



## New Voices Speaking Points

### Background:

**The New Voices Initiative** promotes gender parity and diversity and seeks to increase the number of women, young adults, and underrepresented populations within our association. It features a diverse group of Lions and Leos who are selected annually by their district governor for their dynamic and innovative contributions in one of four areas: service, membership, leadership, and marketing.

The New Voices Initiative is focused on the district level to encourage regionalization and support at the grassroots level. Once selected, the New Voices nominees can be promoted regionally throughout the year to showcase their talents and contributions and inspire other Lions and Leos. We encourage local areas to promote the program and their nominees with the goal of attracting new dynamic members into our association and encouraging them to seek leadership positions.

New Voices is about hearing the story of the unheard and is a platform for sharing new ideas and learning from each other. It hopes to encourage clubs to be dynamic and innovative by trying something new, while helping individual Lions to grow personally and professionally. New Voices is about creating a network of new voices in every district.

We hope New Voices, and the nominees, will inspire and motivate others by sharing their achievements.

### A New Approach:

Innovation and creativity are the hallmark of this program.

Its presence on social media is phenomenal. The public Facebook page has over 11,000 members.

It is about building confidence and creating opportunities for previously unheard voices to take up leadership roles.

The aim is to create gender parity and diversity in the organization and make our association more inclusive and innovative.

Each approach is regionally based and driven by local Lion leaders.

**District Governor Involvement:**

District Governors will identify local New Voices and nominate one from each category – leadership, service, membership, and marketing. District Governors are encouraged to feature New Voices nominees at District events and in their communications. Beginning in July, District Governors can submit New Voices stories to Lions International through the [story collection form](#) found on the Lions-International website. From the website, search New Voices, and the story form will be located under the resource section of the New Voices webpage.

**Previous New Voices and Current Nominees:**

- New Voices are taking up service projects of interest to women, youth, and other underrepresented populations.
- They are organizing district workshops and symposiums for collaboration with Lions and potential Lions, and in the process will partner with other like-minded groups to discuss a variety of topics.
- They host educational and topical seminars online as webinars.
- They use technology to bridge distances.

**Resources for Additional Information:**

New Voices Orientation PowerPoint

Recorded Webinars

Role of New Voices Nominees

New Voices Symposium

District Governor Guide

New Voices Workshop

For more information visit the Lions International webpage and search New Voices.

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