

HISTORY OF THE CLUB

Benton Bay Athletic Lions Club was chartered on March 30, 1984.

The origin of the Club's name is shrouded in a cloak of mystery. The way it allegedly occurred is the way it will be related here. Some of the true facts may never be divulged, which you will understand as the cast of characters is revealed. It all started during Past District Governor Pete Hupperten's administrative year (1974-75), when it became known that a Lions Club was to be established in Metlakatla. This new Club was to be named "Chester Bay Lions Club."

This is where the mystery unfolds. Lion PDG Pete alleges that the Club banner, bell and gavel were ordered from Lions International to be labeled "Chester Bay." As the story goes, Lion PDG Jack Doyle, then Lion Pete's Cabinet Secretary, called Lion Pete one day and announced, "Governor, you have a problem." Lion Pete retorted, "you mean, we have a problem." "No, Governor, you have a problem," insisted Lion Jack. It seems that the paraphernalia came in labeled "Benton Bay"!

Lion Pete retained the miss-labeled items for a number of years as a constant reminder of the mix up, without a valid excuse as to why, and we may never

find out. (There is growing suspicion that Lion Pete relied on memory when ordering the paraphernalia and never double-checked the name.)

At a conference in Seward in 1983, Lion PDG Pete and Lion PDG Bob Niebert began thinking (danger in itself) that a Club could be formed using the name "Benton Bay." They brought their idea to Lion Extension Chairman, PDG Tommy Stewart, and to make a long story short, our Club was conceived.

Club Goals

The Club was formed with specific goals in mind and the membership was developed to meet those goals which were and are:

- To build, or cause to be built, a domed multi-purpose facility for various sports activities.
- To support various athletic activities such as University of Alaska - Anchorage and high school sports.
- To support and further the goals of Lionism in general so that our motto, "We Serve," is fulfilled.

Our major fund raising projects are the 50-50 split the pot, golf tournament and bowling tournament. We are constantly looking for other fund raising projects to raise funds for club activities.

Club Activities

Our main activities are UAA athletic Sports and Scholarship, UAA Athlete of the Year Banquet, ASAA high school sports, Great Pumpkin Festival, both International and District Foundation support, Vision Screening, local Joint Sight eyeglass programs for children, and Recycling used eye glasses. We also have annual golf and bowling tournaments.

We have been involved in other fund raising efforts and service projects too numerous to mention here. The Club has provided leadership to the District and District 49A Foundation as well. These positions include District Governors, Regional and Zone Chairmen, various Chairmanships and Directorships. We have also provided Multiple District level leadership as well as International involvement.

We are proud of our short history and feel we are one of the more prestigious Clubs in the District. "We Serve," and through continued membership growth with strong prospects such as yourself, we can accomplish even more.

Our club dues are \$120.00 per year and there is a one-time charge of \$35.00 to establish your membership with Lions International.

MEMBERSHIP GUIDELINES

The following guidelines are provided to assist in identifying prospective members for the Club that are likely to enhance and further the aims of the organization and seek compatibility with the membership. The procedures for proposing membership are also included.

- 1) Membership is open by invitation only.
- 2) The goal of the Club is to provide community service through support for and emphasis on athletic activities at all levels to include the development of a suitable stadium for the community. In support of this goal, members:
 - a) Should have an interest in athletics.
 - b) Keep an open mind to all phases of athletics and not harbor vested selfish preferences.
 - c) Promote a strong cross section of concerns within the community that will benefit athletics, not only from the aspect of competition, but the promotion of a healthier society.
- 3) Members must subscribe to and support the "Lions Code of Ethics" and "Lions Clubs International Objects."
- 4) Procedures for sponsors and prospective members:
 - a) The sponsor should invite the prospective member to regular meetings of the Club and ensure introductions.
 - b) The sponsor should explain the purposes and history of the Club and outline its current activities.
- 5) Question guidance for Membership Committee review:
 - a) Does the candidate have any experience in similar "community service" type organizations?
 - b) Does the candidate share the Club emphasis on sports?
 - c) What is the willingness to commit time to the Club?
 - d) What is the willingness to support Club projects?
 - e) What is the willingness to serve in leadership and grow individually?
 - f) Candidates should understand that this is a non-commercial organization.
 - g) Is the candidate willing to accept "harassment" and participate in good-natured fellowship of the Club?
- c) The sponsor should review these guidelines with the prospective member.
- d) If the prospective member is interested in membership and the sponsor feels the interest is sincere and supportive of the Club, the sponsor completes the Proposal for Membership and submits it to the Membership Committee.
- e) The prospective member then meets with the Membership Committee.
- f) The Membership Committee shall make a recommendation to the Board of Directors as to invitation for membership.
- g) The board shall determine if the sponsor should extend the invitation for membership.
- h) The prospective member then, if invited, completes the acceptance portion.



Lions Clubs International Objectives

- 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 people 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.