



WHAT AM I?

As told by Lion Edward Weessies, PCST

I am the emblem of the world's largest service organization. I am worn or otherwise displayed by more men, women and children than any other emblem of its kind. I represent service to mankind throughout the world. You see me looking to the past and to the future thus the two faces on the emblem. I look to the past with pride in what Lions have done to improve the quality of life in our communities throughout the world. I look to the future to see those in need that Lions can and must help.

By wearing or displaying me I give our members a sense of pride for the work they do for their fellow man, expecting nothing in return, in the name of Lions. I also give our members a sense of purpose for it was Helen Keller that charged the Lions to be "Knights of the Blind." Lions are not limited to work only with the blind. Lions build hospitals, clinic, nursing homes, and resident homes for the blind, provide eye and hearing care both locally and throughout the world. They support relief efforts where disasters occur. Lions do most anything they feel is good for their communities. Lions support research for cures for blindness including a cure for diabetes. They help develop youth programs such as those addressing drug problems. Lions sponsor youth baseball and softball team. They help build homes for the needy in concert with Habitat for Humanity. Lions build access ramps for the handicapped. Lions sponsor Boy and Girl Scout troops too. They take time out of their busy lives to go to foreign lands to provide medical and vision care for the less fortunate, all in the name of our great Association. For as long as they wear me, they are committed to serve.

So what do these men, women and children get for all these efforts? Little recognition, but a sense of accomplishment that cannot be purchased anywhere. So what do I, the emblem of this great organization, provide our members? I once heard that it was I who identified the time and place where a Lions club meets and it was I who, on a member's vest, was the passport to friendship and a sense of purpose. It was I who provided a respite from a long weary week for a traveling Lion. I am the universal sign of "FRIEND" in the world of Lions. I make it easy to say, "IT IS GREAT TO BE A LION."

Because of the activities Lions engage in, I lend creditability to those who wear me. When I am seen on a lapel, collar, blouse, or on a car, home or business window, people see a person who cares. They see one who unselfishly gives of their time and talents to help those in need. Lions are seen as what is good in this world, people who care. Lions live their motto,

"WE SERVE!"