

# *Resolution No. 2017-*

## **RESOLUTION OF THE SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS RECOGNIZING THE 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL AND THEIR CONTINUED VOLUNTEERISM AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT ACROSS SOLANO COUNTY**

**WHEREAS**, Lions Clubs International was founded in June 1917 by Melvin Jones and other Chicago businessmen to benefit their community. The organization's first meeting was held June 7, 1917 in Chicago, Illinois. The name "Lions" was chosen as a symbol of strength and courage and later was said to stand for: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety; and

**WHEREAS**, in 1925, an advocate for the disabled named Helen Keller attended the Lions Clubs International Convention and challenged their membership to become, "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Today, Lions Clubs International is perhaps best known for its efforts to fight blindness and restore eyesight, however, the organization offers health programs to benefit those with hearing impairment, as well as a diabetes awareness program; and

**WHEREAS**, the long history of Lions Clubs International members helping their communities through philanthropy and volunteerism include: transforming a Michigan farmhouse into a school to train guide dogs for the visually impaired in 1939; the launch of youth clubs in 1957; the establishment of the Lions Clubs International Foundation in 1968, an organization which has given more than \$826 million in grants; partnering with The Carter Center to address river blindness in Africa and Latin America in 1995; the direction of more than \$15 million in relief funds for South Asia following a 2004 earthquake and tsunami; the award of their 10,000<sup>th</sup> grant and 148 millionth dose of Mectizan administered to treat river blindness in 2011; and the launch of their global Centennial Service Challenge in 2014, an effort to serve 100 million people across the globe; and

**WHEREAS**, according to the organization, there are more than 1.4 million Lions Clubs International members across roughly 46,000 clubs. Lions Clubs International distinguishes itself as the world's largest service club organization with members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas around the world. In Solano County, Lions Clubs International members have formed clubs in Dixon, Rio Vista, Vacaville, Fairfield, Vallejo and Benicia.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Solano County Board of Supervisors hereby recognizes the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Lions Clubs International and their continued volunteerism and community engagement across Solano County.

Dated this 6<sup>th</sup> day of June, 2017

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JOHN M. VASQUEZ, Chair  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:  
BIRGITTA E. CORSELLO, Clerk  
Solano County Board of Supervisors

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jeanette Neiger, Chief Deputy Clerk