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I. Introduction

The purpose of this package is to introduce potential members to the Chestertown Lions Club. We hope you find it of interest and encourage you to contact any Club member for more information.

II. Lions Club International



Mission Statement

To empower volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Vision Statement

To be the global leader in community and humanitarian service.

History

In 1917, Melvin Jones a 38-year-old Chicago business leader, told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world. Jones' group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed.

After contacting similar groups around the United States, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The new group took the name of one of the invited groups, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of that year. A constitution, by-laws, objects and a code of ethics were approved.

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Within three years, Lions became an international organization. Since then, we've earned high marks for both integrity and transparency. We're a well-run organization with a steady vision, a clear mission, and a long – and proud – history.

Almost 100 years later, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization, with 1.35 million members in more than 46,000 clubs and countless stories of Lions acting on the same simple idea: let's improve our communities.

Purpose of Lions Clubs International

To Organize, charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions clubs.

To Coordinate the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.

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.

This and much, much more information can be found at the LCI website: www.lionsclubs.org

III. Chestertown Lions Club

The Chestertown Lions Club was started in 1940 and falls under the guidance and support of Lions Club Maryland District 22B. Since its conception, we have faithfully and successfully served both community and international interests by providing both hands-on and financial assistance. Keeping inline with Lions

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Clubs International (LCI), our major emphasis is on improving the vision of others.

Our Members

Currently, the Chestertown Lions Club boasts a head-count over 60 members. While most of these members are elderly male, we do have a couple of hard-charging females that are truly dedicated to our mission. In either case, our member compliment includes many professionals, business owners, and blue collar workers. We are proud to have each and every one of them in our club and they all offer many valued services to our club, community and international interests.

Our Work Lions in Action – Service to Our Communities

When it comes to meeting challenges, our response is simple: We serve. In 206 countries, in hospitals and senior centers, in regions battered by natural disaster, in schools and eyeglass recycling centers, Lions are doing community volunteer work, helping, leading, planning and supporting. Because we're local, we can serve the unique needs of the communities we live in. And because we're global, we can address challenges that go beyond borders.

We want everyone to see a better tomorrow. That's why we support sight programs and services including vision screenings, eye banks and eyeglass recycling. We also provide eye care services to those at risk of losing their sight and raise donations through campaigns like SightFirst and Campaign SightFirst II.

We believe everyone deserves a healthy life. From providing health programs that focus on hearing loss to supporting efforts to control and prevent diabetes, we're working to improve the health of children and adults around the world.

We empower the next generation. Whether it's providing youth volunteer opportunities and leadership experiences in a Leo club or sharing a message of peace through our Peace Poster contest, our youth programs invest in the future by reaching out to young people.

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We serve local communities – and protect the planet. From performing hands-on service projects to providing emergency assistance, our community and environment programs improve our communities – and protect the environment.

Currently, or in the past, proceeds from our local fundraising events have gone to:

Dist. 22-B Charitable Foundation

Eyeglass assistance

Hospice

Leader Dog (guide dogs for the blind)

Leader Dog Kennel Project

LVRF (Low Vision Research Fund)

Vision Screening Equipment

Christmas Basket program

Food Pantry

Halloween Parade (co-sponsored with the Washington College SGA)

Home Ports

LCIF (Lions Club International Fund)

Lions Club Float (used in parades to promote "Lionism")

Veterans Support

Hearing Aids

Boy Scouts

Boys State

Character Counts

Cub Scout Pack 253

District 22B Soccer

Girls State

Kent Ag Center (4H)

Kent County High School (scholarships)

Smart Board for Church Hill Elementary School

Sheriff's Youth Program

Special Olympics

Maryland Eye Bank

Assistance to families in need

Kent Youth

Camp Fairlee

Chester River Hospital Center

Youth Sport Teams

And several others through a contingency fund

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Our Club Objectives

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 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.

Current Club Projects:

Eyeglass Recycle for Sight Chicken Barbeque Bay to Bay Bike Ride Draw for Sight Bike Ride Swing for Sight Golf Tournament Halloween Parade Christmas Food Baskets Sight First Youth Screening Program

Where and When We Meet

Typically, the Chestertown Lions Club holds their meetings at the Chester River Yacht and Country Club. With minor exception, the regular meeting schedule runs twice a month from September to June. They are currently held on the second and forth Wednesdays of those months with a board meeting held somewhere in-between. Our regular meeting includes a social hour which is held at 5:30 p.m. and a dinner meeting which promptly starts at 6:30. Meetings usually include a guest speaker and program with a business meeting held afterwards. Meetings typically end at approximately 8 p.m.

During the summer, we lay off on meetings due to many members being away on vacation. Even so, we still hold two summer social events to promote camaraderie and instill "Lionism."

Also important to note, in addition to our normal meetings, we also take the opportunity to attend other Lions clubs meetings in our district under our Visitation Program. These visitations not only enable our members to see how

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other clubs operate, but also provide the opportunity to exchange thoughts and ideas. Visiting other clubs also helps members by providing social, Lions club and professional networking.

Dress and Attire

Historically, our members have worn suits and ties at our normal meetings. Although this practice has not been deemed mandatory in our club or any other, we do highly encourage it in order to project a professional image for our club. As a minimum and as a courtesy to the Chester River Yacht and Country Club, we do insist that our members or potential members wear at least Kakis and a dress shirt (men) or dress slacks and shirt (women). Please be aware, failure to wear a suit or tie will probably cost you a small fine (as enforced by the "Tail Twister.")

Cost of membership

Regular membership fees are \$25 per quarter or \$100/yr. Additionally, meals are currently charged at \$17 each. Please note, there is currently no initiation fee. Also note, special meals are typically charged at a higher rate and do not cover spouse or guest meals (billed additionally).

Our Expectations of You

As a member of the Chestertown Lions club, you will be expected to attend as many normal meetings as your personal schedule permits.

You will also be expected to participate in the several various fundraisers we hold throughout the year.

Although our members, current or prospective, are not expected to fill various positions on the board, they are highly encouraged to do so. Bottom line, your progression in our club, the district or international is totally up to you.

IV. Becoming a Lion

Lions Club members are men and women who strive to make a difference in their local community as well as communities worldwide. Their volunteer efforts go beyond the support of vision care, to addressing unmet health and education needs worldwide.

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Why should I become a Lion?

As a Lions Club member, you can:

Make a difference everyday in your community. Whether it is providing support locally or reaching out internationally, you will have an opportunity to serve. Be a part of a worldwide organization carrying out community and humanitarian projects. Members allow Lions Clubs worldwide to carry out its many community and humanitarian programs.

Grow personally and professionally by participating in our programs, community service projects and events.

Gain an understanding and have an impact on local and international humanitarian issues.

Develop relationships with both local and international community and business leaders.

Interested in becoming a member?

Membership in a Lions club is by invitation. If you are interested in membership, please contact our membership chairman or any member of the Chestertown Lions Club. Let us know that you are considering membership and want to attend a meeting and learn more.

Be our guest at a regular dinner meeting and ask questions about Lions Clubs International and the Chestertown Lions Club. Consider the talents you have and decide if they are being used to make our community and the world a better place to live.

Lastly, please see our website (chestertownlions.org) for both contact and additional information. Thanks for your serious consideration in joining or club!

Note: Many excerpts above have been directly quoted or derived from the Lions Club International website. Please see the international website (www.lionsclubs.org) for more information.