

July 24, 1991

Dear Donald,

Enclosed are copies of letters from Melvin Jones - to somebody - anyway my Dad has written notes throughout.

I've had to put these things aside for a while but here are copies whatever they are worth. My oldest sister remembers KKK on horses, going down Main Street in their white robes. I guess Indiana was a "hot-bed".

Note in the Melvin Jones material the number of times "I" has been used. He really was power hungry & an egomaniac. Maybe he had nothing else to do. Papa was so busy, often worked 18 hours a day & never refused to go when a patient called. Those days are gone & we are heading to socialized medicene. Credit was given to Jones for organizing.

Hope you are feeling better. It has been so HOT here & humid since we are on the Ohio River.

Please note the affidavit was taken when Dr. Woods was 75.

1952 - March ( )  
1877 - Born May 20  
75

Best regards.

Sincerely, Florence Foster

P.S. I cashed your check today.

NOTE: The above is a transcript of a letter written to Lion Donald Rasmussen from Florence Foster, daughter of Dr. Woods. With the letter Mrs. Foster sent Donald copies of priceless letters, a notarized 35-page statement of Dr. Woods regarding the formation of Lions International, and an 11-page statement of Melvin Jones explaining why he, not Dr. Woods, was the true originator and founder of Lions International. The information contained in Melvin's statement was widely circulated from the Chicago headquarters during the period following the Dallas meeting. With no denial or protest coming from Dr. Woods, the false claims of Melvin Jones ultimately, with the passing of time, became "facts".

Henry Simms  
Historian of the  
Founder Lions Club of San Antonio

Melvin Jones  
on origin

**MELVIN JONES VERSION  
OF HOW HE FOUNDED  
LIONS INTERNATIONAL**

This was a copy of info  
Melvin Jones sent out  
and Doctor Woods added  
his notes to it

Melvin Jones was hungry  
for credit

MELVIN JONES - His personal explanation of how he (not Dr. Woods) formulated the plan and organized the International Association of Lions Clubs. This false information was widely circulated soon after the Meeting in Dallas, Texas.

Jones explain  
how Lions Int'l  
evolved from  
his Business Circle Club  
(11 PAGES)

1. This is Melvin Jones  
written in the margin  
made by Dr. Wood

STATEMENT BY MELVIN JONES ON THE ORIGIN OF LIONISM, THE ORGANIZATION MEETING, THE ADOPTION OF THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF THE ASSOCIATION, INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS, AND, THE INCORPORATION OF SAID ASSOCIATION.

THE ORIGIN OF LIONISM:

I became a member of the Business Circle of Chicago in March 1913. The Business Circle had suffered a considerable loss of membership since its organization in 1907, and I soon began an investigation into the causes. During the summer and fall of 1913, I contacted most of the original members who had resigned, and found that many had resigned to go into clubs that were affiliated with large national or international organizations.

In the election of officers that were to take office January 1st 1914, I was elected Secretary. At the first meeting of the new Board of Directors on January 5th 1914, as a result of my investigations, I recommended that the club work towards forming a national or International organization. This recommendation was accepted by the Board, and was later approved by the members of the Business Circle at a meeting held in the Planters Hotel on Monday evening, January 19th 1914. I was authorized to proceed with the study and work on behalf of the club.

For the next 3- $\frac{1}{2}$  years, I carried on the work of contacting directly and by correspondence various individuals, clubs and organizations of all kinds, and attended every convention in Chicago that I could, in order to meet delegates from other cities. I gained all the information I could as to the kinds of clubs and organizations in the country, their objectives, whether they were interested in affiliating with a national or international organization, and if possible, whether they could co-operate in forming such an organization. One of the letters received in reply to my correspondence reads as follows:

"Omaha, Neb., June 29, 1916

Mr. Melvin Jones,  
Sec. The Business Circle,  
Room 1743-175 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago.

Dear Mr. Jones:-

Your letter of June 22nd to our President, H.M. Johnson, has been X handed me for reply.

We want first to express our appreciation of the very cordial invitation extended to join hands with the Business Circle in formulating a national organization. This is a very commendable purpose and one which the Omaha Concord Club heartily endorses. As you say however, this is a question that will have to be threshed out at some future time at a national convention. Be assured that we will be delighted to take active part in such a movement.

We have told our members that if any of them should chance to be in Chicago, to hunt you up, and believe they will not hesitate to do so. We ask that you do the same thing if any of your members come over here. We have lots of live wires in Omaha, whom you ought to know.

Very truly yours,  
H. Shyler,  
Secretary-Treasurer"

From time to time, I made reports to the Board of Directors and to the full membership of the Business Circle. The work culminated in my being authorized to issue invitations, as Secretary of The Business Circle, to the clubs with whom I had been in contact, to send representatives to a meeting to be held on

June 7th 1917. The purpose of the meeting was to form an international organization.

The meeting was held as scheduled on June 7th 1917, in the East Room of the Hotel La Salle, Chicago, Illinois, and there were persons present representing the following organizations:

The Business Circle, Chicago, Illinois  
The International Association of Lions Clubs,  
an Indiana corporation  
Optimists Clubs  
Vortex Clubs  
Business and Professional Men's Association  
of St. Paul, Minn.

comprising a total of 43 clubs, and I had received authority to represent the following five clubs:

Cirgonian Club, Los Angeles, Calif.  
Concord Club, Omaha, Neb.  
Citizens Business Club, Philadelphia Pa  
Business Mens Association, Minneapolis, Minn.  
Co-Operative Club, Kansas City, Mo.

Thus a total of 48 clubs were represented at this meeting.

Three representatives of the Exchange Clubs also came to Chicago at our invitation. They informed me on the morning of June 7th that they would participate in the meeting if I would agree in advance that their name would be adopted by the organization to be formed. I could not agree to such a commitment for all representatives, of course, so the Exchange Clubs representatives did not attend the meeting.

The minutes of the June 7th, 1917, meeting of the Business Circle were printed within a month after the meeting and sent to those who attended the meeting. A copy of said minutes is attached hereto as a part of this statement.

As shown by those minutes, one of the representatives who attended at my invitation as Secretary of the Business Circle was Dr. W.P. Woods, of Evansville, Indiana, who was one of the incorporators of an Indiana corporation, The International Association of Lions Clubs, incorporated in Indiana, October 24th 1916, by Dr. W.P. Woods, Carmi Hicks, and C.R. Conen.

Dr. Woods had listed himself as President of said corporation, the principal office or place of business of which was at Evansville, Indiana. He was one of the men with whom I had been in contact in 1916.

Prior to the meeting discussions were had with Dr. W.P. Woods regarding the new organization that might be formed acquiring his rights in the said corporation above mentioned.

Several members of The Business Circle had been active in helping me with the work to this time, and, in view of what we had learned from our investigations, it was our aim to establish an association of affiliated clubs that belonged to the clubs themselves, the officers and directors of such association to be members in good standing of member clubs in good standing, and an association that would be governed under a constitution adopted in a convention by delegates of the member clubs. We already favored the Lion name and hoped that the organization to be formed would agree to this name.

At the luncheon, held as a regular meeting of The Business Circle, the following resolution was adopted by the Club:

" That the Board of Directors of The Business Circle of Chicago enter into negotiations with Mr. W.P. Woods of the International Association of Lions Clubs, and with other clubs with reference to the affiliation of these clubs and that said Board of Directors have full power to make and complete all arrangements for said affiliation and any act they do in the premises shall be the act of this Club and binding thereon"

This concluded the business transacted at the noon meeting of The Business Circle, but before adjournment the President requested that a meeting of all representatives of clubs present, together with the Board of Directors of the Business Circle, be held in the same room immediately following adjournment, and the meeting adjourned at 1.50 P.M.

#### The Organization Meeting:

A meeting of the Club representatives present, together with the Board of Directors of The Business Circle, convened at 2:00 P.M., June 7th 1917, immediately after adjournment of the Business Circle meeting, in the East Room of the Hotel La Salle, as the first step in carrying out the direction to the Board of Directors of The Business Circle set forth in the resolution above quoted. A copy of the minutes of this organization meeting is attached as a part of this statement.

F.V. Hallenbeck, President of the Business Circle, and I were elected Chairman and Secretary, respectively, of the meeting. Considerable discussion took place concerning types of organizations, names, and locations of clubs. Mr. Gust Messing of the Business and Professional Men's Association of St. Paul, called attention to the fact that the purpose of the meeting was to form an association of clubs not already in an international association, and that the Optimists Clubs were already so organized. It also developed that Optimists Clubs in several cities would conflict with other clubs represented.

Mr. E.M. Kaercher, of the Vortex Club of St. Louis, thereupon made the following motion, which was seconded by D.S. Sattler, Vice-President of and delegate for, The Business Circle:

"That the representatives in session form an organization of the clubs not now in conflict with one another, details to be worked out, and a national name be adopted later, subject to the ratification by the club represented by the voting member"

This motion was carried after some further discussion. This was the motion forming an organization of clubs, for which purpose the meeting had been called, which resulted in the adoption of a Constitution and By-Laws of the "International Association of Lions Clubs" at the first convention of clubs that joined in the new organization held at Dallas, Texas, in October 1917. June 5

The Optimists Clubs' representatives did not vote on the motion, and after it was passed withdrew from further participation because of the conflicts previously discussed.

As the minutes show, I then requested a recess of the meeting in order to counsel with the Board of Directors of the Business Circle. At this meeting of the Board during the recess, Maurice Bink reported that, with the exception of the Optimists Clubs' representatives who were not now participating, the delegated had agreed to accept the Lion name as a compromise choice. 6

*was formed*  
*US...*

The Board of Directors was advised that the organization formed could use the name "International Association of Lions Clubs."

Dr. W.P. Woods who had been invited to attend the Board of Directors meeting, attended the meeting, and agreed with the Directors that the new organization could take over his control of "The International Association of Lions Clubs" and Indiana corporation. Also during this recess, the President of the Dallas Lions Club was contacted by long distance phone and his agreement obtained that, with our co-operation, the clubs affiliated with this new organization would hold a convention in the first or second week of October 1917, with the Dallas Lions Club, as host club. The Board of Directors, with the authority of the motion voted by the Business Circle members previously at the luncheon, voted to change their name to the Lions Club of Chicago. All of these things were done during the recess of the meeting mentioned.

7

Chairman Hallenbeck reconvened the meeting of the representatives, who were invited to change the names of their clubs with the view of working out details of adopting a constitution and objects for the new organization and electing officers and directors at the coming convention in Dallas. Dr. Woods who already had agreed to relinquish his control of the Indiana Corporation, The International Association of Lions Clubs, co-operated with us by extending his invitation to the various clubs to accept charters from this corporation. A motion was then carried unanimously to accept charters from The International Association of Lions Clubs, an Indiana corporation, subject to the ratification of the different clubs within sixty days and report to me as Acting Secretary of the new organization.

*was*

No club reported back to me, as Acting Secretary of the new organization, accepting charters in "The International Association of Lions Club," an Indiana corporation.

*not*  
*accepted*

In the few days following the June 7th meeting, I saw many of the Business Circle members personally, and at the Business Circle Board of Directors meeting on July 2nd, 1917, the actions of Delegate F.S. Sattler (delegate for the Business Circle of Chicago) at the June 7th meeting were ratified and the change of name to The Lions Club of Chicago also was ratified.

10

A committee was appointed at this Board of Directors meeting (July 2, 1917) consisting of Edwin J. Raber and Albert Scheible, attorneys, and myself, to follow through on all details, including arrangements for the Dallas Convention and incorporation of the new organization in the State of Illinois. After several meetings, the committee decided that it would be advisable to wait for the Dallas Convention meeting before taking steps to incorporate.

*to*

It should be remembered that, in the early days of the formation of this Association it was extremely difficult to obtain clear and definite information such as we have to day as to the various clubs. We found that the clubs, which participated in bringing about the organization of the Association, were organized for many different purposes and activities, and that some belonged to various organizations, while others had come into being independently.

*was*  
*C*

Adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws of the unincorporated Association, "International Association of Lions Clubs:

*by law*

As a result of the arrangements made and agreed upon at the June 7th 1917 meeting in Chicago, the first convention was held in Dallas, Texas, on October 8, 9, 10, 1917, these dates having been established by correspondence carried on with the various clubs

*was*

13

The convention mentioned was a convention of representatives of various clubs that had decided to affiliate with other clubs in the organization formed at Chicago on June 7th 1917, and all clubs represented at the convention were so represented as a direct result of the meeting of June 7th 1917, held in Chicago. } W

I was Acting Secretary of the June 7th 1917, meeting and of the organization formed at that meeting (as referred to in the minutes of said meeting of June 7 1917, will show), and as such Acting Secretary, I had been actively engaged with others in making arrangements for the Dallas Convention and in developing the new organization that had been formed on June 7, 1917 in Chicago. The Dallas convention was a convention of clubs that were interested in becoming active members of a new organization of clubs under their own Constitution and By Laws. ①

Joseph Trienens and I were selected by the Lions Club of Chicago (which had changed its name from the Business Circle of Chicago) to represent it at the Dallas convention, and, prior to said convention, we, together with Edwin J. Faber and Albert Scheible, had many discussions regarding the provisions of a Constitution that might be drafted for submission at Dallas to the delegates from the various clubs. We prepared many notes and memoranda on many provisions that we thought should be in the Constitution of the new organization. } ②

Joseph Trienens and I arrived in Dallas on October 7th 1917. We were met by L. H. Lewis, Dr. W. F. Woods and others. We learned to our surprise that delegates from some clubs, including Lions Clubs and Vortex Clubs, wanted a name other than Lions. } ③

When the Dallas convention convened on October 8, 1917, Mr. L. H. Lewis acted as temporary chairman of the convention. Mayor Joe D. Lawther of Dallas delivered the welcome address and I responded thereto. } W ④

Pursuant to arrangements made in conference before the convention convened, Mr. Lewis called upon Dr. W. F. Woods to act as chairman of the Convention and Tom Finley, Jr. of Dallas was appointed to act as Secretary. } W

Various committees were appointed, as had been determined upon in conference before the convention convened, including, among others, a resolutions and constitution committee consisting of Joseph Trienens, L. H. Lewis and E. N. Kaercher.

We, representing the Lions Club of Chicago, favored the name Lions, as did some delegates of other clubs, and the name "International Association of Lions Clubs" was adopted by the delegates of the convention. } ⑤

A written Constitution and By Laws were submitted to the Convention, and, after some amendments and discussion, the Constitution and By-Laws of the new organization were adopted by the delegates.

The following quoted portions of said Constitution and By-Laws are noteworthy, namely:

Section 1 of Article 1, "This organization shall be known as the International Association of Lions Clubs."

Section 2 of Article 1. " All clubs affiliating therewith shall be subordinate to and under the jurisdiction of the Association."

Section 3 of Article 1. Objects, "The objects of the Association and of the clubs composing it are to unite the members thereof in the closest bonds of good fellowship; to encourage active participation in all things that have to do with commercial and civic betterment: to uphold the principles of good government: to assist in every way possible to further the interests of their members, and to bring about a better understanding among men: but no club shall hold out as one of its objects the financial gain of its members."

Section 4 of Article 1. "The home office of the Association shall be in the city of the Secretary-Treasurer."

Section 1 of Article 11, "The members of this Association shall be the Lions Clubs duly chartered by it"

Section 3 of Article 4, "No person shall be eligible to hold office in this Association or to act as an organizer therefor unless he be a member in good standing of an affiliated club in good standing."

Section 9 of Article 4, "The Board of Directors shall manage and control the business of the Association," etc.

The delegates proceeded to elect Officers and Directors, and elected L.F. Lewis, as President. Dr. Woods, who was then the president of the Indiana corporation, The International Association of Lions Clubs, the principal office of which was in the City of Evansville, County of Vanderburg, State of Indiana, had indicated that he would like to be president of the new organization, but as the records of this Association showed that no Lions Club in Evansville, Indiana, was an affiliated club of this Association in good standing, Dr. Woods could not meet the qualifications for an officer under Section 3 of Article 4 of the Constitution and By-Laws of the new Organization. Mr. Lewis, Dr. Woods and I withdrew from the meeting for a few minutes following the election of L.F. Lewis, as president, and, upon Dr. Woods agreeing with us that he would meet the qualifications for an officer of the new organization, as soon as possible, if he was elected President of the new organization, we returned to the meeting, whereupon Mr. Lewis prevailed upon the meeting to change its vote by electing Dr. Woods, President, and by electing him (Mr. Lewis) Vice President. This was done accordingly.

I was elected Secretary-Treasurer of the new Association. Colors of purple and gold were adopted, and the next convention was voted for St. Louis, Mo.

In keeping with the arrangement that had been made at the June Directors meeting of The Business Circle, at which meeting Dr. W.P. Woods, President of the Indiana Corporation, The International Association of Lions Clubs, had agreed that the new organization could take over his control of said corporation, the new organization, (the unincorporated Association of clubs under the Constitution and By-Laws adopted at Dallas, Texas, in October 1917) acquired his control of said Indiana corporation, and, as a temporary expedient, caused said Indiana corporation, which was subject to its control, to issue Charters to some of the member clubs of the new unincorporated Association. Such clubs, so chartered, were members of the new unincorporated Association, and paid their fees and dues to this Association's Secretary-Treasurer, at its home office at Chicago, Illinois.

X

① X

no X  
no X  
no X

VO

VO

VO



Until August 25, 1919, the ~~old~~ organization conducted its affairs under and in accordance with its Constitution and By-Laws adopted at Dallas, Texas, with the office of its Secretary-Treasurer located at Chicago, Illinois.

The new organization caused "The International Association of Lions Clubs", an Illinois Corporation, to be incorporated on August 25, 1919, and since the latter date all Charters of this Association have been issued by said Illinois corporation. All member clubs of the Association from and after August 25, 1919, have received their Charters from the Illinois corporation to which their fees and dues have been paid.

28

The St. Louis Convention held on August 19, 20, 21, 1918 and the Chicago Convention held July 9, 10 and 11, 1919 were held under the Constitution and By-Laws (as amended) of the Association which were adopted at Dallas, Texas by the delegates attending that convention.

29

Incorporation of the Association "The International Association of Lions Club,"  
an Illinois Corporation:

The Lions Club of Chicago's committee, consisting of Edwin J. Faber, Albert Scheible, and myself, had continued to function meanwhile, and following the St. Louis Convention, we considered incorporating the Association in Illinois, but it was decided to wait until new objects, an emblem, and a slogan, all in accordance with the spirit and the aims of the new organization, could be prepared and approved by convention. Most of this was accomplished at the Chicago convention, July 9, 10 11, 1919.

30

With details worked out by this committee, and as directed by the Chicago Convention, "The International Association of Lions Clubs" was incorporated in the State of Illinois on August 25, 1919, with its business office located in the City of Chicago, Illinois.

The objects of the Association, as set forth in its Articles of Incorporation, filed in the State of Illinois, August 25th, 1919, read as follows: "The object for which it is formed is, to associate together in an International Association all existing Lions Clubs in the various cities of the world, and to issue membership charters thereto; to organize new Lions Clubs in such other cities of the world as may desire the same to be known as Lions Clubs of (Name of City) and issue membership charters thereto; to govern all such chartered clubs so that they shall be non-political, non-sectarian, not for profit of the individual club or its individual members, but have for the principal object, loyalty to country, intelligence and integrity of all people, our nation's safety, and to unite its members in the closest bonds of good fellowship and promote a closer business and social union among them; to encourage active participation in all things that have to do with commercial, civil and industrial betterment; to uphold the principles of good government; to assist in every honorable way in furthering the interests of its members and toward bringing about a better understanding among men; to teach that organization, co-operation and reciprocity are better than rivalry, strife and destructive competition; to encourage the application of the highest ethical standards in business and seek, by the exchange of methods and ideas, to increase efficiency in all lines represented; to take part in any meritorious movement, which in the judgement of its members will be for the general good, and may offer its co-operation to other organizations engaged in laudible endeavors for the public welfare. The officers and directors of the International Association of Lions Clubs shall consist of the persons elected by the International Convention of the Lions Clubs beginning with the convention to be held in 1920 and the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association known as the International Association of Lions Clubs which was not incorporated in Illinois heretofore is adopted as the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association."

and said objects remain to day as the objects of the Association, supplemented by purposes and objects set forth in the Association's Constitution and By-Laws<sup>2</sup>

The officers and Directors elected at the Chicago Convention in 1919 were listed as the Officers and Directors of the Illinois corporation for the first year of its corporate existence, and the following members of the Lions Club of Chicago (formerly "The Business Circle of Chicago") who had been most active in the years of work toward forming the Association, were the incorporators:

Melvin Jones  
Frank L. Fry  
Maurice Blink  
Joseph Trienens  
W. J. Liningston  
H. C. Winchell  
L. C. Nutter  
Albert Scheible

Charters in the name of this corporation were then issued to all member clubs that would agree to stay in the Association and to pay their dues, and charters have continued to be so issued since that time.

ADDENDA:

A few things of record, which should be corrected or clarified have come to my attention, and lest there be misunderstandings, I add the following:

1. The Report of Lions History Committee submitted to the Atlantic City Convention in June 1923, stresses club organization work carried on prior to the organization meeting of June 7, 1917, held at Chicago, Illinois, where "The International Association of Lions Clubs", our Association, was formed.

Any club in existence, or organized, prior to the meeting of representatives held in Chicago on June 7, 1917, when the Association was formed, could not have been or have become a member club of the Association before it had been formed. Upon adoption of the Constitution and By-Laws of the Association at the Dallas meeting of October 1917, the Association provided that "The members of this association shall be the Lions Clubs duly chartered by it".

The Lions Club of Chicago (Formerly the Business Circle) is known as the mother club of the Association because it initiated the meeting held on June 7, 1917 at Chicago, Illinois, at which meeting the Association was formed.

Said Report states that "Mr. Cunningham organized his first club at Little Rock, Arkansas, in March 1916", ~~which was organized~~ and continues "This is the oldest club in Lions International." It is difficult to determine which was the oldest of the component clubs that made up the Association when it was formed, June 7 1917. The Lions Club of Chicago (formerly the Business Circle) was created in 1907, but to best of my knowledge, never laid claim to being the oldest club of the Association. The age of any club that affiliated with other clubs to form our Association is not important, but age becomes important when it is asserted that any member club at any time belonging to the Association was a member before the forming of the Association. That could not be, as the Association has recognized, as member clubs, only those clubs chartered by it under its Constitution and By-Laws.

5.12  
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I mention these things because it is very easy for a person reading the report of said Lions Committee to assume, without any basis in fact, that the Association had its beginning long before June 7, 1917, because of similarity of names of clubs theretofore organized. Any clubs in existence or organized prior to June 7 1917 that participated in the organization of, and went along with, the Association became absorbed into an entirely new organization, the origin and organization of which I have related in the foregoing statement.

(4)

2. The following is a passage from a Manual of Lionism, published by the International Association of Lions Clubs; Editing Committee; Jesse Robinson, Leroy R. Goodrich, John Snape; Copyright 1921, first presented at the 1921 convention International at Oakland, California, concerning the formation period of Lions International:

"The names of many men of this period stand out, names intimately connected with what may be termed the old organization, some of whom carried over into the new. Foremost among those was Melvin Jones, who conceived the Chicago meeting of 1917, and was, more than any other one man or group of men, responsible for the birth of the Association"

From  
by  
W.C.

by Mr. J. S. ...

The "old organization" referred to in the above quoted excerpt from a "Manual of Lionism" means the organization of clubs formed at the meeting of club representatives held in Chicago on June 7, 1917, which organization of clubs, International Association of Lions Clubs adopted its Constitution and By-Laws at Dallas, Texas, in October 1917 and the members of such Association of Clubs prior to the date of incorporation of said Association in the State of Illinois, August 25, 1919.

Inasmuch as many clubs of the "old organization" had received Charters from The International Association of Lions Clubs, an Indiana Corporation, at the behest of, or with the approval of, the new Association acting under its Constitution and By-Laws adopted at Dallas, Texas, in October 1917, after said Indiana corporation was subject to control of the new unincorporated Association, the "old organization" included such chartered clubs of the Indiana corporation, but did not include clubs chartered by said Indiana corporation without the approval of the new unincorporated Association by action of its officers under its Constitution and By-Laws.

Say  
you

The "new organization" referred to in the above quoted excerpt from "A Manual of Lionism" is "The International Association of Lions Clubs", and Illinois corporation, incorporated August 25, 1919 and the member clubs of the Association in good standing under its Constitution and By-Laws, adopted at Dallas, Texas in October 1917, as amended.

was always

The Indiana corporation, above mentioned, has been subject to the control of the Association from 1917 through the years, and to this date is subject to the control of this Association, as are many other corporations in many states and countries in which Lions Clubs exist, in order to protect the interest of the Association and its members, but, since August 25, 1919 the legal entity culminating from the "old organization" through which the business and affairs of the Association have been conducted and carried on, and by which the Association has acted and now acts on behalf of its members, is the Illinois Corporation, incorporated August 25, 1919.

Also, at the Oakland Convention of the Association held in 1921, upon motion made, seconded and carried by a rising vote, I was named the "Founder of the International Association of Lions Clubs, incorporated in the State of Illinois", and I have been known since then as Founder of said Association.

*at his suggestion*

Said motion was made following a reading of the above quoted excerpt from the "Manual of Lionsim" and other parts thereof, and, as appears from the context of said motion, the accepted facts in 1921 were that I was "foremost among those" "intimately connected with what may be termed the old organization" and "conceived the Chicago meeting of 1917" *not so.*

While I recognize that many other men, with whom I have been privileged to work in connection with the Association, contributed much to making the Association what it is to day, I was more intimately engaged in the affairs of the Association from its beginning than any other person, having been Secretary-Treasurer of the Association from October 1917 to July 1921, and Secretary-General of the Association from July 1921 until the present date. Accordingly, I have personal knowledge about the many things hereinbefore stated.

Without going into detail in this Statement, the records of the Association and the reports of proceedings of the many conventions of the Association held since October 1917, bear mute witness to the progress of the organization which resulted from the Chicago meeting of 1917, which meeting I conceived.

In addition, I should add that, since October 1917, to this date, I have been a member in good standing of an affiliated club in good standing of this Association, and during all that period of time I have actively served the Association

Throughout the years following the formation of the Association in June 1917, my reputation as "founder" of the Association has spread throughout the United States and various countries of the world, and I have been acclaimed "founder" of the Association wherever I have gone. More recently, in the Association's contract with me, employing me as Secretary-General for the duration of my natural life, dated July 18, 1950, the Board of Directors of the Association recognized my designation and reputation as "Founder" of the Association. *at suggestion of M. J.*

3. It should be evident from what has been said in my statement and in the foregoing portion of the Addenda thereto that the Constitution and By-Laws of this Association, as amended, (originally adopted in October 1917, by a convention of delegates at Dallas, Texas) constitute the organic law of the Association, and provide for the regulation and management of the Association.

*It was still the Indiana corporation*

Said Constitution and By-Laws were adopted by delegates in convention and not by any corporation, in 1917.

Upon incorporation of "The International Association of Lions Clubs" under the corporation law of Illinois in 1919, the Association which had been formed at Chicago in June 1917, and which adopted its original constitution and By-Laws at Dallas, Texas in October 1917 for the first time caused to be brought into being a creature of the law, having legal existence as an artificial person, authorized to act as a unity, distinct from its members and persisting through change or succession of its members, under the direction and management of such Association's Board of Directors, and its Officers. Since August 25, 1919, our Association has been a body politic under said Illinois corporate charter.

*original by laws was India*

*Indiana charter + have amended its articles of association*

#### 4. In Retrospect,

About forty years have now passed into history since the members of the Business Circle of Chicago started a movement to establish a new kind of organization, an organization that would serve, not the mutual gain of its members, but which would truly serve the needs of their fellow men. They believed in the kind of association that would be governed by a Constitution and By-Laws adopted by its members assembled in convention, whose Officers and Directors would be elected from and by its members, an association with new purposes and objects.

Fortunately, a few other clubs and their members, that joined in the movement for such a new kind of Association, were imbued with similar ideas and hopes. To the vision and the dedication of these men who first believed in Lionism, a great monument stands to day: Lions International, with about half a million members in more than 10,000 clubs located in some 43 countries, which together accomplish upwards of 130,000 unselfish service activities per year.

It has been my wonderful privilege to have worked and fought for its growth, and to have lived to see it develop into the great institution that it is to day; to have been associated with, and to call as my friends, the countless great men who have become the advocates and the leaders of Lionism. It would be impossible even to begin to name these men, many of whom have passed on, but to them all the Association must be ever indebted.

Long ago I dedicated my life to Lionism; the rewards have been infinite, and I am grateful to have had such a wonderful privilege. My only hope is that the Association may continue forever to thrive, to grow, and to serve in the spirit in which it was conceived and built.

I am still looking forward to the future with the same prayer on my lips that I had on June 7th 1917:

Courage , Brother, do not stumble,  
Tho Thy path be dark as night;  
There is a star to guide the humble,  
Trust in God and do the right.

Respectfully submitted

Melvin Jones