

Lions District 5M-2 Constitution



ARTICLE I:

NAME

This organization shall be known as District 5M-2 of the International Association of Lions Clubs (hereafter referred to as “The 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 District 5M-2.
- 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 boundary lines of this district shall be as follows: The Counties of McLeod, Carver, Sibley, Scott, Nicollet, Le Sueur, Rice, Blue Earth Waseca, Steele, Faribault, and Freeborn in the State of Minnesota.

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

This Constitution and By-Laws shall govern the district unless otherwise amended so as not to conflict with the Multiple District 5M and 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 this constitution and the Multiple District 5M 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 this constitution 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 Officers of the District shall be the District Governor, the Immediate Past District Governor, the First and Second Vice District Governors, the Cabinet Secretary, the Cabinet Treasurer, the Region Chairs (if the position is utilized during the District Governor's term), and the Zone Chairs. 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 the Committee Chairpersons of the District. In addition, the Global Membership Team District Coordinator, Global Leadership Team District Coordinator, Global Service Team District Coordinator and LCIF District Coordinator shall be non-voting members of the District Cabinet. Each such Cabinet Member shall be a member in good standing of a Lions Club in good standing in the District.

SECTION 3. ELECTION/APPOINTMENT OF DISTRICT CABINET. The District Governor and First and Second Vice District Governors 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, a Cabinet Secretary, a Cabinet Treasurer, one Region Chairperson for each Region (if the position is utilized during the District Governor's term), 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. Each officer appointed by the District Governor shall be a member in good standing of a Lions club in good standing in the District.

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.

SECTION 5. VACANCIES. Other than the office of District Governor, in the event of a vacancy in the District Governor's Cabinet or other District appointment or the moving of a District appointee from his area of Jurisdiction, the District Governor shall have power to fill such vacancy for unexpired term thereof.

SECTION 6. SALARY. No salary shall be paid to any officer of the District.

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. The Convention may be recessed at a date and time to the Multiple Convention and be reconvened to conduct any such unfinished business.

SECTION 2. CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA. 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. 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 prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention.

SECTION 3. OFFICERS. The Members of the District Cabinet shall be the officers of the annual District Convention.

SECTION 4. COMMITTEES. The District Governor shall appoint, designate the chairperson of, and fill any vacancies occurring in the following District Governor Committees: Sergeant-at-Arms, Assistant Sergeant-at-Arms, Rules, Convention City, Nominations and Elections, Constitutions and By-Laws, Credentials, Resolutions, and International Convention

SECTION 5. PAST DISTRICT GOVERNORS. Each Past District Governor of this Association shall be entitled to full delegate privileges at each District convention. The delegate privilege shall not count in the Past District Governor's club's delegate number.

SECTION 6. 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 7. 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.

SECTION 78. SITE. The District Governor shall retain and have power to change at any time for good reason the convention site chosen by a previous District Convention, and neither the District Governor, nor the District, nor any member of the District Cabinet shall incur any liability thereby to any club or club member in the District.

SECTION 89. PROCEEDINGS. Within (60) days after the close of the Convention an official report of the Convention proceedings shall be sent to Lions Club International and each club in the District by the Cabinet Secretary

ARTICLE VIII

FINANCES

SECTION 1. ANNUAL TAX. To provide revenue to defray the expense of district 5M-2 and the Multiple District, an annual tax for each member shall be levied upon every club in the District, and shall be paid in advance by each club, except new and reorganized clubs. The payment schedule and monetary amount of the annual tax is defined in Article VII, Section 1 of the By-Laws. This tax shall be collected from the clubs in the Sub-District by the Cabinet Treasurer and the Cabinet Treasurer shall place all said monies in an account and remit monies to the Multiple District Council Treasurer.

SECTION 2. NEW AND REORGANIZED CLUBS. New and reorganized clubs shall not be required to pay any Multiple District Tax for the semi-annual period in which their establishment or reorganization occurs.

SECTION 3. DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S EXPENSES TO ATTEND INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. Expenses of the District Governor in connection with attendance at the International Convention shall be considered a Sub-District administrative expense. Reimbursement for such expenses shall be paid up to the amount outlined in the Rules of Audit of Lions Clubs International.

SECTION 4. BALANCED BUDGET. The District Governor and Cabinet shall not incur obligations in any fiscal year which will effect an unbalanced budget or deficit in said fiscal year.

SECTION 5. BOND. The Cabinet Treasurer shall be bonded in such amount and with such surety company as shall be approved by the District Governor and the cost of the same shall be an administrative expense.

SECTION 6. ANNUAL AUDIT. The District Governor shall provide for an annual or more frequent audit of the books and accounts of the Cabinet 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.

ARTICLE IX

DISTRICT DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURE

All disputes or claims arising from provisions of the District 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 resolved in accordance with the Dispute Resolution Procedures established by the International Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X

AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE. This Constitution may be amended only at a Midwinter Convention by resolution of the Convention Committee on Constitution and By-Laws 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.

SECTION 3. NOTICE. No Amendment shall be so reported or voted upon unless the same shall have been furnished in writing to each club and to the Chairperson of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the annual Midwinter Convention with notice that the same will be voted upon at said Convention

SECTION 4. CLERICAL CHANGES. The 5M2 Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall be authorized to make changes within this Constitution in grammar, word usage, punctuation and

formatting which neither alters the neither meaning nor intent of the changed section. Changes made by the action of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, pursuant to this section, shall be presented to the delegates at the next District Convention.

SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. Each Amendment shall take effect at the close of the Convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the Amendment.

SECTION 6. DISTRIBUTION. Within ninety (90) days of adjournment of the 5M-2 Midwinter Convention the secretary of each club within the District shall receive a copy of all amendments approved at the Midwinter Convention