The Lions Club of Abbeville

Organized September 27, 1943, by J. Barnett Napier, special representative of Lion's International, the Lions Club of Abbeville has literally set the world on fire during its short existence.

Beginning with 26 members, by the time the charter was presented, November 2, 1943, the number had grown to 36, and to date this spirited group has 47 members. The Abbeville Club was the only club in the vicinity to make good on Charter night instead of getting into the red.

LIONS, International stands for Liberty, Intelligence, Our, Nations, Safety, and the Abbeville Club has followed this slogan 100 per cent.

Early in January of this year they sponsored the Birch Magic Show, and their surplus grew to $111.57. Out of this fund, a sum was donated to the Abbeville High School for equipment for the gymnasium. During the year they have sponsored a Recreational Center for the teen-age group, and a Civic Cup Trophy which was awarded to Mrs. Felix Samson, July 4, the same date the Center was dedicated. On September 2, 1944, their Honor Roll Board, containing the names of Abbeville men and women in the service of their country, was dedicated.

Strictly a Civic Club, the Lions have supported the March of Dimes. The United States War Fund Drives, the American Red Cross Drive, and the War Bond Drives. A project that is engaged in by Lions International is the buying of eyeglasses for needy children, and the Abbeville Club is no exception, they are wholehearted supporters of this project.

This enthusiastic group sent two delegates to the State convention in Shreveport, held May 17 and 18, 1944, and one delegate to the International convention held in Chicago, August 1, 2 and 3, 1944.

There are 18 committees in the Lions Club which are: Attendance, Constitution and By-laws, Convention, Finance, Lion’s Education, Membership, Program and Entertainment, Publicity, Military Affairs, Greeters, Food, Activities, Citizenship and Patriotism, Civic Improvements, Community Betterment, Education, Health and Welfare, Safety, and Sight Conservation and Blind.

First Officers of the Abbeville Club were: Harry Landry, president; J. O. Herpin, 1st vice-president; Roy Richardson, 2nd vice-president; Francis Theall, 3rd vice-president; L. V. Jernnaro, secretary and treasurer; Lesler Thomas, Lion Tamer; George Leonard, Tail Twister; Board of Directors: Mr. A. Young, Dr. J. R. McLellan, Alfred Thomas and C. A. Tucker.

The first installation of officers was held July 18, 1944, and all of the charter officers were re-elected to their posts with two exceptions, T. A. Smith became 3rd vice-president in place of Francis Theall, and E. R. Bergeron was appointed to the Board of Directors, in place of C. A. Tucker. Roy Richardson was made zone chairman that night also.