



Sunbury Lions Club information visit www.sunburylionsclub.org or email membership@sunburylionsclub.org .

Membership

Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization with 1.3 million members in approximately 45,000 clubs in 200 countries and geographical areas.

Lions are men and women who volunteer their time to humanitarian causes. Founded in 1917, the volunteer organization's motto is "We Serve."

Service to Others

Worldwide, Lions clubs are recognized for their service to the blind and visually impaired. This service began when Helen Keller challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness" during the 1925 Lions Clubs International Convention.

Today, Lions extend their commitment to sight conservation through countless local efforts, as well as through their international Sight First Program and Lions World Sight Day, a global partnership of United Nations agencies, eye care and philanthropic organizations and health professionals, held the second Thursday of each October to increase awareness of the need to eradicate blindness. Lions also collect and recycle eyeglasses for distribution in developing countries year-round and especially during May, which is Lions Recycle for Sight Month.

In addition, Lions make a strong commitment to young people through youth outreach programs. Lions also work to improve the environment, build homes for the disabled, support diabetes education, conduct hearing programs and, through their foundation, provide disaster relief around the world.

Based on a recent report of Lions clubs worldwide, it is estimated that each Lions club donates US\$9,900 to charitable causes, totaling US\$449 million. Each year Lions club members volunteer approximately 76 million hours, which is equivalent to 36,500 people working full time for a year.

Sight Programs

In 1990, Lions established Sight First, raising US\$143 million to fight the major causes of preventable and reversible blindness. The unprecedented program joins Lions volunteers with blindness prevention experts and organizations and governments. Sight First has:

- provided more than 7.1 million cataract surgeries
- built or expanded 213 eye hospitals
- supported more than 80 million treatments to prevent river blindness
- improved eye care in 90 countries around the world.

In 2005, Lions launched Campaign Sight First II with a goal of raising at least US\$150 million to continue and expand the extraordinary work of Sight First.

Lions clubs support other sight-related activities. Lions clubs and members:

- provide 600,000 free professional glaucoma screenings and make 25,000 corneal transplants possible each year
 - establish and support a majority of the world's eye banks, hundreds of clinics, hospitals and eye research centers worldwide
 - collect more than 30 million pairs of used eyeglasses annually for free distribution to those in need in developing countries
 - offer screenings, eyeglasses and sports goggles to athletes through the Special Olympics-Lions Clubs International Opening Eyes Program
- provide free quality eye care, eyeglasses, Braille-writers, large print texts, white canes and guide dogs for thousands of people each year.

Lions International Purposes

- **To Create** and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- **To Promote** the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- **To Take** an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
- **To Unite** the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

- **To Provide** a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.
- **To Encourage** service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

Lions Code of Ethics

- **To Show** my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.
- **To Seek** success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
- **To Remember** that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.
- **Whenever** a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.
- **To Hold** friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
- **Always** to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state, and my community, as to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act, and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.
- **To Aid** others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
- **To Be Careful** with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.