



LIONS CLUB OF IMPHAL

Lions Clubs International: Dist322D



Melvin Jones & History of Lions Clubs International

The International Association of Lions Clubs, or Lions Clubs International started as the dream of a Chicago insurance man **Melvin Jones (13th January 1879 - 1st June 1961)** to reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of the communities and the world. This initiative gave birth to Lions Club in June, 1917. The 12 men who gathered there overcame a natural sense of loyalty to their parent clubs, voted the "Association of Lions Clubs" into existence, and issued a call for a national convention to be held in Dallas, Texas, USA in October of the same year and approved the "Lions Clubs" designation, and elected Dr. William P. Woods of Indiana as their first president. Guiding force and founder Melvin Jones was named acting secretary. Thus began an association with Lionism that only ended with his death in 1961. Every year, on 13th January, Lions Clubs worldwide celebrate the birthday of Melvin Jones by doing service activities for the welfare of humanity.



Melvin Jones

Community leaders soon began to organize clubs throughout the United States, and the association became "international" with the formation of the Windsor, Ontario, Canada Lions Club in 1920. Clubs were later organized in China, Mexico, and Cuba. By 1927, membership stood at 60 000 in 1 183 clubs and expansion continued. **The International Association of Lions Clubs is today the largest service organization in the world with over 1.4 million members in more than 48,000 clubs covering more than 200 countries.**



Helen Keller

With the motto of "We Serve", the Lions service programmes are **vision conservation, diabetes awareness, alleviating hunger, environment awareness, childhood cancer** and many more. Lions took up sight conservation as their major goal after a speech given by **Helen Keller (27th June 1880 - 1st June 1968)** at the Lions International Convention held at Cedar Point, Ohio, in 1925. At that time, Helen Keller challenged the Lions to become "**Knights of the Blind**", a challenge that has become a rallying cry for Lions projects around the world.

The International Association of Lions Clubs is the largest non-governmental organization associated with the United Nations and was called upon by the United Nations and the World Health Organization to raise funds for an international program of sight conservation.

Lionism in India & Lions Club of Imphal

Lionism came to India in mid 1950s and the first Lions Club in India was opened in 1956 at Bombay (now Mumbai). After about 12 years since the opening of the first Lions Club in India, **Lions Club of Imphal** was officially inaugurated on 14th March, 1968 and on 22nd June 1968, the Club was formally chartered. Thus, the Club is the oldest among all the Lions Clubs in the State. Over the years, the Club has been progressing and doing humanitarian services. Many prominent citizens of Manipur were brought into the fold of Lionism. The Club had sponsored many other Clubs in due course of time. Now Lionism has spread to every nook and corner of Manipur with opening of new Clubs in various places.

At present the Lions Club of Imphal has its own Service Centre at Sangaiprou, Airport Road Road, Imphal. The only Lions Eye Hospital in Manipur, established in 2012 is also located in the Service Centre premises and **regular vision check-up OPD service is held on 2nd and 4th Sunday of every month as “Permanent Project” of the Club.** In the field of service, the Lions Club of Imphal is not lacking behind.

In its more than 54 years of existence, the Club has done service activities ranging from donating food items (relieving the hunger), tree plantation (environment), free health camp & diabetes screening, blood donation camp, disaster relief and recently Covid-19 relief works.



Regular Eye OPD at Lions Eye Hospital

Lions Club of Imphal is organising **Peace Poster Contest** for students of **11-13 years** on the theme specified by Lions International and **State Level Debating Competition for Senior School students on UN Day, 24th October** every year as Permanent Projects. More details of the Club are shared at the website and Facebook, Twitter accounts given below.

Some Service Activities of Lions Club of Imphal



Donating Items to Recreational Facility for Aged People



Donating Food Items to Old Age Home



Blood Donation Camp on Patriots' Day



Medical Camp at Rural Area

“You can't get very far until you start doing something for somebody else.”

Melvin Jones