

Diabetes Awareness Chairperson

In March 1984, the Diabetes Awareness Program became a major commitment of the association. The main objective of the program is to reduce the number of new cases of blindness caused by diabetic retinopathy through education, detection and research. Diabetic retinopathy is the leading cause of new cases of adult blindness. There is an emerging global epidemic of diabetes that can be traced back to rapid increases in overweight, obesity and physical inactivity. Diabetes is a “silent killer;” every 10 seconds a person dies of a diabetes-related cause. More than 246 million people worldwide live with diabetes.

Chairperson Duties

- Become familiar with the Information for Chairpersons section on the association’s Web site
- Encourage organization of club-level or a district-level *Strides: Lions Walk for Diabetes Awareness* to help educate the public about diabetes
- Utilize current resources from official diabetes associations to become knowledgeable about diabetes and diabetic retinopathy
- Visit clubs. Encourage them to appoint a club diabetes awareness chairperson.
- Partner with local diabetes associations and health care professionals
- Lead in planning and facilitating diabetes awareness presentations for forums, zone meetings, district and multiple district conventions
- Stress to clubs the importance of helping educate the public about diabetic retinopathy and action steps needed to reduce the new cases of blindness caused by diabetic retinopathy
- Encourage clubs to carry out joint diabetes screening projects with other health care organizations, as well as combining a test for diabetic retinopathy with glaucoma testing whenever such activity is undertaken
- Encourage clubs to participate in the following diabetes-related events: Diabetes Awareness Month (November), World Diabetes Day (November 14) and World Sight Day (second Thursday in October)
- Keep the governor and the international office informed of district activities. Provide a summary report to your successor.