Judge Haynes Townsend, from Dalton, Georgia, USA, was elected to serve as first vice president of Lions Clubs International at the association's 102nd International Convention, held in Milan, Italy, July 5 through July 9, 2019. Vice President Townsend passed away on December 17, 2019 before he could take office as international president.

Vice President Townsend served as a judge for 22 years before retiring in 2019.

As a member of the Dalton Noon Lions Club since 1979, he held many offices within the association, including club president, region chair, zone chair, district governor, district librarian, multiple district leadership chair and international director. He served on the international board from 2009 to 2011, as chair of the 2010-2011 Constitution and By-laws Committee and as a board appointee to the 2010-2011 Executive Committee. He also served as a presenter at the USA/Canada leadership forum.

In recognition of his service to the association, Vice President Townsend received many awards including three Lion of the Year Awards, 15 District Governor Appreciation Awards, the Ervin-Crumbley Award, District 18-A Hall of Fame Award, a Membership Key Award, a Knight of Strength Award, numerous International President’s Awards and International President’s Leadership Awards, as well as the Ambassador of Good Will Award, the highest honor the association bestows upon its members. Vice President Townsend was a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow.

In addition to his Lions activities, Vice President Townsend was active in numerous professional and community organizations. He served as chair of the Dalton-Whitfield Christmas Parade and was honored as the Judge of the Year by the State of Georgia.

Vice President Townsend is remembered by his wife, Donna, also a Lion and a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow, and their two daughters.