

If we are to effectively meet the growing needs of humanity, our numbers must expand, and expand dramatically. We can, of course, take justifiable pride in the fact that Lions clubs are now active in 185 nations and geographical areas and that in excess of 1.4 million men and women are giving generously of themselves on behalf of the We Serve imperative.

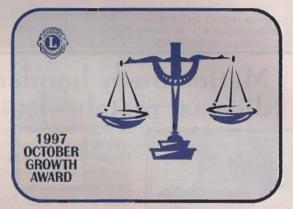
Lions have, indeed, accomplished so very much in the past eight decades, but we cannot afford to rest and dwell on these. Increasing challenges await us and if we are to successfully answer them there simply must be enough hands to do the work. Consequently, membership growth should be a priority objective of every club in this association. It is a clear indication of our vision for the future of Lions Clubs International. The month of October has long been a focal point for demonstrating our commitment to this growth.

Purpose of the Program

The October Growth Award Program is specifically designed to motivate Lions throughout the world to sponsor new members. Although the awards are certainly an important element in inspiring Lions to offer others the privilege of membership, there are more important reasons. New Lions mean fresh ideas and energy, along with the potential for leadership in the years to come. Sponsors will realize that by participating in the October Growth Program, they are fortifying the base of their club's capability to serve community and human needs.

How the Program Works

Each Lion who sponsors one or more new members reported on the October Membership and Activity Report (M&A) is entitled to receive a handsome clutch back pin. These awards, based solely on October M&A Reports, must be received during the month of November before International Headquarters closes out gathering statistics for the month of October. The sponsor's name and member number in their current club must be printed on the M&A Report along with the name of the person being sponsored. Pins are sent automatically either to the club presidents or club secretaries for presentation to award recipients. Only one pin is awarded per sponsor.



About the 1997-1998 Award

The October Growth Award is tailored each year to reflect the theme of the current international program. The distinctive 1997-1998 award depicts International President Judge Howard L. "Pat" Patterson Jr.'s emphasis on Proud Past -Bright Future.

As Lions bring in new members, they make it possible to both honor our proud past and envision a bright future, a future that will enable clubs worldwide to still better answer humanitarian needs.