



Compliance Committee

Lion Steve Kaplan, District Compliance

August 17, 2024

The mission of the Ohio Lions Compliance Committee is to effectively educate, encourage, and assist Ohio Lions Clubs and Foundations to meet their fiduciary duties and filing requirements. Our goal is to achieve 100% compliance with the filing requirements of the IRS, Ohio Attorney General, Ohio Secretary of State, Ohio Department of Taxation, and Department of Commerce.

Lions District OH-5 has 51 clubs and 6 club-level foundations for a total of 57 organizations tracked by the compliance committee. The latest check of all available databases was performed on August 1, 2024. Lions District OH-5 had the following compliance:

IRS Compliance

Currently the district stands at 100% compliant. All clubs that use the standard fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 should be filing their IRS return for 2023-2024 now. The deadline to file is November 15th. The committee will continue to monitor and send reminders out to non-compliant clubs as the deadline approaches.

Attorney General Compliance

Currently the district stands at 100% compliant. All clubs that use the standard fiscal year of July 1 to June 30 should be filing their IRS return for 2023-2024 now. The deadline to file is November 15th. The committee will continue to monitor and send reminders out to non-compliant clubs as the deadline approaches.

Department of Commerce (Unclaimed Funds)

All Lions Clubs and Foundations are now required to submit an unclaimed funds report annually through the Ohio Business Gateway, even if no funds are unclaimed. The filing deadline is November 1st for the period ending June 30th regardless of the club's fiscal year. All clubs have been asked to report when they file their return to Lion Steve Kaplan at the email address below. Last year 70% (40 out of 57) reported filing and thus are considered compliant.

Incorporation Compliance

The district stands at 96% compliant (55 out of 57). It is strongly recommended that all clubs maintain incorporation status to increase the protection of their members. All OH-5 clubs and foundations are incorporated except for Columbus Southern Pines and Marion.

Department of Taxation Compliance

All 501 c 4 organizations, such as Lions Clubs, must collect and submit sales tax from the public when selling taxable items as a fund-raising project. Currently there is no searchable database to monitor compliance. However, the state is preparing to crack down on non-compliant organizations. Clubs are strongly encouraged to get compliant now.

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