



A Publication of the Port City Lions Club
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Web Page <http://galions.org/18b/portcity/>

Monthly News

Who are the Lions?

Lions are an international network of 1.3 million men and women in 200 countries and geographic areas who work together to answer the needs that challenge communities around the world.

Known for working to end preventable blindness, Lions participate in a vast variety of projects important to their communities. These projects range from cleaning up local parks to providing supplies to victims of natural disasters.

Beginning in 1917, the association of Lions clubs has provided millions of people with the opportunity to give something back to their communities.

Admission of Women Shows Value of Prudent Change

by Jimmy M. Ross

President
 The International Association of Lions Clubs

Lions encountered a changed world 20 years ago. After decades of allowing only men to be Lions, women were allowed to join. At first, a brave few joined. But before long more and more took the plunge and today 17.5 percent of all Lions are women. In some districts the figure is close to 50 percent.

There was hand wringing among some Lions when their all-male sanctuary was breached. Some Lions wondered if they would ever feel the same about being a Lion and questioned whether they would ever feel as comfortable as they did.

Well, as is often the case with sudden change, things turned out far differently than anticipated. Women have enriched Lions clubs beyond measure. They've brought new talents and energies to clubs and districts. They've saved some clubs from extinction and revived others that

were drifting toward inactivity. Without women, Lions would not nearly be the same social force we are today.

Our experience with opening membership to women should serve as a parable. It's a story that teaches us to be open to change. Doing things differently can be fraught with anxiety. The easiest thing to do is to do what has been done in the past. But that's not necessarily the best course of action.

As International President, I've urged Lions to embrace a "paradigm shift." We need to take the best course of action, which is not always the routine or the expected. Don't change your club's chief fund-raiser or recruitment tactics just for the sake of change. But do consider the unique circumstances of your club and community and analyze if your practices are the best match for your situation. Many clubs probably should not change

a thing or change only a thing or two. But others would probably flourish as never before if they make a few significant changes.

Life changes whether we like it or not. Those people and organizations that are adaptive and flexible stand the best chance of success. Melvin Jones, our founder, made a huge paradigm shift when he insisted that his new service club would be all about service and not self-interest, as was often the case in his day. We need to honor his spirit and be willing to embrace change and actively shape our destiny.

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Birthdays and Anniversaries

Anniversary
 None in February

Birthday
 Mary Ann Barbieri February 10

District and State Activities

On Saturday February 17 and Sunday February 18, the Georgia Lions Lighthouse will have its Winter Directors Meeting at the Macon State College in Macon, Georgia. Elections of officers and Trustees are on the agenda. That Saturday evening the Centerville Lions Club will celebrate 40 years of service.

On Friday February 23 and Saturday February 24, District 18-B will have its District Convention at Snella's Place in Statesboro. Cost for the Banquet is \$15 each for both Friday and Saturday Meals (Best in Georgia). Featured Guest will be International Director Robert Moore.