



300 W 22ND STREET  
OAK BROOK ILLINOIS 60523-8842 USA  
communications@lionsclubs.org  
lionsclubs.org

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## **Indiana Secretary of State Connie Lawson To Preside Over Lions International Ceremony**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oakbrook, Illinois, October 20, 2016 - Lions Clubs International (LCI) is pleased to announce that on Monday, October 24, Indiana Secretary of State, Connie Lawson, will preside over a ceremony to reenact the signing of the Articles of Incorporation for Lions International. The event will take place at the Indiana State House, W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN. The ceremony begins at 11:00am.

Although Lions International officially recognizes Chicago businessman Melvin Jones as the "founder" of Lions in June of 1917, the roots of the organization are firmly planted in Indiana.

Dr. William P. Woods of Evansville, Indiana originally founded (chartered) the "Royal Order of Lions" as a fraternal organization on August 8, 1911. However, after only a few years, that organization would be disbanded in favor of a more service oriented organization. Dr. Woods began forming new Lions Clubs as early as 1915 for the purpose of starting a community service oriented organization.

On October 24, 1916, Dr. Woods officially chartered (incorporated) this successor organization as the "International Association of Lions Clubs" by filing Articles of Incorporation for this non-profit organization with the State of Indiana. By June 1 of 1917, the International Association of Lions Clubs, which had been founded and chartered by Dr. Woods, already consisted of at least 27 clubs in no less than 9 states. Dr. Woods went on to become the new organization's first president.

In addition to Secretary of State Lawson, current Lions International president Bob Corlew will be on hand to sign a replica of the original Articles of Incorporation. Many Lions throughout Indiana, some in period costume, will also attend.

Lions Clubs International is the largest service club organization in the world. Our 1.4 million members in more than 46,000 clubs provide humanitarian service in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the globe. Since 1917, Lions clubs have aided the blind and visually impaired, championed youth initiatives and strengthened communities through hands-on service and humanitarian projects. For more information about Lions Clubs International, visit [lionsclubs.org](http://lionsclubs.org).

Media Contact:  
Dane LaJoye, Public Affairs  
630.468.6764