The International Association of Lions Clubs

CONSTITUTION

STANDARD DISTRICT

5M-8

Lions Fiscal Year
2026 - 2027
UPDATED

Lions Clubs International

PURPOSES

TO ORGANIZE, *charter and supervise service clubs to be knows 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.*

STANDARD DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

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ARTICLE I
Name

This organization shall be known as Lions District No. 5M-8 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 boundary lines of this district shall encompass the following counties of the state of Minnesota: Benton, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Pine, Stearns and Todd.

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

The Standard Form District Constitution and By-Laws shall govern the district unless otherwise amended so as not to conflict with the Multiple District 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 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 officers of this district shall be 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 and a cabinet secretary-treasurer or a cabinet secretary and a cabinet treasurer. Each such officer shall be a member in good standing of a Lions club in good standing in the district.[1]

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, Global Membership Team district coordinator(s), Global Leadership Team district coordinator(s), Global Service Team district coordinator(s), Global Extension Team district coordinator(s), LCIF district coordinator(s), 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. Each such cabinet member shall be a member in good standing of a Lions Club in good standing in the district. [2]

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, 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[3], First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor may be removed from office for cause[4] by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire number of the District Cabinet.

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.[5]

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.[6] 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.[7] FURTHER PROVIDED, that District 5M-8 grants full delegate status to each past district governor who is a member of a club in such district independent of the club delegate quotas here in above specified. 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.

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.

Section 5. **INVITATIONS.** Invitations to host a future convention shall be sent, in writing, to the district governor by the club or clubs wishing to host a future convention.

ARTICLE VIII
District Committees

Section 1. **OPERATING COMMITTEES.** The district governor shall appoint qualified Lions to the following committees:

MN Lions Vision Foundation
Youth Outreach
MD5M Lions Hearing Foundation
MN Lions Diabetes Foundation
Leader Dog
Project New Hope
Can Do Canines

MN Lions Eye Glass Recycling Center
Global Service Team
Global Membership Team
Global Leadership Team
Global Extension Team
LCIF
Strategic Planning
Publicity
Constitution and By-Laws
Convention
5M-8 District and USA/Canada Forum
Convention Sergeant-at-Arms
Nominations
Election
Credentials
Convention Operating Committees
KidSight
Childhood Cancer
Environment
Special Olympics
Quest

Section 2. **TERMS.** A Lion may not be appointed as a member of more than two district 5M-8 committees in all or part of one year nor serve more than six consecutive years on the Vision Foundation: nor more than six consecutive years on the Hearing Foundation, Diabetes Foundation, Long Range Planning, and the Constitution and by-laws committee without a two-year lapse of service on that committee. Note: The Vision Foundation Committee is the only one limited to one (1) six-year term. GET District Coordinator will serve a one-year term. GET coordinator may serve multiple terms.

Section 3. The District Governor shall appoint one member and one alternate member of the Pine City lions, Pine Area lions and/or Rock Creek lions to the MN Lions Eye Glass Recycling Center Committee.

Section 3a. The District 5M8 Cabinet Operating committee position allowed under Article VIII, Section 3 above for the MN Eye Glass Recycling Center, **will not be allowed**, whenever the club(s) boundaries representing MNLERC reside outside the recognized boundaries of District 5M8.

Section 4. **QUALIFICATIONS.** The qualifications for Lions appointed as to the committees set forth in Article VIII, Section 1 of this Constitution shall be as follows:

(a) Must have served as an officer of a Lions club for one (1) year.

Section 5. **PROTOCOL.** The district governor may appoint annually a protocol chairman for district 5M-8. The duties shall be as provided in the district 5M-8 by-laws.

Article IX
Finances

Section 1. **PER CAPITA TAX** (dues). To provide revenue to defray the expenses of district 5M-8, an annual tax for each club member shall be levied against and paid by each club.

Section 2. **DISTRICT 5M-8 REVIEW.** The annual district financial review shall be conducted by an accountant qualified in the field of Public Accounting in Minnesota. A preliminary financial report shall be available to the cabinet at the first cabinet meeting of the new year following the close of the International Convention.

Section 3. **NEW AND REORGANIZED CLUBS.** Newly chartered and reorganized Lions clubs shall collect and pay said per-capita tax on a pro-rated basis from the first day of the second month following the date of their organization or reorganization, as the case may be.

Section 4. **COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN SPENDING LIMIT.** Committee chairmen disbursing funds from dedicated funds shall be limited to five hundred dollars ($500.00) annually, without prior approval from the district 5M-8 cabinet.

Section 5. **BONDS.** The president and secretary-treasurer of each Lions club in district 5M-8 shall be bonded in the amount and such sureties as determined by the MD5M Council.

Section 6. **US FUNDS.** The monies referred to in this constitution and by-laws shall mean U.S. funds.

ARTICLE X
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 E 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 CONCILATORS.** 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. **FORMAT.** Amendments to this constitution shall be submitted, only in writing, in a proper form which shall include a rationale for the amendment, a reference to the article and section affected, an exact statement of any wording to be replaced or added.

Section 2. **FILING.** Such submittal, to be acted on at the next district 5M-8 convention, must be in the hands of the chairman of the Constitution and By-laws committee by November 1, preceding the annual convention of district 5M-8.

Section 3. **COMMITTEE FUNCTIONS.**

(a) **REVIEW.** The constitution and by-laws committee shall review all the proposed amendments to this constitution at a meeting held in November preceding the annual convention of district 5M-8.

(b) **ACTION AND TRANSMITTAL.** All proposals, which meet the criteria set forth in Sections 1 and 2 of this Article, shall be communicated in writing to the district 5M-8 cabinet secretary before December 1, preceding the annual district 5M-8 convention. The constitution and by-laws

committee shall report each correctly proposed amendment, with or without recommendation, to the delegates to the district 5M-8 convention.

Section 4. **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 5. **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 6. **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 7. **EFFECTIVE DATE.** Each amendment shall take effect at the close of the convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

Section 8. **HOUSEKEEPING CHANGES.** The district 5M-8 constitution and by-laws committee shall be authorized to make "Housekeeping" changes within this constitution which neither alter the 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 annual convention of district 5M-8.

1 The officers listed in this section are the minimum officers required for a district cabinet. Should the district add additional officers, they may through amendment of this section.
2 The cabinet members listed in this section are the minimum cabinet members required. Should the district add additional cabinet members, they may through amendment of this section.
3 The district governor may be removed by 2/3 vote of the entire International Board of Directors in accordance with Article V Section IX of the International Constitution.
4 For cause may be any reason as determined by the district cabinet in accordance with ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER NEWLY REVISED.
5 There is no restriction to holding the location of the district convention outside the geographic location of the district unless otherwise restricted by amendment of the district constitution and by-laws.
6 It is not required for a member to be enrolled in a club for a year and a day in order to qualify as an eligible delegate.
7 The district may amend this provision to allow for a past district governor to vote apart from a club delegate quota. Pursuant to Article IX Section III of the International By-Laws, "…FURTHER PROVIDED, that each district (single, sub- and multiple) may, by express provision in its respective constitution and by-laws, grant full delegate status to each past district governor who is a member of a club in such district independent of the club delegate quotas hereinabove specified".

This Constitution was amended by Lions Clubs International on July 4, 2022, and updated by the 5M-8 Constitution & By-Laws Committee on February 5, 2023, per ARTICLE IX, Section 5.

Note: Adding the position of Global Extension Team (GET) District Coordinator and adding the committee as an Operating Committee, funded by District 5M8 was approved by membership at the 2022-2023 Annual District 5M8 Convention as of February 5, 2023.