



Volume I

Issue I

October 2007

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WHY HAVE A NEWSLETTER FOR INDIANA'S WOMEN LIONS?

This is the first question that many Lions will ask and it is important that all Lions know the answer. It is a simple question, but the answer is more complex.

At this time, with the invention of the computer and email, information can be sent to those who want to receive it at no monetary cost to the sender or receiver. The only question is whether there is information important enough to be sent to women Lions. The Indiana Lions Women's Membership Development and Participation Committee thinks there is.

Women's membership in Indiana Lionism continues to grow every year. Many of the women joining know very little about Lionism and would benefit greatly from learning about the opportunities for women in Lionism.

Women are also better about sharing information about what they are doing. This newsletter will offer them the opportunity to share successful ideas and projects and will encourage the spread of this success to other clubs.

The newsletter will also offer the opportunity for women to ask questions about Lionism and to receive answers. An informed and educated membership is the key to the success of any organization.

If the newsletter is not helpful and interesting to women Lions, it will die quickly. If there are not enough women who participate in its development, it will disappear.

This first issue has four basic parts. The first part is information about the development of women in Indiana Lionism. The second part is the sharing of successful projects. The third part is about ways to increase your understanding of Lionism, and the fourth part is to encourage you to send us questions which we will answer in the next issue.

We are open to suggestions for other parts you would like to see in the newsletter. Our only goal is to help you be the most effective Lion you can be. If you wish to receive the newsletter, send your email address to Lion Kaylene Souers at amchud@aol.com. We intend to publish at least 3 times a year.

WOMEN'S MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT & PARTICIPATION

STATE CHAIR

Kaylene Souers
amchud@aol.com

District A

DG Barbara Toosley
LionBarb@comcast.com

District B

Kaylene Souers
amchud@aol.com

District C

Joann Greenlee
jgreenle@iupui.edu

District D

Betty Weist
jcweist@aol.com

District E1

Brenda Lawson
brendavlawson@yahoo.com

District E2

PDG Myrna Thompson
myrna2@evansville.net

District F

Donna Kumli
kumli@hotmail.com

District G

Dee Nelson
njnix@verizon.net



WOMEN DISTRICT GOVERNORS IN INDIANA

Listed below are the eighteen women who have served as district governors in Indiana. Every Indiana district except District B has had at least two women district governors. District E2 has had the most women district governors with four.

Fran Shaul	25-F	1996-1997
Jeri Seely	25-G	1996-1997
*Carole Morris	25-E2	1997-1998
Ruth Whitlock	25 E1	1999-2000
Peg Dawson	25-F	2000-2001
Carolyn Merrill	25-D	2001-2002
Kate Jackson	25-B	2002-2003
Mary Henry	25-D	2002-2003
Alvetta Wallace	25-E2	2002-2003
Wanda Wentland	25-C	2003-2004
Sandra Price	25-D	2003-2004
Ann Haffner	25-G	2003-2004
*Linda Tinch	25-E1	2005-2006
Myrna Thompson	25-E2	2005-2006
Margaret Verkuilen	25-A	2006-2007
Patricia "Pat" Birk	25-G	2006-2007
Barbara Toosley	25-A	2007-2008
Nancy Lambert	25-E2	2007-2008

*Council Chairperson



WOMEN LIONS MEMBERSHIP IN INDIANA

During the 20 years there have been women in Lionism, Indiana's women's membership has risen from 0 to 2667. This is a remarkable achievement, but we have the opportunity to do even better.

In 5 years we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of women in Lionism. At that time, the goal of your Women's Membership and Development Committee is to have 5000 women Lions in Indiana.

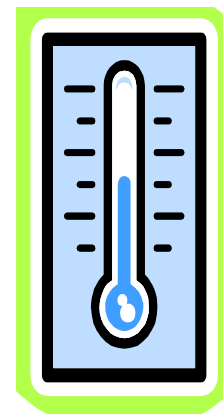
Can we do it? Only if we understand how important increasing our membership is to the success our Lions clubs will have in the future. If each of our women members brought in ONE NEW MEMBER we would reach this goal well before then.

In the next newsletter we will tell you about one lady Lion that brought in 9 **new members**. Her story should inspire all of us.

Listed below is the women's Lion membership by district in Indiana and the percent of each district's Lions that are women.

A	B	C	D	E1	E2
423	327	334	177	314	310
25%	24%	14%	16%	25%	33%

F	G
407	375
19%	21%



2012 - 5000

2007 - 2667

1987 - 0



WOMEN'S LIONS PIN

The pin shown here is the first Lions pin in the U.S. developed to honor the 20th anniversary of women's membership in Lionism. It was designed by women Lions in Indiana and is available in gold and silver.

Lionism has a long history of producing special pins to honor specific occasions. The inclusion of women in Lionism of one of those special events.

The likeness on the pin is that of Helen Keller. Her speech at the Lions International Convention at Sandusky, Ohio in 1925 gave Lionism its focus. She encouraged Lions to be Knights of the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The enthusiastic response of the Lions to her request has not only led to the formation of many new Lions clubs, but produced many projects to assist the visually impaired. The first of which was to help anyone in our communities who needed glasses and couldn't afford them.

Over the years, Lions started many additional sight related activities including:

1. Peoria Lions developed the White Cane
2. Dogs were trained to lead the blind.
3. Eye banks were established
4. Glasses were collected and taken to undeveloped countries to those who had no access to vision care.
5. Eyecare facilities were built.

Because of her effort to give direction to Lions, Helen Keller is revered in Lionism. Her likeness brings a special significant to the women's pin. It is a pin all women Lions can wear with pride.



ATTENDING MID-WINTER CONFERENCE

Each year during the first weekend in January, the Lions of Indiana hold Winter Conference in Indianapolis. This conference is open to all Lions and provides seminars on various topics of interest to Lions. Each year between 300 and 400 Lions attend.



This year the conference will have special seminars for women Lions. These seminars will help you understand how to be an effective member of your Lions Club. There will also be seminars on special topics of interest to all Lions.

In addition, a silent auction is held of items donated by each of the districts. This year the proceeds from the silent auction will be used to benefit and promote Leo Clubs in Indiana.

Enrollment forms for the conference were sent to all Lions in the October issue of the *Hoosier Lion*. This year the new women's 20th anniversary pin will be available for purchase at the conference. If you have items for the silent auction, please notify your district governor or vice district governor.

"Women's 20th anniversary pins are available for \$3 from your District Governor or Women's Membership chair. The committee members will also have pins at the Mid-Winter Conference. Join us for some great seminars and sharing of ideas."



LINDA TINCHER PAST COUNCIL CHAIR MD 25 PDG 25-E1

I became a Lion October 1, 1989, a full two years after women were accepted into Lionism. I wanted to make a difference and I wanted to meet people in my community. I had lived in the community for four years, but didn't feel like I belonged. I had attended several "ladies nights". When my husband asked me to join, I first said, "NO way, I'd never be able to talk in front of a group of people!

Then our local female postmaster joined along with the wife of another member. Now there were three people wanting me to become a member. Reluctantly, I agreed, but I was concerned because several men had resigned from the club and very loudly stated it was because of the women members. I don't like conflict when there is a no reason for it, and in this case I found it hard to understand at all. The women only wanted to be involved and help the Lion's causes, so why was this such a disaster. Other male Lions wanted to share this with their wives also and the tide began to turn. Over the next few years two or three women became Lions at Riley each year. Currently we have 26 women and 31 men in our club.

In 1997-98 my husband served as District Governor of 25-E. We traveled to every club and I found women in all but a few. As the Governor's wife you were welcomed and nothing much else was said. However, the women club members that sometimes traveled with us often stated they felt "out of place."

1997-98 was the last year our district was in good standing in membership. Lions just kept leaving the clubs. In 2004 several people encouraged me to run for Governor. This time, I was reluctant because only one woman in our district had been governor and nobody else had even mentioned it. I didn't like the downward spiral the district had suffered the previous five years and I wanted to try and make a difference. If becoming governor might encourage other women to take a more active role, it might be worth it.

My biggest supporter was PDG Vern, my husband. He was always saying, "You can do it and you will never be sorry you did," and he was right.

I set two goals. I wanted to find a way for 25-E1 to get out of transition and to add four new clubs. I was even told by some, my goals were too high to be realistic, but I had to try. The year was hectic as are all district governor years, but with the help of PDG Charlie Crawford in E2, our current DG Gary Lawson, and my husband PDG Vern, District 25-E1 was out of transition in early 2006. By the end of the Lion year there was a record four new clubs! It had been an exhausting year, but the rewards were great. President Ashok Mehta presented me and 23 other people in the United States with a beautiful Five-Star plaque and a presidential medal at Canada/USA in Columbus, Ohio. 25-E1 ended the year with a plus 114, the fourth highest in the USA.

I was all prepared to return to working with my club, but then I was elected as Council Chair for 2006-2007. It was hard to explain how I felt when I realized the eight governors that make up the Council of Governors had chosen me to be Council Chair to lead them. This was a long way from where I had started in 1988. It was hard to believe all that has been achieved. I can proudly say that I know people in every district and in hundreds of clubs, even some in other states. Lionism has opened a door to a new way of life. I know that I and other women belong and we contribute much to Lionism. I feel like I have made a difference and most importantly I still am. I even learned how to talk in front of a group of people! Lionism is a way of life for me, and I will continue TO SERVE wherever I can be of assistance. I am proud to be a Lion.





ASK NALA

Each issue will have this section which will contain the answers to one or more questions which have been sent to “Ask Nala”. All Lions sending in a question will receive an answer or the email address of someone who can best answer their question. Questions whose answers may be of interest to our readers will be published in this column.

To submit questions, send to **Ask Nala** at amchud@aol.com

If you've enjoyed this first issue, pass it along. We are always looking for success stories of how women's membership has increased in your club. Is there a key woman in your community who has inspired you? Tell us about it. We welcome your comments and questions for *Ask Nala*.



JOKE OF THE DAY

A husband and wife, who had been married for 35 years, were celebrating their 60th birthdays which fell on the same day.

During the celebration, a fairy appeared and said that because they had been such a loving couple for 35 years, she would give them one wish each.

The wife wanted to travel around the world. So, the fairy waved her wand and the wife had the tickets in her hand.

Next, it was the husband's turn. He paused for a moment, then said shyly, “Well, I'd like to have a woman who is 30 years younger than me.”

The fairy picked up her wand, and he instantly turned 90.

A little boy went to the store with his grandmother and on the way home, he was looking at the things she had purchased.

He found a package of panty hose and began to sound out the words, “Queen Size.”

He then turned to his grandmother and exclaimed, “Look Grandma, you wear the same size as the bed!”

