

# FAMILY & WOMEN'S

## MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT CHAIRPERSON NEWS

November 2008



Lions Clubs International

### Family Membership

LCI is very pleased with the initial results for the Family Membership Program. October results show that 9,468 new Lions joined this fiscal year and were certified as part of a Family Unit. Family membership represents 14.5% of all new members in Lions.

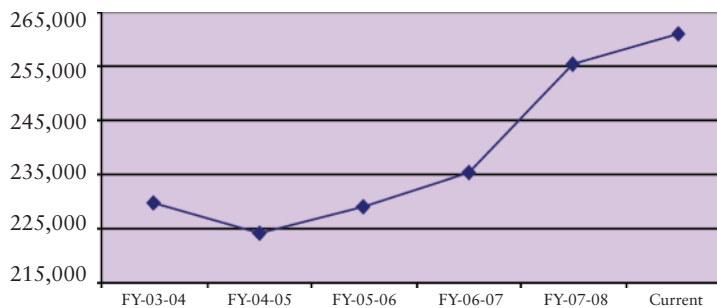
Lions club members are embracing this program and inviting their family members to become Lions. Last fiscal year:

- The number of Lions in family unit grew from 82,005 to 120,336.
- 8,093 existing Lions became members of a family unit by inviting another family members to join their club
- Clubs with a family units grew from 9,893 to 13,837

### Women Membership

The number of women members continues to increase. The current number of women members, per the October 2008 reporting, is 260,824. This is a net increase of 5,485 from the start of the fiscal year and an all time high.

Total Number of Women



### Family Activities

Are you looking for ideas for activities to involve more family members. Consult the [Family Volunteer Activity List](#) for a comprehensive list of projects and activities.



### Two New Club Programs

Two new hands-on club programs have been introduced for the betterment of the environment and beautification of the community:

- **Lions Green Team** - Organize a high-visibility environmental project, such as a community clean-up, tree planting or recycling effort.
- **Lions Crew at Work** - Invite Lions and other community members to help clean, paint or repair a local facility such as a community center, shelter, camp, playground or nature trail.

During these events, Lions are encouraged to post a Lions sign or banner and to wear Lions hats, shirts, and jackets to identify the club in the community. Invite the community to join your club's efforts and contact your local media.

### Start Planning Now for Lions Worldwide Induction Day

It's that time of year to start planning for Lions Worldwide Induction Day taking place April 25, 2009, and LCI has an [updated guide](#) to get you started.

Start by determining which clubs in your district will be participating in Worldwide Induction Day and inform your district governor. Next, contact membership and public relations chairpersons to develop recruitment ideas and to get started on a public relations campaign. Will the event take place during your district convention? If not, form a [Worldwide Induction Day](#) committee.



### Personal History of Women Lions

My father, Virgil Smith, was a Lion for as long as I can remember, and my brother, Gary, joined in 1981. Soon after women were allowed to join, Gary invited me to apply for membership in the Dell Rapids Lions Club. It was October 1991 and I was the first woman in our club. I remember being warmly welcomed, though I learned some time later that not every member was happy that I had been allowed to join. Gary must have figured that he and Dad could be a buffer between me and any old cranky Lion who might decide to growl at me. None did though, and two more women joined in the months to follow. Today our club membership is nearly 50% female, one of whom is my mother.

I had been a Lion only a couple of months when our club secretary moved out of town. The job was offered to me and I took it. Over the years, I've held all of the club offices and have served on many committees and district cabinets. In 1995, Gary asked me to take over as editor of the South Dakota Lion. It was a job he had inherited from Dad.

Gary served as District Governor during 1995- 96, but I never gave him back his old job on the South Dakota Lion. I've been very fortunate that through the years District Governors have asked me to stay on as editor. I guess it's in my blood.

All of this is to say that BEING INVOLVED is what has kept me a Lion all of these years. Holding an office meant I was at board and club meetings where I learned more and more about Lions -- the organization itself, as well as the amazing things we do around the world. By attending conventions, I met Lions from across the state, none of whom was ever a stranger to me again; many of whom are now my good friends.

*I'm proud to be a Lion.  
I'm glad my brother  
asked me to join.*

Sue Hovey, Dell Rapids Lions

### Fast Facts

- First female Lion was on July 4, 1987
- First female district governor – Louise Colombani, District 103CC, France, 1991
- First female international director Nilofar Bakhtiar, Pakistan, 1991
- Worldwide women membership makes up 19.9% of all Lions
- The family membership program began January 1, 2007
- 10% of all Lions belong to a family unit
- 20% of family clubs include children under 12 years old in club activities and meeting

### We Want to Hear From You!

Contact the [Membership Programs Department](#) with your success stories, service project and updates on symposiums.