



Compliance Committee

Lion Steve Kaplan, District Compliance

February 24, 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 February 11, 2024. Lions District OH-5 had the following compliance:

IRS Compliance

Currently the district stands at 100% compliant. There is one club (Inner City) waiting to hear the results of its filing for reinstatement. There are 4 clubs that use a Nov or Dec ending fiscal year and now need to file: North Hampton, Northwestern, Urbana, and Woodstock. Their filing deadline is April 15th or May 15th.

Attorney General Compliance

Currently the district stands at 100% compliant. There are 4 clubs that use a Nov or Dec ending fiscal year and now need to file: North Hampton, Northwestern, Urbana, and Woodstock. Their filing deadline is April 15th or May 15th.

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. Instructions have been sent out to every club, as well as, posted on state and district websites. Currently there is no way to monitor compliance, so all clubs were asked to report when they filed their return. To date 70% (40 out of 57) have reported filing and thus are considered compliant.

Incorporation Compliance

The district stands at 98% compliant (56 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.

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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