

**The plate on the Hall of Fame trophy
very appropriately reads:
Lions Clubs International
“Friend of the USBGA”**

Whenever a Lions club gets together, problems get smaller, and communities get better. That's because they help where help is needed – in their own communities and around the world – with unmatched integrity and energy.

With 45,000 clubs and 1.3 million members that makes them the world's largest service club organization and also one of the most effective. They get the job done.

In 1917, Melvin Jones, a Chicago business leader, told members of his local business club they should reach beyond business issues and address the betterment of their communities and the world. Mr. Jones' group, the Business Circle of Chicago, agreed.

After contacting similar groups around the United States, an organizational meeting was held on June 7, 1917, in Chicago, Illinois, USA. The new group took the name of one of the invited groups, the "Association of Lions Clubs," and a national convention was held in Dallas, Texas in October of that year. A constitution, by-laws, objects and a code of ethics were approved.

Within three years, Lions became an international organization. Since then, they have earned high marks for both integrity and transparency. It is a well-run organization with a steady vision, a clear mission, and a long and proud history. They are led by talented, dedicated volunteer leaders from around the world.

In January of 2002 the USBGA met with LCIF representatives and a 3 year \$300,000 grant was forged. In 2005, the USBGA again benefited by gaining another \$100,000 two year matching grant. The USBGA still benefits from these funds which provide for flexibility in planning and in the hosting of our national tournament.