

# **GRAFTON LIONS CLUB MEMBER HANDBOOK**



**We Serve**

Founded 1946

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## Origin of the International Lions Organization

The Lions organization began in Chicago in 1917 when Melvin Jones organized seventeen separate organizations into one organization – Lions. The popularity of Lionism spread rapidly throughout the world until today over two million Lions Club members can be found in over 40,000 clubs in more than 200 countries and geographic areas.

Lions is a service organization in which members enjoy fellowship and dedicate a portion of their free time to help others in need in the community and the world. Its primary aim can be summarized in one word – **SERVICE**. Lions clubs perform far more service and help far more people than any other service organization in the world.

In general, local Lions clubs are grouped to form zones, zones to form regions, regions to form districts, and districts to form multiple districts.

## International and State Headquarters

Oakbrook, Illinois is the headquarters of Lions Club International. Three hundred full time employees are kept busy with membership management duties, filling merchandise orders from extensive catalog offerings, and publishing the Lion, a monthly magazine mailed to all Lion members. Stevens Point is the headquarters of Wisconsin Lions. Its staff performs many of the same duties as the international headquarters.

## Organization of the Grafton Lions Club

State and Regional Structure – The Lions clubs in the State of Wisconsin are part of Lions Multiple District 27, which is comprised of 10 districts each headed up by a District Governor. The Grafton Lions club is part of District 27-A2 which includes clubs in Southeastern Wisconsin. The district is divided into four Regions. Each region is further divided into Zones. The Grafton Lions Club is one of 16 clubs in Region 3 that are organized in the following two zones:

### Zone 1

Belgium  
Cedarburg  
Fredonia Lions  
Fredonia Lioness

Grafton  
Port Washington  
Saukville  
Thiensville-Mequon

### Zone 2

Allenton  
Hartford  
Kettle Moraine  
Kewaskum

Newburg  
Richfield  
West Bend  
West Bend Lioness

## **2016 – 2017 Board of Directors**

President – Peter Laing

1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President – John Gassert

(Serves as co-chair of the Membership/Member Retention Committee, and is responsible for coordinating the recruiting of new members.)

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President – Paul Scofield

(Responsible for planning the programs for membership meetings.

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice-President – Chris Smith

Secretary – Dan DeLorit

Treasurer – John Gassert

Past President – John Krueger

2 Year Director - Bob Lauer

2 Year Director - Dave Mauer

1 Year Director – Mark Koehler

1 Year Director - Paul Malloy

Tail Twister – Tom Krueger

(Responsible for promoting harmony, good fellowship, and enthusiasm at meetings through appropriate stunts and games and the judicious imposition of fines on members attending the meeting.)

Lion Tamer - Harvey Holzer

(Responsible for the property of the club. The Lion Tamer also serves as the Sergeant of Arms at meetings.)

## **Membership Dues**

Annual membership dues in the club are \$75 per year. There is an additional fee of \$45 for first year members to cover new member expenses. For new members, the \$120 first year membership fee is prorated depending on the month that the member joined the club. All members will receive an updated Member Directory with their payment of membership dues.

## Publications

Lions Club International publishes **LION**, a monthly magazine which is mailed to all Lion members throughout the world.

The Wisconsin Lions publish the **Wisconsin Lion**. It is published 10 times a year as both a printed and online publication according to the following schedule:

July/August	Online and Printed
September	Online
October	Online and Printed
November	Online
December/January	Online
February	Online and Printed
March	Online
April	Online
May	Online and Printed
June	Online

The Grafton Lions Club publishes a monthly newsletter, the **Lions' Gazette**. A copy is emailed to all members. (A printed copy is mailed to eight members who do not have email access.) The **Lions' Gazette** is distributed the weekend before the first meeting of each month.

In addition, email messages containing information of interest to members are sent during the month, as needed, by Bob Hoffman. Contact Bob if you have news for him to share with members.

The Grafton Lions website can be found at [graftonlions.com](http://graftonlions.com). The club also has a Facebook page.

## Grafton LEO Club – (Leadership – Education – Organization)

On November 12, 2014, the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) chartered the Grafton Leo Club through the sponsorship of the Grafton Lions Club. The club is a school based organization made up of students 12 to 18 years of age. Its purpose is to promote Lionism while serving the community and gaining valuable experiences through service hours. The club functions much like a Lions Club with its own board of directors. Grafton high school teacher, Bob Geiger, is the club advisor and Lion Bob Lauer serves as the Grafton Lions Club Liaison.

## Grafton Lions Club Meetings

The Grafton Lions club's fiscal year extends from July 1<sup>st</sup> through June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Regular meetings – The regular meetings of the Grafton Lions Club are held on the first and third Tuesdays of the month at the Rose Harms American Legion Post in Grafton. No regular meetings are held in the months of July or August. Meetings start with a social from 6:00 to 6:45 with dinner at 6:45 followed by a business meeting. The meeting agenda typically includes the following:

- Call to Order
- Pledge of Allegiance / Song / Invocation
- Introduction of Guests
- Dinner / Tail Twisting / Raffle Sales
- Guest Speaker Presentation
- President's Report
- New Member Inductions
- Membership Report
- Treasurer's Report
- Old Business
- New Business
- Upcoming Dates
- Raffles / Tail Twisting / Closing Thoughts
- Adjourn

Meeting protocol – The dress code for membership meetings is "business casual." The member's cost for a meal at each meeting is \$15. Members are expected to wear their name tags. Many members wear their yellow Lion vests. At the meetings, the Tail Twister presents a question to each member. Members who are not able to answer the question are levied a fine of \$1. At each meeting 50/50 raffle tickets are sold as well as raffle tickets for door prizes. All of the money raised during the meetings is placed in the club's Administrative Fund which is used to cover the administrative expenses of the club.

Board of Directors meetings – The Board of Directors meet at 5:30 pm prior to the first membership meeting of the month. The meetings are held in the lower level of the Rose Harms American Legion Post. Minutes of the Board of Directors Meetings are posted to the club website [graftonlions.com](http://graftonlions.com). Meetings of the Board of Directors are open to members.

Special membership meetings – Two special meetings are held during the year replacing the regular meetings. The Lions Christmas Party is held on the third Tuesday of December and the Awards and Installation of Officers Night is held on the third Tuesday of June. Spouses and "significant others" are invited to each of these two special meetings.

Summer picnics – On the third Tuesday in July, the Lions host a picnic in Veterans Park for members of the Grafton Fire Department. They are our guests as our way of thanking them for their service. On the third Tuesday in August, Spouses and 'Significant Others' are invited to a picnic in Veterans Park.

References to members' employers – It is the policy of the Grafton Lions Club for members to refrain from identifying their place of employment and/or advertising or politicizing in any manner. As a service organization, the purpose of the club is to serve others and not personally benefit from being a member of the Grafton Lions.

Zone meetings – Three times a year, a meeting is held of all the clubs in a zone. It is an opportunity for the eight clubs in our zone to share information about their activities to the other clubs in the zone. All club members are invited to attend Zone Meetings. It is a good way for new members to learn more about the activities of the Lions Clubs. The cost for members that attend the Zone meeting is \$5.00.

## **Lions Gear**

A Lions short sleeve golf shirt, Lions Club International pin and name tag are included in the membership dues of new members. Additional clothing is available for purchase including a yellow Lions vest, Lions baseball cap and long sleeve dress shirt displaying the Lions insignia as well as other clothing. Contact either Harvey Holzer or Pat Murray to order these items. In addition, Lion accessories can be purchased online at the LCI Lion Store. Lions' pins are created to celebrate the primary events and accomplishments of Lions and their clubs. The pins are worn on the yellow Lions' vest. The pins are often traded between the members of clubs at Lions meetings.

## **Club Addresses –**

The postal and web addresses of the Grafton Lions are:

Grafton Lions Club  
PO Box 0211  
Grafton, WI 53024-0211

[www.graftonlions.com](http://www.graftonlions.com)

## **Awards**

Melvin Jones Fellowship – The Melvin Jones Fellowship is the highest award given by the charitable arm of Lions Club International. It is recognition of a Lion's commitment to humanitarian work. The recipient is selected by the club's Melvin Jones Committee. The club makes a contribution of \$1,000 in this person's honor or memory to the Lions Club International Foundation.

Birch-Sturm Award – The Birch Sturm Award is the highest award given by the charitable arm of the Wisconsin Lions Foundation. The recipient is selected by the club's Birch-Sturm committee. The club makes a contribution of \$1,000 in this person's honor to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation, earmarking the donation to the Birch-Sturm fund.

Knights of Sight Award – The Knights of Sight Award is presented in recognition of a member's service to the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin and/or eye tissue transport service. The recipient is selected by the club's Knights of Sight Committee. The club makes a \$1,000 contribution in this person's honor to the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin.

President's Key Award – The President' Key Award is given by Lions Club International to a Lion who has successfully opened the door to Lions for two members.

Lions vest pins and patches – Pins and patches can be worn on the yellow Lions vest. Pins come from many sources. Most Lions clubs have a unique pin, and Lions events often have a unique pin which can be purchased. Attendance pins as well as membership pins are awarded by the club. Pin trading is a way to establish relationships and fellowship with Lions around the club or around the world. Members generally trade pins they have for those that they like. Patches are earned by serving in club, zone, region, or district offices.

## **Lions Club International Foundation**

The Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF) is the official charitable organization of Lions Club International. In fiscal year 2014 - 2015, LCIF awarded grants totaling \$43M.

## **Wisconsin Lions Foundation**

The Wisconsin Lions Foundation is the official charitable organization of Lions Clubs in Wisconsin. The foundation supports The Wisconsin Lions Camp in Rosholt, Wisconsin. Each summer the camp serves over 2,000 visually impaired, educable mentally retarded and hearing impaired youth plus blind adults. Camper expenses are paid for by donations. The foundation also supports diabetes awareness, glaucoma screening, the eye glasses and hearing aid collection programs and the BOLD program.

## **Fund Raiser Committees (and current chairs)**

Beer Tasting (Mike Cibulka) – The Beer Tasting Fund Raiser is held in April. Over 100 different beers are available along with Hors d'oeuvres.

Centennial Park Refreshment Stand (Frank Lorbecki) – The club operates the refreshment stand during the adult softball league games held at Centennial Park on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings starting in May through August. Each club member is expected to work one night during the summer.

Chicken Roast (Bob Lauer) – The primary money maker for the club is a chicken roast and prize raffle held at Veterans Park on a Sunday each June. Each club member is expected to work the day of the event.

GALA Refreshment Stand (Ken George) – The club operates a refreshment stand at the GALA music concerts in Veterans Park on Thursday evenings in July and August.

Golf Outing (vacant) – The annual golf outing is held in August at the Fire Ridge Golf Course. The event is open to the community, other Lion clubs, friends and guests. The day includes 18 holes of golf, lunch, dinner, prizes and raffles.

Lions Park (Dave Mauer) – The Grafton Lions obtained naming rights, through in kind donations, to Lions Park, part of the Village of Grafton park system. This neighborhood park is completed, and the Grafton Lions continue to raise money to purchase additional trees, benches and tables.



9 Pin Tap Bowling Tournament (Ryan Schmitt) – The tournament is held each year in March. It is a one day event that includes teams from the community as well as from other Lion clubs.

Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast (Susan Schnappup) – The Pumpkin Pancake Breakfast, featuring pumpkin pancakes, is part of Celebrate Grafton's **Fall Into Grafton** celebration held in October. The event is held at the Atlas BBQ.

## **Service Activity Committees (and current chairs)**

Bowling Outings (vacant) – This committee of bowlers supports other Lion clubs by participating in their bowling tournaments.

Boy Scouts/Cub Scouts (Brad Diamond) – This committee serves as liaison to the local Boy Scout and Cub Scout troops. The club sponsors several Grafton area scout troops.

Breakfast with Santa (Dave Antoine and Steve Janssen) – The club uses members of the Grafton Leo Club to serve as the wait staff for Breakfast with Santa, an event at Circle B Bowling Center sponsored by Grafton Chamber of Commerce Holiday Events Committee.

Christmas Manger (Harvey Holzer) – The committee erects and dismantles the Christmas Manger Scene that the club owns and maintains.

Christmas Parade (Paul Malloy) – The Grafton Lions march in the Grafton Christmas Parade as one of the marching units.

Christmas Tree Lighting (Susan Schnappup) – The committee decorates a Christmas tree as part of the Tree Lighting contest sponsored by the Grafton Chamber of Commerce Holiday Events Committee.

Diabetes Awareness (John Krueger) – A diabetes awareness display is held in a local store each March. Materials are distributed to shoppers.

Eye Glasses and Hearing Aid Collection (Tom Freed) - The Grafton Lions collect used eye glasses and hearing aids and recycle them at the Wisconsin Lion Foundation facility. Glasses and hearing aids can be dropped off at the office of Dr. Thomas Freed in downtown Grafton or any Grafton public school office. In addition, the club Lion Tamer has a supply of collection containers that can be used during Lion fund raising events to collect eye glasses and hearing aids. A reconditioned US Postal Service mail box has been painted with the Lion logo and placed near the Grafton Walgreens pharmacy drive through.

Eye Tissue Transport Team (Jack Reindl) – This team transports eye tissue to hospitals that are performing surgery replacing eye tissue. Each year the team is assigned a ten day period where they are responsible for transporting tissue. Through this program, those who have lost their sight can regain it through surgery.

Fire Department Appreciation Picnic (Al Richards) – The club hosts a picnic on the third Tuesday of July for the members of the Grafton Fire Department. The event is held at Veterans Park to show the club's appreciation for the members of the fire department. Members of the Grafton Lions Club are encouraged to attend the picnic.

Flower Bed on First Avenue (Harvey Holzer and Renae Wethered) – The club maintains a flower bed on First Avenue as part of the Village of Grafton's Adopt a Flower Bed program. The committee is responsible for planting and maintaining the flowers provided by the Village.

Food Donations (Harvey Holzer) – Nonperishable food is collected at club meetings and donated to local food pantries.

Golf Committee (Gary Northup) – This committee of golfers supports other Lion clubs by attending their Golf Outings.

Leo Committee (Bob Lauer and Dave Mauer) – The committee serves as the liaison with the Grafton Leo Club and its school advisor, Grafton High School teacher Bob Geiser.

Vision Screening (Renee Boos) – Club members who are certified vision screeners assist the Grafton public and parochial schools with the vision screening of elementary school children.

Wheel Chair Ramps (Bob Lauer) – The club builds wheel chair ramps for area residents that need handicapped access.

## **Administrative Committees (and current chairs)**

Birch-Sturm (Bob Lauer and Dave Mauer) – This committee nominates club members for the Birch-Sturm award which is named after the only two Presidents of Lions Club International from Wisconsin, Frank Birch and Clarence Sturm. It is Wisconsin Lion Foundation's highest honor awarded to Wisconsin Lions who exemplify dedication and commitment to Lionism.

Christmas Party – A Christmas Party is held on the third Tuesday of December replacing the regular membership meeting. This is a dress up affair and spouses and significant others are invited. The evening includes a sit down dinner and a door prize for each guest.

Communications / Newsletter (Bob Hoffman) – The club publishes the monthly newsletter, ***The Lions Gazette***. It contains information on the activities of the club, along with a calendar of upcoming events. Committee chairs and other members are encouraged to submit articles for the newsletter. News about the club's activities and its members that cannot wait for the publication of the monthly newsletter is emailed to club members by Bob Hoffman.

Constitution & Bylaws (Barry Boline) – This committee recommends changes to the Constitution, Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation of the Grafton Lions Club which are generally modeled after the Lions Club International constitution and bylaws.

Conventions (Jack Reindl) – This committee communicates to the membership the schedule of national conferences as well as the International, State and District conventions.

Greeting Committee (Gene Schmit) – The Greeting Committee registers members attending the meetings, collects the fee for the meal, and welcomes members and guests to the meeting.

Knights of Sight (Jack Reindl) – This committee nominates club members for the Knights of Sight award. It is awarded to Lions who exemplify the Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin's mission to give the Gift of Sight.

Long Range Planning/Fund Raising Ad Hoc (Bob Lauer) – This committee meets a minimum of once a year to recommend service and fund raising projects to the Board of Directors of the club.

Meeting and House (Pat Murray) – This committee selects the meeting location and the caterer for meetings and makes sure that the room is set up for meetings. This includes podium, flags, microphone, etc.

Meeting Raffles (Brad Diamond) – This committee is responsible for conducting raffles at meetings. Money raised from raffles is deposited in the club's Administrative Account which is used to pay for the meals of guests, and partially cover the expenses of members attending other Lion meetings.

Melvin Jones (Bob Lauer) – This committee nominates members for the Melvin Jones Fellowship award which is named after the founder of the Lions organization.

Member Directory (Donald Deetjen and David Liss) – This committee publishes the Member Directory which is updated every year.

Membership/New Member Orientation (John Gassert and Bob Hoffman) – The Membership/New Member Orientation Committee serves as the focal point for club members who have identified a potential new club member. They provide membership materials and information about the Grafton Lions Club to potential members. The membership committee organizes a membership evening at one of the meetings. Finally the committee is responsible for orienting new members to the club and the coordinating the club's mentoring program.

Publicity / Photography (Dave Antoine and Bob Mercer) – This committee is responsible for contacting the following print media for coverage of club activities: Ozaukee Press, News Graphic, and Wisconsin Lion. The committee also contacts local businesses that have electronic signs to promote upcoming events. Pictures taken by the club photographer are often submitted with the stories.

Programs (Paul Scofield) – The Second Vice President is responsible for identifying speakers for programs for the semi-monthly meetings.

Scholarship and Citizenship Awards (Ed Schmidt) – This committee selects three Grafton High School seniors who are each awarded a \$1000 scholarship at a club meeting in the spring. One of the recipients is a member of the Grafton Leo Club. The recipients, along with their parents are invited to a meeting where they are recognized for their achievement.

In the fall the committee along with school administrators, select students to receive The Grafton Lions Student Citizenship Award. This award recognizes students' community involvement, volunteerism, high ethical standards, and willingness to help other students. The recipients, along with their parents are invited to a meeting where they receive a plaque acknowledging their achievements.

Spouses Picnic (Dan Wrolstad) - The club hosts a picnic on the third Tuesday of August for spouses and significant others. The picnic is held at Veterans Park.

Sunshine Committee (Jack Reindl) – Flowers are sent to club members or their families when there is an illness or death in the family.

Website / Facebook page (Pat Murray and Chris Smith) – Committee members maintain the club's website – [graftonlions.com](http://graftonlions.com) as well as the club's Facebook page.

Wisconsin Lions Foundation Liaison (Darrel Blank) – A member of the Grafton Lions serves as the liaison to the Wisconsin Lions Foundation.

## **Lions Alphabet Soup**

### **Titles**

- CC - Council Chair (red jacket)
- DG - District Governor (red jacket)
- ID - International Director
- IP - International President
- IPDG - Immediate Past District Governor (navy blue jacket)
- IPID - Immediate Past International Director
- IPIP - Immediate Past International President
- PCC - Past Council Chair (navy blue jacket)
- PDG - Past District Governor (navy blue jacket)
- PID - Past International Director
- PIP - Past International President
- VDG - Vice District Governor - each district should have a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor (green jacket)
- VDG-E – Vice District Governor-Elect
- WLF Director – Wisconsin Lions Foundation Director (light blue jacket)
- ZC - Zone Chair

### **Organizations/Programs**

- CEP – Club Excellence Process
- COG – Council of Governors
- DFG – Diabetes Focus Group
- GLT – Global Leadership Team
- GMT – Global Membership Team
- LCI - Lions Club International
- LCIF – Lions Club International Foundation
- LEBW – Lions Eye Bank of Wisconsin
- LPEF – Lions Pride Endowment Fund
- MD – Multiple District
- WLF – Wisconsin Lions Foundation