

Lioness Bridge Program Frequently Asked Questions

The Lioness Bridge program was created to encourage Lionesses and Lioness Clubs to join Lions Clubs International. By honoring their service efforts prior to their decision to accept Lions membership, Lions International hopes to help all Lionesses join our global community. Per the decision of the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors and Executive Officers, the Lioness Bridge Program, and all of its concessions, will end on June 30, 2021 without exception.

The following are some frequently asked questions about the Lioness initiative.

Who is eligible for the Lioness Bridge Program?

The Lioness Bridge Program is meant to encourage individual Lionesses or members of a Lioness club to become part of Lions International, and as such is open only to existing Lionesses who have not yet become Lions. Members of existing Lioness clubs which were sponsored by a Lions club are eligible to be considered for the Lioness Bridge Program.

Only those who complete a 'Lioness Bridge' form are considered part of the Lioness Bridge Program, but all current and former Lionesses can complete the 'Years of Service' form to transfer their years of service as a Lioness to their Lion record.

Are there special incentives for a Lioness club to become a Lions club?

To encourage Lionesses to join, LCI is offering existing Lioness clubs with special incentives to become Lions clubs, including:

- No minimum number of members required (typically need 20).
- Charter fee for existing clubs will be waived.
- Years as a Lioness carry over to years of Lions membership.
- Half international dues credit from July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021.

Are there any benefits for a Lioness club to become a club branch of a Lions club?

Possibly, Lioness clubs would still be offered the same concessions whether starting a traditional or club branch so it would be a matter of what is right for the club. Normally, a club branch is an avenue for new clubs to form when they do not have 20 members; however, the concessions for Lioness clubs already allow clubs to form with no minimum amount of members. Club branches are part of an existing "parent" club, but hold independent meetings and select their own projects and activities so some Lioness clubs may see this as a benefit when looking to bridge over to a Lions club. If the Lioness club has a EIN, they can maintain it once they bridge to a Lions club. LCI recommends consulting local laws as a name change may be required with the IRS. For more information on club branches please visit the website or contact newclubs@lionsclubs.org.

How can a Lioness club become a Lions club?

Lioness clubs that want to join our global force would need to provide the following information:

- A letter from their sponsoring Lions club verifying **the club's years of service and activity** emailed to newclubs@lionsclubs.org.
- The [Lioness Bridge Charter](#) worksheet, **which** collects club information and may be submitted online via [MyLCI](#) In the 'Comments' section, please identify by name the Lions Club affiliated with the Lioness club in question. The [Report of Charter Membership](#) worksheet, which collects all member information and may be to be submitted online via [MyLCI](#).
- A [Lioness Bridge form](#) for each Lioness in the club to ensure eligibility for half international dues credit.
- A [Lioness Years of Service form](#) for each Lioness in the club to ensure recognition of their past service.

If you need assistance or additional information about chartering a Lions club contact newclubs@lionsclubs.org.

Can an individual Lioness become a Lion?

Absolutely! In June 2018, the LCI Board of Directors voted to extend an entrance fee waiver to individual Lioness members joining an existing Lions club. In April 2019, the LCI Board of Directors voted to add an additional concession by offering a credit for half international dues to any former Lioness that joins Lions Clubs International between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021.

An individual Lioness must complete the Lioness Bridge form to be entitled to the full benefits of being a member of our international association. Also, if a Lioness Bridge form is completed and submitted within 30 days of being reported to LCI as a member of the new Lion's club, the individual does not need to pay an entrance fee, and is eligible to pay half of international dues effective July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2021.

An individual Lioness also needs to complete the Lioness Years of Service form, including a signature from their Lioness club's president and a signature from the president of their new Lions club. This entitles the new member to the full benefits of being a member of our international association.

Can an individual who is not a former Lioness join a Lioness Lions club?

Yes! Any individual can join a Lioness Lions club by invitation from the club. Please note that individuals that are not former Lioness who join a Lioness Lions club are not eligible for the Lioness Bridge Program or the special incentives offered to former Lioness. These individuals would be prospective members of a Lioness Lions clubs and therefore would be treated as a new member of Lions Clubs.

Who is eligible for the half international dues credit?

In April 2019, the LCI Board of Directors voted to offer an additional concession of a half international dues credit as incentive for Lioness to become Lions. **Only Lioness who join between July 1, 2019 and June 30, 2021 and have completed the Lioness Bridge Form will be eligible for this incentive, a credit of half international dues.** After the Lioness Bridge Program has ended on June 30, 2021, all Lioness who became Lions will have to pay full international dues.

What happens to my Lioness Club after the June 30, 2021 deadline if it has not transitioned to a Lioness Lions Club?

The LCI Board of Directors has made the decision to end the Lioness Bridge Program after June 30, 2021. Lioness Clubs that decide not to join Lions Clubs International will no longer be considered a sponsored activity of a Lions club, and will lose all associated benefits. This includes protection under Lions Clubs International's general liability insurance, and utilization of all registered trademarks of LCI, including Lioness logo.

What are the advantages of being a Lion?

There are many wonderful benefits of being a member of Lions International! Members can vote in elections and on key issues affecting the organization, attend the annual Lions Clubs International convention, and hold leadership positions that give them a greater voice in our organization. Members also receive the support of Lions International, which provides service planning resources and professional development opportunities, as well as other critical benefits. Insurance, legal counsel and advocacy support allow members to serve with confidence.

Plus, members receive the LION Magazine and get access to powerful technology like the MyLion mobile app. And don't forget the most important benefit of all - the pride of being an official member of the largest service organization in the world!

Can a Lioness club still keep their identity as Lioness in their Lion's club name?

Yes. When chartering a new Lions club, Board Policy indicates that the naming convention should consist of Municipality (city, town, village, prefecture, county, etc.) and then a "distinguishing designation" if desired, which could include the word Lioness. For example, a Lioness club in Hyderabad, India could be named "Lions Club of 'Hyderabad Lioness.'

Additional club name rules can be found in Chapter X of the Board Policy Manual. Clubs that do not utilize this naming convention will require special approval from the Membership Development Committee.

Is it true that Lions clubs can no longer sponsor new Lioness clubs?

Yes. At the April 2018 Board Meeting, the LCI Board of Directors made the decision to end the sponsorship of any new Lioness clubs. In addition, the Board recommended that Lioness districts and Lioness multiple districts and administrative roles should not be supported by LCI at any level, and should be actively discouraged by the District Governors.

What should be done with Lioness clubs records, financial statements and physical materials?

LCI does not have any oversight on Lioness clubs that choose to disband. LCI suggests that the Lioness clubs financial records be maintained by the sponsoring club for seven years. It is recommended that the Lioness club and sponsoring Lions club consult local laws for guidance.

Who can I contact with specific questions about the Lioness Bridge program?

For more information about the Lioness Bridge Program, please email membership@lionsclubs.org.
Plea above to membership@lionsclubs.org.