



# **The International Association of Lions Clubs**

**DISTRICT 26-M5**

## **CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS**

**First Adopted March 12, 2016**

**Effective 1 July 2017**

## **PURPOSES:**

TO ORGANIZE, *charter and supervise service clubs to be known as Lions clubs.*

TO COORDINATE *the activities and standardize the administration of Lions clubs.*

TO CREATE *and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.*

TO PROMOTE *the principles of good government and good citizenship.*

TO TAKE *an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.*

TO UNITE *the clubs in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.*

TO PROVIDE *a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.*

TO ENCOURAGE *service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.*

## **VISION STATEMENT:**

TO BE *the global leader in community and humanitarian service.*

## **MISSION STATEMENT:**

TO EMPOWER *volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.*

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## DISTRICT 26-M5 CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I - Name

This organization shall be known as Lions District No. 26-M5 hereinafter referred to as “district.”

### ARTICLE II - Purposes

The purposes of this district shall be:

(a) To provide an administrative structure with which to advance the Purposes of Lions Clubs International in this district.

(b) To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.

(c) To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.

(d) To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.

(e) To unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.

(f) To provide a forum for the open discussion of all matters of public interest; provided, however, that partisan politics and sectarian religion shall not be debated by club members.

(g) To encourage service-minded people to serve their community without personal financial reward, and to encourage efficiency and promote high ethical standards in commerce, industry, professions, public works and private endeavors.

### ARTICLE III - Membership

The members of this organization shall be all Lions clubs in this district chartered by Lions Clubs International. The boundaries of this district shall constitute an area consisting of the following counties: Bates, Cass, Henry, Jackson, Johnson, Lafayette, Pettis, Ray, St. Clair, Saline and Vernon, as of the date of the adoption of this Constitution, but may be increased or decreased by proper action at a State Lions Clubs Convention which shall govern the future boundaries of this district.

### ARTICLE IV - Emblem, Colors, Slogan and Motto

Section 1. EMBLEM. The emblem of this association and each chartered club shall be of a design as follows:



Section 2. **USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM.** Use of the name, goodwill, emblem and other logos of the association shall be according to the guidelines established from time to time in the by-laws.

Section 3. **COLORS.** The colors of this association and of each chartered club shall be purple and gold.

Section 4. **SLOGAN.** Its Slogan shall be: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety.

Section 5. **MOTTO.** Its Motto shall be: We Serve.

#### **ARTICLE V - Supremacy**

Whenever there may exist a conflict or a contradiction between the provisions set out in the district constitution and by-laws and the multiple district constitution and by-laws then the multiple district constitution and by-laws shall govern. Whenever there may exist a conflict or a contradiction between the provisions set out in the district constitution and by-laws and the International Constitution and By-Laws, then the International Constitution and By-Laws shall govern.

#### **ARTICLE VI - Officers and District Cabinet**

Section 1. **OFFICERS.** The district shall have a District Cabinet comprised of the District Governor, the immediate Past District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governors, the Region Chairpersons (if the position is utilized) the Zone Chairpersons, Global Membership Team district coordinator, Global Leadership Team district coordinator, Global Service Team district coordinator, LCIF district coordinator Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer, each Past District Governor, the Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, Inc. (MLERF), doing business as Saving Sight Director(s), Committee Chairpersons of the district and each club president. . Each such officer shall be a member in good standing of a Lions club in good standing in the district.

Section 2. **DISTRICT CABINET.** The district shall have a district cabinet composed of the district governor, the immediate past district governor, the first and second vice district governors, the region chairpersons (if the position is utilized during the district governor's term), the zone chairpersons, a cabinet secretary-treasurer or a cabinet secretary and a cabinet treasurer, and such other club members as may be included in this section as amended in accordance with the amendment procedures contained herein. The cabinet shall include each Past District Governor, the 26-M5 Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, Inc. (MLERF), doing business as Saving Sight Director, Committee Chairpersons of the district and each club president.

Section 3. **ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT CABINET.** The district governor and first, second vice district governors and 26-M5 Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, Inc. (MLERF), dba Saving Sight Director shall be elected at the annual convention of the district. The district governor shall appoint or the district shall elect by the time he/she takes office, the cabinet secretary-treasurer or a cabinet secretary and a cabinet treasurer, one region chairperson for each region (if the position is utilized during the district governor's term), and one zone chairperson for each zone, in the district, sergeant at arms and such other club members as may be included in the district cabinet.

Section 4. **REMOVAL.** Members of the District Cabinet other than the District Governor, First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor may be removed from office for cause by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire number of the District Cabinet.  
*Note: For cause may be any reason as determined by the district cabinet in accordance with ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED.*

**Section 5. Quorum and Vote.** The attendance of a majority of the following members of the Cabinet shall constitute a quorum for any meeting thereof, the District Governor, the immediate Past District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governors, the Region Chairpersons (if utilized), the Zone Chairpersons, the Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer. In all such meetings, the voting privilege shall extend to the District Governor, the immediate Past District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governors, the Region Chairpersons (if the position is utilized), the Zone Chairpersons, the Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer, each Past District Governor, the 26-M5 Missouri Lions Eye Research, Inc., doing business as Saving Sight Director, Committee Chairpersons and each club president.

**Section 6. District Administrative Budget.**

(A). The District Governor and the district cabinet shall prepare and adopt a district budget and supervise the receipts and expenditures thereof. No expenditures outside the budget shall be made without cabinet approval. A district budget committee may be appointed by the District Governor-Elect. As a minimum, this committee shall be comprised of one Past District Governor, to serve as the chairperson, two active and in good standing Lions, the District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governors, and District Cabinet Secretary Treasurer. Members of this committee shall not concurrently serve on the audit, nominations or project finance committees if utilized.

(B). The District Governor and the district cabinet shall not incur obligations in any fiscal year that will create an unbalanced budget or deficit in said year.

(C). The Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount and with such surety company as shall be approved by the District Governor and the cost of it shall be an administrative expense.

(D). The District Governor shall provide for an annual or more frequent audit of the books and accounts of the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer, and a statement of the financial condition of the district shall be sent to Lions Clubs International and each club in the district within sixty (60) days after the close of the fiscal year by the District Governor then in office.

(E). An Audit Committee shall be appointed by the District Governor-Elect. As a minimum, this committee shall be comprised of one Past District Governor, to serve as the Chairperson, and two active in good standing Lions within the district. If applicable the outgoing district cabinet secretary-treasurer shall serve as an ex-officio member of this committee. The members of this committee shall not serve concurrently on the district budget committee, nominating committee.

(F). The District Governor or District Governor Elect shall have the authority to appoint additional advisory members to any committee, without restrict of the membership on any other committee. The advisory members are a non-voting member.

**ARTICLE VII - District Convention**

**Section 1. TIME AND PLACE.** An annual convention of the district shall be held in each year to conclude no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the international convention at a place selected by the delegates of a previous annual convention of the district and at a date and

time fixed by the district governor. A meeting of the registered delegates of the district in attendance at the annual convention of the multiple district of which this district shall be a part may constitute the annual convention of the district.

## **Section 2. CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA.**

(1) Each chartered club in good standing in Lions Clubs International and its district (single or sub- and multiple) shall be entitled in each annual convention of its district (single or sub- and multiple) to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each ten (10) members, who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members. Each certified delegate present in person shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote only for each office to be filled by, and one (1) vote only on each question submitted to, the respective convention. Unless otherwise specified herein, the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates voting on any question shall be the act of the convention.

(2) All eligible delegates must be members in good standing of a club in good standing in this district. Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days at any time prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention.

**Section 3. QUORUM.** The attendance in person of a majority of the delegates registered at a convention shall constitute a quorum at any session of the convention.

**Section 4. SPECIAL CONVENTION.** A Special Convention of the clubs of the District may be called by a two-thirds vote of the District Cabinet at such time and place as they shall determine; provided that such Special Convention shall conclude no less than 30 days prior to the convening date of the International Convention and that such Special Convention shall not be convened for the election of the district governor, first vice district governor or second vice district governor. Written notice of the Special Convention setting forth the time, place and purpose thereof, shall be provided to each club in the District by the District Cabinet Secretary, no less than 30 days prior to the convening date of the Special Convention.

## **ARTICLE VIII - District Dispute Resolution Procedure**

### **Section 1. Disputes Subject to Procedure**

All disputes relative to membership, club boundaries, or interpretation, breach of, or application of the district (single or sub-) constitution and by-laws, or any policy or procedure adopted from time to time by the district (single or sub-) cabinet, or any other internal Lions district (single or sub-) matters that cannot be satisfactorily resolved through other means, arising between any clubs in the district (single or sub-), or any club(s) and the district (single or sub-) administration, shall be settled by the following dispute resolution procedure. Except as otherwise provided herein, any time limits specified in this procedure may be shortened or extended by the district governor, or, in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor, the immediate past district governor, conciliators or the International Board of Directors (or its designee) upon a showing of good cause. All parties to any dispute subject to this procedure shall not pursue administrative or judicial actions during this dispute resolution process.

### **Section 2. Complaints and Filing Fee**

Any Lions club in good standing within the association (the “complainant”) may file a written request with the district governor or, in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor, the immediate past district governor (a “complaint”), with a copy to the Legal Division, asking that dispute resolution take place under this procedure. The complaint must be filed within thirty (30) days after the complainant(s) knew or should have known of the occurrence of the event upon which the complaint is based. The complainant(s) must submit minutes signed by the club secretary certifying that a resolution in support of filing the complaint has been adopted by a majority of the entire membership of the club. A copy of the complaint shall be sent to the respondent(s). A complaint filed under this procedure must be accompanied by a US\$750.00 filing fee, or its equivalent in the respective national currency, payable by each complainant to the district (single or sub-) which shall be submitted to the district governor or, in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor, the immediate past district governor, at the time the complaint is filed. In the event the complaint is settled or withdrawn prior to a final decision by the conciliators, US\$100.00 shall be retained by the district (single or sub-) as an administrative fee and US\$325.00 shall be refunded to the complainant and US\$325.00 shall be paid to the respondent (which shall be shared on an equal basis if there is more than one respondent). In the event the selected conciliators find the complaint to have merit and the complaint is upheld, US\$100.00 shall be retained by the district (single or sub-) as an administrative fee and US\$650.00 shall be refunded to the complainant. In the event the selected conciliators deny the complaint for any reason, US\$100.00 shall be retained by the district (single or sub-) as an administrative fee and US\$650.00 shall be paid to the respondent (which shall be shared on an equal basis if there is more than one respondent). In the event the complaint is not settled, withdrawn, upheld or denied within the time frames established by this procedure (unless an extension has been granted for good cause), then the entire fee will be automatically retained by the district (single or sub-) as an administrative fee and shall not be refunded to any party. All expenses incurred relative to this dispute resolution procedure are the responsibility of the district (single or sub-), unless established district (single or sub-) policy provides that all expenses incurred relative to this dispute resolution procedure shall be paid on an equal basis by the parties to the dispute.

### **Section 3. Response to Complaint**

The respondent(s) to the complaint may file a written response to the complaint with the district governor or, in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor, the immediate past district governor, with a copy to the Legal Division, within ten (10) days of receiving notice of the complaint. A copy of the response shall be sent to the complainant(s).

### **Section 4. Confidentiality**

Once a complaint has been filed, communications between the complainant(s), respondent(s), district governor or, in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor, the immediate past district governor and conciliators should be kept confidential to the extent possible.

### **Section 5. Selection of Conciliators**

Within fifteen (15) days of filing the complaint, each party to the dispute shall select one (1) neutral conciliator and the selected conciliators shall select one (1) neutral conciliator, who will serve as chairperson. The selected conciliators’ decision relative to the selection of the conciliator/chairperson shall be final and binding. All of the selected conciliators shall be Lion leaders, preferably past district governors, who are currently members in good standing of clubs in good standing in the district (single or sub-) in which the dispute arises, other than a club

which is a party to the dispute, and shall be impartial on the matter in dispute and without loyalties to any party to the dispute. Upon completion of the selection process, the conciliators shall be deemed appointed with all authority appropriate and necessary to resolve or decide the dispute in accordance with this procedure. In the event the selected conciliators cannot agree on the selection of the conciliator/chairperson within the time frame noted above, then the selected conciliators shall be automatically deemed to have resigned for administrative reasons and the parties must select new conciliators (“the second team of selected conciliators”) who shall then select one (1) neutral conciliator/chairperson in accordance with the selection procedures and requirements described above. In the event the second team of selected conciliators cannot agree on the selection of the conciliator/chairperson from within the district (single or sub-) in which the dispute arises, the selected conciliators may select one (1) neutral conciliator/chairperson who is a member of a club in good standing outside the respective district (single or sub-). In the event the second team of selected conciliators cannot agree on the selection of the conciliator/chairperson from within or outside the district (single or sub-) in which the dispute arises, then the past international director who most recently served on the International Board of Directors from within the district (single or sub-) in which the dispute arises or from an adjacent district (single or sub-), whichever is closest in proximity, shall be appointed as conciliator/chairperson. The time limits in this Section 5 may not be shortened or extended by the district governor or, in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor, the immediate past district governor, or the conciliators.

#### **Section 6. Conciliation Meeting & Decision of Conciliators**

Upon being appointed, the conciliators shall arrange a meeting of the parties for the purpose of conciliating the dispute. The meeting shall be scheduled within thirty (30) days of the appointment of the conciliators. The objective of the conciliators shall be to find a prompt and amicable resolution to the dispute. If such conciliation efforts are unsuccessful, the conciliators shall have the authority to issue their decision relative to the dispute. The conciliators shall issue their decision in writing no later than thirty (30) days after the date on which the initial meeting of the parties was held, and the decision shall be final and binding on all parties. The written decision shall be signed by all the conciliators, with the dissent of any conciliator properly noted, and a copy of the written decision shall be provided to all parties, the district governor or, in the event the complaint is directed against the district governor, the immediate past district governor, and, to the Legal Division of Lions Clubs International. The decision of the conciliators must be consistent with any applicable provisions of the International, Multiple District and District Constitutions and By-Laws and policies of the International Board of Directors, and is subject to the authority of and further review by the International Board of Directors at the sole discretion of the International Board of Directors or its designee. Failure to comply with the final and binding decision of the conciliators constitutes conduct unbecoming a Lion and is subject to loss of membership privileges and/or charter cancellation.

### **ARTICLE IX - Amendments**

**Section 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE.** This constitution may be amended only at a district convention, by resolution of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and adopted by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.

**Section 2. AUTOMATIC UPDATE.** When amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws are passed at the International Convention, any amendments that would have an effect on this District Constitution and By-Laws shall automatically be updated in this district

constitution and by-laws at the close of the convention. Notice of such amendments shall be furnished to all cabinet officers and clubs within this district.

Section 3. **NOTICE.** No amendment shall be so reported or voted upon unless the same shall have been published by regular post or electronic means to each club no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the annual convention with notice that the same will be voted upon at said convention.

Section 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Each amendment shall take effect at the close of the convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

## **DISTRICT 26-M5 BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I. Nominations and Endorsement Third Vice President and International Director Nominees**

Section 1. **ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE.** Subject to the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws, any member of a Lions club in the district seeking endorsements of a district convention as a candidate for the office of international director or third vice-president shall:

(a) Deliver (by mail or in person) written notice of intention to seek such endorsement to the district governor and if this is a sub-district of a multiple district to the multiple district council secretary treasurer no less than 30 days prior to the convening date of the district convention at which such question of endorsement is to be voted upon;

(b) Deliver with said notice of intention evidence of fulfillment of the qualifications for such office set forth in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. **NOMINATION.** Each notice of intention so delivered shall be transmitted forth with by the district governor to the Nominating Committee of the respective convention, which shall review and perfect the same by obtaining from each prospective candidate any additional evidence of such intention and qualifications as may be necessary under the International Constitution and By-Laws, and shall place in nomination at the respective convention the name of each such prospective candidate who has fulfilled said procedural and constitutional requirements.

Section 3. **SECONDING SPEECH.** Each such nominee for endorsement shall be entitled to one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes in duration.

Section 4. **VOTE.** The vote on the question of endorsement shall be by secret written ballot, unless there shall be only one nominee seeking the same, in which event a voice vote may be taken. The nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared endorsed (elected) as the candidate of the convention and district. In the event of a tie vote, or failure of one nominee to receive the required majority, on any ballot, balloting shall continue until one receives the required majority of the votes cast.

Section 5. **CERTIFICATION OF ENDORSEMENT.** Certification of endorsement by the respective convention shall be made in writing to the international office by the district officials designated (and if the district is a sub-district in the multiple district to the multiple district council of governors) in accordance with the requirements set forth, in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 6. **VALIDITY.** No district endorsement of any candidacy of any member of a Lions club in this district shall be valid unless and until the provisions of this Article have been met.

### **ARTICLE II. District Nominations, Elections and Appointments**

Section 1. **NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** Each district governor shall appoint by written notification received at least sixty (60) days prior to the sub-district convention, a Nominating Committee of not less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members, each of whom shall be a member in good standing of a different Lions club in good standing in the district, and shall not

at the time through the duration of their appointment hold any district cabinet or international office either by election or appointment.

Section 2. **DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTION PROCEDURES.** Any qualified member of a club in the district seeking the office of district governor shall file his/her intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee 60 days prior to the day of its report to the convention, and furnish evidence of his/her compliance with the qualifications for said office set out in the International Constitution and By-Laws. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the district convention the name(s) of all candidate(s) so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the office may be made from the floor. A candidate shall be allowed one nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration.

Section 3. **FIRST AND SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTION PROCEDURES.** Any member of a club in the district seeking the office of first or second vice district governor shall file his/her intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee 30 days prior to the election, and furnish evidence of his/her compliance with the qualifications for said office set out in the International Constitution and By-Laws. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the district convention the names of all candidates so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the office may be made from the floor. Each candidate shall be allowed one nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration.

Section 4. **26-M5 MISSOURI LIONS EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION (MLERF); DBA SAVING SIGHT DIRECTOR ELECTION PROCEDURES.** Any qualified member of a club in the District seeking the office of The Missouri Lions Eye Research Foundation, (MLERF), doing business as Saving Sight Director shall file his intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee sixty (60) days prior to the day of its report to the Convention. If none is received then, but then and only then may nomination for the office be made from the floor. Each candidate shall be allowed one nominating speech of no more than five minutes duration, and one seconding speech of no more than three minutes duration.

Section 5. **BALLOT.** The election shall be by secret written ballot, with the candidate or candidates required to secure a majority of the votes cast by the delegates present and voting in order to be declared elected; for purpose of such election, a majority is defined as a number more than one-half of the total valid votes cast excluding blanks and abstentions. If, on the first ballot, and subsequent ballots, no candidate receives a majority, the candidate or tied candidates receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority. In case of a tie on any ballot, balloting shall continue on the tied candidates until one is elected.

Refer to the district governor nominating committee checklist (See Exhibit "B").

9 Refer to district governor nominating committee checklist (See Exhibits "E" and "F").

Section 6. **DISTRICT GOVERNOR VACANCY.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of district governor, the same shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws. The immediate past district governor, first and second vice district governors, the region chairpersons, zone chairpersons, the cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer (or cabinet secretary/treasurer) and District Governor's Honorary Committee and past district governors, past international directors and past international presidents in the district shall

convene at a date, time and place called and determined by the immediate past district governor to select a replacement for recommendation to the International Board of Directors. In order for a Lion to be eligible and qualified to be selected to fill a vacancy in the office of district governor, he/she must:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (b) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as district governor:
  - (i) As officer of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof; and
  - (ii) As a member of the district cabinet for two (2) full terms or major portion thereof.
  - (iii) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

Note: It is encouraged that the first vice district governor fulfill his/her full term of office and other qualified Lions be considered for filling a vacancy in the office of district governor.

**Section 7. FIRST AND SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNORS AND OTHER VACANCIES.** Any vacancy in office except that of district governor and first and second vice district governors shall be filled by appointment from the district governor for the unexpired term. In event of a vacancy arising in the office of first or second vice district governor, the district governor shall convene a meeting of the members of the existing cabinet as provided for in the International Constitution and By-Laws and all past international officers who are members in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in the district. It shall be the duty of the attendees at this meeting to appoint a qualified club member as first or second vice district governor for the remainder of the term. In filling said vacancy, it shall be the duty of the district governor, or if not available, the most recent past district governor who is available, to send out invitations to attend said meeting and it shall also be his/her responsibility to preside as chairperson of the meeting. The chairperson shall convey the results to the international office within seven (7) days together with evidence of invitations sent and meeting attendance. Each Lion who is entitled to receive an invitation to attend and is present at said meeting shall be entitled to cast one vote for the Lion of his/her choice. In order for a Lion to be eligible and qualified to be selected to fill a vacancy in the office of first or second vice district governor, he/she must:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (b) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as first or second vice district governor:
  - (i) As officer of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof; and
  - (ii) As a member of the district cabinet for a full term or major portion thereof.
  - (iii) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

**Section 8. REGION/ZONE CHAIRPERSON QUALIFICATIONS.** Each region and zone chairperson shall:

- (a) Be an active member in good standing in his/her respective region or zone; and
- (b) Have served or will have served at the time of taking office as region or zone chairperson 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.

**Section 9. APPOINTMENT/ELECTION OF REGION/ ZONE CHAIRPERSON.** The district governor shall appoint, by the time he/she takes office, one region chairperson for each

region (if the position is utilized during the district governor's term), and one zone chairperson for each zone, in the district.

Section 10. **REGION/ZONE CHAIRPERSON VACANCY.** If any region chairperson or zone chairperson 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. Provided, however, the district governor, in his/her discretion may determine not to use the position of region chairperson for the remainder of the term.

### **ARTICLE III. Duties of District Officers/Cabinet**

Section 1. **DISTRICT GOVERNOR.** Under the general supervision of the International Board of Directors, he/she shall represent the association in his/her district. In addition, he/she shall be the chief administrative officer in his/her district and shall have direct supervision over the first and second vice district governor, region chairpersons, the zone chairpersons, the cabinet secretary-treasurer and such other cabinet members as may be provided for in this district constitution and by-laws. His/her specific responsibilities shall be to:

- (a) Serve as the Global Action Team district chairperson to administer and promote membership growth, new club development, leadership development and humanitarian service to clubs throughout the district.
  - (1) Ensure the selection of a qualified Lion leader for the positions of GST district coordinator, GMT district coordinator and GLT district coordinator.
  - (2) Ensure regular meetings to discuss and advance initiatives established by the District Global Action Team.
  - (3) Collaborate with the multiple district's Global Action Team
- (b) Promote the Lions Clubs International Foundation and all service activities of the association.
- (c) Preside, when present, over cabinet, convention and other district meetings. During any period he/she is unable to so preside, the presiding officer at any such meeting shall be the first or second vice district governor, but if he/she is not available, the district officer chosen by the attending members shall preside.
- (d) Promote harmony among the chartered Lions clubs.
- (e) Exercise such supervision and authority over cabinet officers and district committee appointees as is provided in this district constitution.
- (f) Ensure that each Lions club in the district be visited by district governor or other district officer once every year to facilitate successful administration of the club, and that the visiting officer submit a visitation report to the International Headquarters for each visit.
- (g) Submit a current itemized statement of total district receipts and expenditures to his/her district convention or annual meeting of his/her district at a multiple district convention.
- (h) Deliver, in a timely manner, at the conclusion of his/her term in office, the general and/or financial accounts, funds and records of the district to his/her successor in office.
- (i) Report to Lions Clubs International all known violations of the use of the association's name and emblem.
- (j) Perform such other functions and acts as shall be required of him/her by the International Board of Directors through the District Governor's Manual and other directives.

Section 2. **FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR.** The first vice district governor, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be the chief administrative assistant

and representative of the district governor. His/her specific responsibilities shall be, but not limited, to:

- (a) Further the purposes of this association.
- (b) Perform such administrative duties assigned by the district governor.
- (c) Perform such other functions and acts required by the International Board of Directors.
- (d) Participate in the cabinet meetings, and conduct meetings in the absence of the district governor, and participate in council meetings as appropriate.
- (e) Assist the district governor in the review of the strengths and weaknesses of the clubs in the district, identifying the existing and potential weak clubs and establishing plans to strengthen them.
- (f) Conduct club visitation as the representative of the district governor when requested by the district governor.
- (g) Work with the District Convention Committee and assist the committee to plan and conduct the annual district convention and assist the district governor to organize and promote other events within the district.
- (h) At the request of the district governor, supervise other district committees.
- (i) Participate in the planning of the next year including the district budget.
- (j) Familiarize himself/herself with the duties of the district governor so that, in the event of a vacancy in the office of the district governor, he/she would be better prepared to assume the duties and responsibilities of said office as the acting district governor until the vacancy is filled according to these by-laws and rules of procedure adopted by the International Board of Directors.
- (k) Conduct a district quality assessment and collaborate with the district officers, specifically members of the district's Global Action Team, and other committee chairpersons, during his/her term as first vice district governor to develop a plan for membership growth, leadership development, operational improvement and the fulfillment of humanitarian services to be presented and approved by the district cabinet during his/her term as district governor.

**Section 3. SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR.** The second vice district governor, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be an assistant in the administration of the district, and representative of the district governor. His/her specific responsibilities shall be, but not limited, to:

- (a) Further the purposes of this association.
- (b) Perform such administrative duties assigned by the district governor.
- (c) Perform such other functions and acts required by the International Board of Directors.
- (d) Participate in the cabinet meetings, and conduct meetings in the absence of the district governor and first vice district governor, and participate in council meetings as appropriate.
- (e) Familiarize himself/herself with the health and status of the clubs in the district, review the monthly financial report and assist the district governor and the first vice district governor in identifying and strengthening the existing and potential weak clubs.
- (f) Conduct club visitation, as the representative of the district governor, when requested by the district governor.
- (g) Assist the district governor and first vice district governor in planning and conducting the annual district convention.

- (h) Work with the District LCIF Coordinator and assist the committee to achieve the goals of the year through regular distribution of LCIF information and materials to increase understanding and support of LCIF.
- (i) Work with the District Information Technology Committee and assist the committee to promote the use of the association's web site and the Internet among the clubs and members to obtain information, file reports, purchase club supplies, etc.
- (j) At the request of the district governor, supervise other district committees.
- (k) Assist the district governor, first vice district governor, and the cabinet in planning of the next year, including the district budget.
- (l) Familiarize himself/herself with the duties of the district governor so that, in the event of a vacancy in the offices of district governor and first vice district governor, he/she would be better prepared to assume the duties and responsibilities of said offices as the acting district governor or acting vice district governor until the vacancies are filled according to these by-laws and rules of procedure adopted by the International Board of Directors.

Section 4. **CABINET SECRETARY-TREASURER.** He/ she shall act under the supervision of the district governor. His/her specific responsibilities shall be to:

- (a) Further the Purposes of this association;
- (b) Perform such duties as are implied by the title of said office, including but not by way of limitation, the following:

1) Keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the cabinet, and within five (5) days after each meeting forward copies of the same to all members of the cabinet, and the office of Lions Clubs International.

2) Take and keep minutes of the sub-district convention and furnish copies of the same to Lions Clubs International, the district governor and the secretary of each club in the sub-district.

3) Make reports to the cabinet as the district governor or cabinet may require.

4) Collect and receipt for all dues and taxes levied on members and clubs in the sub-district, deposit the same in such bank or banks as the district governor shall determine and disburse the same by order of the district governor.

5) Remit and pay over to the multiple district council secretary-treasurer the multiple district dues and taxes, if any, collected in the sub-district, and secure a proper receipt.

6) Keep accurate books and records of account, and minutes of all cabinet and sub-district meetings, and permit inspection of the same by the district governor, any cabinet member and any club (or any authorized agent of any of them) at a reasonable time for any proper purpose. Upon direction of the district governor or the cabinet, he/she shall furnish any such books and records as requested to any auditor appointed by the district governor.

7) Secure bond for the faithful performance of his/her duties in such sum and with such sureties as may be required by the district governor.

8) Deliver, in a timely manner, at the conclusion of his/her term in office, the general and/or financial accounts, funds and records of the district to his/her successor in office.

(c) Perform such other functions and acts as may be required of each by directives of the International Board of Directors.

(d) If separate offices of cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer are adopted, the duties listed in (b) are to be attributed to each of the offices according to the nature of such duties.

**Section 5. GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM (GST) DISTRICT COORDINATOR.** The GST district coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. His/her responsibilities include:

- (a) Encourage clubs to implement service projects that are aligned with global LCI initiatives, including the LCI Service Framework.
- (b) Work with clubs to raise the visibility of Lions service impact in local communities.
- (c) Collaborate with GMT and GLT district coordinators and the Global Action Team district chairperson (district governor) to further initiatives focused on leadership development, membership retention and growth, and expanding humanitarian service.
- (d) Work with region, zone, and club service chairpersons to help clubs reach their service goals, ensure regular reporting in MyLCI, and encourage utilization of LCI tools (such as the App) to increase engagement in service projects.
- (e) Support local community service projects that create a sense of belonging and pride to the Lions and Leos in the district.
- (f) Promote service projects that attract multi-generational participants, including the integration and leadership development of Leos.
- (g) In collaboration with the LCIF district coordinator, maximize LCIF resource utilization and fundraising and monitor LCIF grants given to the district.
- (h) Gather club and district feedback related to service challenges, opportunities, and successes and share information gathered with multiple district coordinator to troubleshoot/remove barriers impeding the successful implementation of service programs.

**Section 6. GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM (GMT) DISTRICT COORDINATOR.** The GMT district coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. His/her responsibilities include:

- (a) Collaborate with the GLT and GST district coordinators and the Global Action Team district chairperson (district governor) to further initiatives focused on leadership development, membership growth and expanding humanitarian service.
- (b) Develop and execute an annual district membership development plan.
- (c) Collaborate with region, zone, and club membership chairpersons to identify communities without a club or where additional clubs can be chartered.
- (d) Motivate clubs to invite new members, inspire positive club membership experiences, and ensure clubs are aware of available membership programs and resources.
- (e) Monitor club membership reports. Recognize clubs that are increasing membership and support clubs that are losing members.
- (f) Work with clubs in danger of cancellation by ensuring payments are submitted on time.
- (g) Include diverse populations to participate in Global Action Team Initiatives.
- (h) Respond promptly to prospective member leads provided by the GMT multiple district coordinator or LCI, track recruitment and provide status report of the lead.
- (i) Complete requirements and submit applications to receive district funding from LCI for membership development activities.
- (j) Confirm new members are provided an effective member orientation at the club level, in collaboration with the GLT district coordinator and the club officers.
- (k) Provide retention strategies to clubs in collaboration with GLT and GST district coordinators.

Section 7. **GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM (GLT) DISTRICT COORDINATOR.** The GLT district coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. His/her responsibilities include:

- (a) Collaborate with your GMT and GST district coordinators and Global Action Team district chairperson (district governor) to further initiatives focused on leadership development, membership growth and expanding humanitarian service.
- (b) Develop and execute an annual district leadership development plan.
- (c) Communicate regularly with region/zone chairpersons and club vice presidents to ensure they are aware of leadership development programs and resources available.
- (d) Provide ongoing motivation to region/zone chairpersons and club vice presidents to achieve leadership development goals.
- (e) Promote leadership development opportunities that encourages participation all levels of the association.
- (f) Collaborate with GMT and GST district coordinators to provide retention strategies to clubs.
- (g) Include diverse populations to participate in Global Action Team initiatives.
- (h) Identify potential and new leaders to participate in service, membership and leadership development opportunities.
- (i) Organize and facilitate instructor-led and web-based training in coordination with LCI.
- (j) Confirm new members are provided an effective member orientation at the club level, in collaboration with the GMT district coordinator and club officers.
- (k) Complete requirements and submit applications to receive district funding from LCI for leadership development activities.

Section 8. **LCIF DISTRICT COORDINATOR.** The LCIF district coordinator is nominated by the LCIF multiple district coordinator, in consultation with the district governor, and appointed by the LCIF chairperson, to serve for a three-year term. This position serves as an ambassador for Lions Clubs International Foundation and reports directly to LCIF multiple district coordinator while working closely with district leadership. His/her responsibilities include:

- (a) Be familiar with LCIF initiatives and educate Lions within the district on the various grants and projects supported by LCIF. Assist district governors with grant applications to LCIF, as needed.
- (b) Promote foundation initiatives in district publications, during district events and to the public at large.
- (c) Ensure that local LCIF-funded projects receive proper promotion and follow grant-criteria guidelines.
- (d) Encourage all Lions to contribute to LCIF and promote individual and club recognition programs as incentives to donate to LCIF.
- (e) Identify potential major gift donors, local foundations, corporations, and businesses with the potential to support LCIF and, and when appropriate, be involved in the gift-request process.
- (f) Assist with the submission of LCIF funds, MJF applications, and other donation information when necessary.
- (g) Encourage clubs to select a Lion to serve as the club LCIF coordinator (which may be the immediate past club president). Host an annual training for club LCIF coordinators. Communicate with each LCIF club coordinator quarterly.

- (h) In collaboration with the district governor and the LCIF multiple district coordinator, develop and execute a plan with agreed upon goals. Communicate monthly with the LCIF multiple district coordinator to discuss progress and challenges.

Section 9. **REGION CHAIRPERSON** (if the position is utilized during the district governor's term). The region chairperson subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be the chief administrative officer in his/her region. His/her specific responsibilities should be to:

- (a) Further the Purposes of this association.
- (b) Supervise the activities of the zone chairpersons in his/her region and such district committee chairpersons as may be assigned to him/her by the district governor.
- (c) In coordination with the District GMT Coordinator, play an active role in organizing new clubs and in strengthening weak clubs.
- (d) Visit a regular meeting of each club in his/her region at least once during his/her term of office, reporting his/her findings to the district governor and the GMT district coordinator, the GLT district coordinator and the GST district coordinator, as appropriate.
- (e) Visit a regular board of directors meeting of each club in his/her region at least once during his/her term of office, reporting his/her findings to the district governor and the GMT district coordinator, the GLT district coordinator and the GST district coordinator as appropriate.
- (f) Endeavor to have every club in his/her region operating under a duly adopted club constitution and bylaws.
- (g) Promote the Club Quality Initiative to the clubs within the region.
- (h) In coordination with the District GLT Coordinator, play an active role in supporting leadership initiatives by informing Lions with the zone about leadership development opportunities at the zone, district or multiple district.
- (i) In coordination with the GST district coordinator, play an active role in promoting global service initiatives by informing Lions within the zone about service opportunities in the region, district or multiple district.
- (j) Promote representation at international and district (sub- and multiple) conventions by at least the full quota of delegates to which clubs in his/her region are entitled.
- (k) Carry out such official visitations to club meetings and charter nights as shall be assigned to him/her by the district governor.
- (l) Perform such additional assignments as shall be given to him/her from time to time by the district governor.

In addition, the region chairperson shall perform such other functions and acts as may be required by the International Board of Directors through a region chairperson's manual and other directives.

Section 10. **ZONE CHAIRPERSON**. The zone chairperson, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor and/or region chairperson, shall be the chief administrative officer in his/her zone. His/her specific responsibilities shall be to:

- (a) Further the Purposes of this association.
- (b) Serve as chairperson of the District Governor's Advisory Committee in his/her zone and as such chairperson to call regular meetings of said committee.
- (c) Endeavor to include the GMT district coordinator, the GLT district coordinator and the GST district coordinator as special guests to a District Governor's Advisory Committee

meeting to discuss needs related to membership, leadership development and service and how these teams may assist the clubs within the zone.

- (d) Make a report of each District Governor's Advisory Committee meeting and send copies within five (5) days thereafter to Lions Clubs International and to the district governor. Copies should also be sent to the GMT district coordinator, the GLT district coordinator, the GST district coordinator and region chairperson when appropriate.
- (e) Promote the Club Quality Initiative to the clubs within the zone.
- (f) In coordination with the GMT district coordinator, play an active role in organizing new clubs and keep informed of the activities and well-being of all clubs in his/her zone.
- (g) In coordination with the GLT district coordinator, play an active role in supporting leadership initiatives by informing Lions within the zone about leadership development opportunities at the zone, district or multiple district.
- (h) In coordination with the GST district coordinator, play an active role in promoting global service initiatives by informing Lions within the zone about service opportunities in the zone, district or multiple district.
- (i) Represent each club in his/her zone in any problems with district, multiple district council chairperson or Lions Clubs International.
- (j) Supervise the progress of district, multiple district, and Lions Clubs International projects in his/her zone.
- (k) Endeavor to have every club within his/her zone operating under a duly adopted club constitution and by-laws.
- (l) Promote representation at international and district (sub- and multiple) conventions by at least the full quota of delegates to which clubs in his/her zone are entitled.
- (m) Visit a regular meeting of each club in his/her zone once or more during his/her term of office, reporting his/her findings to the region chairperson – particularly with respect to weaknesses he/she may have discovered (copy to district governor).
- (n) Perform such other functions and acts as may be required of him/her by directives of the International Board of Directors.

**Section 11. DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S CABINET.** The district governor's cabinet shall:

(a) Assist the district governor in the performance of his/her duties and in the formulation of administrative plans and policies affecting the welfare of Lionism within the sub-district.

(b) Receive, from the region chairpersons or other assigned district cabinet members, reports and recommendations which concern the clubs and zones.

(c) Supervise the collection of all dues and taxes by the cabinet treasurer, designate a depository(s) for said funds and authorize the payment of all legitimate expenses pertaining to the administration of the affairs of the district.

(d) Secure, set the amount of and approve the surety company issuing, the surety bond for the cabinet secretary-treasurer.

(e) Secure, semi-annually or more frequently, sub-district financial reports from the cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer (or secretary-treasurer).

(a) (f) Provide for an audit of the books and accounts of the cabinet secretary y, cabinet treasurer, or cabinet secretary-treasurer and with the district governor's approval, set up definite schedule of dates, times and places interests of the district to the board of directors for MLERF, dba as Saving Sight

Assist in the raising of funds for of cabinet meetings to be held during the fiscal year.

**Section 12. 26-M5 MISSOURI LIONS EYE RESEARCH FOUNDATION (MLERF); DBA SAVING SIGHT DIRECTOR .** The MLERF, dba Saving Sight Director shall:

- (b) Represent the interest of MLERF, dba Saving Sight to the members of the district.
- (c) Attend all board of director meetings held by MLERF, dba Saving Sight.
- (d) Ensure all clubs in the district are provided a briefing on the services of MLERF, dba Saving Sight when requested.
- (e) Accomplish fundraising within the district to assist MLERF, dba Saving Sight.

Section 13. **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.** The Sergeant-at- Arms shall maintain order and decorum at the respective conventions and meetings and perform such other duties as are incident to his/her office under ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

#### **ARTICLE IV. District Committees**

Section 1. **DISTRICT GOVERNOR’S ADVISORY COMMITTEE.** In each zone, the zone chairperson and the presidents, first vice presidents and secretaries of the clubs in the zone shall compose a District Governor’s Advisory Committee, with the zone chairperson as chairperson. At a date, time and place called by the zone chairperson, this committee shall hold a first meeting within ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the preceding international convention; a second meeting in the month of November; a third meeting in the month of February or March; and a fourth meeting approximately thirty days prior to the multiple district convention. The club service chairpersons, club marketing and communications chairpersons, and club membership chairpersons should attend when information is shared that relate to their position. It shall assist the zone chairpersons in an advisory capacity, procure recommendations affecting the welfare of Lionism and the clubs in the zone, and relay the same through the zone chairperson to the district governor and his/her cabinet.

Section 2. **DISTRICT GLOBAL ACTION TEAM.** Chaired by the district governor and includes the GMT district coordinator, GST district coordinator and GLT district coordinator. Develops and initiates a coordinated plan to help clubs expand humanitarian service, achieve membership growth, and develop future leaders. Meets regularly to discuss the progress of the plan and initiatives that may support the plan. Collaborates with members of the multiple district’s Global Action Team to learn about initiatives and best practices. Shares activities, achievements and challenges with members of the multiple district Global Action Team. Attends the District Governor Advisory Committee meeting and other zone, region, district or multiple district meetings that feature service, membership or leadership initiatives to share ideas and gain knowledge that may be applied to club practices.

Section 3. **DISTRICT GOVERNOR’S HONORARY COMMITTEE.** The district governor may appoint a District Governor’s Honorary Committee composed of past international officers who are members in good standing of clubs within the sub-district. This committee shall meet when and as called upon by the district governor. It shall act under the direction of the district governor in the promotion of harmony throughout the district. The chairperson of this committee shall attend meetings of the cabinet when requested by the district governor.

Section 4. **DISTRICT CABINET COMMITTEES.** The district governor may establish and appoint such other committees and/or chairpersons as he/she deems necessary and appropriate for the efficient operations of the district. Such committee chairpersons shall be deemed nonvoting members of the district cabinet.

## **ARTICLE V. Meetings**

### **Section 1. DISTRICT CABINET MEETINGS.**

(a) Regular. A regular meeting of the cabinet shall be held in each quarter of the fiscal year, with the first of which should be held within thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the preceding international convention. Ten (10) days written notice of meetings setting forth a date, time and place determined by the district governor shall be given to each member by the cabinet secretary.

(b) Special. Special meetings of the cabinet may be called by the district governor at his/her discretion, and shall be called upon written request made to the district governor or the cabinet secretary by a majority of the members of the cabinet. No fewer than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) days written (including letters, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, or cable) notice of special meetings, setting forth the purposes and a date, time and place determined by the district governor, shall be given to each member by the cabinet secretary.

(c) Vote. The voting privilege shall extend to all members of the district cabinet.

**Section 2. ALTERNATIVE MEETING FORMATS.** Regular and/or special meetings of the district cabinet may be held through the use of alternative meeting formats, such as teleconference and/or web conference as determined by the district governor.

**Section 3. BUSINESS TRANSACTED BY MAIL.** The district cabinet may transact business by mail (including letters, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, or cable), provided that no such action shall be effective until approved in writing by two-thirds (2/3) of the entire number of the members of the district cabinet. Such action may be initiated by the district governor or any three (3) officers of the district.

### **Section 4. REGIONS AND ZONES.**

(a) Organizational. Regions and zones shall be subject to change by the district governor, when in his/her sole discretion; he/she shall deem the same necessary to the best interests of the district and the association. The district should be divided into regions of sixteen (16) to ten (10) Lions clubs. Each regions should be divided into zones of between eight (8) and four (4) Lions Clubs, giving due regard to the geographical locations of the clubs.

(b) Region Meetings. Meetings of representatives of all clubs in a region, with the region chairperson (if the position is utilized during the district governor's term) or other district cabinet member as may be assigned by the district governor presiding, should be held during the fiscal year at times and places fixed by the region chairperson of the respective region.

(c) Zone Meetings. Meetings of representatives of all the clubs in a zone, with the zone chairperson presiding, shall be held during the fiscal year at times and places fixed by the zone chairperson.

## **ARTICLE VI. District Convention**

**Section 1. CONVENTION SITE SELECTION.** The district governor shall receive invitations in writing from places desiring to entertain the succeeding year(s) annual convention. All invitations shall set forth such information as the district governor shall from time to time require and shall be delivered to him/her no later than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the convention at which the convention site shall be voted upon by the delegates of said convention. Procedure to be followed in investigation of bids and in presentation of the same to conventions,

as well as action to be taken by a convention in the event no bids are acceptable to or so received by the district governor shall be determined by the district governor.

Section 2. **OFFICIAL CALL.** The district governor shall issue an official printed call by printed or electronic means to all clubs for the annual district convention not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date fixed for holding the same, stating the place, day and hour thereof.

Section 3. **SITE CHANGE.** The district cabinet shall retain, and have, power to change at any time, for good reason, the convention site previously chosen by a previous district convention, provided that the convention site shall be located within the district and neither the district, officers of the district nor any member of the district cabinet, shall incur any liability thereby to any club or club member in the district. Notice of this site change shall be furnished in writing to each club in the district no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the annual convention

Section 4. **OFFICERS.** The members of the district cabinet shall be the officers of the annual district convention.

Section 5. **SERGEANT-AT-ARMS.** A convention sergeant- at-arms and such assistant sergeant-at-arms as deemed necessary shall be appointed by the district governor.

Section 6. **OFFICIAL REPORT.** Within fifteen (15) days after the close of each single and sub-district convention, the cabinet secretary shall transmit one copy of the complete proceedings to the international office. Upon written request from any club in the respective district a copy shall be furnished to said club.

Section 7. **CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE.** The Credentials Committee of the district convention shall be composed of the district governor, as chairperson, the cabinet secretary or the cabinet secretary-treasurer and two other non-officers of the district appointed by the district governor, each of whom shall be a member in good standing of a different Lions club in good standing in the district. The non-officers shall not, through the duration of the appointment, hold any district or international office either by election or appointment. The Credentials Committee shall have the powers and perform the duties set forth in ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED..

Section 8. **ORDER OF CONVENTION BUSINESS.** The district governor shall arrange the order of business for the district convention, and the same shall be the order of the day for all sessions.

Section 9. **DISTRICT CONVENTION COMMITTEES.** The district governor shall appoint the chairperson of, and fill any vacancies occurring in the following district convention committees: Resolutions, Elections, Constitution and By-Laws, Rules of Procedure and International Convention. Each region, if any, shall have at least one representative on each such committee. These committees shall perform such duties as the district governor shall designate.

## **ARTICLE VII. Convention Fund**

Section 1. **REMAINING FUNDS.** In any fiscal year, any balance remaining in the convention fund after payment of all convention administrative expenses in that year shall remain in said

convention fund and become available for future convention expenses and be treated as income in any fiscal year in which expended or otherwise budgeted for payment of such expenses.

Section 2. **REGISTRATION FEE COLLECTION.** Such fee as the district governor shall set; of no more than \$15 may be collected, under procedures set by the district governor, from each delegate, alternate, and guest attending the district convention to defray the actual cost of convention meals, entertainment and other expenses.

## **ARTICLE VIII. District Administration Fund**

Section 1. **DISTRICT REVENUE.** To provide revenue for administrative expenses for Multiple District 26 and District 26-M5, an Annual Membership Dues Collection Fund per capita tax shall be levied upon each member in the District. District 26-M5 Annual Membership Dues Collection Fund (includes dues for MD26 and District 26-M5) per member shall be as prescribed below; except for Family Membership as recognized by Lions Clubs International and Student Membership as recognized by Lions Clubs International, in which case the dues as described below paid in two (2) semi-annual payments September tenth of each year to cover the semi-annual period July 1 to December 31; and on March tenth of each year, to cover the semi-annual period January 1 to June 30, with billings of the same to be based upon the roster of each club as of the first days of July and January, respectively. (Per capita tax for MD26 is contained in MD26 Bylaws, Article 3, Section 2, Paragraph a.) Per capita tax for 26-M5 shall be \$5.00 per member and \$2.50 for approved family member and student members). Said tax shall be paid to the cabinet secretary or cabinet treasurer by each club in the district, except newly chartered and reorganized clubs, which shall collect and pay said tax on a pro-rata basis from the first day of the second month following the date of their organization or reorganization as the case may be. Said tax shall be disbursed only for administrative expenses of the district and only upon approval by the district governor's cabinet. Disbursement therefrom shall be by checks drawn and signed by the cabinet treasurer and countersigned by the district governor.

Section 2. **REMAINING FUNDS.** In any fiscal year, any balance remaining in the district administrative fund after payment of all district administrative expenses in that year shall remain in said district administrative fund and become available for future district administrative expenses and be treated as income in any fiscal year in which expended or otherwise budgeted for payment of such expenses.

## **ARTICLE IX. Miscellaneous**

Section 1. **DISTRICT GOVERNOR EXPENSES – INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.** Expenses of the district governor in connection with his/her attending the international convention shall be considered a district administrative expense. Reimbursement for such expenses shall be made by the district on the same basis as outlined in the General Reimbursement Policy of Lions Clubs International.

Section 2. **FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS.** The district governor and his/her cabinet shall not incur obligations in any fiscal year which will effect an unbalanced budget or deficit in said fiscal year.

Section 3. **CABINET SECRETARY-TREASURER BOND.** The cabinet secretary-treasurer and authorized signatories shall be bonded in such amount and with such surety company as

shall be approved by the district governor's cabinet and the cost of same shall be an administrative expense.

Section 4. **AUDIT OR REVIEW OF BOOKS.** The district governor's cabinet shall provide for an annual or more frequent audit or review of the books and accounts of the cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer (or secretary or treasurer).

Section 5. **COMPENSATION.** No officer shall receive any compensation for any service rendered to this district in his/her official capacity with the exception of the cabinet secretary cabinet treasurer (or secretary treasurer) whose compensation, if any, shall be fixed by the district cabinet.

Section 6. **FISCAL YEAR.** The fiscal year of this district shall be from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

Section 7. **RULES OF PROCEDURE.** Except as otherwise specifically provided in this constitution and by-laws, or in the rules of procedure adopted for a meeting, all questions of order and procedure adopted for a meeting, all questions of order and procedure in any district meeting or convention, any meeting of the district cabinet, region, zone or member club or of any group or committee of any one of them shall be determined by ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

Section 8. **MID-WINTER RALLY:** A Mid-Winter Rally may be held each year for the purpose of honoring our outstanding Lions in the District. This rally shall also be held to stimulate and encourage every Lion's club toward furthering the cause of Lionism. The District Governor Elect prior to the first district cabinet meeting may appoint the Chairperson for the Mid-Winter Rally for coming year.

Section 9: **DISTRICT BASKETBALL FUNDRAISER:** The Lions of District 26-M5 desire to conduct an annual fundraising event by designating a Chairman of the District 26-M5 Annual North/South Basketball Tournament. The appointed chairman shall be a member of the District Cabinet. Funding support for this organization shall be at the discretion of the district and district clubs.

Section 10. **COLLABORATIVE AFFILIATION:** The Lions of District 26-M5 desire to continue to maintain a collaborative affiliation with the following organization(s); as well as the traditionally supported statewide projects:

(a): Children's Center for the Visually Impaired (CCVI): The District Governor will appoint a director to serve on the board of directors for CCVI for a 3 year term. The director selected may be re-appointed for two additional successive terms. The appointed director shall be a member of the District Cabinet. Funding support for this organization shall be at the discretion of the district and district clubs.

## **ARTICLE X. Amendments**

Section 1. **AMENDING PROCEDURE.** These by-laws may be amended only at a district convention, by resolution reported by the Constitution and By-Laws and adopted by a majority of the votes cast.

Section 2. **AUTOMATIC UPDATE.** When amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws are passed at the International Convention, any amendments that would have an effect on this District Constitution and By-Laws shall automatically be updated in this district constitution and by-laws at the close of the convention.

Section 3. **NOTICE.** No amendment shall be so reported or voted upon unless the same shall have been furnished in writing to each club no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the annual convention with notice that the same will be voted upon at said convention

Section 4. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Each amendment shall take effect at the close of the convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

## EXHIBIT A

### SAMPLE RULES OF PROCEDURE

*These Sample Rules of Procedure are guidelines and may be amended by the district cabinet and adopted by the delegates of the convention.*

### DISTRICT 26-M5 CONVENTION

**Rule 1.** The district governor shall arrange the order of business for the district convention. Except for registration and certification hours, which may not be changed, deviation from the announced order of business shall be made only by consent of three-fourths (3/4) of the certified delegates assembled at any session at which a quorum is present. A majority of those certified delegates present in person at any session shall constitute a quorum.

**Rule 2.**

Except as otherwise provided in the Lions Clubs International Constitution and By-Laws, the District 26-M5 Constitution and By-Laws, national custom and practice or these rules, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern all questions of order and procedure.

**Rule 3.**

- (a) The credentials committee shall be composed of the district governor, as chairperson, the cabinet secretary/treasurer and two other non-officers of the district appointed by the district governor; provided, however, the district governor may designate any other committee member as chairperson. The credentials committee's primary responsibility shall be to verify club delegate credentials. In carrying out this responsibility, the credentials committee shall have the powers and shall perform the duties as established by national custom and practice or as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- (b) The registration and certification of delegates shall occur on the day(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ between the hours of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.
- (c) The number of certified delegates shall be announced to the convention upon close of certification and prior to the commencing of voting.

**Rule 4.**

- (a) 60 days prior to the convening of the convention, the district governor, unless otherwise provided, shall appoint, and designate the chairperson of, a nominations committee consisting of not less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members. It shall be the committee's responsibility to review the qualifications of each nominated candidate within thirty (30) days prior to the election and rule on the eligibility of the same.
- (b) Candidate may withdraw from the contest at any time prior to the issuance of the final report of the nominations committee.

**Rule 5.** Replacement of delegates and alternate delegates.

- (a) To replace a delegate and/or alternate delegate already certified, the replacement must provide a certificate signed by two officers of the club, certifying that the replacement is eligible as an alternate delegate.
- (b) On the day of voting, a duly certified alternate delegate shall be allowed to obtain a ballot and vote in lieu of a duly certified delegate from the same Lions club by presenting

his/her copy of his/her alternate credential certificate together with the copy of the certified delegate's credential certificate to the voting personnel at which time the voting personnel will make the necessary notation on the credential records marking that a substitution has been made on the respective club's delegate entitlement. Alternate delegates who were not certified cannot replace a certified or uncertified delegate.

**Rule 6.**

Nominations for the offices of district governor, first and second vice district governor and such other offices to be filled by the convention shall be limited to nominating/ seconding speeches not to exceed \_\_\_\_\_ minute(s) for each nominee.

**Rule 7.**

- (a) Prior to the convention, the district governor shall appoint, and designate the chairperson of an elections committee consisting of three (3) members. Each duly nominated candidate shall also be entitled to designate one (1) observer through his/her club. The observers may oversee election procedures only, but may not participate directly in the committee's decision making.
- (b) The elections committee shall be responsible for preparation of elections materials, vote tabulation, and resolving questions concerning the validity of individual ballots. The committee's decision shall be final and binding.
- (c) The elections committee shall prepare a comprehensive report of the election results containing the following components: date, time and place of election; specific voting results by candidate; signature of each committee member and observer. The district governor, council chairperson and all candidates shall be provided a copy of the committee's report.

**Rule 8. Voting.**

- (a) Voting will take place at a predetermined location and time.
- (b) To secure a ballot card, the delegate shall present his/her credential certificate to voting personnel for verification. Once verified, the delegate shall be issued a ballot.
- (c) The voter shall indicate his/her vote by placing a mark in the appropriate location by the name of the candidate of his/her choice. The mark must be placed in the proper location to constitute a valid vote. Any ballot containing votes for more than the specified number of offices to be filled in any section shall be declared invalid to that particular section.
- (d) A majority vote shall be necessary to elect the district governor, first vice district governor and second vice district governor. A majority is defined as a number more than one-half of the total valid votes cast excluding blanks and abstentions. If a majority vote is not received in the election of district governor, first vice district governor and second vice district governor, a vacancy shall occur and Article IX, Section 6(d) of the International By-Laws shall apply.
- (e) A majority vote shall be necessary to elect all other candidates. In the event any one candidate shall fail to receive the required number of votes to be elected, additional balloting shall take place as outlined in this section until such time as one candidate secures a majority vote.

## **EXHIBIT B - RULES OF PROCEDURE SPECIAL MEETING TO RECOMMEND A LION FOR APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

**Rule 1.** In the event a vacancy arises in the office of district governor, it shall be the duty of the immediate past district governor, or if not available, the most recent past district governor who is available, upon notification from the international office, to convene a meeting of the immediate past district governor, first and second vice district governors, the region chairpersons, zone chairpersons and the secretary and treasurer or secretary-treasurer and all past international presidents, past international directors and past district governors **who are members in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing within the district** for the purpose of recommending a Lion for appointment by the International Board of Directors.

**Rule 2.** Written invitations to this meeting shall be sent as soon as possible so that the meeting is held within the required **fifteen (15)** days of receipt of notification. The immediate past district governor, as the meeting's chairperson, shall have the authority to select the meeting site, date and time. However, he/she shall use his/her best efforts to select a centrally located meeting venue, and schedule the meeting at a convenient date and time within the required fifteen (15) days.

**Rule 3.** The chairperson shall maintain a **written** attendance roster.

**Rule 4.** Each Lion that is entitled to attend the meeting may make one nomination of his/her choice from the floor.

**Rule 5.** Each such nominee shall be entitled to one seconding speech, only, in his/her behalf of not more than three (3) minutes in duration, and may speak personally for five (5) additional minutes. When each nominee has had an opportunity to present his/her remarks, the chairperson shall declare the nominations closed. No additional nominations shall be accepted after the close of nominations.

**Rule 6.** Voting.

- (a) Voting will occur immediately after the close of nominations.
- (b) Voting will be by written ballot.
- (c) The member shall indicate his/her vote by writing the name of his/her choice on the ballot. Any ballot containing votes for more than one nominee shall be declared invalid.
- (d) A majority vote shall be necessary to recommend a member for appointment as district governor. In the event any one candidate shall fail to receive the required number of votes to be selected, additional balloting shall take place as outlined in this Rule 6 until such time as one candidate secures a simple majority vote.

**Rule 7.** At the conclusion of the meeting, but in no event more than seven (7) days after the conclusion of the meeting, the chairperson will forward a written report of the voting results to the international office together with evidence of invitations sent and attendance at the meeting.

**Rule 8.** The International Board of Directors, pursuant to Article IX, Sections 6(a) and (d) of the International Bylaws shall consider, but is not bound by, any recommendation resolved at the special meeting. The International Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint the recommended or any club member as district governor for the remainder of the term.

## **SUMMARY OF RULES - SPECIAL MEETING TO RECOMMEND A LION FOR APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

1. The international office has advised the district to convene a special meeting to recommend a member for appointment as district governor.
2. The immediate past district governor prepares invitations for the special meeting. Invitations are to be sent to the; immediate past district governor, first and second vice district governors, the region chairpersons, zone chairpersons and the secretary and treasurer or secretary-treasurer and all past international presidents, past international directors and past district governors who are members in good standing of a chartered Lions club in the district. The invitations should state the date, time and location for the meeting.
3. The chairperson maintains an attendance roster at the meeting.
4. Nominations are made from the floor. Each nominee may speak for five (5) minutes, and his/her seconder may speak for an additional three (3) minutes.
5. Voting begins immediately after nominations close. Voting is by written ballot unless a majority of attendees select another voting method.
6. A majority of votes cast by those present and voting is necessary to be recommended. If no one candidate secures a simple majority vote, voting continues as outlined in the rules of procedure.
7. The chairperson forwards the meeting results at the conclusion of the meeting.

## **EXHIBIT C - RULES OF PROCEDURE - SPECIAL MEETING TO RECOMMEND A LION FOR APPOINTMENT AS FIRST OR SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

**Rule 1.** In the event a vacancy arises in the office of first or second vice district governor, the district governor shall convene a meeting of the members of the existing cabinet as provided for in the International Constitution and By-Laws and all past international officers who are members in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in the district. It shall be the duty of the attendees at this meeting to appoint a qualified club member as first or second vice district governor for the remainder of the term.

**Rule 2.** In filling said vacancy, it shall be the duty of the district governor, or if not available, the most recently serving past district governor who is available, to send out written invitations to attend said meeting and it shall also be his/her responsibility to preside as chairperson of the meeting. The district governor, as the meeting's chairperson, shall have the authority to select the meeting site, date and time. However, he/she shall use his/her best efforts to select a centrally located meeting venue, and schedule the meeting at a convenient date and time.

**Rule 3.** The district governor shall maintain a written attendance roster.

**Rule 4.** Each Lion that is entitled to attend the meeting may make one nomination of his/her choice from the floor.

**Rule 5.** Each such nominee shall be entitled to one seconding speech, only, in his/her behalf of not more than three (3) minutes in duration, and may speak personally for five (5) additional minutes. When each nominee has had an opportunity to present his/her remarks, the chairperson shall declare the nominations closed. No additional nominations shall be accepted after the close of nominations.

**Rule 6.** Voting.

- (a) Voting will occur immediately after the close of nominations.
- (b) Voting will be by written ballot.
- (c) The member shall indicate his/her vote by writing the name of his/her choice on the ballot. Any ballot containing votes for more than one nominee shall be declared invalid.
- (d) A majority vote shall be necessary to recommend a member for appointment as district governor. In the event any one candidate shall fail to receive the required number of votes to be selected, additional balloting shall take place as outlined in this Rule 6 until such time as one candidate secures a simple majority vote.

**Rule 7.** At the conclusion of the meeting, but in no event more than seven (7) days after the conclusion of the meeting, the chairperson will forward a written report of the voting results to the international office together with evidence of invitations sent and attendance at the meeting.

**EXHIBIT D Nominating Committee Checklist - District Governor Candidate**

This checklist must be completed for each candidate and submitted to the Elections Committee.

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Candidate's Lions Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Nominating Committee Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate has submitted sufficient evidence showing that he/she has met the following Requirements:**

- Candidate is an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in Good Standing\* in his/her single or sub-district.
- Candidate endorsed by his/her Lions Club or a majority of the Lions Clubs in the District.
- Candidate is currently serving as the first vice district governor within this district.

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, the candidate fulfills the following qualifications:

- Club President: Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
- Club Board of Directors Two (2) Years Served \_\_\_\_\_
- District Cabinet (check one)
  - Zone or Region Chairperson Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer) Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
- One (1) additional year as a member of district cabinet  
Position held: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
- With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

*\*Please note that if the club has any outstanding dues, the candidate should be notified and provided up until fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification to ensure that his/her club pay outstanding dues.*

I have reviewed this checklist and certify that the candidate listed above has met the requirements for District Governor in accordance with the International By-Laws, Article IX, Section 4.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Committee Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Committee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EXHIBIT E Nominating Committee Checklist -First Vice District Governor Candidate**

This checklist must be completed for each candidate and submitted to the Elections Committee.

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Candidate's Lions Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Nominating Committee Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate has submitted sufficient evidence showing that he/she has met the following Requirements:**

- Candidate is an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in Good Standing\* in his/her single or sub-district.
- Candidate endorsed by his/her Lions Club or a majority of the Lions Clubs in the District.
- Candidate is currently serving as the second vice district governor within this district,

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, the candidate fulfills the qualifications for the office of second vice district governor:

- Club President: Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
- Club Board of Directors Two (2) Years Served \_\_\_\_\_
- District Cabinet (check one)
  - Zone or Region Chairperson Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer) Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
- With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

*\*Please note that if the club has any outstanding dues, the candidate should be notified and provided up until fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification to ensure that his/her club pay outstanding dues.*

I have reviewed this checklist and certify that the candidate listed above has met the requirements for First Vice District Governor in accordance with the International By-Laws, Article IX, Section 6(b).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Committee Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Committee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EXHIBIT F: Nominating Committee Checklist - Second Vice District Governor Candidate**

This checklist must be completed for each candidate and submitted to the Elections Committee.

Name of Candidate: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Candidate's Lions Club: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Nominating Committee Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Election: \_\_\_\_\_

**Candidate has submitted sufficient evidence showing that he/she has met the following Requirements:**

- Candidate is an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in Good Standing\* in his/her single or sub-district.
- Candidate endorsed by his/her Lions Club or a majority of the Lions Clubs in the District.
- Club President: Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
- Club Board of Directors Two (2) Years Served \_\_\_\_\_
- District Cabinet (check one)
  - Zone or Region Chairperson Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
  - Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer) Year Served \_\_\_\_\_
- With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

*\*Please note that if the club has any outstanding dues, the candidate should be notified and provided up until fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification to ensure that his/her club pay outstanding dues.*

I have reviewed this checklist and certify that the candidate listed above has met the requirements for Second Vice District Governor in accordance with the International By-Laws, Article IX, Section 6(c).

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Committee Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Nominating Committee Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EXHIBIT G: Standard Ballot District Governor, First Vice District Governor & Second Vice District Governor Elections**

**Sample 1: Ballot where there are two candidates.**

Instructions: Clearly indicate your vote by placing an appropriate symbol **X** in the box next to the name of the candidate you are casting your vote for.

Position	Name	Vote
First Vice District Governor		
	Lion Candidate A	
	Lion Candidate B	

**Sample 2: Ballot where there is only one candidate.**

Instructions: Clearly indicate your vote by placing an appropriate symbol **X** in the box indicating a yes or a no vote for the candidate.

Position	Name	Yes	No
District Governor	Lion Candidate A		

**Sample #3: Ballot where there are three or more candidates:**

Position	Name	Vote
First Vice District Governor		
	Lion Candidate A	
	Lion Candidate B	
	Lion Candidate C	

(Note: there are a few different options when there is more than one candidate. If time permits, you may have the voter indicate their selection next to the candidate they wish to vote for. If no candidate receives a majority of the votes, then the candidate with the lowest amount of votes is dropped off the ballot and another vote is taken (The ballot would look like Sample #1 above). This process would continue until a candidate receives the required number of votes.

**EXHIBIT H: Approved Amendments:**

**Amendment 1** – Amended Bylaws, ARTICLE VIII. District Administration Fund, Section 1. DISTRICT REVENUE approved by the district convention delegates 5 November 2017.