

Lioness Bridge Program Frequently Asked Questions

The Lioness Bridge program is a special initiative that was created to encourage Lioness and Lioness Clubs to join Lions Clubs International's global force by honoring their service efforts prior to their decision to accept membership. Per the decision of the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors and Executive Officers, the Lioness Bridge Program, and all of its concessions, will end on June 30, 2021 without exception.

Following are some frequently asked questions about the Lioness initiative.

Who is eligible for the Lioness Bridge Program?

The Lioness Bridge Program is meant to encourage individual Lioness or members of a Lioness club to become part of LCI, and as such is open only to existing Lioness who have not yet become a Lion. Members of a Lioness club that was sponsored by a Lions club are eligible to be considered for the Lioness Bridge Program. Only those who complete a Lioness Bridge form are considered part of the Lioness Bridge Program, but all Lioness and former Lioness can complete the Years of Service form to transfer the years of service conducted as a Lioness to their Lion record.

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

In order to encourage the most number of Lionesses to join, LCI is offering existing Lioness clubs with special incentives to become Lions clubs, including:

- No minimum number of members required (typically need 20)
- Charter fee for existing clubs will be waived
- The years as a Lioness carry over to Lions membership
- Half international dues credit from July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021

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 the sponsoring Lions club verifying **the club's years of service** and activity emailed to newclubs@lionsclubs.org.
- Use the [Lioness Bridge Charter](#) worksheet to collect club information to be submitted online via [MyLCI](#)
- Please indicate in the "Comments" section that the Lioness Club is 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.
- Submit a [Lioness Bridge form](#) for each Lioness to ensure eligibility for half international dues credit.
- Submit the [Lioness Years of Service form](#) to ensure recognition of their past service.

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

Can an individual Lioness become a Lion?

Absolutely! In June 2018, the LCI Board of Directors voted to extend an entrance fee waiver to individual Lioness members joining an existing Lions club. In April 2019, the LCI Board of Directors voted to add an additional concession by offering a credit for half international dues to any former Lioness that joins Lions Clubs International between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021. An individual Lioness needs to complete the Lioness Bridge form to entitle the new member to the full benefits of being a member of our international association. Also, if a Lioness Bridge form is completed and submitted within 30 days of being reported to LCI, the individual would not have to pay the entrance fee, and would be eligible to pay half of international dues effective July 1, 2019-June 30, 2021.

An individual Lioness needs to complete the Lioness Years of Service form, including the signature from the previous (Lioness) club's president and a signature from the incoming Lions club president. This would entitle the new member to the full benefits of being a member of our international association.

What happens to my Lioness Club (if not a Lioness Lions Club) after the June 30, 2021 deadline?

The LCI Board of Directors has made the decision to end the Lioness Bridge Program after June 30, 2021. Lioness Clubs that decide not to join Lions Clubs International will no longer be considered a sponsored activity of a Lions club, and will lose all associated benefits, including the general liability insurance and utilization of all registered trademarks of LCI, including Lioness logo.

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 member access to the MyLion mobile app. 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 chartering a new Lions club, under Board Policy the naming convention consists 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 the Board Policy Manual. Clubs that do not utilize this naming convention will require special approval from the Membership Development Committee.

Who is eligible for the half international dues credit?

In April 2019, the LCI Board of Directors voted to offer an additional concession of a half international dues credit as incentive for Lioness to become Lions. **Only Lioness who join between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021 and have completed the Lioness Bridge Form will be eligible for this incentive, a credit of half international dues.** After the Lioness Bridge Program has ended on June 30, 2021, all Lioness who became Lions will have to pay full international dues.

Is it true that Lions clubs can no longer sponsor new Lioness clubs?

Yes. At the April 2018 Board Meeting, the LCI Board of Directors made the decision to cease the ability for Lions clubs to sponsor new Lioness clubs (beyond those already sponsoring an existing Lioness club). In addition, the Board recommended that Lioness districts and Lioness multiple districts and administrative roles should not be supported by LCI at any level, and should be actively discouraged by the District Governors.

Who can I contact with specific questions about the Lioness Bridge program initiative?

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