

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 13

OHIO LIONS, INC. CONSTITUTION

Approved by the Delegates to the 82nd Multiple District 13 State Convention May 19, 2001 - Toledo, Ohio with amendments approved by the delegates through the 96th Multiple District 13 State Convention May 19, 2016 - Dublin, Ohio with housekeeping changes approved by the Council of Governors August 2024.

AUTHORIZATION

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ARTICLE I - NAME

The name of this organization duly recognized by the International Association of Lions Clubs and constituted under their authority as “Multiple District 13 – Ohio International Association of Lions Clubs,” comprising the territory within the State of Ohio shall be the “Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc.”

ARTICLE II - OBJECTS

Section 1 - The Objects of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc.

- A. To provide an administrative structure with which to advance the purpose and objects of the International Association of Lions Clubs in this Multiple District.
- B. To encourage, promote and assist in the organization of Lions Clubs in all eligible cities, towns, villages, and communities in the State of Ohio.
- C. To coordinate, standardize and direct the activities, other than local activities, of all affiliating Lions Clubs within the State of Ohio.
- D. To unite the membership of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc. into a closer bond of friendship, good fellowship, and mutual understanding, that they may assist each other.
- E. To further the charitable objects of the Ohio Lions Eye Research Foundation, Inc.

- F. To further the charitable objects of the Ohio Lions Foundation, Inc.
- G. To further the charitable objects of the Ohio Lions Pediatric Cancer Research Foundation
- H. To further the charitable objects of the Ohio Lions Sight & Hearing Foundation
- I. To promote the welfare of the Lions Clubs of the State of Ohio, with particular reference to the following:
 - 1. Relationship with Lions International Headquarters, its Officers and Directors.
 - 2. State and District spirit, insignia, uniforms, and delegations to International and District Conventions.
 - 3. Relationship with the Governors and Officers of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc.
 - 4. Encouragement of Regional Meetings and Inter-Club Meetings and Activities.
 - 5. Provide ways and means for the activities of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions Inc.
 - 6. To otherwise promote the general welfare of the International Association of Lions Clubs, and of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc., and to carry out the ideals and principles of Lionism.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Membership

The membership of this organization shall be all Lions Clubs in this Multiple District chartered by Lions International.

Section 2 - Campus Clubs

The Multiple District Council of Governors may designate a Lions Club in this Multiple District as a Campus Club. This designation is in effect until rescinded by a future action of the Council of Governors.

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 Lions Clubs International 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.

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

The Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc. Constitution and By-Laws shall govern the multiple district as long as they do not conflict with the International Constitution & By-Laws and policies of Lions Clubs International. Whenever there may exist a conflict or a contradiction between the provisions set out in the multiple district constitution and by-laws and the International Constitution and By-Laws, then the International Constitution and By-Laws shall govern.

ARTICLE VI - STATE ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - Number of Districts

For the purpose of administration, Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc., shall be divided into seven (7) districts. The Districts will be designated as follows: 13 OH1, 13 OH2, 13 OH3, 13 OH4, 13 OH5, 13 OH6, and 13 OH7. [The boundaries are described in Appendix A.]

Section 2 - Procedure for Redistricting & Convention Approval

Any multiple district which desires to consolidate one or more sub-districts shall submit to the International Board of Directors a redistricting proposal approved by a majority vote of the convention of the affected districts with 1,000 or more members, or districts under 1,000 members with an average net growth of 1% over the previous two years, and the multiple district.

Section 3 - Procedure Requirements

Redistricting proposals shall be considered by the International Board of Directors provided that each proposed sub-district shall contain at least thirty-five (35) Lions clubs with a total membership of no less than one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) members in good standing unless a proposal reduces the number of subdistricts within the multiple district. In considering approval of any redistricting proposal, the International Board of Directors may give weight to any factors it deems proper and may require such additional number of clubs and/or members per sub-district as it deems proper.

Section 4 - Procedure Approval

In the event the International Board of Directors approves such redistricting proposal, it shall become effective at the close of the annual international convention which next follows the date of such board approval; PROVIDED, however, that delegates from clubs which will comprise the respective new sub-districts shall elect a district governor and may adopt a constitution and by-laws at a meeting held in conjunction with the convention, held after said board approval and prior to said international convention, of the district (single, sub- and multiple) being redistricted. If an existing sub-district is substantially realigned, the delegates of the clubs which comprise said sub-district may elect a district governor at a meeting of the registered delegates of the sub-district in attendance at the annual convention of the multiple district

Section 5 - Procedure for Transferring Clubs

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a Club may transfer from one District to an adjacent District and boundaries changed accordingly without the necessity of following the formal redistricting procedures if such transfer does not substantially change the existing District boundaries; provided, that it obtains the approval of a majority of the members of the Club, approval of the current District Governor of the respective adjacent Districts, and approval of the District Governors Cabinets of the respective adjacent Districts and approval of the International Board of Directors. Such club transfer shall become effective immediately upon Board approval.

Section 6 - Procedure Following Re-Districting

A map showing boundary lines for all newly formed Districts, whether formed within the boundaries of an existing District or by the changing of the boundaries of several Districts, shall be submitted to the International Board of Directors within 30 days after final action taken to establish any

such new District. In the event the International Board of Directors approves the proposal submitted, the division of the District will become effective for the election of District Governors at the next annual Convention of the State or the District; said District Governors so elected to assume the duties of their office at the close of the next annual International Convention, or as otherwise provided in the event the International Board of Directors may in extraordinary circumstances advance the effective date of such division.

Section 7 - Governing Documents

The Constitution, By-Laws, and prescribed Policy Manual of Multiple District 13 - Ohio Lions, Inc., shall govern all Conventions and other meetings of the Multiple District and Sub-Districts.

ARTICLE VII - STATE COUNCIL

Section 1 - Council of Governors

There shall be a Council of Governors composed of all District Governors in the Multiple District. The 1st Vice Governors and 2nd Vice Governors shall be present at all Council meetings in an advisory capacity and may represent the district in the absence of his/her District Governor in order of rank.

Section 2 - Election, Removal, and Eligibility of Council Chairman, Vice Chairman and Chaplain

The District Governors-Elect (following their election to the post of District Governor) shall select one member from the District Governors-Elect, the sitting Governors, or any Past District Governor who is a member of a club in MD13, who shall serve as Chairman of the Council of Governors, and an ex-officio member of all State Committees for the ensuing year. In the case of a tie, the Council Chairman shall have one vote on each question requiring action of Council. He/she shall serve one (1) year with no right of succession and prepare and present to the Council of Governors, in cooperation with the Multiple District Secretary, an agenda prior to each council meeting. The District Governors-Elect shall elect one (1) member from the current District Governors-Elect as Vice Chairman, to serve in the absence or incapacity of the Council Chairman. The District Governors-Elect shall elect one (1) member from the current District Governors-Elect as Council Chaplain.

REMOVAL. At the request of the majority of the council of governors, a special meeting of the council may be called for the purpose of removal of the council chairperson. Regardless of the manner in which the council chairperson is selected or elected, the council chairperson may be

removed from the council for cause by an affirmative vote of 2/3 of the entire number of the council of governors.

Section 3 - Appointment of Multiple District Secretary and Multiple District Treasurer

There shall be a position with the title of Multiple District Secretary and a position with the title of Multiple District Treasurer, appointed by the Council of Governors, who shall be recognized as State Association Administrators, as defined, directed and implied in this Constitution, attached By-Laws and prescribed Policy Manual.

Section 4 - Meetings of State Council

The Council shall hold a regular meeting within sixty (60) days after the date on which the District Governor officially takes office, and such other meetings as a simple majority of those on the State Council deem advisable. The Council Chairman, or the Multiple District Secretary at the Chairman's direction, shall issue a call either written or other authorized electronic means for each meeting of the Council, with the time and place thereof to be set out in the call and to be determined by the Chairman. The Council shall determine the date of any meeting save the first, which shall be set by the Chairman.

Section 5 - Quorum of State Council

The personal presence of a majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof.

ARTICLE VIII - STATE REVENUE

Section 1 - Amount, Division and Billing of State per Capita Dues

With the exception of members of a designated Campus Lions club, annual per capita dues equal to the sum of the accounts to be distributed under Section 3 of this Article VIII shall be levied upon each active member, affiliated member, honorary member and member-at-large of each club in the State Organization, each Club to be billed semi-annually on July 1, based upon membership as of June 30; and January 1, based upon membership as of December 31; dues payable in advance and delinquent thirty (30) days after billing.

Section 2 - Procedure for Collection

The dues shall be collected from the Clubs in each District of the State, by the respective Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer, and he/she shall place the money so collected in a special account to be forwarded to the State Office after receipt of per capita dues billing from the Multiple District Treasurer.

Section 3 - State Revenue and Funds

The revenue received under Section 1 and 2 of Article VIII shall be distributed as state funds and as district funds [Refer to Article X Section 1]. The state funds shall total \$17.16 of the annual per capita dues. The allocation of state revenue among funds will be determined by the Council of Governors upon recommendation of the Finance and Long-Range Planning Committee and will be documented in the MD13 Policy Manual.

Section 4 - Per Capita Dues Distribution

- A. All funds shall be forwarded to the Multiple District Treasurer and shall be distributed according to the provisions established in the Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. The International Convention Fund shall be used by the International Convention Committee for suitable facilities and events for Ohio Delegates, and for the promotion of Ohio.
- C. The State Council Fund shall be disbursed by order of the State Council in accordance with rules and regulations as they may provide.
- D. The Restricted Fund shall be used only for special purposes pertinent to the furtherance of an Ohio Lion's candidate for International Office, such as campaign expenses or Ohio Night when we have an International President. The Restricted Fund shall be forwarded to the Multiple District Treasurer and disbursements shall be made from this fund only upon majority recommendation of the Finance and Planning Advisory Committee and approval of the Council of Governors.
- E. The Ohio Lions State Office Operations Fund shall be used to provide the facilities, operation and expense incident to maintenance of an Ohio Lions State Office.

Section 5 - Control of Additional Funds

Any Committee or Board of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc. duly established in accordance with this Constitution, is authorized to receive additional funds by way of voluntary contributions and/or fund-raising activities specifically approved by the Council of Governors. Any and all funds raised shall be handled and disbursed strictly in accordance with the

provisions of the Constitution, By-Laws and Policy Manual applicable to each Committee or Board.

Section 6 - Bond of Multiple District Secretary, Multiple District Treasurer and Office Staff

The Multiple District Secretary, Multiple District Treasurer and Office Staff shall be bonded in sufficient sum at all times to cover the amount to be expendable. Surety and Performance Bonds shall be made at the direction of the Council of Governors.

Section 7 - State Office Financial Review and Audit(s)

The Council of Governors shall provide for an annual or more frequent audit and/or financial review of the books and accounts of all funds handled by the Multiple District Treasurer provided that a full audit is conducted not less than every 5th year beginning with the 2002-2003 audit. It shall be the responsibility of the Chairman of the Council of Governors and the Multiple District Secretary to place the issue of the annual audit and/or financial review on the agenda for the first meeting of the Council of Governors in each fiscal year, which issue shall include a recommendation for an authorization to hire a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) to conduct the audit and/or financial review and report findings to the incoming Council of Governors no later than its second regular meeting of the fiscal year. The recommendation of the independent CPA shall be made by the Finance and Long-Range Planning Committee.

To help ensure that internal controls are maintained to enable accurate financial reporting, help safeguard assets and work with external auditors to implement recommendations for improvement to financial operations of the Ohio Lions, an internal review of the Ohio Lions State Office financial operations shall be conducted by the Financial Oversight Review

Committee no less than twice each fiscal year with the results to be reported to the Council of Governors.

Section 8 - Audit Upon Change of MDT

In the event of the termination or resignation of the MDT, the Council of Governors shall provide for a full audit in accordance with Article VIII, Section 7 in the current or subsequent fiscal year.

Section 9 - Availability of Auditor's Report and Financial Statements

A condensed financial report shall be made available to all Lions Clubs in Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc., upon request.

ARTICLE IX - DISTRICT ORGANIZATION

Section 1 - District Cabinet

Each Sub-District shall have a District Governor's Cabinet composed of the District Governor, as Chairman, the Immediate Past District Governor, 1st Vice Governor, 2nd Vice Governor, and the following who shall be elected or appointed under procedures provided in the respective Single, or Multiple District Constitution: the Region Chairman, the Zone Chairman, Secretary/Treasurer and such other Club Members as may be provided for in the respective Single, or Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws.

PROVIDED: Each respective District Governor shall have the authority to determine whether the position of Region Chairman will be utilized during his/her term. If not so utilized, the position of Region Chairman shall remain vacant during said District Governor's term.

Each Sub-District shall provide in its District Constitution and By-Laws for the elected offices of 1st Vice Governor and 2nd Vice Governor, duties of the said office to be established by the International Board of Directors. A Club member may be elected or appointed as a Region Chairman. A club member shall be elected or appointed as a Zone Chairman for the Zone in which his/her Club is located.

Section 2 - Meeting and Quorum of District Cabinet

The District Cabinet shall meet at such times and place as may be fixed by the District Governor, and the personal and/or electronic presence of a majority of the members of the Cabinet shall constitute a quorum at any meeting.

Section 3 - Division of District into Regions and Zones

For the purpose of efficiency, economy and stimulation of action, each District shall be divided by its District Governor into Regions and each Regions into Zones of no less than three (3) Clubs, due regard being given to geographical locations of the Clubs, which divisions shall be subject to change by the District Governor as may be deemed advisable for the best interest of Lionism and the individual Clubs.

Section 4 - Terms of the District Governor, 1st Vice Governor and 2nd Vice Governor

The term of the District Governor, 1st Vice Governor and 2nd Vice Governor shall begin with the adjournment of the International Convention next succeeding their election. The term of the District Governor, 1st Vice Governor and 2nd Vice Governor shall end with the adjournment of the International Convention next succeeding the election of their successor.

Section 5 - District Governor's Qualifications

A candidate for the office of District Governor shall:

- A. Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in his/her Sub-District.
- B. Secure the endorsement of his/her Club or a majority of the Clubs in his/her Sub-District.
- C. Currently be serving as the 1st Vice Governor within the District from which he/she is to be elected.
- D. Only in the event the current 1st Vice Governor does not stand for election as District Governor, or if a vacancy in the position of 1st Vice Governor exists at the time of the District Convention; any Club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of 2nd Vice Governor as set forth in Article IX, Section 6 (c) of the International

Constitution, shall fulfill the requirements of Subsection (c) of this Section.

Section 6 - 1st Vice District Governor's Qualifications

A candidate for the office of 1st Vice Governor shall:

- A. Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in his/her Sub-District.
- B. Secure the endorsement of his/her Club or a majority of the Clubs in his/her Sub-District.
- C. Currently be serving as the 2nd Vice Governor within the District from which he/she is to be elected.
- D. Only in the event the current 2nd Vice Governor does not stand for election as 1st District Governor, or if a vacancy in the position of 2nd Vice Governor exists at the time of the District Convention; any Club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of 2nd Vice Governor as set forth in Article IX, Section 6 (c) of the International By-Laws, shall fulfill the requirements of Subsection (c) of this Section.

Section 7 - 2nd Vice Governor's Qualifications

A candidate for the office of 2nd Vice Governor shall:

- A. Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in his/her Sub-District.
- B. Secure the endorsement of his/her Club or a major portion of the Clubs in his/her Sub-District.

C. Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as 2nd Vice Governor:

1. As president of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the Board of Directors of a Lions Club for no less than two (2) additional years; and
2. As Zone Chairperson, Region Chairperson, district global extension team coordinator, district global leadership team coordinator, district global membership team coordinator, district global service team coordinator, district LCIF coordinator, or Cabinet Secretary, and/or Treasurer for a full term or a major portion thereof.

D. With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

E. A Past District Governor is prohibited from being elected Second Vice District Governor.

Section 8 - District Governor's Advisory and Honorary Committees

There may be an Advisory and/or Honorary Committee, whose membership shall be selected by the District Governor.

ARTICLE X - DISTRICT REVENUE

Section 1 - District Administration Fund

With the exception of members of a designated Campus Lions club, to provide revenue to defray the administrative expenses of each District, an annual per capita district fund dues of one dollar and eighty-four cents (\$1.84) shall be levied upon members in the District in payments as specified in ARTICLE VIII, Section 1. An additional dues for each District in the amount determined by its current District Governor and his/her Cabinet and approved by the voting delegates at their respective District Convention, shall also be levied upon each member within that District at the same time as specified in ARTICLE VIII, Section 1. These said dues shall be collected from each Club, by the Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer of the District, of which the Club is a member.

Section 2 - Payment by new clubs

Newly organized Clubs shall start paying dues at the beginning of the next quarter following the date of organization of the New Club. (Date of organization begins the date the first president is elected).

Section 3 - Disbursement of District Funds

Said per capita dues and other levied dues in each District shall become and remain a fund of said District and shall be distributed only for such administrative expenses of the District as are approved by the District Governor's Cabinet. Payments shall be by checks and signed by the District Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer and countersigned by the District Governor.

Section 4 - Bond of District Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer

Each District Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer shall be bonded by Ohio Lions, Inc. in such amount as shall be approved by the Council of Governors at the first Council meeting.

Section 5 - District Audit(s)

Each District Governor's Cabinet shall provide for annual or more frequent audit of the books and accounts of the Cabinet Secretary and/or Treasurer, and a statement of the financial condition of the District, shall be sent to Lions Clubs International. Each Club at the close of the fiscal year shall receive a copy, upon request, from the Cabinet then in office.

ARTICLE XI - STATE CONVENTION

Section 1 - Date and Place of Convention

A Convention of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc. shall be held on the third full weekend in May of each year consisting of a Friday, Saturday and/or Sunday. Alternative dates may be selected with the approval of the sitting Council of Governors. All Convention arrangements, including, but not limited to, location and length of the Convention, are to be made by the Multiple District Secretary and the State Convention Committee two or more years in advance and approved by the sitting Council of Governors. Exceptions can be made by the sitting Council of Governors. Adjustments to Convention activities, consistent with the approved arrangements, may be made by the Multiple District Secretary and approved by the sitting Council of Governors at any time prior to issuance of the Official Call referenced in Section 3 of this Article.

Section 2 - Procedures for Convention

The current Council of Governors shall confirm final planning proposals for each State Convention with appropriate Convention Officials of the host facility and Multiple District Secretary for the concurrence and acceptance. Emergency measures of a serious nature necessitating change in the prescribed schedule or site selection shall be made by majority vote of the Council of Governors.

Section 3 - Official Call

The Council of Governors shall issue, and cause notice by regular post or authorized electronic means to the Secretary of each chartered Club, an official call to the annual State Convention at least sixty (60) days prior to the opening thereof.

Section 4 - Management of Convention

The Council of Governors shall be the Officers of the annual State Convention, and the management of the State Convention shall be in their hands.

- A. The Sergeants-at-Arms shall be the 2nd Vice Governors with their Chairman appointed by the Council of Governors.
- B. Sergeants-at-Arms shall be responsible for the proper maintenance of order and decorum at the State Convention and shall perform such duties as are incident to that office, or as directed by the Council of Governors presiding.

Section 5 - Number of Delegates and Alternates

Each chartered Club in good standing on the first day of any convention of Multiple District 13- Ohio Lions, Inc. shall be entitled to one (1) Delegate and one (1) Alternate for every ten (10) of its members who have been enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club, or a major fraction thereof, five (5) being considered a major fraction. Membership shall be shown by records of the International Association Office as of the first day of the month last proceeding the month during which the convention is held. Any club which is newly chartered, and any other chartered club which takes in new members prior to the convening of any such convention, shall have its delegate quota determined on the basis of members who have been enrolled in the club for at least one year and a day as shown on such record date in the records of the international office. In all cases each club in good standing shall be entitled to at least one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. Selection of each Delegate or Alternate shall be evidenced by certificate signed by the President or Secretary of each Club.

Section 6 - Clubs Not in Good Standing

No Club shall be considered in good standing if, at the time of the annual State Convention, it has failed to make payments of all indebtedness to the International Association, and to the State Organization. Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired at any time 15 days prior to the close of credentials certification, at such closing time as established by the rules of the respective Convention.

Section 7 - Privileged Delegates

All Past District Governors who on the date of any Convention of the Organization are members in good standing of any Club belonging to Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc., shall be considered a Delegate-At-Large, irrespective and exclusive of any Delegate quota of their club. Nothing herein shall be construed to allow any person more than one (1) vote upon occasion or in connection with any question before the Convention of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc.

Section 8 - Credentials Committee

The Council of Governors shall appoint a committee on Credentials composed of one Lion from each District, the Chairman of which shall be elected by the members of the committee. To this committee shall be referred all questions, and credentials of Delegates or Alternates by the District Secretary and/or Treasurer. The Committee shall have ready at all times an accurate record of the number, and identity of Delegates and Alternates present at the annual State Convention and make a final report to the Convention immediately before the election of officers. They shall endeavor to make decisions upon questions, arising in regards to credentials, and failing to arrive at an agreement, shall submit the same to the Convention without unnecessary delay, in which event the members of the Club whose representatives are in question shall have the right to be

heard, but shall have no vote in the decision of the Convention which shall be considered final.

Section 9 - Voting by Delegates

Only registered Delegates with certified credentials, and present, shall be entitled to vote, and each Delegate may cast one (1) vote at each election and on every question submitted to the Convention.

Section 10 - Quorum at State Convention

A majority of registered Delegates with certified credentials, present at any meeting, shall be a quorum.

ARTICLE XII – MULTIPLE 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 multiple district constitution and by-laws, or any policy or procedure adopted from time to time by the multiple district council of governors, or any other internal Lions multiple district matter that cannot be satisfactorily resolved through other means, arising between any clubs or sub-districts in the multiple district, or any club(s) or subdistrict(s) and the multiple district 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 multiple district council chairperson or, in the event the complaint is directed against the council chairperson, the council secretary or council treasurer, 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 or sub-district within the association (the “complainant”) may file a written request with the council chairperson or, in the event the complaint is directed against the council chairperson, the council secretary or council treasurer, (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 or cabinet secretary certifying that a resolution in support of filing the complaint has been adopted by a majority of the

entire membership of the club or district cabinet. 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 multiple district which shall be submitted to the council chairperson or, in the event the complaint is directed against the council chairperson, the council secretary or council treasurer, 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 multiple district 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 multiple district 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 multiple district 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 multiple district 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 multiple district, unless established multiple district 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 council chairperson or, in the event the complaint is directed against the council chairperson, the council secretary or council treasurer, 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), council chairperson or, in the event the complaint is directed against the council chairperson, the council secretary or council treasurer, 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, who shall be a past district governor, preferably a past council chairperson, who is currently a member in good standing of a club in good standing, other than a club which is a party to the dispute, in the multiple district in which the dispute arises, and shall be impartial on the matter in dispute and without loyalties to any party to the dispute. The selected conciliators shall select one (1) neutral conciliator who will serve as chairperson, and who shall be a past international director and is currently a member in good standing of a club in good standing in the multiple district 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. In the event there is no neutral past international director who may be selected from within the multiple district in which the dispute arises, the selected conciliators may

select one (1) neutral conciliator/chairperson who shall be a past international director and is a member of a club in good standing outside the respective multiple district. The selected conciliators' decision relative to the selection of the conciliator/chairperson shall be final and binding. 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 fifteen (15) days, 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 multiple district in which the dispute arises, the selected conciliators may 20 select one (1) neutral conciliator/chairperson who shall be a past international director and is a member of a club in good standing outside the respective multiple district. In the event the second team of selected conciliators cannot agree on the selection of the conciliator/chairperson from within or outside the multiple district in which the dispute arises, then the past international director who most recently served on the International Board of Directors from within the multiple district in which the dispute arises or from an adjacent multiple district, whichever is closest in proximity, shall be appointed as conciliator/chairperson. The time limits in this Section E may not be shortened or extended by the multiple district council chairperson or, in the event the complaint is directed against the council chairperson, the council secretary or council treasurer, 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 multiple district council chairperson, or, in the event the complaint is directed against the council chairperson, the council secretary or council treasurer, the multiple district council of governors 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 XIII - INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATE

Section 1 - Procedure for Endorsement and Qualifications

It shall be the responsibility of the Council of Governors, by their Fall meeting, to establish whether Ohio will have, at the next available MD-13 Lions State Convention, a selected candidate for an International Office, for election at the International Convention in the first or second complete fiscal year following said State Convention.

Section 2 - Candidates for the office of International Third Vice President shall:

- A. Be an active Member in good standing of a Lions Club in good standing; and
- B. Have completed or be completing his/her term, by election or appointment, as International Director; and
- C. Secure the endorsements by vote of a convention, of his/her District (both Sub and Multiple) in accordance with Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws; and secure the certification of said endorsement in accordance with the International Constitution and By-Laws.
PROVIDED, That the convention of a single or sub-district shall be eligible to endorse a candidate only if the single or sub-district meets the minimum district requirements as provided in Article VIII, Section 2 of the International By-Laws at the time such endorsement is issued.

Section 3 - Candidates for the office of International Director shall:

- A. Be an Active Member in good standing of a Lions Club in good standing; and
- B. Either:

1. Have completed or be completing a full term or major portion thereof as District Governor, of a full District of this Association;
- OR
2. Have completed a full term or majority thereof as District Governor or Provisional District Governor of a Provisional District which (1) attained, in said term, or later twenty (20) Clubs in good standing or full District status OR (2) has been a Provisional District for no less than ten (10) years; and
- C. Secure the endorsements by vote of a convention, of his/her District (both Sub and Multiple) in accordance with Article II, Section 2 of the By-Laws; and secure the certification of said endorsement in accordance with the International Constitution and By-Laws. PROVIDED, That the convention of a single or sub-district shall be eligible to endorse a candidate only if the single or sub-district meets the minimum district requirements as provided in Article VIII, Section 2 of the International By-Laws at the time such endorsement is issued.
- D. Any elected Director, having served as a Director for a full two (2) year term, shall be ineligible to succeed himself/herself.

Section 4 - Announcing Intention to Run

Except for procedures, which concern the time and manner of announcing intention to run for any International Offices and the vote required for candidacy endorsement, which may be determined by the respective Single or Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws, no qualifications in addition to those set forth in this constitution may be required of any candidate for any International Office. Such procedures may not contain requirements, which cannot be fully met in each Association year.

ARTICLE XIV - AMENDMENTS

Section 1- Procedure for Amendment

Other than housekeeping language, this Constitution can be amended only at a regular State Convention of Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc. Any proposed amendment must first be presented to the Constitution & By-Laws Committee at least ninety (90) days prior to the Convention. Said amendment shall be in writing and shall be duly signed by the Chairman on behalf of the Council of Governors, or the presiding Officer or Secretary on behalf of a District Cabinet, or a State Committee, or a Lions Club in good standing with Lions International and its District. The Committee shall then cause notice by regular post or authorized electronic means of the proposed changes, without recommendations thereon, to be given to the Secretary of record of each Club, not less than thirty (30) days prior to the Multiple District 13 Convention.

For housekeeping language, this Constitution can be amended by a majority vote of the MD13 Constitution and By-Laws Committee and by a majority vote of the MD13 Council of Governors.

“Housekeeping Language”, as used in this document, shall be defined as those provisions of the MD13 Ohio Lions Constitution, which, by virtue of their subordinate status to the Lions Club International Constitution and By-Laws, must be replaced due to a conflict in the language of the provisions.

Section 2 - Procedure for Proposing Amendments

For other than housekeeping language, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall then present the proposed amendment to the delegation at the Multiple District 13 Convention, and if adopted, it shall be by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the registered Delegates, present and voting. Each proposed amendment shall be voted separately.

For housekeeping language, this Constitution shall be, and become in full force and effect immediately following its adoption.

ARTICLE XV - ADOPTION

Section 1 - Adoption

For other than housekeeping language, this Constitution shall be, and become, in full force and effect, at the beginning of the fiscal year immediately following its adoption by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the accredited Delegates present and voting at the annual State Convention, unless otherwise specified in the proposed amendment.

APPENDIX A - DISTRICT BOUNDARIES

The Sub-Districts comprising Multiple District 13 – Ohio Lions, Inc. shall be divided as follows:

District 13 OH1 (16) counties: Allen, Auglaize, Defiance, Fulton, Hancock, Hardin, Henry, Logan, Lucas, Mercer, Paulding, Putnam, Shelby, Van Wert, Williams, and Wood.

District 13 OH2 (10) counties: Ashland, Crawford, Erie, Huron, Lorain, Ottawa, Richland, Sandusky, Seneca, and Wyandot.

District 13 OH3 (10) counties: Belmont, Cuyahoga, Guernsey, Harrison, Holmes, Jefferson, Medina, Summit, Tuscarawas, and Wayne.

District 13 OH4 (9) counties: Ashtabula, Carroll, Columbiana, Geauga, Lake, Mahoning, Portage, Stark, and Trumbull.

District 13 OH5 (11) counties: Champaign, Clark, Darke, Delaware, Franklin, Madison, Marion, Morrow, Miami, Pickaway, and Union.

District 13 OH6 (15) counties: Adams, Brown, Butler, Clermont, Clinton, Fayette, Greene, Hamilton, Highland, Montgomery, Pike, Preble, Ross, Scioto, and Warren.

District 13 OH7 (17) counties: Athens, Coshocton, Fairfield, Gallia, Hocking, Jackson, Knox, Lawrence, Licking, Meigs, Monroe, Morgan, Muskingum, Noble, Perry, Vinton, and Washington.

APPENDIX B – VOTING OPTIONS

For any vote at any MD13 convention or any MD13 sub-district convention that calls for three or more choices to be made by the delegate, the presiding officer may choose to use Preferential voting as an alternative to multiple ballots when no person/choice receives a majority vote. In the event of a tie vote on any issue, the issue fails.

In the event of a tie between two Lion candidates, a revote occurs between the two candidates. In the event of another tie, a coin toss shall determine the winner.

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NOTHING FOLLOWS