org for a comprehensive overview of the association's programs and resources.

For Further Assistance

The New Clubs and Marketing Department is available to assist Lions clubs with the establishment of New Century Lions Clubs, and also assist the new clubs as they begin their service to the community. For further information or questions, contact the department at:
Phone: 630-571-5466 ext. 522
Fax: 630-571-1691
E-mail: newcenturyclub@lionsclubs.org



NEW CLUBS AND MARKETING DEPARTMENT
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL
300 W 22ND ST
OAK BROOK IL 60523-8842 USA
Phone: (630) 571-5466, ext. 522
Fax: (630) 571-1691
E-mail: newcenturyclub@lionsclubs.org