

Frequently Asked Question – FAQ

If my Lions Club joins Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) as an Ordinary Voting Member, must my club be obligated to raise more money to support the LSSC programs and activities in addition to Lions Home for the Elders and Lions Befrienders Service Association?

NO of course; the Management Boards of LSSC, like the LHE & LBSA are elected to managed the independently registered societies with the Registrar of Societies, Singapore. Therefore such elected Management Boards are to evolve their own fund raising action strategies and plans to meet their own respective programs and activities. They should cut their clothes according to the size of their cloth. No Lion or Lions Club, who are ordinary voting members, has ever been penalized for not doing anything at all for these societies.

However, LHE & LBSA are District Endorsed Programs. Therefore the District Administration sees it right to extend moral support to help them raise funds by instituting guidelines in the annual District Competition for Lions Clubs - thus probably became a stress level for those on the winning streak. Such fund raising guidelines are by no means mandatory - you actually have a choice and any Lions Club can make its own decision.

LSSC being on the Lions Clubs International 1 Global Program on SightFirst and Sight Conservation is requesting your support to be an Ordinary Voting Member is **FIRST** to allow our very own Singapore Lions Clubs involvement and participation in this wonderful and magnificent LCI global program but **MORE IMPORTANTLY**, LSSC wants to see that we are not unduly side-lined as a lower priority program and all fund raising activities for LSSC, a LCI approved program, are not recognized in the District Competition for Lions Clubs going for the higher district awards.

As a matter of fact, LSSC is operating an eye clinic and clinics (in the longer run) as well as later oversea programs to reach the shores further beyond are essentially self financing except where local requirements of needy Singapore citizens and others takes priority. Even LBSA has already requested for free-of-charge LSSC services for their elderly and that those requiring glaucoma treatment. LSSC right now is applying for the Charity Status and IPC Status to address this special need as we evolve. The recent generous direct donations of Lions Club of Singapore Nanyang, Lions Club of Singapore (Host) and the many others, the Charity Movie Premiere by 12 Singapore Lions Clubs are but some of the funds raised for LSSC that were done **TOTALLY VOLUNTARILY**. We welcome all voluntary support to help us further our mission to eliminate preventable and reversible blindness and to answer Helen Keller's call to be 'Knights of the Blind'.

All duly chartered Lions Clubs, who are operating and registered under the Societies Act (Cap311) Singapore are all welcomed to join this Centre as ordinary voting members. The support and endorsement has no mandatory dues, financial obligations and/or duties commitment.

Therefore, Lions Clubs who join LSSC as Ordinary Voting Members, your support and endorsement for LSSC shall not be a mandatory obligation to raise funds for LSSC. Instead, it shall always be treated as your voluntary contributions, as decided by you and your Lions Club at your own choice, time, convenience and pleasure. Even if your Lions Club did nothing at all, LSSC will **NOT** hold you on ransom.

ABOUT LIONS SAVESIGHT CENTRE **(SINGAPORE)**

This speech which was scheduled to be delivered by PDG Han Thien Fong for 5 minutes at the District 308-A1 FIRST CABINET MEETING on Saturday 31 July 2010:

DG Steven Seah, Past Officers of the Association, Cabinet Officers

Thank you DG Steven Seah for extending to me the privilege to address this District Administration on Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore)

Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) is licensed by Lions Clubs International (Legal Division) to use the name LIONS and the Lions emblem. This society is also registered with the Registrar of Societies, Singapore on 1 July 2008 to conduct sight preservation, awareness and action. LSSC indeed is very privileged to have prominent and world renowned ophthalmologists like Prof Arthur Lim as the Chairman and Prof Donald Tan as the Deputy Chairman. LSSC has a simple majority of Lions Clubs in Singapore supporting it in writing, just like LBSA.

It is not a critical issue whether LSSC gets endorsed as a District Program, so long as this and all future District Administrations do not include in their District Club Recognition Awards Criteria with specific fundraising and/or service activities favoring only District Programs at the expense of other activities associated with LCI's 23 other official programs which LSSC is in. LCI's First and Primary Service Global Program is Sight Preservation, Awareness and Action started since 30 June 1925 at Cedar Point, Ohio, USA Convention where the legendary Helen Keller challenged the Lions to be the **KNIGHTS OF THE BLIND**. Campaign SightFirst and CSFII mounted by LCI raised over US\$400 million worldwide and Singapore Lions too made our contributions.

Lions Home for the Elders was started by 8 Lions Clubs in the early 80s. Lions Befriender Service Association was endorsed by 43 Lions Clubs in the late 90s. These 2 societies subsequently amended their Constitution and By-Laws to include all Lions Clubs registered under District 308-A1, thus their 100% Singapore Lions Clubs support. Do both these so called District Programs really have 100% supports from the Singapore Lions Clubs? Your guess is as good as mine.

In the beginning of LBSA, there were rumblings from LHE supporters that the few and precious Lion manpower resources will be over-stretched. The selling point then was LHE is about fundraising and LBSA is the service arm. LBSA was supposedly a 100% funded program of MCYS. Unfortunately, it was not to be for long. LBSA too eventually got to raise funds for its activities. But look today, LHE & LBSA are both service and fundraising combined and look at how they worked even in Joint Flag Days as well. **Now the same rumbling is about LSSC**. My personal view is LHE, LBSA & LSSC are all registered societies in Singapore and have their own respective Management Board, who should work hard to resolve their own problems, if any, especially fundraising. Cut our clothes according to the size of the cloth. **Motivate our Lion leaders and members to do more but not less**. We should learn how LCI is constantly exploring new service initiatives and seeking out new service partners to serve our community. LCI is already into another initiative: LCIF supports the Measles Initiative with Grant from Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The Measles Initiative is a long-term partnership among world leaders in public health that aims to reduce measles morbidity globally. UNICEF, WHO, U.S. Centers for Disease

Control (CDC), American Red Cross, and the United Nations Foundation are among the organizations contributing to these efforts.

Last fiscal year, the District Governor was wise enough to waive the fundraising criteria restrictions at the last minute by including funds raised even for Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore), LCI Haiti Earthquake Relief and also the Vijay Shrestha Fund in the final District Club Awards evaluation. This year, the District Governor is even wiser by adding in the **District Club Recognition Awards 2010-2011, I quote: "Fund Raising may be initiated for various Lions programs or even for non-Lionistic programs, with more weight given to Lions programs"**. This indeed, is what I call blue-eye Lion Leadership.

LSSC is a partnership with Singapore National Eye Centre, Singapore Eye Research Institute, Diabetic Society of Singapore and District 308-A1 and we are able to attract several medical professors, ophthalmologists, doctors and administrators as Lion members and there are many more out there waiting to be tapped. This indeed is the new trust for the Lions Movement in Singapore.

As a parting note, you may be surprised probably even our District Governor may be surprised to know that in this District Cabinet, **we have 65 Lion members of which all the 8 Present and Past Officers of the Association are members in Lions Clubs that support LSSC, with a Cabinet Secretary, 3 Region Chairpersons, 11 Zone Chairpersons and 17 District Chairpersons i.e. 40 out of 65 District Cabinet Officers or almost two thirds of this District Administration are Lion members from Lions Clubs which support Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore)**. Furthermore, in the pipe line is the proposed amendment of the LSSC Constitution and By-Laws within this District administration to include all Lions Clubs chartered within the Singapore District as LSSC Ordinary Voting Members, just like LHE & LBSA. This way, we shall spare ourselves the unnecessary obstacles before us and thereafter like LHE & LBSA, LSSC also have the **"100% Singapore Lions Clubs support and involvement"**!

Thank you for your attention.

Fear less, hope more; eat less, chew more;

whine less, breathe more; talk less, say more;

hate less, love more; and all good things are yours.

~Swedish Proverb

Dear Fellow Lions

ASK: What is your commitment by getting your Lions Club to be a LSSC Ordinary Voting Member?

Honestly, **NOTHING!**

1. There are no mandatory membership dues
2. There are no mandatory fundraising projects
3. There are no mandatory service activities
4. There are no mandatory duty & responsibility

Everything about Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) is voluntary and about genuine volunteerism. No Lion member or Lions Club will be asked to do more than what they want to do. Yes, our Lions Clubs decide what they want to do always.

So what are we talking about?

Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) is licensed to use the name LIONS and the Lions Emblem and a registered society with the Registrar of Societies, Singapore since 1 July 2008.

Lions SaveSight Centre (Singapore) is set-up to provide patients with chronic eye diseases requiring long-term eye care with quality step-down eye care in the most cost-effective setting to minimize waiting time and costs to these patients, but most importantly, save sight by screening, early diagnosis and referral for treatment to prevent disease progression and visual loss.

- said Honorary Lion Professor Donald Tan

When as a result of escalating cost, millions of the neglected people of Southeast Asia continue to suffer the misery of blindness, at a time when modern ophthalmic care can ensure good vision for all at low cost, I appeal for action, for change. Our skills and money are of value only if used to benefit the less fortunate.

- said Honorary Lion Professor Arthur Lim

The world is full of suffering. It is also full of overcoming. Of all senses, SIGHT must be the MOST IMPORTANT. Alone we can do so little; together we can do so

much. It is terrible thing to see and have no **vision**.

- said Helen Keller