



Wisconsin Lioness Program Update

There is a great deal of misinformation about the 2018-19 Council of Governors (COG) actions and Lions Clubs International’s (LCI) stance on the Lioness Program. This overview provides a brief history and clarifies information that is being circulated. Attached are documents from LCI with information about the current ‘Join Together’ Program and an overview of the Lions dues structure.

Lioness Club Program Continues

Ideally, every Lioness will transition into Lions membership. LCI’s ‘Join Together’ Program (attached) has made a path to Lions membership a reality for many former Lionesses. It includes recognition of Lioness service, waived fees and more. Those Lioness and Clubs not wishing to transition to Lions may continue to operate as usual as long as they have a Lions Club sponsor.

The Challenge

LCI Board Policy V.I. establishes the Lioness Program and defines its governance. LCI provides recognition of affiliate (Lioness) only at the club level. No other Lioness entity is permitted by LCI Board Policy. MD27 Wisconsin Lions Policy related to Lioness has not been compliant with LCI Policy. Recognizing this divergence, our State Lions leadership has been working to bring Wisconsin’s Lioness Program into alignment with the LCI Board Policy while attempting to provide a respectful transition for the Lioness.

How Will These Changes Affect My Lioness Club

- **Communication:** All announcements and information pertaining to Lions goals and projects will come from your sponsoring Lions Club. Contact your Lions club for information on signing up for these informative emails.
- **Officer Training:** In Districts with a Lioness District, nothing will change. In Districts that have dissolved their Lioness District, the sponsoring Lions Club is responsible for Lioness Club officer training.
- **Reporting:** Lioness Clubs should report their financial information and service activities to their sponsoring Lions Club. The sponsoring Lions Club is responsible for including the information in its reporting requirements.

Going Forward

Over the years, there has been inconsistent information on the Lioness Program, with many people voicing many different opinions. In order to capture questions and provide consistent information, the COGs tasked Lion/Lioness Greg Clark, the MD27 Affiliate Liaison, with the job of fielding questions and following up with Lioness across the State. To this end, Lion/Lioness Greg has been working with the State Affiliate at their meetings this year and is attending all District Conventions to talk to the local Lioness.

Questions?

Lion/Lioness Greg Clark 608-444-7781 2goclark@gmail.com

TIMELINE

April 2018 – LCI Board Meeting

- ‘Join Together Program’ extended to 6/30/21
 - Eligible regardless of member numbers
 - Charter Fee is waived
- Existing Lioness Clubs may continue as a project of a Lions Club. No new Lioness Clubs will be chartered

June 2018 – LCI Board Meeting

- Lioness entrance fee to join Lions waived until 6/30/21
- Existing Lioness years of service will be transferred by completing Lioness Conversion Program form

July 28, 2018 – COG Meeting

- Lion/Lioness Greg Clark appointed as MD27 Affiliate Liaison – tasked to work with Lioness at all levels to discuss potential options & recommendations

January 12, 2019 – COG Meeting

- Pre-Council Meeting with District Governors, 1st & 2nd Vice District Governors & other interested parties to discuss potential scenarios.
- Council of Governors Meeting Action – Motion passed to support Lion/Lioness Liaison recommendation to eliminate the State level of Lioness in Wisconsin as of 6/30/19.

January 17, 2019 – LCI Legal Input on MD27 Policy to Dissolve Lioness Cabinets

- “The International Board of Directors has recently reaffirmed that any leadership structure for Lioness clubs above their sponsoring Lions club is not permitted. Specifically, this means that no Lioness district and no Lioness state advisory authority is permitted.” LCI Attorney David Kingsbury

June 30, 2019 - State level Lioness organization dissolved

Lions Clubs International Board Policy Chapter V

I. SPONSORSHIP OF AFFILIATE LIONESSE CLUBS

1. Purpose: The purpose of Lioness clubs shall be:
 - a. To provide community service opportunities for individuals under the jurisdiction of the sponsoring Lions club.
 - b. To cooperate with the sponsoring Lions club in carrying out its service programs and activities.
 - c. To unite its members in friendship, fellowship and mutual understanding.
2. Sponsorship: No group or organization shall be recognized as a Lioness club unless sponsored by a Lions club. The sponsoring Lions club is responsible for organization, supervision and guidance of its affiliate Lioness club.
3. The board of directors shall and hereby does withhold official recognition of any proposed Lioness club entity other than local affiliate clubs.
4. Lioness clubs, as Lions club affiliate activities, will have the same program of comprehensive general liability insurance available at no cost as is provided to Lions clubs

2018 Lions Clubs International Board Meeting Actions Regarding Lioness

April 2018 Board Report:

The Membership Development Committee met with the District and Club Service Committee to discuss the Join Together and Lioness Bridge program. The committee carefully reviewed the Long Range Planning Committee report from January 2018 and agrees that Lioness Clubs may only be sponsored at the club level; no licensing, trademark provisions, or governance structures exist in Board Policy above club level. From considerable communications which have been received by members of the Membership Development Committee and Executive Officers, the committee agrees that the Join Together program be extended until June 2021.

The Membership Development Committee provided further recommendations to the current criteria of the Join Together program, including the removal of the minimum number of members required to participate in the Join Together program, and to waive the charter fee for Lioness clubs. The committee indicated that new Lioness clubs should not be chartered so as to prevent any misuse of the Join Together program. Further, the committee recommends that the Lioness districts and Lioness multiple districts and administrative roles shall not be supported and should be actively discouraged by the District Governors.

The committee requests that the Board concurs by adoption of Resolution 3, hereinafter.

Resolution 3:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Join Together Pilot Program be extended until June 30, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That existing Lioness Clubs shall be eligible for the Program regardless of the number of members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the charter fee be waived for Lioness Clubs under this Program.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That existing Lioness clubs may continue to operate as a project of a Lions Clubs, however no new Lioness Clubs may be formed.

June 2018 Board Report

The committee revisited the Lioness initiative under the Join Together Program, and discussed the implications of individual Lioness members who wanted to join existing clubs. Your committee decided to adopt the same approach with individual Lioness members as Lioness clubs under the Join Together Program with the following concessions: (1) the entrance fee would be waived for current Lioness members; and (2) with the completion of the Lioness Conversion Program Form, a current Lioness' years of service would be eligible for incorporation and inclusion as years of service as a Lion. The committee requests that the board concur by adoption of Resolution 7, hereinafter.

Resolution 7:

BE IT RESOLVED, That the entrance fee for existing Lioness members be waived when joining a Lions club until June 30, 2021.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That existing Lioness members may transfer their years of service by completing the Lioness Conversion Program Form.

Encouraging Lionesses to Become Part of the Lions Family



At the April 2018 LCI International Board of Directors Meeting in Miami, Florida, USA, the decision was made to encourage all current Lioness clubs to join the Lions family by extending the Join Together program effective until June 2021. Following are some frequently asked questions about the Lioness initiative under the Join Together Program.

Who is considered part of a Lioness Club?

Per LCI Board policy, the definition of a Lioness club is a sponsored activity of an active Lions Club. Sponsorships of Lioness Clubs are covered in the Board Policy Manual, Chapter V, Section I and states:

The purpose of Lioness clubs shall be:

- a. *To provide community service opportunities for individuals under the jurisdiction of the sponsoring Lions club.*
 - b. *To cooperate with the sponsoring Lions club in carrying out its service programs and activities.*
 - c. *To unite its members in friendship, fellowship and mutual understanding.*
2. *Sponsorship: No group or organization shall be recognized as a Lioness club unless sponsored by a Lions club. The sponsoring Lions club is responsible for organization, supervision and guidance of its affiliate Lioness club.*
 3. *The board of directors shall and hereby does withhold official recognition of any proposed Lioness club entity other than local affiliate clubs.*
 4. *Lioness clubs, as Lions club affiliate activities, will have the same program of comprehensive general liability insurance available at no cost as is provided to Lions clubs.*

What is the Join Together Program?

Join Together is a special program that was created to grow the capabilities of Lions Clubs International by encouraging **other service minded organizations** to join us on this journey of hope. We know that every caring man and woman matters in our mission of service. That's why we're inviting Lionesses to become active members and join our global force for good. The Join Together invitation has been tailored to recognize and honor Lionesses' service efforts prior to their decision to accept membership. There are other initiatives under the Join Together Program in addition to that targeting Lioness. For more information on the Join Together Program, please email membership@lionsclubs.org.

Are there special incentives for a Lioness club to become a Lions club?

Yes. We would love to have Lionesses serving with us as Lions. That's why we are offering existing Lioness clubs with special incentives to become Lions clubs, including:

- No minimum number of members required
- Charter fee for existing clubs will be waived
- The years as a Lioness carry over to Lions membership

How can a Lioness club become a Lions club?

Lioness clubs that want to join our global force would need to provide the following information:

- Letter from a sponsoring club verifying **the club's years** of service emailed to newclubs@lionsclubs.org.

- Use the [Join Together Charter Application Worksheet](#) to collect club information that will be submitted online via [MyLCI](#)
 - Please indicate in the “Comments” section that the new club is part of the Join Together Program and is a Lioness Club affiliated with the (Sponsoring Club Name) Club.
- Use the [Report of Charter Membership Worksheet](#) to collect all member information to be submitted online via MyLCI. *The Membership Worksheet does not need to be submitted to MyLCI (this is just to help gather the information required for submission)*
- [Lioness Conversion Form](#) for each Lioness to ensure recognition of their past service.

If you need assistance or additional information about chartering a Lions club please contact newclubs@lionsclubs.org.

Can an individual Lioness become a Lion?

Yes. In June 2018, the LCI Board of Directors voted to extend an entrance fee waiver to individual Lioness members joining an existing Lions club. The individual would still maintain full dues, but would not have to pay the entrance fee upon joining. This would entitle the new member to the full benefits of being a member of our international association.

For those Lionesses who have a family member that is a Lion, they would potentially be eligible to join the same club as a “family member,” which would entitle them to discounted international dues.

An individual Lioness needs to complete the Lioness Conversion Form, including the signature from the previous (Lioness) club’s president and a signature from the incoming Lions club president.

What are the advantages of being a Lion?

There are so many great benefits of being a member of Lions International. Members get to vote, attend convention and hold leadership positions that give them a greater voice in Lions. Members receive the support of Lions International, which provides service planning resources, professional development opportunities, and other critical benefits like insurance, legal counsel and advocacy so that members can serve with confidence. Plus, they receive the LION Magazine and access to great technology like the MyLion mobile app and the lionsclubs.org website and its resource center. And they get the pride of being an official member of the largest service organization in the world.

Can a Lioness Club still keep their identity as Lioness in their Lion’s club naming convention?

Yes. When you are chartering your club as part of the Join Together Program, we request that you use the naming convention of Municipality (city, town, village, prefecture, county, etc.) and then a “distinguishing designation” if desired, which could include the word Lioness. For example, a Lioness club in Hyderabad, India could be named as: Lions Club of “Hyderabad Lioness”

Additional club name rules can be found in Chapter X of Board Policy. Clubs that do not utilize this naming convention will require special approval from the Membership Development Committee.

Who can I contact with specific questions about the Lioness initiative or Join Together Program?

For questions other than chartering a Lioness club into a Lions club, please email any questions that were not answered above to membership@lionsclubs.org.



Wisconsin Lions Dues Structure

Average Lion

Lions Clubs International	\$43.00
MD27	\$10.50
District	\$6.50 - \$10
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	\$60.00 - \$63.50

Family Membership

1st Member at an address

Lions Clubs International	\$43.00
MD27	\$10.50
District	\$6.50 - \$10
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	\$60.00 - \$63.50

2nd – 4th Members at same address

Lions Clubs International	\$21.50
MD27	\$5.25
District	\$3.25 - \$5.00
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	\$30.00 - \$35.00

The above dues do not include the one-time \$35 initiation fee for new Lions or local club dues.

**** The initiation fee is waived for Lioness converting to Lions by 6/30/21. ****