

DR. EDWARD V. CORDES  
PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR

Dr. Edward V. Cordes, of Corning, New York, USA, was elected to serve a two-year term as a director of Lions Clubs International at the association's 79th International Convention, held in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, July 9 through 12, 1996.

Past Director Cordes is a retired optometrist, who volunteers providing low vision services.

A member of the Corning Lions Club, Past Director Cordes has been a Lion since 1976. He has held many offices within the association, including club president, zone chairman, district governor and cabinet secretary. He also served as chairman of his district's LCIF, Sight Conservation, SightFirst, Convention and Leadership committees. In 1994, he participated in the North American Membership Summit. Past Director Cordes is the co-founder of the Arthur P. Darling Low Vision Center and was a director of his multiple district's organization of past district governors. In 2014, he was appointed chairperson of Lions KidSight USA, an initiative to create a national vision screening program for kids 6 months to 6 years, in which all USA Lions Clubs can participate.

In recognition of his service to the association, he has received numerous awards, including the 100% District Governor Award, the Membership Advancement Key Award, an Extension Award, the SightFirst Excellence in Effort Award, two International President's Leadership Awards, three International President's Certificates of Appreciation, seven International President's Awards and an Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. He is also a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

Past Director Cordes is involved in many professional organizations, including serving, by appointment of the Governor of New York, on the State University of New York College of Optometry Council for 19 years and as the council's chair for nine years. In addition, he was named his state's "Optometrist of the Year" in 1990. In 2012 he was awarded the New York State Optometric Association's Leadership Award for his long term service to the Association and serving as President of the Children's Vision Coalition. That same year he was honored to be named one of the eight living recipients of the Frederic Woll Award, the highest recognition the New York State Optometric Association can bestow.

Past Director Cordes' wife, Gail, is also a Lion and Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.