***Seal Beach Fish Fry July 16 & 17, 2021 FAQ***

**What is the Seal Beach Annual Fish Fry?** The 78th annual Lions Fish Fry takes place on July 16th & 17th in Eisenhower Park at the foot of the Pier. This “happening” is the single longest continuously operating, free to the public and non-profit fundraising special event that happens in Seal Beach.  It is the primary fundraiser for the Seal Beach Lions Club!  We are also celebrating our 83rd anniversary for our club charter. So glad you are part of it!

**Can I still buy an Opportunity Drawing ticket for the car? Sorry!**

As expected, tickets sold out a few weeks ago. The drawing will take place at 4:30pm Sunday. There are plenty of Merchant Raffle tickets still available at the Raffle Booth. They are $5 each, 3 for $10 and 8 for $20. Thank you to our local merchants for the prize donations.

**Where is lost and found?** At the Information Booth at the entrance of the Fish Fry.  Items are then transferred to the Jack Haley Safety Building at 820 Ocean, which is right next to the Fry each end of day for collection.

**I bought a Car Opportunity Ticket; how do I get my complementary dinners?**  Visit the Information Booth, and you will receive whichever tickets you need for your choice of main item (Fish, Hot Dog, Brat, Hot Sausage) and drink tickets (non-alcoholic).  If you only want fries or drinks, you can share that with the information booth.

**Where do I get a wristband to drink?** At the beer/wine garden, along with your drink tickets.  **YOU MUST** have a wrist band to have an alcoholic beverage in your hand!

**What can I do to support the Lions?** Buy stuff here, eat food, drink beverages, get Merchant Raffle tickets, support the Leos & become a Lion!  We welcome you to join – grab anyone who is identified as a Lion.

**Where are restrooms?** They are locatedat the foot of the stairways behind beer garden with handwashing stations.  There are additional public restrooms at the foot of the pier at the end of the ramps at beach level.  There is one handicapped restroom located at the north east corner of the fenced area, closest to the corner of 10th and Ocean.

**Where do I park?** Parking in any beach city in California in the Summer can be challenging.  We recommend you park in the beach lots located on 8th & 10th Street or in non-restricted parking areas in Old Town.  If possible, please walk, bike, run, skateboard, ride Lyft, take Uber or whatever else to arrive at the Fry. Anything we can do to decrease parking demand is helpful for the event – particularly if you live in Old Town Seal Beach, even the Hill.  Carpool whenever possible!  Plus, it is good for the environment.

**Do you only take cash?** No! We can process most major credit cards at the ticketing booth and the beer garden. Cash is preferred.

**How does the Fish Fry help the Lions?** In 1951 Lions club secretary, Buell Brown wrote the club minutes*, "It is the only event of the year that brings the people of the town together for a good old fashion visit, and that one item make our Fish Fry a truly worthwhile Lions activity.  The Fish Fry has never been operated with the idea of making any money, just friends, yet it has never failed to pay us for our effort, with a nice sum for the treasury."* Lunch that year was a dime (as in $0.10).  Whole fish dinners have gone for a bit more now ($13), but it is still a great value.  We also serve beer, wine and several non-alcoholic beverages.  We also have the Merchant Drawing and the Car Opportunity Ticket draw at around 4:30 pm on Sunday.  All of the proceeds are 100% given back to the community and Lions causes worldwide.

**When is the Fish Fry?** Starting on Saturday at 11 am to 7 pm, and on Sunday 11 am to 6 pm enjoy the Fish Fry along with free musical entertainment, dancing and community camaraderie.  We are so grateful to the Leos and Lions who help – it takes about 350 volunteers for the weekend.  Please thank anyone with a hanging lanyard – this is the identifier for Lions.  LEOs will almost uniformly be in a LEO shirt (all blue with white lettering).

**Who founded the Lions Club and what is its purpose?** In 1917, Melvin Jones, a 38-year-old Chicago business leader, asked a simple and world-changing question – *“what if people put their talents to work improving their communities?”* With this question and some vibrant leadership, over 100 years later, Lions Clubs International is the world's largest service club organization. Our "Pride of Lions" is over 1.4 million members in more than 46,000 clubs and countless stories of Lions acting on the same simple idea: let's improve our communities. We are part of District 4L-4 (Orange County) and are delighted to support our sister clubs.

**Don’t Lions have something to do with vision and the blind?** Yes! In 1925, Helen Keller addressed the Lions Clubs International Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio, USA and challenged Lions to become *"Knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness."*  With that challenge, Lions all over the world have become the tireless advocacy and aid agency for the blind and visually impaired. Just last year alone, our Lions club has processed and helped at sight clinics over 30,000 people, from Mexico throughout California and even in our town of Seal Beach.

**Who are we?** - We are the Seal Beach Lions Club numbering at 400 members (the largest club in the Western Hemisphere!).  Our club was founded in 1939 and has been a dedicated local service organization for 83 years.  Our mission is to help the less fortunate and improve our community.   We also serve the communities of Rossmoor, Los Alamitos and beyond.  *“Where there is a need, there is a Lion!”*

**How do I become a Seal Beach Lion?** - Membership is by invitation only.   A current member must sponsor you into the club.   To be eligible to join, you need to attend a club meeting, and at least one event or project.   Once you have met this minimum requirement, your sponsor can bring you to a club meeting and present you for membership. We also host New Member Orientations (a more complete explanation of Lions Club history, our club’s evolution, core pillars of Lion’s service and our projects, and discussion about projects and service new members might want to work on or develop new events), and our New Member Mixers which welcomes our new members, returning or re-engaged Lions, and our established Lions.

**How much does it cost for membership in the Lions? –** There is a one-time $30 initiation fee.  Annual dues are $110 per year.   If you are having more than one member of your household join, subsequent members are only $85 (for example if you and your spouse are members, your spouse’s dues are only $85 when yours is $110). The initial amount may vary based on when you join.  Ask you sponsor or the club Treasurer for the exact amount.   Dues are collected when you join and then annually in May*.* You pay dues at the time you are voted in.  Or mail to:

*(Special Membership categories:  Reduced dues for immediate family members.  There is also a special dues rate for former Leos and full-time students)*

**Expectations** -   We have no attendance requirements but encourage members to attend meetings when they can (1st and 3rd Wednesday – 7pm).  You can join in on projects, fundraisers and social events at any time – **Serve when you can**. You will officially become a Lion when the application and dues are received, and the board has voted you in.  If you have any questions, ask your sponsor, an officer or one of the membership team members.

**How do we serve?** - We serve the communities of Rossmoor, Los Alamitos, and Seal Beach primarily. Most of our events and projects are produced inside the Los Alamitos School District boundaries.  However, many of our on-going signature projects are in partnership with specific other organizations at their location, such as meal preparation and serving families at the Ronald McDonald houses in Orange County and Long Beach.  We also are highly involved in the California Lions Friends in Sight screening teams, which provide free eye exams and glasses to anyone. Some of our most engaging and transformative service experiences are when we go to Ensenada or Tijuana Mexico. It becomes evident to anyone as their needs are so much more desperate and essential than much of our local community.

**What are the Pillars of Service for Lionism?** – Since our first call to action by Helen Keller, and thus vision, we have added several other key service focus areas.  They are: ***Vision, Hearing, Hunger, Environment, Diabetes & Pediatric Cancer***.  Our club has events and partners with other organizations, businesses and other Lions clubs to serve in all of the Pillars.  Additionally, our club is very supportive of veterans and active military, police, fire and other first responders.  Recently, we have begun to provide some resources and service projects around Autism and supporting the parents of those on the spectrum. We are also engaged with the schools – from individual sites to major activities such as “Every 15 Minutes” and the Peace Poster contest by Lions Club International. If you have a desire to serve a specific population, join and we will support you!

If you have other questions, please ask a Lion!  We always love to talk about what we do, and, like other big, long-standing traditional signature events; we get exposure to a large number of the general public, who are relaxed and might feel more comfortable asking at a fun, social gathering.

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