

HISTORY OF THE

WEST SEATTLE

LIONS CLUB

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PREFACE

Over the sixty seven years since the West Seattle Lions Club was chartered there probably have been many people with intentions of compiling a history of the club or a scrap book of some sort. One such documented attempt mentioned in the West Seattle "LIONEWS" on September 7, 1972 states as follows:

IF YOU'VE GOT IT; FLAUNT IT

Among other things that Tom O'Neill did last meeting was to bring a rare collection of old pictures of west Seattle Lion activities as a contribution to our historical album which is in the process of being prepared. Surely some of you, including those living a happily retired life in distant places, have some you'd like to donate. Please send or give them to Bob Nuber, together with as much information as you can, particularly date (approximation if nothing else), and the names of those in the picture the best you can recall as well as the event.

This historical album is missing along with almost all other historical information. A committee of West Seattle Lions, LeVerne Ballewig, Moe Beerman, Jack Hanning, Don Swanson and yours truly have interviewed many of our older members trying to collect information. Helen Sutton has also been very helpful. We have also searched the club records and storage areas but the information is very scant. The one source of some information is the West Seattle Herald and Bonnie Beerman has spent many hours scanning old newspapers and having the Newspaper duplicate them for us. We owe her our thanks. In more recent years the Scrapbooks that Corrine put together each year are loaded with information. It is hard to believe and unfortunate that a service club that has served a community so well over so many years has left such a undocumented trail for the first 30 years.

I have assembled the following pages of information about our club based on the information that was available and with the realization that probably many important details are missing. West Seattle Lions Club occupies a special place in my life and I consider all present and past members as my special friends. It has been fun and challenging to work on this project!

Al Watts

About LIONS INTERNATIONAL:

Before we begin on the history of the West Seattle Lions Club I believe it is important to first look at the history and growth of Lions International. The International Association of Lions was conceived at a meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on June 7, 1917 under the direction of our founder, Melvin Jones. From that meeting came a call for the association's first annual convention, which was held October 8-10, 1917, in Dallas, Texas, where by then 23 clubs participated.

Lions International was organized with the idea of uniting on a basis of unselfish community service, business men's clubs that had no other affiliations. This was a distinct departure from the practice of forming business men's organizations primarily for business purposes and personal gain.

By 1927, two years before West Seattle Lions Club was formed, the number of clubs had increased to 1,183 and the membership to 52,965. As of July 31, 1995 Lions Clubs International had 1,406,794 members in 42,692 clubs in 713 countries and geographic areas. The spirit of unselfish, cooperative service which inspires Lions has made Lionism a powerful force for understanding among peoples of the world.



MELVIN JONES (1879-1961)

*Founder of
Lions International*

More on the International Association of Lions Clubs:

The official publication of Lion's International is "The Lion" magazine mailed to all Lions members each month.

The official colors of the association are purple and gold.

The Motto of Lions is "We Serve".

The emblem consists of a gold "L" on a circular purple field. Bording this is a circular gold area with two conventionalized lion profiles at either side facing away from the center. The words "Lions" appear at the top and International at the bottom. The emblem represents a lion facing both past and future-- proud of the past and confident of the future.

The Slogan -- "Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nations Safety".

The Lions Code of Ethics and the Lions Club Objects probably are one of the reasons that Lions is the largest and most active service club in the world. These have remained unchanged since the beginning. I think that it is appropriate that they be included.

LION'S CODE

1. To show my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.
2. To seek success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.
3. To remember that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.
4. Whenever a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards my fellow men, to resolve such doubt against myself.
5. To hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.
6. Always bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give to them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.
7. To aid my fellow men by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.
8. To be careful with my criticisms and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

Lions Clubs International OBJECTS

TO CREATE and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

TO PROMOTE the principles of good government and good citizenship.

TO TAKE an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

TO UNITE the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

TO PROVIDE a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest, provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.

TO ENCOURAGE service-minded men to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

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THE STORY OF THE FOUNDING OF WEST SEATTLE LIONS CLUB

The first meeting of a service club in the West Seattle area was held Thursday noon, April 18, 1929 at Mannings Admiral Way store. A group of local merchants and professional men gathered with a delegation from the Ballard Lions Club to start the organization of the West Seattle Lions Club.

The following officers were elected: President, Chester B. Starks; First Vice-President, Dr Earl Moore; Second Vice-President, M. Evan Morgan; Third Vice-President, Norman A. Beers; Secretary-Treasurer, Clarence Wiederhold; Lion Tamer, Axel Carlsten; Tail Twister, Erskine Mollison; Directors: J. E. Carroll, Dr A. L. Windom, Perry L. Wing, and George H. Gaches. The delegation from Ballard included Mike Mitchell, Deputy District Governor; Jimmy L. Peterson, Walter Keen, Harry Finnick, and R. Figtrig. Evan Morgan was appointed chairman of the Charter Night Committee, and William P. Cresap, Chairman of Activities Committee. Lions songs were sung led by Normie Beers.

The Charter Night Banquet was held Wednesday evening, May 22, 1929 in the West Seattle High School lunchroom. Chet Starks presided; A. W. "Joy" Scudder was toastmaster; music was played by Sid Woody's Orchestra. Delegations from Ballard, University and Central Lions Clubs were present which numbered 200. A presentation was made by Mike Mitchell, greetings by H. W. Blackstock, president of the W. S. Commercial Club; and the charter presented by Ray R. Green, District Governor, to the 51 charter members.

Charter members:

Andresen, Dr. C. A.	Gaches, George H.	Price, H. F.
Beers, Norman A.	Hart, Harold W.	Robertson, I. M.
Blaker, Clark	James, Harry	Rothschild, E. E.
Burke, R. H.	Johnson, Dr. J. W.	Richey, Chas.
Carlsten, Axel	Jones. Bob	Ryan, George S.
Carroll, J. E.	Keightly, T. E.	Sankey, Paul
Cook, Dr. W. G.	Lawrence, W. R.	Schultz, Dr. Arthur G.
Conover, D. C.	Layman, A. P.	Sidders, Rev. A. W.
Cresap, W. P.	Logan, Kenneth D.	Smith, Rev. A. O.
Danforth, Dr. L. A.	McLeod, Hugh C.	Starks, C. B.
Daniels, J. W.	McPherson, W. J.	Teichroew, P. A.
Dean, W. A.	Mollison, Erskine	Warden, Matt
Dorsey, Dr. F. L.	Moore, Dr. Earl S.	Weber, A. W.
Draper, J. B.	Morgan, M. Evan	Wiederhold, Clarence
Foster, Bryce	Ossinger, Albert I.	Windom, Dr. A. L.
Fox, Chas. A.	Owen, A. A.	Wing, Perry

There is some confusion as to the the date of our charter. Most of our records show April 11, 1929 but our actual charter shows April 16, 1929. I believe the correct date is what the charter says.

The actual number of charter members is also open to debate. Newspaper accounts indicate there were 28 members on the date of our charter and at the time of the first meeting. The account above taken from our old records says there were 51 but lists only 48. The charter lists 49 members but does not include Harry James or Matt Warden. The list above doesn't include H.W.Blackstock. Newspaper accounts show that on May 22, 1929 when the charter Banquet was held the list of members had increased to 48.

The following pages show a copy of our charter and charter members.

International Association OF Lions Clubs CHARTER

To All to Whom These Presents Shall Come:
GREETING

Know Ye that the International Association of Lions Clubs has granted, and by these presents does grant to the Members, whose names are hereunto affixed, and to all regularly elected members and their successors, this Charter, fully constituting them a Local Club under the name and title of

**THE LIONS CLUB
of West Seattle**

located at West Seattle, Washington with all the rights and privileges given members of the International Association of Lions Clubs, according to the laws and regulations of the constitution and by-laws of the International Association now in force. This Charter shall be in full force and effect from the day of the date hereof, such time as the Members of the Local Club shall conform to the laws and by-laws of the International Association. Otherwise this Charter shall be revoked.

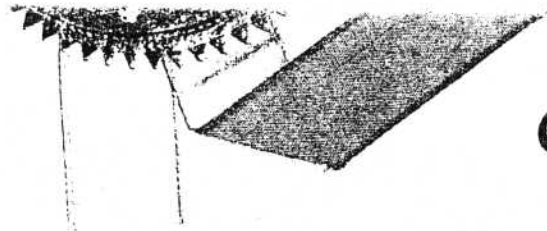
In Witness Whereof, the International Association of Lions Clubs has authorized its President and Secretary to affix their signatures, and caused the seal of the Association to be hereunto affixed this 16th day of April in the year of our Lord 1929.



[Signature]
PRESIDENT

[Signature]
SECRETARY

Charter Members



A. De Haven
PRESIDENT

[Signature]
SECRETARY

Charter Members

Dr. C. A. Andersen
Clark Blaker
Norman Beerz
H. W. Blackstock
R. H. Burke
W. P. Cresap
J. E. Carroll
Axel Carlsten
Dr. W. G. Cook
J. W. Daniels
J. B. Draper
Dr. L. A. Danforth
W. A. Dean

Dr. F. L. Dorsey
Bryce Foster
Chas. A. Fox
George H. Gaches
Harold W. Hart
Jim Hosey
Dr. J. W. Johnston
Bob Jones
T. E. Keightley
A. P. Layman
W. R. Lawrence
Kenneth D. Logan
M. Evan Morgan

Hugh C. McLeod
Dr. Earl S. Moore
Erskine Morrison
W. J. McPherson
Albert I. Ossinger
D. C. Conover
A. A. Owen
H. F. Price
E. E. Rothschild
Paul Sankey
Rev. A. O. Smith
Rev. A. W. Sidders
P. A. Teichroew

Clarence L. Weide
Dr. A. L. Windom
Tom Rice
Chas. Richey
George S. Ryan
I. M. Robertson
C. B. Starks
Dr. Arthur G. Schu
Perry L. Wing
A. W. Weber

The West Seattle Herald has been the source of much of the early history of our club. The first article occurred in the April 11, 1929 issue which is the the same date as our charter. The next article is a week later on April 18 that tells about the first meeting of the club.

Who's Who

in West Seattle



CHESTER B. STARKS

Chester B. Starks, vice-president and cashier of the West Seattle State Bank, should have been a railroad engineer if early environment had prevailed, for when he first saw the light of day in McCook, Nebraska, on August 1, 1895, his father was a railroad engineer and clanging bells and steaming engines were among his first memories.

The family did not stay in McCook long as duty called the father in rapid succession to Oxford, Neb.; Denver, Colo.; Arala, Colo.; and Littleton, Colo. In 1907, the family moved to Seattle with Chester Starks a boys of 12.

Co-incident with his arrival in Seattle the younger Starks started his commercial career with the Rhodes Co. where he worked after school until he graduated from Lincoln High School. Football, basketball and dramatics, however, found a place on his busy schedule.

Graduating from high school, young Starks tried his hand at transportation work on Vancouver Island, but soon returned to Seattle to become a bank messenger. His first taste of banking was unsatisfactory and he quit to become installment collector for a credit store.

However, he soon returned to banking as bookkeeper for the National City Bank and later in the collection department of the Scandinavian American Bank. At this point, the World War inter-

W. Siders Attend Lions Luncheon

A group of West Seattle business men and members of the West Seattle Commercial Club responding to an invitation from the Ballard Lions Club had lunch with the club in Ballard last Friday noon.

The object of the invitation was to present to West Seattle business men the idea of a Lions Club in West Seattle. A number of speakers told of the work of the club in the Ballard and the University districts and the part a Lions Club can play in the up-building of a community. M. B. (Mike) Mitchel, state representative and also official of the Lions Club, acted as chairman of the meeting.

4-11-29

Our 1st President in WHO'S WHO in Herald Oct 11, 1929

rupted the career of the young man and he entered the navy to make an enviable record and was discharged as an ensign.

Chance acquaintance brought Mr. Starks to West Seattle. He was known to one of the directors in the local bank and through him became cashier of the local institution. He was later made vice-president of the rapidly-growing concern.

Mr. Starks is treasurer of the Commercial Club, president of the Lions Club and was chairman of the Commercial Club advertising campaign which put this district on the map. He is married, has a daughter four and one-half years old and lives at 3751 Grayson St.

His outlook on West Seattle may be summed up in his statement: "When I came here in 1919, one-half of the present Campbell building was the only permanent commercial structure at the Junction. If ten years can accomplish such progress, I can anticipate the next ten years only with the greatest optimism."

LIONS CLUB IS ORGANIZED HERE

First Meeting Is Held At Mannings Admiral Way Store, Today

The first regular noon luncheon of the newly organized West Seattle Lions Club was held today at Mannings' Admiral Way Store.



C. B. STARKS

delegation of the Ballard Lions Club attended the meeting to help the locals get started off properly.

This is the first club of its kind in West Seattle. It is starting with a membership of twenty-eight. At an organization meeting one night last week the following officers were elected: C. B. Starks, president; Dr. Earl Moore, first vice-president; Clarence L. Wiederhold, secretary-treasurer; Axel Carlsten, lion tamer; Erskine Mollison, tail twister; J. E. Carroll, Dr. A. L. Windom, Perry L. Wing, George H. Gasches, directors.

The membership consists of: Erskine Mollison, E. E. Rothschild, C. B. Starks, Dr. Arthur Schultz, Clarence L. Wiederhold, Perry L. Wing, Dr. A. W. Windom, Dr. C. A. Andresen, Clark Blaker, Norman Beers, H. W. Blackstock, W. P. Cresap, J. E. Carroll, Dr. W. G. Cook, Axel Carlsten, J. W. Daniels, Dr. F. N. Dorsey, Dr. Syman A. Danforth, J. B. Draper, Chas. A. Fox, B. E. Foster, Geo. Gasches, Harold W. Hart, Dr. James Wallace Johnston, T. E. Keightley, A. P. Layman, M. Evan Morgan, and Dr. Earl S. Moore.

PAST PRESIDENTS:

- 1929 Chester B. Starks
- 1930 M. Evan Morgan
- 1931 Dr. L. A. Danforth
- 1932 Dr. A. L. Windom
- 1933 J. Dan Hunt
- 1934 Hugh C. McLeod
- 1935 Joy W. Scudder
- 1936 Dr C. A. Andresen
- 1937 Bob Jones
- 1938 Wally O. Greig
- 1939 Dr J. W. Johnson
- 1940 N. Harry Martin
- 1941 Morrison Campbell
- 1942 Donald G. Waller
- 1943 Axel Carlsten
- 1944 Charles E. Richey
- 1945 Charles Harris
- 1946 Eugene Fiedler
- 1947 Thomas O'Neill
- 1948 Adam P. Layman
- 1949 Elmer Sears
- 1950 R. Mort Lowney
- 1951 Howard Mallory
- 1952 Deryl Huling
- 1953 R. A. Pomeroy
- 1954 Francis C. Barnes
- 1955 Calvin C. Clark
- 1956 Ray C. Atwood
- 1957 Clarence O. Carlsen
- 1958 Merlin C. Brown
- 1959 Glen Gunderson
- 1960 Clarence F. McRory
- 1961 Ted Best
- 1962 Les Milsted
- 1963 Bob Skoog
- 1964 Ed Church
- 1965 Robert Venable
- 1966 Richmond S. Blake
- 1967 John Kingsley
- 1968 Elmer Hay
- 1969 James W. Hurd
- 1970 Dr. Allen J. Watts
- 1971 Dr. Stuart Stevenson
- 1972 Dr. Donald Gardiner
- 1973 Charles M. Shlosser
- 1974 W. A. "Lex" Templin
- 1975 Robert C. Zeller
- 1976 Henry G. DeMeyer
- 1977 Clinton W. Cox
- 1978 Donald E. Swanson
- 1979 Frank G. Cheever
- 1980 Thomas T. Middleton, Jr
- 1981 Aurlo A. Bonney
- 1982 Richard K. Zwaller
- 1983 R. Bruce Channer
- 1984 Milton F. Sutton
- 1985 William G. Coulter
(Honorary) Perry L. Wing
- 1986 Carl R. "Dick" Eisenbrey
- 1987 James Dunham
- 1988 Charles Jung
- 1989 Henry L. "Len" Walton
- 1990 Douglas A. Garvey
- 1991 Andrew L. Nelson
- 1992 Robert Joe "Bob" Hester
- 1993 Julie Arnevik
- 1994 Michael McCrath
- 1995 Karen Sisson
- 1996 George Grieve

MEETING LOCATIONS:

It is interesting to note that the first organizational meeting was held at Mannings Admiral Way store on Thursday, April 18, 1929 and every regular Lions Club meeting has been held on a Thursday ever since.

We know that early meetings were held in the basement of the First Christian Church and the ladies of the church made and served the lunches. We also know that meetings were held above the People's Bank building. For many, many years the West Seattle Golf Course Clubhouse was the site of the noon meetings as well as most of the banquets and other meetings. Following that era, meetings were held at the West Seattle Community Hospital Auditorium until it closed. In the more recent years we have met at the West Seattle American Legion Hall where we enjoy the fine lunches prepared by our own Lion Chef, Velma Johnston. The location of our noon meetings is at present the Southwest Community Center at 2801 Southwest Thistle Street.

In 1851 the Denny Party arrived in Alki. It is interesting to note the formation of clubs in the West Seattle area 50 years later during the first third of the century and how they worked together. Following is a list of the organizations:

- 1904 West Seattle Improvement Club
- 1905 Masons
- 1909 Alki Womens Improvement Club
- 1910 W.S. Art Club
- 1911 Camp Fire Girls
- 1913 Seattle Temple #1 - Daughters of the Nile
- 1914 Camp Coleman
- 1914 Boy Scouts (by 1915-three troops)
- 1920 Fine Arts Study Club
- 1921 American Legion
- 1922 W.S. YMCA
- 1927 Girl Scouts
- 1929 W.S. Lions
- 1929 W.S, Kiwanis (3 months after Lions)
- 1929 W.S. Garden Club
- 1934 VF
- 1934 W.S. Sportsman Club

Lions, Kiwanis Help Finance Bond Drive

Both the West Seattle Lions and Kiwanis Clubs assisted in the financing of the publicity for the West Seattle campaign in the 6th War Loan Drive.

11-30
44

There is evidence of several joint meetings with Kiwanis but most were sports oriented. In 1947 Rotary was formed and the three Clubs supported each others projects. They competed in golf, bowling and volleyball.

Kiwanians Await Lions' Blitzkreig ^{2/6/41}

They'll make the welkin ring, will the West Seattle Kiwanians and Lions, when they gather at a joint meeting next Thursday noon at the West Seattle Community Clubhouse.

A few weeks ago the Lions paid the Kiwanians a visit and their ears are still burning. Since that time, ring leaders of the ring-tailed squadron have been burning midnight oil preparing a fitting reception for their guests Thursday.

Several members of the Kiwanis Club are seriously considering wearing bullet-proof vests and asbestos suits in anticipation of their reception.

Axel Carlsten, genial secretary of the Lions, is said to be still muttering to himself since being introduced to the "sawbuck bossy" which was a feature of the Kiwanis program.

Capt. H. D. Kimsey of the local precinct police station says he will have an emergency squad ready in case of a riot.

Kiwanians and Lions To Meet in Golf Match ⁸⁻⁷⁻⁴¹

The Kiwanis-Lions feud, which has been smoldering since that memorable ball game a year ago, threatens to burst into flame again. It seemed that the hatchet had been buried when the Lions and Kiwanians joined in a festive affair and broke bread together at a dance and banquet last spring. But Lions never forget—and neither do Kiwanians.

Now it's golf. In a document filled with inuendo, slander and frequent references to "venerable old gentlemen", the Lions recently challenged the Kiwanians to a golf match. The Kiwanians promptly accepted so the match has been arranged and will be played next Thursday afternoon, August 14, on the West Seattle Golf Course starting at 2 o'clock.

Tentative pairings for the duel follow: President Bill Sweeney vs.

President Morrie Campbell, Clyde Dunn vs Harold Hart, Fred Collins vs Elmer Sears, Orlyn Haws vs. Dr. C. A. Andresen, Larry Brungard vs Harry Martin, M. D. "Polly" Parrett vs Donald Waller, Arthur Haugen vs Waldo Hotchkiss, Harold "Speed" Winquist vs Art Busch, Stan Davis vs Normie Beers, Thurlie Thornton vs Len Oliver, Rolly Davis vs Herb Blackstock, Jack Fasso vs Tommy O'Neill, Glen Litts vs Gene Fiedler, Frank Martin vs Milt Haggard and Stan Robstad vs Ted Best.

It was planned, originally, to have a dinner after the match, but with sentiment favoring play on the local course and no facilities available on the course for a dinner afterwards, it was decided to dispense with the dinner. A. E. Busch is chairman of the Lions golf committee, Dunn representing the Kiwanians.

ANNIVERSARIES:

The first Charter Anniversary that we have any record of is the 20th and the only evidence is the two interesting telegrams that follow:

WESTERN UNION

1201

CLASS OF SERVICE

This is a full-rate Telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address.

SYMBOLS

DL = Day Letter

NL = Night Letter

LC

NLT

(04)

Ship Radiogram

JOSEPH L. EGAN
PRESIDENT

The filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination.

SEA032 NL PD=CHICAGO ILL APR 20=

1949 APR 21 AM 10 08

EDWAIN J CHURCH SEC WEST SEATTLE LIONS CLUB=

DLR 4823 CALIFORNIA AVE=

THE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF LIONS INTERNATIONAL JOIN ME IN
SENDING HEARTY CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU AND YOUR LIONS CLUB
MEMBERS ON YOUR TWENTIETH CHARTER ANNIVERSARY. WE ARE
PROUD OF YOUR FINE RECORD OF COMMUNITY SERVICE=

MELVIN JONES=

THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE