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Legacy of Lions Membership Growth Awards Program

The Legacy of Lions does not reflect solely upon the past...indeed, it focuses on the future of the association, helping membership grow so that the spirit of goodwill generated by our more than 1.4 million members will continue to be felt well into the next century.

Since Lions Clubs International was founded in 1917, humanitarian action has been at the forefront of every endeavor undertaken by members. In 182 countries and geographic locations, nearly 45,000 Lions clubs have been chartered to serve the needs of their neighbors, and on a larger scale, the global community of which we are all part.

SightFirst, Lions' largest vision saving initiative ever, is breaking new barriers of service in eradicating preventable blindness. When disasters strike, Lions respond swiftly to assist the stricken through the helping hand of the Lions Clubs International Foundation. Drug awareness and health and education programs sponsored by Lions all work toward creating a healthier and safer environment in which to live.

The Legacy of Lions Membership Growth Awards Program has been developed to highlight the hard work and commitment of those Lions who are consistent in their efforts to increase our membership.

The program is divided into three parts:

■ Legacy of Lions Membership Growth Award

Each individual who sponsors one or more new members during the months of February, March or April will receive an award pin. These pins will be distributed through the local club in the fall of 1997 after the six-month dues renewal is billed by Lions Clubs International. New members who join during these three months must be in good standing at the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 1997. This Legacy program provides an added incentive for Lions to ensure the success of "Three-for-One," the club-level initiative to bring in quality members. Quality membership growth focuses on the future, in keeping with the spirit of the Legacy programs.

■ Legacy of Lions Membership Growth Patch Award

To encourage strong club support of the individual member award program, a new patch will be presented to each club that has a 17 percent growth in club membership at the end of April. This includes

new, transfer and reinstated members, and is based solely on the three-month Legacy of Lions programs — from February 1, 1997 through April 30, 1997.

The "17 percent" signifies the year 1917, when the proud legacy of Lions actually began. The desired 17 percent growth is based strictly on the overall gross numbers of the expansion of an individual's club membership.

■ 1996-97 Cumulative Membership Growth Award

To encourage even greater individual success in achieving membership growth, a special award — an add-on gold tab for the Legacy of Lions pin — will be presented to each individual who is responsible for the addition of five new members to his or her club during fiscal year 1996-97. These new Lions must also be members in good standing at the beginning of the new fiscal year on July 1, 1997.

The Legacy of Lions programs enhance partnerships among Lions worldwide and challenge members everywhere to recognize their individual responsibilities to be bridgebuilders on behalf of a stronger association.