

CONSTITUTION
District 5M-6
Lions Clubs International
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Adopted January 9, 1999

Amended January 5, 2008

Amended January 10, 2009

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS

DISTRICT 5M-6 CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I.

Name

Section 1 This organization will be known as District 5M-6 of the International Association of Lions Clubs (herein referred to as Lions Clubs International).

ARTICLE II.

Objects

Section 1 To provide an administrative structure with which to advance the Purpose and Objects of Lions Clubs International in this District.

ARTICLE III.

Membership

Section 1 **Members** - The members of this Organization shall be all Lions Clubs in this District chartered by Lions Clubs International.

Section 2 **Boundaries** - The boundary of this District shall encompass all of the following Counties of the State of Minnesota: Ramsey, Washington and Dakota.

ARTICLE IV.

District Organization

Section 1 **Cabinet Officers**

- (a) **Composition** - The District shall have a District Cabinet composed of the District Governor, as Chair, the Immediate Past District Governor, the First Vice District Governor, Second Vice District Governor, any Region Chairs (if appointed), any Zone Chairs, and a Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer, or Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Treasurer.
- (b) **Committee Chairmen** - The District Governor shall include Committee Chairmen and Committee Members of District 5M-6 in the Cabinet. The inclusion of the Committee Chairmen and Committee Members in the Cabinet shall confer upon them full privileges of discussion, voting, and participation in the activities of the Cabinet.

- (c) **Officers** - The members of the District Cabinet shall be the officers of District 5M-6. Each such officer shall be a member in good standing of a Lions Club which is in good standing in District 5M-6.
- (d) **Protocol** - The District Governor may appoint annually a Protocol Chairman for District 5M-6. The duties shall be as provided in the District 5M-6 By-Laws.
- (e) **District Governor's Advisory Committee** - In each Zone the Zone Chairman and the Presidents and Secretaries of all clubs in the Zone shall compose a District Governor's Advisory Committee with the Zone Chairman as the Chairman.
- (f) **Election of Governor and Vice District Governor** - The District Governor, the First Vice District Governor, and the Second Vice District Governor shall be elected at the annual Mid-Winter convention of District 5M-6. If District 5M-6 shall fail to elect a qualified candidate to be District Governor, the First Vice District Governor or the Second Vice District Governor at the annual Mid-Winter convention of District 5M-6, then such election shall take place during a District 5M-6 business session at the Multiple District 5M Convention.
 - (1) The election shall be by secret written ballot. The candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected. In case of a tie on first ballot, a second ballot shall be taken. In case of a tie on the second ballot, the Election Committee shall prepare lots and the candidates receiving the tie votes shall cast lots before the Elections Committee within one (1) hour after the election shall have been declared a tie. If any such candidate shall fail to appear within said hour, a member of the Election Committee shall cast a lot for him/her. The candidate to whom the lot shall fall shall be declared elected. The type of lot to be cast shall be determined by the Elections Committee.
- (g) **Cabinet Vacancy** - Any vacancy in any District office, except of the District Governor, the First Vice District Governor or the Second Vice District Governor, shall be filled by appointment of the District Governor for the unfinished term thereof.
- (h) **Salary** - No salary shall be paid to any officer of District 5M-6.

Section 2 Qualifications for the Office of District Governor - A candidate for the office of District Governor shall:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club good standing in District 5M-6.
- (b) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in District 5M-6.
- (c) Currently be serving as the First Vice District Governor in District 5M-6.
- (d) Only in the event the current First Vice District Governor does not stand for election as District Governor, or if a vacancy in the position of First Vice District Governor exists at the time of the District Convention, any club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of Second Vice District Governor as set forth in Section 3 of this article and who is currently serving or who has served one (1) additional year as a member of the District Cabinet shall fulfill the requirements of Subsection (c) of this section.

Section 3 Qualifications for the Office of First Vice District Governor - A candidate for the office of First Vice District Governor shall:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in District 5M-6.
- (b) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in District 5M-6.
- (c) Currently be serving as the Second Vice District Governor within District 5M-6.
- (d) Only in the event the current Second Vice District Governor does not stand for election as First Vice District Governor, or if a vacancy in the position of Second Vice District Governor exists at the time of the District Convention, any club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of Second Vice District Governor as set forth in Section 4 of this article shall the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.

Section 4 Qualifications for the office of Second Vice District Governor - A candidate for the office of Second Vice District Governor shall:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in District 5M-6.
- (b) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in District 5M-6.
- (c) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as Second Vice District Governor:
 - (1) As President of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the Board of Directors of a Lions Club for no less than two (2) additional years; and
 - (2) As Zone Chairman or Region Chairman or Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof.
 - (3) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

Section 5 Vacancy in the office of District Governor

- (a) **Procedure** - In filling any vacancy arising in the office of District Governor, District 5M-6 shall convene a meeting within fifteen (15) days of notification by the International Board of Directors of the Immediate Past District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governors, Region Chairs (if appointed), Zone Chairs, Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Treasurer (or Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer) and the District Governors Honorary Committee.
- (b) **Presiding** – It shall be the duty of the Immediate Past District Governor or if not available, the next most recent Past District Governor who is available to select the meeting date, time and place, to send invitations to attend the meeting, and it shall be her/his responsibility to preside as Chair of the meeting. Each Lion who is entitled to receive an invitation to attend, and is present at the meeting shall be entitled to cast one vote for the Lion of his/her choice.
- (c) **Duties** - It shall be the duty of the attendees at this meeting to appoint a qualified club member as the remainder of the term.

- (d) **Eligible Candidates** A vacancy in the office may be filled by a member if he/she:
 - (1) Is an active member in good standing of a club in good standing in District 5M-6
 - (2) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as District Governor
 - (i) As an officer of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof;
 - (ii) As a member of the district cabinet for two full terms or major portion thereof;
 - (iii) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.
- (e) **Notification** – The Chair shall convey the results to the office of Lions Clubs International, and the Multiple District 5M office, within seven (7) days together with evidence of invitations sent and meeting attendance.

Section 6 Vacancy in the office of First or Second Vice District Governor

- (a) **Procedure** - In filling any vacancy arising in the office of First or Second Vice District, District 5M-6 shall convene a meeting of the members of the existing cabinet, and all past international officers who are members in good standing of a Lions Club in good standing in District 5M-6 as provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of Lions Clubs International. Each Lion who is entitled to receive an invitation to attend, and is present at the meeting shall be entitled to cast one vote for the Lion of his/her choice.
- (b) **Presiding** - It shall be the duty of the District Governor, or if not available, the most recent Past District Governor who is available, to send invitations to attend the meeting, and it shall also be her/his responsibility to preside as Chair of the meeting.
- (c) **Duties** - It shall be the duty of the attendees at this meeting to appoint a qualified club member as Vice District Governor for the remainder of the term.
- (d) **Eligible Candidates** – A vacancy in either office may be filled by a member if he/she:
 - (1) Is an active member in good standing of a club in good standing in District 5M-6.
 - (2) Has served as an officer of a Lions club and a member of the district cabinet for a full term or major portion thereof, with none of these offices being accomplished concurrently.
- (e) **Notification** - The Chairman shall convey the results to the office of Lions Clubs International, and the Multiple District 5M office, within seven (7) days together with evidence of invitations sent and meeting attendance.

Section 7 Vacancy in Office of Region or Zone Chairman - If any Region or Zone Chair shall cease to be a member of a club in the Region or Zone, as the case may be, to which he/she was appointed, his/her term of office shall thereon cease, and the District Governor shall appoint a successor to fill said office.

Section 8 Regions and Zones -

- (a) **Division** - The District Governor shall divide the District into Regions of approximately sixteen (16) and no less than ten Lions Clubs, and each such Region into Zones of approximately eight Lions Clubs, giving due regard to the geographical location of the Lions Clubs.

- (b) **Changes** - All such Regions and Zones shall be subject to change by and in the District Governor's sole discretion and deem the same necessary to the best interest of Lions Clubs International.
- (c) **Region Meetings** - Meetings of representatives of all Lions Clubs in a Region may be held during the fiscal year at times and places fixed by the Region Chairman, if appointed, or by the District Governor. The Region Chairman, if appointed, shall preside at the meetings. The District Governor shall preside if no Region Chairman has been appointed.
- (d) **Zone Meetings** - Meetings of representatives of all the Lions Clubs in the Zone, with the Zone Chairman presiding, shall be held during the fiscal year at times and places fixed by the Zone Chairman.
- (e) **Qualifications** - Each Region and Zone Chairman must be an active member in good standing of a club in good standing in his/her respective region or zone, and have served or will have served at the time of taking office as Region or Zone Chair as President of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, as a member of the Board of Directors of a Lions Club for no less than an additional two years.

Section 9 **District Cabinet Meetings** -

- (a) **Regular** - A regular meeting of the Cabinet shall be held in each quarter of the fiscal year, with the first to be held within 60 days after the adjournment of the preceding Lions Clubs International Convention. Ten days written notice of meetings setting forth a date, time, and place, determined by the District Governor, shall be given to each member of the Cabinet, by the Cabinet-Secretary or the Cabinet Secretary.
- (b) **Special** - Special meetings of the Cabinet may be called by the District Governor at the District Governor's discretion, or shall be called upon written request made to the District Governor, or the Cabinet Secretary, or Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer by a majority of the members of the Cabinet.
- (c) **Meeting Notice** - No fewer than five (5) nor more than ten (10) days written or telefax notice of special meetings, setting forth the purpose thereof and a date, time and place determined by the District Governor, shall be given to each member of the Cabinet by the Cabinet Secretary.
- (d) **Quorum** - The attendance of a majority of the members of the Cabinet shall constitute a quorum for any meeting thereof.

ARTICLE V
District Committees

Section 1 **Operating Committees** - The District Governor shall appoint qualified Lions to the following committees;

- Sight Conservation
- Youth Outreach
- Hearing Foundation
- Diabetes
- Lions Clubs International Foundation
- Leader Dog
- Hearing Dog
- Membership Development
- Leadership Development
- Club Extension
- Lioness Liaison
- Strategic Planning
- Publicity
- Constitution and By-Laws
- Convention
- USA/Canada Forum
- Convention Operating Committees
 - Nominations
 - Elections
 - Credentials
 - Convention Sergeant-At-Arms
 - Rules
 - Resolutions

Section 2 **Terms** - All appointments shall be consist with rules outlined in the Multiple District 5M Constitution.

ARTICLE VI
Conventions

Section 1 **Date and Place** - An annual convention of District 5M-6 shall be held at a time and place selected by the District Governor in consultation with the District Governor's Honorary Committee.

Section 2 **Delegate Quota** - Each chartered club in good standing in District 5M-6 shall be entitled to be represented by one or more delegates at the annual District 5M-6 convention.

Section 3 **Delegate Certification to District 5M-6 Conventions** Certification of delegates and alternates shall be as set forth in Article III, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

ARTICLE VII

Finances

Section 1 **Per Capita Tax** (dues) - To provide revenue to defray the expenses of District 5M-6, an annual tax for each club member shall be levied against and paid by each club as established in the District 5M-6 By-Laws.

Section 2 **District 5M-6 Audit** - The District Governor shall provide for an audit of all District funds by a competent auditor, and such audit to be completed not later than ninety (90) days from the close of the fiscal year. The audit report shall be made available, upon request, to each club in the District thirty days after completion of the audit.

Section 3 **New and Reorganized Clubs** - Newly chartered and reorganized Lions Clubs shall not be required to pay any District tax for semi-annual period in which their establishment or reorganization occurs.

Section 4 **Bonds** - The President and Secretary-Treasurer of each Lions Club in District 5M-6 shall be bonded in the amount and such sureties as may determined by the MD5M Council.

Section 5 **US Funds** - The moneys referred to in this Constitution and By-Laws shall mean U.S. funds.

ARTICLE VIII

Amendments

Section 1 Notices and Communications

- (a) Communication within District 5M-6 among the District Governor, District Officers written notice is specified, the use of the United States Postal Service or Electronic mail (also known as email), shall be considered legal and proper notification.
- (b) Publications, including, but not limited to the District Constitution and By-laws, shall be considered to be readily available to the District Officers, Clubs and individual Lions, if posted on the District 5M-6 official web site. The web site shall contain prominent links to enable all District Lions to download and print these documents as needed. Any District Officer, Club or individual Lion that does not have the means to access the official District 5M-6 web site; may request in writing these documents from

the District Cabinet Secretary. Reports and communications required to be sent to Lions Clubs International and Multiple District 5M shall be sent using the method(s) designated by either Lions Clubs International or Multiple District 5M.

Section 2 Format - Amendments to this Constitution shall be submitted, only in writing, in a proper form which shall include a rationale for the amendment, a reference to the article and section affected an exact statement of any wording to be replaced or added.

Section 3 Filing - Such submittal, to be acted on at the next District 5M-6 Convention, must be in the hands of the District Governor at least forty-five (45) days prior to the opening business session of the Mid-Winter convention or forty-five (45) days prior to the opening session of the Multiple District 5M Convention. The District Governor may comment on each proposed amendment and its effect on the District when submitting the proposed amendments to each club in the District.

Section 4 Committee functions - The Constitution and By-Laws committee shall review all the proposed amendments to this Constitution The Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall report each correctly proposed amendment, with or without recommendation, to the Delegates to the District 5M-6 Convention or Business Meeting.

Section 5 Notification - The District 5M-6 Cabinet Secretary shall submit a copy of the proposed amendment(s) in writing, postmarked or hand delivered at least 30 days prior to the opening business session of the applicable convention to each club.

Section 6 Adoption - Amendments proposed according to the provisions of Section 1 and 2 of this Article shall be deemed adopted, when approved by an affirmative vote of a majority of the certified delegates at the District 5M-6 Convention, present in person, qualified, and voting. Such amendments(s) shall take effect at the close of the District 5M-6 Convention or Business Meeting at which they are adopted.

Section 7 Clerical Changes - The District 5M-6 Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall be authorized to make “Housekeeping” changes within this Constitution which alters neither the meaning nor intent of the changed section. Changes made by the action of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, pursuant to this section, shall be presented to the delegates at the next annual Convention or Business Meeting of District 5M-6.

ARTICLE IX
Consistency

Section 1 This Constitution shall be consistent with the Constitution and By-Laws of Lions Clubs International and Multiple District 5M. If any part hereof is found not to be consistent with such Constitution and By-Laws, only the inconsistent part shall be voided and superseded by such overriding Constitution and By-Laws, and such inconsistency shall not affect the validity of this Constitution as a whole.