

# **Lions of Michigan**

## **Awards, Fellowships & Special Recognition Guide**



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# Introduction

Most Lions join our association for the opportunity to serve and use their time and talents to help those who are less fortunate. This has been the principal focus of Lionism since Melvin Jones stepped forward to establish the organization in 1917. Few Lions join to foster and achieve personal recognition.

Lions at all levels do recognize that some of the members go far and beyond what is expected from the average member. They become outstanding leaders and high achievers for our organization. Even though they do not seek recognition, it is fitting that outstanding Lions are recognized by their peers from the local Lions Club level all the way up to international level.

Many Lions have no idea what some forms of recognition mean or just how rare and important some are. This guide will help Lions understand the concept of fellowships, awards and other forms of special recognition bestowed on our members for outstanding effort and service.

Some districts award a district “Lion of the Year.” Many also give various fellowships to honor Lions who have provided outstanding service at the district level. Districts also nominate members for international awards which may be presented at the district convention.

Additionally, some Lions Clubs honor a member annually with a club “Lion of the Year”. Recognition plaques and pins are frequently given to club officers and to outstanding committee and project leaders.

A fellowship in Lionism is a form of recognition where a sum of money is given to a Lions charity or organization, typically in honor of a particular Lions member. The donated funds are intended to continue the work of Lionism to which the honoree is committed to furthering.

# **Table of Contents**

**Page 1-2 — Lions Clubs International Awards**

**Page 2 — Ralph Sheehan Award (Single District 10)**

**Page 3 — S.A. Dodge Award (Multiple District 11)**

**Page 4 — Melvin Jones Fellowship**

**Page 4-6 — Lions of Michigan Foundation Fellowships**

**Page 6-7 — Eversight Michigan Fellowships**

**Page 7 — Lions of Michigan Hall of Fame**

**Page 8 — Lions of Michigan Foundation Planned Giving**

# Lions International Awards



## Ambassador of Goodwill Highest Award

The International President is restricted to a maximum of 35 awards annually at this level. Lions may receive it only once. It is most often awarded to International Directors when they are at the end of their term. Many recipients are Melvin Jones Fellows at progressive levels of 10-25 or more.



## International Presidential Award 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Award

Nominations are made by the District Governor. Only 2 or 3 are annually awarded to Michigan Lions. The maximum the International President may award annually is 425 worldwide. It may be as low as 250 to 300 for all Lionism. You can receive this award more than once, but not in Michigan.

Multiple District 11 has set a one-time only restriction on Michigan Lions.



## International Leadership Medal 3<sup>rd</sup> Highest Award

Nominations are made by the District Governor. Only 6-9 are awarded annually to Michigan Lions and about 800-1200 annually throughout all of Lionism. However, the International President is not restricted to a set number. You can receive this award more than once, but not in Michigan. Our Multiple District 11 limits Michigan Lions to 1 award.

# International President's Certificate of Appreciation 4<sup>th</sup> Highest Award

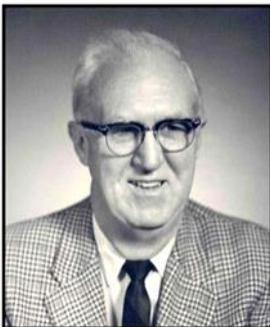
This recognition is usually initiated by the District Governor with a recommendation to the International Director. It occurs when the International Director is a guest speaker at the district's convention. The International Director will then recommend candidates to the International President. Normally each district has 2-3 awards at this level each year. With 747 districts in the world, the annual total for this award is in the 2000-2500 range.

## Other International Awards

Lions Clubs International ([www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org) - 630-571-5466) has many other awards and forms of recognition for those who achieve excellence in performance of their duties, including:

- 100% District Governor
- Club President Excellence Award
- Extension Award (starting a new Lions Club)
- Guiding Lion Award (supporting a new Lions Club)
- Member Key Award (sponsoring a new member)

## SD 10 & MD 11 Awards



### Ralph M. Sheehan Distinguished Service Award

Single District 10 selects one Lion per year to receive the Ralph M. Sheehan Award. Lion Ralph was the first International Director elected from Michigan's

Upper Peninsula. He served from 1944-45 and he was from Marquette, Michigan.



Past International Director Sheehan served 2 terms as District Governor prior to being elected to the International Director's post. He worked in Public Relations for the Boy Scouts Council of Michigan Upper Peninsula. Lion Ralph, in addition, served as the President of the Community Chest, President of the Michigan War Finance Committee, and President of the United War Funds of Marquette. PID Sheehan served in a host of other community organizations.



## **S.A. Dodge Distinguished Service Award**

The S. A. Dodge Award is the highest award given by Multiple District 11 (Michigan's Lower Peninsula). Only two awards are given each

year.

S.A. Dodge was elected International President at the 36th Annual Convention in July 1953, serving as Michigan's third President of Lions Clubs International. As President of LCI, he traveled extensively, visiting Lions Clubs on all continents of the World. He was decorated by several foreign governments and later was named Ambassador of Good Will.



President Dodge became a member of the North West Detroit Lions Club in 1926, a few weeks after it had been chartered. He was President, Zone Chairman was elected Deputy District Governor. He then was chosen as District Governor. During his tenure, he won the 100% Governor's Award which was at the time when all of Michigan was one District. He was one of the Founders of Leader Dogs for the Blind and one of the first Chairmen of the newly-created State White Cane Committee.

# Fellowships



## Melvin Jones Fellowship

The Melvin Jones Fellowship is named in honor of our founder. It is the highest honor from the Lions Club International Foundation (LCIF). A minimum donation of \$1,000 is required to name a Melvin Jones Fellow. Those that

have been named more than once are known as Progressive Melvin Jones Fellows. Lions' clubs and Lions' districts often recognize outstanding members with the Melvin Jones Fellowship. The recipient does not have to be a Lion member.



## John S. Noel Fellowship

Donations: \$1,000+

Honorees receive a hardwood plaque and lapel pin. Progressive honorees receive a

certificate and progressive lapel pin.



John S. Noel was a charter member of the Grand Rapids Lions Club in 1919, and he was Michigan's 1st President of Lions Clubs International in 1923-24. John helped establish much of the structure and many of the policies that we now enjoy as Lions. The John Noel Fellowship is the highest honor bestowed by the Lions of Michigan Foundation. It represents John's many accomplishments in the advancement of Lionism in Michigan and throughout the world and his tireless efforts to help people in need.



## Kenneth E. Lautzenheiser Fellowship

Donations: \$500+

Honorees receive an acrylic plaque and lapel pin. Progressive honorees

receive a certificate and progressive lapel pin.



Ken E. Lautzenheiser served Lions for over 45 years, and he was a charter member of the Inter-lakes Lions Club. Ken was elected to the Board of Lions Clubs International in 1985, and he has served Lions in almost every capacity.

Ken was instrumental in organizing the Lions of Michigan Foundation in the early 1980's. He believed there was a definite need in Michigan for an organization that could address the medical needs of individuals that had no insurance and nowhere else to turn. Ken knew that if Lions Clubs combined resources for a mutual cause, Lions could have a greater impact on their communities and do more to help people in need.



## Hellen Keller Fellowship

Donations: \$750+ - KIDSight Fund

Honorees receive a certificate, medal and lapel pin. Progressive

honorees receive a certificate and progressive lapel pin.



Born in Tuscumbia, Alabama in 1880, Helen

Keller developed a fever at 18 months of age that left her blind and deaf.

With the help of an exceptional teacher, Anne Mansfield Sullivan of the Perkins School for the Blind, Helen Keller learned sign language and braille. A few years later, she learned to speak. As an adult she became a tireless advocate for people with disabilities. And in 1925, she attended the Lions Clubs International Convention and challenged Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." The Lions accepted her challenge, and our work, ever since, has included sight programs aimed at preventable blindness.

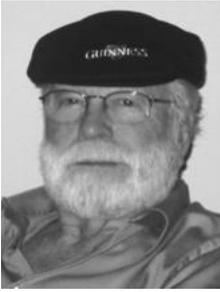


### **A. Charles Weir Sight Conservation Fellowship**

The A. Charles Weir Sight Conservation Fellowship is a recognition opportunity for those who donate \$500 or more in one

fiscal year to Eversight Michigan or for people for whom a donation was made by others. Sight Conservation Fellows receive an attractive silver lapel pin, certificate and a congratulatory letter. Sight Conservation Fellows who make additional \$500 donations to Eversight Michigan, or in whose name \$500 donations are made, become part of the Sight Conservation Progressive program. Progressive Fellows are awarded a new lapel pin and congratulatory letter for each subsequent donation. The first lapel pin is a 1-stone gold pin, and for each \$500 donation thereafter, another stone is added.





## William “Doc” Barr Knights for Vision Fellowship

In recognition of humanitarian work, a William “Doc” Barr Knights for Vision Fellowship is awarded to those who



donate \$1,000 or more in one fiscal year to Eversight Michigan or for people for whom a donation was made by others. Knights for Vision Fellows receive an attractive gold lapel pin, certificate and a congratulatory letter. Knights for Vision Fellows who make additional \$1,000 donations to Eversight Michigan, or in whose name \$1,000 donations are made, become part of the Knights for Vision Progressive program. Progressive Fellows are awarded a new lapel pin and congratulatory letter for each subsequent donation. The first lapel pin is a 1-stone platinum pin., and for each \$1,000 donation thereafter, another stone is added to the pin.



## Lions of Michigan Hall of Fame

The Lions of Michigan Foundation officially opened the “Lions of Michigan Hall of Fame” on July 29, 2009. It was created to celebrate the rich history of Michigan Lions at the local, state, district and international levels. The first 18 inductees included our Past International Presidents and Past International Directors from Michigan. Nominations for the Hall of Fame are accepted annually, no later than March 1.

Nominations may be initiated by an individual, a club or a district, however all nominations must have the endorsement of the District Cabinet of the district where the nomination was initiated. Nominees not selected for induction will be reconsidered in the following year upon submission of a written request from the seated District Governor of the original nominating district.



**LIONS OF MICHIGAN  
SERVICE FOUNDATION, INC.**  
[www.lmsf.net](http://www.lmsf.net)

You can ensure that your commitment to help others continues with a bequest to the Lions of Michigan Service Foundation through your will or trust. Bequests are the most frequent type of planned gift made to charity. Your estate receives a charitable deduction for the full amount given, so your heirs pay no estate tax on the gift.

You may direct your bequest to the Lions of Michigan Service Foundation by naming a current fund (Sight Conservation, Hearing & Speech Improvement, Disaster Relief & Community Development, Medical Care, Youth Development, Endowment) to benefit current programs, or you may choose to use the bequest to set up other named funds, such as Permanently Endowed, Donor Advised, Scholarship, or Field-of-Interest Funds.

The following types of bequests will direct your gift to the Lions of Michigan Service Foundation.

**Percentage:**

"I give, devise and bequeath to Lions of Michigan Service Foundation, a nonprofit corporation of the State of Michigan, located at 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48911, \_\_\_\_% of my estate."

**Specific:**

"I give, devise and bequeath to Lions of Michigan Service Foundation, a nonprofit corporation of the State of Michigan, located at 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48911,

- 1) The sum of \$\_\_\_\_\_."
- 2) \_\_\_\_\_ shares of stock in \_\_\_\_\_ Company.", or
- 3) my real property commonly known as \_\_\_\_\_."

**Residual:**

"I give, devise and bequeath to Lions of Michigan Service Foundation, a nonprofit corporation of the State of Michigan, located at 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48911, all the residue of my estate, including real personal property."

**Contingent:**

"In the event of the death of any of the beneficiaries, I give, devise and bequeath to Lions of Michigan Service Foundation, a nonprofit corporation of the State of Michigan, located at 5730 Executive Drive, Lansing, Michigan 48911, (percentage, specific, or residual language as above)."



**I am the emblem of the world's largest service organization worn or otherwise displayed by more men, women and children than any other emblem of its kind. I represent service to mankind. You see me looking to the past and to the future thus the two faces on the emblem. I look to the past with pride in what Lions have done to improve the quality of life in our communities, and I look to the future to see**

**all those in need that Lions can and must help.**

**By wearing or displaying me, I give people a sense of pride for the work they do for their fellow man, expecting nothing in return, in the name of Lions. I also give Lions members a sense of purpose for it was Helen Keller that charged the Lions to be "Knights of the Blind". Lions are not limited to working only with the blind. Lions build hospitals, clinics, nursing homes, resident homes for the blind, and provide eye and hearing care. Lions support research for vision problems, help develop youth programs such as those addressing drug problems. Lions take time out of their busy lives to go to foreign lands to provide medical and vision care to the less fortunate, all in the name of Lions.**

**So what do these men, women, and children get for all these efforts - little recognition, but a sense of accomplishment that cannot be purchased anywhere. So what do I, the emblem of this great organization provide our members? I once heard that it was I who identified the time and place where a club meets and it was I who was the passport to friendship and a sense of purpose. It was I who provided the respite from a longer weary week for a traveling Lion. I am the universal sign of "friend" in the world of Lions.**

**Because of the activities Lions engage in, I lend credibility to those who wear me. When I am seen on a lapel, collar, blouse, car or business window, people see a person who cares. They see one who unselfishly gives of their time and talent to help those in need. Lions are seen as what is good in this world, people who care. Lions as an organization live their motto, "WE SERVE"!**