

## **Chronological Data of Melvin Jones**

### **1874 to 1961**

- 1874 – John Calvin Jones married Lydia Martin Jones in Kansas.
- 1875 – April 2, the families of Martin and Melvin Jones arrive in Springfield, Arizona.
- 1877 – The families move to the region of Valley Gila, and there they stay.
- 1879 – On January 13, Melvin Jones was born in Fort Thomas, son of John Calvin Jones and Lydia Martin Jones.
- 1886 - He lived in Fort Thomas until he was seven years old.
- 1886 – He moved to a farm just North of Fort Thomas.
- 1888 – He went to study in St. Louis, with his mother and other brothers. His father went to Colorado. Then he studied at the Union Business College.
- 1894 – He went to Quincy, Illinois to continue his studies.
- 1899 – He received his law degree from Chaddock College in Quincy.
- 1899 – At the beginning of the year he arrived in Chicago, at the age of 20.
- 1900 – He began to study voice at the Apollo Club of Chicago. Devoted to classical music as a tenor, he became very famous in Chicago, gaining many admirers.
- 1901 – Began to work at the office of Johnson & Higgins Insurance Brokers.
- 1912 – On June 29, at the age of thirty, he married Rose Amanda Freeman of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Rose was an admirer of the well know singer in Chicago.
- 1912 – He opened his own insurance firm – The “Melvin Jones Insurance Agency,” at the age of 33.
- 1913 – He joined the Business Circle of Chicago through the invitation of William Towne, a businessman.
- 1914 – On January 1<sup>st</sup>, he was elected secretary of the Club. On the 10<sup>th</sup> of January, he took office as the elected Secretary for the year of 2014 of the Business Circle.
- 1914 – On January 24, an Assembly was held at the Hotel Planters of Chicago, where 76 members came, a record that had not been achieved for six years. The fiscal year of the Circle ran from January 1 to December 31.
- 1915 – His name was nominated for the President of the Circle, but he declined the nomination.
- 1916 – Melvin Jones starts his letters to the service clubs of the US inviting them to create a new identity. Rose Amanda helped him in the difficult task.
- 1917 – In May he invited the Clubs to a meeting to explore creating a new Association.
- 1917 – On June 7, began the structuring of the foundation of the International Association of Lions Clubs, at the East Room of the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago. The meeting started at 12:15 pm on a Thursday and ended at 2:30 pm. The hotel, now demolished, was located at LaSalle Street, downtown Chicago.
- 1917- On October 9, during the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Convention in Dallas, Texas, was elected the Secretary-Treasurer of the International Association of Lions Clubs.
- 1918 – The balance sheet approved at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention in St. Louis, from 19 to 21 of August, showed that Lions Clubs increased from 20 to 48. And it also showed that the Secretary-Treasurer, Melvin Jones had received only 200 dollars for 11 months of intense work.
- 1918 – In October, the Los Angeles Cirgonian Club, with more than 100 members in existence for 30 years (since 1888) became the 50<sup>th</sup> club in the United States to adopt the name of Lions Club, a fact communicated by letter to Melvin Jones. This letter still exists in the files of the Association.

- 1918 – From 19 to 21 August at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Convention of the Association, the Code of Ethics of Lionism was approved making Melvin Jones extremely happy.
- 1918 – In November, the first edition of “The Lions Club Magazine” was published. Today it is known as “The Lion.” The magazine had 32 pages, and was printed at Kilgore Linotyping Company, which worked out of the Hearst Building.
- 1919 – From July 9 to 11, in Chicago , during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Convention of the Association, the six paragraphs of the Objects of Lions Clubs were approved. Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety was created by Halstead Ritter.
- 1919 – From July 9 to 11, Melvin Jones was the Secretary-Treasurer during the Annual convention, at the LaSalle Hotel in Chicago where the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting to form the Association had taken place on June 7, 1917, two years earlier. Having been elected to the position once, he was repeatedly elected until 1923 at the 17<sup>th</sup> annual Convention. The slogan Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation’s Safety (that had been created at the June meeting in Chicago )was adopted in 1919 at this Convention.
- 1920 – During this year, Melvin Jones made his dream come true by internationalizing the Association with the foundation of the Lions Club in Windsor, Ontario.
- 1920 – An artist friend of Melvin Jones, Maurice Blick, presented the current logo of the Association for approval. Melvin Jones liked it very much. It also met the approval of the other members. It was approved on April 12 by the International Board of Directors.
- 1920 – At the beginning of the year, Melvin Jones began to dedicate his entire time to the International Lions Club movement.
- 1920 – In July, Melvin Jones became the President of the Chicago Central Lions Club.
- 1923 – At the 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Atlantic City from 27 to the 29 of June, the General Secretary and Treasurer gave up that position in order to run for the International Board of Directors.
- 1924 – In Omaha, Nebraska, there was the first Lions Clubs Parade.
- 1925 - Helen Keller, a guest of Melvin Jones at the Annual Convention in Cedar Point, Ohio , made a wonderful speech asking for Lions support of the blind.
- 1925 – On August 21, in Pinehurst, North Carolina, his wife Rose Amanda Freeman Jones, reached her goal as a sportswoman, winning the final tournament of the National Woman’s Championship of Open Golf.
- 1931 – On January 13, the Lions Club of Cook County (Illinois) presented Melvin Jones with a gold watch and honored other past members and founders of the Association. The International Association of Lions Clubs dedicated January 13, the anniversary of Melvin Jones, as the Day of the Founder.
- 1932 – The President of the United States, Herbert Hoover, invited Melvin Jones and other business leaders to a conference at the White House where they discussed the economic problems of the country.
- 1939 – The government of Cuba honored him with the Order of National Merit, Carlos Manuel de Cespedes, the highest award given to a civilian, a non-head of State.
- 1945 – He also received, from the Government of Cuba, the Merit and Cuban Honor of the Red Cross.
- 1945 – At the beginning of the year in Washington, by the invitation from the Secretary of State, he participated in the preliminary meetings of the formation of the United Nations, convened by the American Government.
- 1945 – In April in San Francisco, California, he represented the International Association, as a consultant at the historic meeting of the preparation for the foundation of the UN.
- 1946 – On January 13, during the foundation of the 5,000<sup>th</sup> club of the Association in Washington, D.C., Southwest Harbor Lions Club presented to Melvin Jones, on his 67<sup>th</sup> birthday, a flag that had been flown at the Capital Building in Washington.

- 1949 – At a festive assembly of the Lions Club of Odessa, Texas, Melvin Jones and Rose Amanda celebrated 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- 1950 – During this year, in Arizona there was the beginning of a movement to build a Memorial at Fort Thomas in honor of Melvin Jones. Still alive, he participated in a meeting to study the subject. Each Lion of Arizona donated one dollar. The initiative ended up also, in 1962, as a Project for the State of Arizona Southern Pacific Railroad as it gave a donation of the land to the Lions Club of Safford. The monument was 50 feet tall (it is administered by the Melvin Jones International Memorial Association). In 1980, during the dedication there were Lion members from the Lions Clubs of Safford, Sierra Vista, Laveen, Scottsdale, Phoenix South Sunrise, Mesa Thunderbirds, Sun City Mid-Week, La Salida del Sol, and Glendale Sunrise. The Memorial has a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and 6 Directors. There is a project to expand the monument, to establish better public visits, picnics, camping, sanitary conveniences and a Museum of Melvin Jones.
- 1950 - The International Board of Directors presented him with the title of life member of the Association.
- 1950 – Melvin Jones once again visits his birthplace with the delegation of Lions from Ecuador.
- 1950 – The International Association of Lions Clubs begins the contest for the motto of the Association; more than 6000 were entered. The winner was a Lion from Canada. This became official at the New York Convention in 1954.
- 1953 – Melvin Jones, after 35 years of intensive work for the Association, left his office, definitely.
- 1954 – His wife Rose Amanda Jones passed away, the one who helped during 45 years to develop his ideals and Lionism.
- 1955 – The Inauguration of the International Headquarters at 209 North Michigan Avenue, in Chicago.
- 1956 – In Chicago, June 21, there was a simple ceremony to celebrate the second marriage of Melvin Jones to Lillian M. Radigan.
- 1957 – It was recommended, during the Annual Convention in San Francisco on the 26 through 29 of June, that he be designated the General Secretary and founder of the Association.
- 1958 – The International Directory changed the title to Founder and Secretary of the Association.
- 1961 – On January 13, at a Commemorative Assembly to celebrate his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday at the Lions Club of Chicago Central, with the presence of the International President Finis E. Davis, the Lions of that Club, the original members of the Business Circle (which Melvin Jones joined in 1913) created a perpetual educational fund in his honor and with his name. Melvin Jones was very happy. He liked to play golf and garden. He was a Mason during many years and belonged to Garden City Number 141 of Chicago. He was also an avid reader, and his friends admired the large collection of books that he had at his house.
- 1961 – On June 1<sup>st</sup>, during the afternoon, Melvin Jones died in Flossmoor, a suburb of Chicago at the age of 82. The church service was on June 5 at the 1<sup>st</sup> Methodist Church of Chicago. He was buried at Mount Hope Cemetery at South Fairfield Avenue in Blue Island. The final rites were given by DR. Preston Bradley, pastor of the Peoples Church of Chicago and Dr. Charles Ray Goff, pastor of the Chicago Temple.
- 1965 – On June 27, in Fort Thomas, Arizona, the Melvin Jones Memorial, which was built by the Lions of Safford, was dedicated. The ceremony was presided over by the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Vice-President, Edward Lindsey of Lawrenceburg, Tennessee.