

FAMILY & WOMEN'S NEWS

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Lions Clubs International

WE ARE FAMILY

“Our clubs should be like families. The source of our strength in our clubs is the relationship we have with one another. We need to believe in one another and take care of one another like families do. If we do this, we will have no problems with retention. Our clubs will be full of members who are enthusiastic about service.”



This is International President Wing-Kun Tam's message and challenge for Lions. Because our strength and our causes are at the club level, creating an atmosphere around member care, mutual respect and treating each other like family will bring long-term success. Our philosophy should be “my club, my family.”

It's a simple equation –
Involvement + sense of worth + member care + family atmosphere = club success.

What better way to cultivate a family atmosphere than to invite our own family members to join our clubs and encourage other Lions to do the same? The [Family Membership Program](#) promotes families volunteering together by offering a special dues discount to family members and the [Cub Program](#) (pdf) provides ideas, suggestions and resources for including children and adolescents in club activities.

For more on International [President Tam's theme](#), visit the 2011-2012 President's Theme Web page.

WOMEN'S AND FAMILY MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

President Tam has assembled a Women's and Family Membership Development Task Force to collect ideas for growing women and family membership.

The Task Force is comprised of the current female international directors and two female board appointees. Throughout the 2011-2012 fiscal year, these women will be attending and participating in women's workshop events and symposiums worldwide.

The vision for the task force members is to gain insights for promoting, advancing and developing opportunities for women and family membership in Lions. The Task Force will be pulling together and distilling their findings to develop recommendations on next steps.

If you have ideas or success stories to share with the Women's and Family Membership Development Task Force, send them to the [Membership and New Club Programs Department](#).

Ensure clubs in your area play their part in the club success equation by spreading the checklist below as you welcome new members into your Lions family:

- HAVE I MADE THE NEW MEMBER FEEL WELCOME?
 - Smile and say hello
 - Provide effective orientation so they know how your club operates and feel comfortable participating
- HAVE I GIVEN THEM RESPONSIBILITY?
 - Involve them from day one
 - Ask them to join a committee
 - Get them started working on a service project
- HAVE I VALUED THEIR INPUT, AND RESPECTED THEIR IDEAS?
 - Ask them for their ideas, and listen to what they have to say
 - Implement one of their ideas
- HAVE I MADE THEM FEEL LIKE A MEMBER OF THE FAMILY?
 - Treat them as you would any other member, with mutual respect
 - Keep them involved on a regular basis