

*Mystic Lions Club*  
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT



**We Serve**

*Constitution*  
*and*  
*By-Laws*

Revised June 2009  
Amended December 15, 2011

# Mystic Lions Club

## **PURPOSES**

TO ORGANIZE *charter and supervise service clubs to be known 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.

Constitution and By-Laws  
The Lions Club of Mystic, Connecticut

*Revised June 2009, Amended December 15, 2011*

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Chartered by  
and under the jurisdiction of

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS

This standard form is recommended for adoption by the Lions club as its official local club Constitution and By-Laws.

Immediately upon adoption by the club, a permanent copy of this Constitution and By-Laws is to be filed by the secretary in his/her record book.

This Standard Form Club Constitution and By-Laws, and all amendments thereto, shall be in full force and effect and govern the operation of any Lions club that has not adopted its own Constitution and By-Laws.

The International Board of Directors shall and hereby does declare as policy that with respect to any matter of club operations which is consistent with the International Constitution and By-Laws and is not covered by the constitution and by-laws of the respective club and is covered by the Standard Form Lions Club Constitution and By-Laws that the provisions of the latter shall govern and control.

Wherever mentioned, the term mail shall include electronic as well as written media and/or personally delivered.

STANDARD LIONS CLUB  
ORGANIZATION PLAN

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**Officers and Directors**  
(Board of Directors)

President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

1st Vice President  
2nd Vice President  
3rd Vice President  
Lion Tamer

Tail Twister  
Immediate Past President  
2 Directors (First Year)  
2 Directors (Second Year)  
Membership Director  
Financial Secretary  
Corresponding Secretary

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### **Administrative Committees**

Attendance  
Constitution and By-Laws  
Convention  
Finance  
Information Technology  
Lions Information  
Membership  
Program  
Public Relations  
Bulletin Editor  
Greeter  
Leadership Development

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### **Activities Committees**

Lions Opportunities for Youth (Youth)  
Diabetes Awareness  
Sight Conservation and Work With the Blind  
Hearing and Speech Action and  
Work With the Deaf  
Environmental Services  
Leo Club Program  
Youth Camp and Exchange Program  
Lioness Club Program  
International Relations Program

Other activities of Lionism for which committees may be appointed are: Citizenship Services, Educational Services, Health Services, Social Services, Recreational Services, Public Services.

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## CONSTITUTION

### ARTICLE I - Name, Slogan and Motto

**Section 1. NAME.** The name of this organization shall be the Lions Club of Mystic, Connecticut, chartered by, and under the jurisdiction of Lions Clubs International.

**Section 2. SLOGAN.** Its slogan shall be: Liberty, Intelligence, Our Nation's Safety.

**Section 3. MOTTO.** Its motto shall be: We Serve.

### ARTICLE II - Purposes

The purposes of this club shall be:

- (a) To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.
- (b) To promote the principles of good government and good citizenship.
- (c) To take an active interest in the civic, cultural, social and moral welfare of the community.
- (d) To unite the members in the bonds of friendship, good fellowship and mutual understanding.
- (e) 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.
- (f) 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

#### **Section 1. ELIGIBILITY FOR CLUB MEMBERSHIP.**

Subject to the provisions of Article I of the by-laws, any person of legal majority and good moral character and good reputation in his/her community, may be granted membership in this Lions club. Wherever the male gender or pronoun presently appear in this constitution and by-laws, it shall be interpreted to mean both male and female persons.

**Section 2. MEMBERSHIP BY INVITATION.** Membership in this Lions club shall be acquired by invitation only. All prospective members shall attend at least one meeting or club function prior to submittal of an application. Nominations shall be

made on forms provided by the international office, which shall be signed by a member in good standing who shall act as sponsor, and be submitted to the membership chairperson or the club secretary, who, after investigation by the membership committee, shall submit the same to the board of directors by mail at least seven (7) calendar days in advance of the Directors' meeting to vote on the application. If approved by a two thirds majority of said board present in person and voting, the prospect may then be invited to become a member of this club. A properly filled out membership form duly signed, as well as, the entrance fee and dues must be in the hands of the secretary before the member is reported to and officially recognized by the association as a Lion member.

#### **ARTICLE IV - Forfeiture of Membership**

Any member may be expelled from the club for cause by a two-thirds vote of the entire board of directors.

#### **ARTICLE V - Club Size**

A Lions club should strive to maintain 20 members; the numerical minimum membership required to receive a charter.

#### **ARTICLE VI - Club Branch Program**

**Section 1. BRANCH FORMATION.** Clubs may form branches to permit the expansion of Lionism into locations where and when circumstances do not support the formation of a charter club. The branch shall meet as a committee of the parent club and shall conduct service activities in its community.

**Section 2. MEMBERSHIP IN PARENT CLUB.** The members of the branch shall be granted membership in the parent club and the branch by membership invitation issued by the board of directors of the parent club. Membership shall be in one of the categories listed in Article I of the By-Laws.

**Section 3. FUNDRAISING.** Activity or public welfare monies raised by the branch by asking for public support shall be held in a fund established to record such purpose. They shall be distributed in the branch community unless otherwise specified. The board of directors of the parent club may authorize the branch coordinator to countersign checks and vouchers authorized for payment by the parent club's board of directors.

**Section 4. DISSOLUTION.** The branch may be disbanded by a two-thirds vote of the entire board of directors of the parent club.

## ARTICLE VII - Officers

**Section 1. OFFICERS.** The officers of this club shall be a president, immediate past president, the vice president(s), secretary, treasurer, Lion tamer, tail twister, membership director, financial secretary, corresponding secretary and all other elected directors.

**Section 2. REMOVAL.** Any officer of this club may be removed from office for good cause by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the entire club membership.

## ARTICLE VIII - Board of Directors

**Section 1. MEMBERS.** The members of the board of directors shall be the president, immediate past president, the vice president(s), secretary, treasurer, Lion tamer, tail twister, membership director, branch coordinator, if so designated, financial secretary, corresponding secretary and all other elected directors.

**Section 2. QUORUM.** The presence in person of a majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the board of directors. Except as otherwise specifically provided, the act of a majority of the directors present at any meeting of the board shall be the act and decision of the entire board of directors.

**Section 3. DUTIES AND POWERS.** In addition to those duties and powers, express and implied, set forth elsewhere in this constitution and by-laws, the board of directors shall have the following duties and powers:

- (a) It shall constitute the executive board of this club and be responsible for the execution, through the club officers, of the policies approved by the club. All new business and policy of this club shall be considered and shaped, first, by the board of directors for presentation to and approval by the club members at a regular or special club meeting.
- (b) It shall authorize all expenditures and shall not create any indebtedness beyond the current income of this club, nor authorize disbursement of club funds for purposes inconsistent with the business and policy authorized by the club membership.
- (c) It shall have power to modify, override or rescind the action of any officer of this club.
- (d) It shall have the books, accounts and operations of this club audited annually or, in its discretion, more frequently and may require an accounting or have an audit made of the handling of any club funds by any officer, committee or member of this club. Any member of this club in good standing may inspect any such audit or accounting upon request at a reasonable time and place.

- (e) It shall appoint, on recommendation of the finance committee, a bank or banks for the deposit of the funds of this club.
- (f) It shall appoint the surety for the bonding of any officer of this club.
- (g) It shall not authorize, nor permit, the expenditure, for any administrative purpose, of the net income of projects or activities of this club by which funds are raised from the public.
- (h) It shall submit all matters of new business and policy to the respective standing or special club committee for study and recommendation to the board.
- (i) It shall name and appoint, subject to approval of the club membership, the delegates and alternates of this club to district (single, sub- or multiple) and international conventions.
- (j) It shall maintain at least two (2) separate funds governed by generally accepted accounting practices. The first fund to record administrative monies such as dues, tail twisting fines and other internally raised club funds. A second fund shall be established to record activity or public welfare monies raised by asking support from the public. Disbursement from such funds shall be in strict compliance with Section (g) of this article.
- (k) It shall on an annual basis approve a recommended budget to be presented by the President and the Finance Committee. Included within the budget shall be a nominal amount as the President's Discretionary Fund to be used by the President to address emergency needs of the community or club where action is required prior to formal approval of the Board. Any expenditures under this fund shall be presented to the Board for ratification at its next regularly scheduled meeting.
- (l) It shall approve the chair(s) of each club and community event and where appropriate provide a budget for the conduct of that event. The chair(s) shall present for Board approval a report of each event.

## **ARTICLE IX - Delegates to International and District Conventions**

### **Section 1. DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION.**

Inasmuch as Lions Clubs International is governed by Lions clubs in convention assembled, and in order that this club may have its voice in association matters, this club shall have power to pay the necessary expenses of its delegates to each annual convention of the association. This club shall be entitled in any convention of this association, to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for every twenty-five (25), or major fraction thereof, of its members 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, provided, however, that this club shall be entitled to at least one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. The major fraction

referred to in this section shall be thirteen (13) or more members. The selection of each such delegate and alternate shall be evidenced by a certificate signed by the president or secretary or any other duly authorized officer of this club, or, in the event no such club officer is in attendance at the convention, by the district governor-elect of the district (single or sub-) of which this club is a member.

**Section 2. DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT DISTRICT/MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONVENTION.** Inasmuch as all district matters are presented and adopted at the district (single, sub- and multiple) conventions, this club shall be entitled to send its full quota of delegates to all such conventions and have power to pay the necessary expenses of such delegates attending such conventions. This club 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 this club, or major fraction thereof, of this 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, provided, however, that this club shall be entitled to at least one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate. Each certified delegate present in person shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote of his/her choice for each office to be filled by, and one (1) vote of his/her choice on each question submitted to, the respective convention. The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members.

## **ARTICLE X - Club Dispute Resolution Procedure**

**Section 1. DISPUTES SUBJECT TO PROCEDURE.** All disputes arising between any member or members, or a former member or members, and the club, or any officer on the board of the club, relative to membership, or the interpretation, breach of, or application of the club's constitution and by-laws, or the expulsion of any member from the club, or any other internal Lions club matter whatsoever which cannot be satisfactorily resolved through other means, shall be settled by dispute resolution. Any time limits specified in this procedure may be shortened or extended by the district governor, conciliator 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. REQUEST FOR DISPUTE RESOLUTION AND FILING FEE.** Any party to the dispute may file a written request with the district governor asking that dispute resolution take place. All requests for dispute resolution must be filed with the district governor within thirty (30) days after the member knew or should have known of the occurrence of the event upon which the request is based. Each district may determine whether a filing fee will be charged for filing a complaint under this procedure. Any such filing fee must

be approved by majority vote of the district cabinet in advance of charging any fee for filing a complaint under this procedure and any such fee shall not exceed US\$250.00, or its equivalent in the respective national currency, payable to the district. All expenses incurred relative to this dispute resolution procedure are the responsibility of the district, unless established 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. SELECTION OF CONCILIATOR.** Within fifteen (15) days of receipt, the district governor shall appoint a neutral conciliator to hear the dispute. The conciliator shall be a past district governor who is currently a member in good standing of a club in good standing, other than the club which is a party to the dispute, in the district in which the dispute arises, and who is impartial on the matter in dispute and without loyalties to any party to the dispute. The appointed conciliator shall be acceptable to the parties and the district governor shall obtain a written statement signed by each party certifying that the appointed conciliator is acceptable. In the event an appointed conciliator is not acceptable to any party, the objecting party must submit a written statement to the district governor identifying all the reasons for such an objection. If the district governor determines, in his or her sole discretion, that the party's written statement sufficiently demonstrates that the appointed conciliator lacks neutrality, the district governor shall appoint a substitute conciliator as provided above. Upon appointment, the conciliator shall have all authority appropriate and necessary to resolve or decide the dispute in accordance with this procedure.

**Section 4. CONCILIATION MEETING & DECISION OF CONCILIATOR.** Upon being appointed, the conciliator 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 conciliator. The objective of the conciliator shall be to find a prompt and amicable resolution to the dispute. If such conciliation efforts are unsuccessful, the conciliator shall have the authority to issue his or her decision relative to the dispute. The conciliator shall issue the 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. A copy of the written decision shall be provided to all parties, the district governor and, upon request, to the Legal Division of Lions Clubs International. The decision of the conciliator 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.

## **ARTICLE XI - Amendments**

**Section 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE.** This constitution may be altered, amended or repealed at any regular or special meeting of this club which are:

FIRST: Voted upon by the board of directors at a meeting where quorum shall be a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all directors, and

SECOND: Approved by the membership at a meeting where a quorum is present and approved by a vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members eligible to vote and present and voting.

**Section 2. NOTICE.** No amendment shall be put to vote unless written notice stating the proposed amendment, shall have been mailed or delivered personally to each member at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the meeting at which the vote on the amendment is to be taken.

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I - Membership

**Section 1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES.** Guidance as to the obligations of membership may be found in Lions publications such as the Membership and Retention Chairpersons Guides.

- (a) **ACTIVE:** A member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club confers or implies. Without limiting such rights and obligations, such rights shall include eligibility to seek, if otherwise qualified, any office in this club, district or association and the right to vote on all matters requiring a vote of the membership; and such obligations shall include regular attendance, prompt payment of dues, participation in club activities and conduct reflecting a favorable image of this Lions club in the community. As provided in the Family Membership Program criteria, qualifying family members shall be Active Members and be entitled to all rights and privileges thereof. As provided in the Student Member Program criteria, qualifying student, former Leo and young adult members shall be Active Members and be entitled to all rights and privileges thereof.
- (b) **MEMBER-AT-LARGE:** A member of this club who has moved from the community, or because of health or other legitimate reason, is unable regularly to attend club meetings and desires to retain membership in this club, and upon whom the board of directors of this club desires to confer this status. This status shall be reviewed each six months by the Membership Committee and the board of directors of this club. A Member-at-Large shall not be eligible to hold office or to vote in district or international meetings or conventions, but shall pay such dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues.
- (c) **HONORARY:** An individual, not a member of this Lions club, having performed outstanding service for the community or this Lions club, upon whom this club desires to confer special distinction. This club shall pay entrance fees and international and district dues on such a member, who may attend meetings, but shall not be entitled to any privileges of active membership.
- (d) **PRIVILEGED:** A member of this club who has been a Lion ten or more years, who, because of illness, infirmities, advanced age or other legitimate reason, as determined by the board of directors of this club, must relinquish his/her active status for a period of one year or more.

This status shall be reviewed periodically by the Membership Committee and the board of directors.

A Privileged Member shall pay such dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues. He/she shall have the right to vote and be entitled to all other privileges of membership except the right to hold club, district or international office.

(e) **LIFE MEMBER:** Any member of this club who has maintained Active membership as a Lion for 20 or more years and has rendered outstanding service to this club, his/her community, or this association; or any member who is critically ill; or any member of this club who has maintained such active membership for 15 or more years and is at least 70 years of age may be granted Life Membership in this club upon:

- (1) recommendation of this club to the association,
- (2) payment to the association of US\$500.00, or its equivalent in the respective national currency, by this club in lieu of all future dues to the association, and
- (3) approval by the International Board of Directors.

A Life Member shall have all privileges of active membership so long as he/she fulfills all obligations thereof. A Life Member who desires to relocate and receives an invitation to join another Lions club shall automatically become a Life Member of said club. Nothing herein shall prevent this club from charging a Life Member such dues as it shall deem proper. Former Lioness members, who are now Active members of their Lions clubs or who become Active members of a Lions club on or before June 30, 2007, may apply all of their prior Lioness service toward Life membership eligibility. Lioness members who become Active members of a Lions Club after June 30, 2007, will not be eligible for Lioness service credit for the purposes of Life membership eligibility.

(f) **ASSOCIATE MEMBER:** A member who holds his/her primary membership in another Lions club but maintains a residence or is employed in the community served by this club. This status may be conferred by the invitation of the board of directors and shall be reviewed annually. The club shall not report an Associate Member on its Membership and Activities Report.

An Associate Member may be eligible to vote on club matters, at meetings where he/she is present in person, but may not represent the club as a delegate at district (single, sub-, provisional and/or multiple) or international conventions. He/she shall not be eligible to hold club, district or international office, nor district, multiple district or

international committee assignments through this club. International and district (single, sub-, provisional and/or multiple) dues shall not be assessed on the Associate; PROVIDED, however, nothing shall prevent this club from assessing an Associate such dues as it shall deem proper.

- (g) **AFFILIATE MEMBER:** A quality individual of the community who currently is not able to fully participate as an Active member of the club but desires to support the club and its community service initiatives and be affiliated with the club. This status may be conferred by the invitation of the club's board of directors.

An Affiliate Member may be eligible to vote on club matters at meetings where he/she is present in person, but may not represent the club as a delegate at district (single, sub, provisional, and/or multiple) or international conventions.

He/she shall not be eligible to hold club, district or international office, nor district, multiple district or international committee assignment. An Affiliate Member shall be required to pay district, international and such dues as the local club may charge.

**Section 2. DUAL MEMBERSHIP.** No person shall simultaneously hold membership, other than honorary or associate, in this and any other Lions club.

**Section 3. RESIGNATIONS.** Any member may resign from this club, and said resignation shall become effective upon acceptance by the board of directors. The board may withhold acceptance, however, until all indebtedness has been paid, all club funds and property have been returned, and all right to the use of the name "LIONS," the emblem and other insignia of this club and this association have been surrendered.

**Section 4. REINSTATEMENT OF MEMBERSHIP.** Any member dropped from membership in good standing may be reinstated by the club's board of directors, and will retain their prior Lions service record as part of their total Lions service record.

**Section 5. TRANSFER MEMBERSHIP.** This club may grant membership on a transfer basis to one who has terminated or is terminating his/her membership in another Lions club, provided that a member is in good standing at the time of transfer requested. If more than six (6) months have elapsed between termination of his/her membership in another club and submittal of completed transfer member form or current membership card, he/she may acquire membership in this club only under the provisions of Section 2 of Article III of the constitution.

**Section 6. FAILURE TO PAY.** The treasurer shall submit to the board of directors the name of any member who fails to pay any indebtedness due this club within 60 days after receipt from the treasurer of written notice. The board shall thereafter decide whether the member shall be dropped from or retained on the roster.

**Section 7. ATTENDANCE.** The club shall encourage regular attendance at club meetings and activities. Where a member misses consecutive meetings or activities, the club will make every effort to contact the member to encourage and promote regular attendance.

## ARTICLE II - Officers

### Section 1. DUTIES.

- a. **President.** He/she shall be the chief executive officer of this club; preside at all meetings of the board of directors and this club; issue the call for regular meetings and special meetings of the board of directors and the club; appoint the standing and special committees of this club and cooperate with chairpersons to effect regular functioning and reporting of such committees; see that regular elections are duly called, noticed and held; and cooperate with, and be an active member of, the district governor's advisory committee of the zone in which this club is located.
- b. **Immediate Past President.** He/she and the other past presidents shall officially greet members and their guests at club meetings and shall represent this club in welcoming all new service-minded people in the community served by this club.
- c. **Vice Presidents.** If the president is unable to perform the duties of his/her office for any reason, the vice president next in rank shall occupy his/her position and perform his/her duties with the same authority as the president. Each vice president shall, under the direction of the president, oversee the functioning of such committees of this club as the president shall designate.
- d. **Secretary.** He/she shall be under the supervision and direction of the president and the board of directors and shall act as the liaison officer between the club and the district (single or suband multiple) in which this club is located, and the association. In fulfillment of this, he/she shall:
  - (1) Submit regular monthly and other reports to the international office of the association on blanks provided by it containing such information as may be called for by the board of directors of this association;
  - (2) Submit to the district governor's cabinet such reports as it may require including copies of regular membership and activities reports;

- (3) Cooperate with and be an active member of the district governor's advisory committee of the zone in which the club is located;
- (4) Have custody and keep and maintain general records of this club, including records of minutes of club and board meetings; attendance; committee appointments; elections; member information, addresses and telephone numbers of members; members club accounts;
- (5) Arrange for issuance, in cooperation with the treasurer, quarterly or semi-annual statements to each member for dues and other financial obligations owed to this club, collect and turn the same over to the club treasurer and obtain a receipt;
- (6) Give bond for the faithful discharge of his/her office in such sum and with such surety as determined by the board of directors.

e. **Treasurer.** He/she shall:

- (1) Receive all monies, from the secretary and otherwise, and deposit the same in a bank or banks recommended by the finance committee and approved by the board of directors;
- (2) Pay out monies in payment of club obligations only on authority given by the board of directors;
- (3) Have custody and keep and maintain general records of club receipts and disbursements;
- (4) Prepare and submit monthly and semi-annual financial reports to the international office of the association and the board of directors of this club;
- (5) Give bond for the faithful discharge of his/her office in such sum and with such surety as determined by the board of directors.

f. **Membership Director.** The membership director shall be the chairperson of the membership committee. The responsibilities for this position shall be:

- (1) Development of a growth program specifically for the club and presented to the board of directors for approval.
- (2) Regular encouragement at club meeting to bring in new quality members.
- (3) Ensuring implementation of proper recruitment and retention procedures.
- (4) Preparation and implementation of orientation sessions.
- (5) Reporting to the board of directors on ways to reduce the loss of members.
- (6) Coordination with other club committees in fulfilling these responsibilities.
- (7) Serving as a member of the zone level membership committee.

- g. **Lion Tamer.** The Lion tamer shall have charge of and be responsible for the property and paraphernalia of the club, including flags, banners, gong, gavel, song books and button board. He/she shall put each in its proper place before each meeting and return the same to the proper storage area after each meeting. He/she shall act as sergeant-at-arms at meetings, see that those present are properly seated, and distribute bulletins, favors and literature as required at club and board meetings. He/she shall give special attention to assure that each new member sits with a different group at each meeting so that he/she can become better acquainted.
- h. **Tail Twister.** He/she shall promote harmony, good fellowship, life and enthusiasm in the meetings through appropriate stunts and games and the judicious imposition of fines on club members. There shall be no ruling from his/her decision in imposing a fine, provided, however, that no fine shall exceed an amount fixed by the board of directors of this club, and no member shall be fined more than twice at any one meeting. The tail twister (optional) may not be fined except by the unanimous vote of all members present. All monies collected by the tail twister (optional) shall be immediately turned over to the treasurer and a receipt be given.
- i. **Financial Secretary.** He/she shall (1) collect monies due at any regular meeting and turn all monies to the Treasurer, (2) take attendance at any regular meeting and provide to the Secretary, and (3) in the absence of the Treasurer, perform the duties of Treasurer.
- j. **Corresponding Secretary.** He/she shall (1) attend to all correspondence of the club other than that required of the Secretary. Letters shall convey the intent of action of the board of directors and shall be posted promptly. In the absence of the Secretary, perform the duties of the Secretary.

**Section 2. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE.** No person shall be eligible to hold office in this club unless he/she is an active member in good standing.

**Section 3. COMPENSATION.** No officer shall receive any compensation for any service rendered to this club in his/her official capacity with the exception of the secretary, whose compensation, if any, shall be fixed by the board of directors.

### **ARTICLE III - Meetings and Quorum Requirements**

**Section 1. REGULAR MEETINGS.** Regular meetings of this club shall be held at times and places recommended by the board of directors, and approved by the club. All meetings shall begin and end, promptly, at the regular set times. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this constitution and by-laws, notice of regular meetings shall be given in such manner as the board of directors deems proper. (It is recommended that clubs meet at least twice each month.)

**Section 2. SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the club may be called by the president, in his/her discretion, and shall be called by the president when

requested by the board of directors, at a time and place determined by the person or body requesting the same. Notice of special meetings setting forth the purpose, time and place shall be given to each member of this club, by mail or personal delivery, at least ten (10) days prior to the date thereof.

**Section 3. CHARTER ANNIVERSARY.** A charter night anniversary meeting of this club may be held each year, at which time special attention shall be devoted to the purposes and ethics of Lionism, and the history of this club.

**Section 4. ANNUAL MEETING.** An annual meeting of this club shall be held in conjunction with the close of each Lions' year at a time and place determined by the board of directors, at which meeting the final reports of the retiring officers shall be read and newly elected officers shall be installed.

**Section 5. QUORUM.** The presence in person of a majority of the active members in good standing shall be necessary for a quorum at any meeting of this club. Except as otherwise specifically provided, the act of a majority of the members present at any meeting shall be the act and decision of the entire club.

**Section 6. GOOD STANDING.** Any member who fails to pay any indebtedness due this club within sixty (60) days after receipt of written notice from the treasurer shall forfeit his/her good standing and shall so remain until such indebtedness is paid in full. Only members in good standing may exercise the voting privilege and hold office in this club.

**Section 7. BOARD OF DIRECTORS REGULAR MEETINGS.** Regular meetings of the board of directors shall be held at such times and places as the board shall determine. (It is recommended that the board of directors meet at least once each month.)

**Section 8. BOARD OF DIRECTORS SPECIAL MEETINGS.** Special meetings of the board of directors shall be held when called by the president, or when requested by three (3) or more members of the board of directors, at such time and place as the president shall determine.

#### **ARTICLE IV - Elections and Filling Vacancies**

The officers of this club, excluding the immediate past president, shall be elected as follows:

**Section 1. NOMINATION MEETING.** A nomination meeting shall be held in March of each year, with the date and place of such meeting to be determined by the board of directors and notice mailed to each member of this club at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the date of the meeting.

**Section 2. NOMINATING COMMITTEE.** The president shall appoint a nominating committee which shall submit the names of candidates for the various club offices to the club at the nomination meeting. At this meeting, nominations for all offices to be filled in the succeeding year may also be made from the floor.

**Section 3. NOMINEE UNABLE TO SERVE.** If in the interim between the nomination meeting and the election meeting any nominee is unable for any reason to serve in the office to which he/she was nominated and for which office there was no other nominee, the nominating committee shall submit, at the election meeting, names of additional nominees for that office.

**Section 4. ELECTION COMMITTEE.** An election meeting shall be held no later than April 15 of each year, at a time and place determined by the board of directors, and fourteen (14) calendar days prior written notice shall be given to each member of the club by the secretary, by mail or personal delivery. Such notice shall include the names of all nominees approved at the preceding nomination meeting, and, subject to Section 3 above, a statement that these nominees will be voted upon at this election meeting. No nominations may be made from the floor at the election meeting.

**Section 5. ANNUAL ELECTION.** Subject to the provisions of Section 8 of this Article all officers, other than directors, shall be elected annually and shall take office on July 1st, and shall hold office for one year from that date, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified.

**Section 6. MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE.** A membership committee shall be composed of three elected members for a three year term. Initially three members will be elected. One member shall serve for one (1) year, the second member for two (2) years and the third member for three (3) years. Each year thereafter, a new member will be elected. Each member shall serve for three (3) continuous years on a rotation system subject to annual confirmation for the years remaining by the club's board of directors. The first year member shall be a member of the committee, the second year member shall be its vice chairperson and the third year member shall serve as its chairperson and as membership director on the club's board of directors. The first-year member is encouraged to focus on membership development, the second-year member is encouraged to focus on retention and leadership, while the third-year member (chairperson) is encouraged to focus on extension.

**Section 7. DIRECTORS ELECTION.** One-half of the directors shall be elected annually and shall take office on the July 1st next following their election, and shall hold office for two (2) years from that time, or until their successors shall have been elected and qualified, with the exception that at the first election held after the adoption of this constitution and by-laws, one-half of the directors shall be elected for two year terms and the other one-half of the directors shall be elected for one year terms.

**Section 8. BALLOT.** The election shall be by verbal vote of those present and qualified to vote. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect or to change the method of tabulating votes. Positions for which there are nominations from the floor shall be voted first.

**Section 9. VACANCY.** If the office of president or of any vice president shall become vacant for any reason, the vice presidents shall advance in office, according to their rank. In the event such provision for advancement shall fail to fill the office of president, or any office of vice president, the board of directors shall thereon call a special election, giving each member in good standing prior fourteen (14) calendar days notice of the time and place, which time and place shall be determined by said board, and such office shall be filled at said election meeting.

In the event of a vacancy in any other office, the board of directors shall appoint a member to fill the unexpired term.

In the event vacancies shall be of such number as to reduce the number of directors to less than the number required for a quorum, the membership of the club shall have power to fill such vacancies by an election held at any regular meeting of the club upon prior notice, and in the manner, specified in Section 10 hereinafter. Such notice may be given by any remaining officer or director, but if none, then by any member.

**Section 10. REPLACEMENT OF OFFICERS-ELECT.** In the event any officer-elect, before his/her term of office commences, is unable or refuses for any reason to serve therein, the president may call a special nomination and election meeting to elect a replacement for such officer elect. Fourteen (14) calendar days prior notice of such meeting, setting forth the purpose, time and place shall be given to each member, by mail or personal delivery. The election shall be held immediately after nominations have been closed and a plurality vote shall be necessary for election.

## ARTICLE V - Fees and Dues

**Section 1. ENTRANCE FEE.** Each new, reinstated and transfer member shall pay an entrance fee which shall include the current association entrance fee and be collected before such member is enrolled as a member of this club and before the secretary may report such member to Lions Clubs International; provided, however, that the board of directors may elect to waive all or any part of the club portion of said entrance fee as to any member granted membership by transfer or reinstatement within six (6) months of termination of his/her prior Lions club membership.

**Section 2. ANNUAL DUES.** Each member of this club shall pay regular annual dues which dues shall include an amount to cover current international and district (single or sub- and multiple) dues (to defray the subscription price of THE LION Magazine, administrative and annual convention costs of the association and similar district costs) and shall be paid in advance at such times as the board of directors shall determine.

**Section 3. ESTABLISHMENT.** The treasurer shall on an annual basis present to the board of directors recommended amounts for entrance fees and dues for each category of membership. Prior to a vote by the board, at least seven (7) calendar days advance notice shall be mailed to all members of the club. Approval shall be by a majority vote of those board members present and voting.

The treasurer of this club shall remit international and district (single or sub- and multiple) dues to the parties, and at the times, specified in the respective international and district (single or multiple) constitution and by-laws.

## ARTICLE VI - Club Branch Administration

**Section 1. COORDINATOR/VICE COORDINATOR.** The members comprising the branch shall elect a coordinator and vice coordinator. The coordinator shall also be a member of the parent club's board of directors and be encouraged to attend general and/or board meetings of the parent club to provide branch records and a report of planned branch activities, a monthly financial report and coordinate efforts to encourage open discussion and effective communication between the branch and parent club. Members of the branch are encouraged to attend scheduled meetings of the parent club.

**Section 2. LIAISON.** The parent club shall designate a member of the parent club to oversee the progress of the branch and provide assistance to the branch, when necessary. The member serving in this capacity shall also serve as the third officer of the branch.

**Section 3. VOTING ENTITLEMENT.** The members of the branch may vote on activities of the branch and are voting members of the parent club, when in attendance at meetings of the parent club. Branch members shall be calculated in parent club meeting quorum requirements only when present in person at the parent club meeting. Attendance at branch meetings fulfills regular club attendance requirements.

## **ARTICLE VII - Committees**

**Section 1. STANDING COMMITTEES.** The following standing committees may be appointed by the president, except for the members and chairperson of the membership committee, who are elected. (See Article IV, Sections 6 and 7)

**(a) Administrative Committees:**

- Attendance
- Bulletin Editor
- Constitution and By-Laws
- Convention
- Finance
- Greeter
- Information Technology
- Leadership Development
- Lions Information
- Membership
- Program
- Public Relations

**(b) Activities Committees:**

- Diabetes Awareness
- Environmental Services
- Hearing and Speech Action and Work with the Deaf
- International Relations Program
- Leo Club Program
- Lioness Club Program
- Sight Conservation and Work with the Blind
- Youth Camps and Exchange Program
- Lions Opportunities for Youth (Youth)
- Other activities of Lionism for which committees may be appointed are: Citizenship Services; Educational Services; Health Services; Social Services; Recreational Services; Public Services.

**Section 2. SPECIAL COMMITTEES.** From time to time, the president may appoint, with the approval of the board of directors, such special committees as may be necessary in his/her judgment or the judgment of the board of directors.

**Section 3. PRESIDENT EX-OFFICIO.** The president shall be an ex-officio member of all committees.

**Section 4. COMPOSITION.** All committees shall consist of a chairperson, and subject to Section 2 above, as many members as shall be considered necessary by the president.

**Section 5. COMMITTEE REPORTING.** Each committee, through its chairperson, should be encouraged as necessary to report, either verbally or in writing, each month to the board of directors.

### **ARTICLE VIII - Parliamentary Practices**

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this constitution and by-laws, all questions of order or procedure with respect to any meeting or action of this club, its board of directors or any committee appointed hereunder shall be determined in accordance with ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED, as revised from time to time.

### **ARTICLE IX - Miscellaneous**

**Section 1. EMBLEM, COLORS.** The emblem and colors of this club shall be the same as the emblem and colors of Lions Clubs International.

**Section 2. FISCAL YEAR.** The fiscal year of this club shall be July 1 through June 30.

**Section 3. HONORARY MAILING LIST.** Lions Clubs International and the district governor shall be included on the mailing list of this club.

**Section 4. PARTISAN POLITICS/RELIGION.** This club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office, nor shall partisan politics or sectarian religion be debated by members in meetings of this club.

**Section 5. PERSONAL BENEFIT.** Except to further his/her progress in Lionism, no officer or member of this club shall use his/her membership as a means of furthering any personal, political, or other aspiration, nor shall the club, as a whole, take part in any movement not in keeping with its purposes and objects.

**Section 6. SOLICITATION OF FUNDS.** No funds shall be solicited from members of the club during meetings by any individual or individuals who are not members of the club. Any suggestion or proposition made at any meeting of this

club calling for the expenditure of money for other than the regular obligations shall be referred to the appropriate committee or to the board of directors.

## **ARTICLE X - Amendments**

**Section 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE.** These by-laws may be altered, amended or repealed at any regular or special meeting of this club which are:

FIRST: Voted upon by the board of directors at a meeting where quorum shall be a two-thirds (2/3) majority of all directors, and

SECOND: Approved by the membership at a meeting where a quorum is present and approved by a vote of a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the members eligible to vote and present and voting.

**Section 2. NOTICE.** No amendment shall be put to vote unless written notice stating the proposed amendment, shall have been mailed or delivered personally to each member at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the meeting at which the vote on the amendment is to be taken.

## EXHIBIT A

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY CHART

#### OBLIGATIONS

CATEGORY	REGULAR ATTENDANCE	PROMPT PAYMENT OF DUES (CLUB, DISTRICT AND INTERNATIONAL)	PARTICIPATION IN CLUB ACTIVITIES	CONDUCT REFLECTING FAVORABLE IMAGE
ACTIVE	YES	YES	YES	YES
AFFILIATE	NO	YES	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES
ASSOCIATE	YES, PRIMARY CLUB NO, SECONDARY CLUB	YES, CLUB ONLY	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES
HONORARY	NO	NO, CLUB PAY APPLICABLE INT'L AND DISTRICT DUES	NO	YES
LIFE	NO	YES, DISTRICT & CLUB ONLY- NO INT'L DUES OBLIGATIONS	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES
MEMBER AT LARGE	NO	YES	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES
PRIVILEGED	NO	YES	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES

**RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES**

CATEGORY	ELIGIBILITY TO SEEK CLUB, DISTRICT OR INT'L OFFICE	VOTING PRIVILEGES	DELEGATE AT DISTRICT OR INT'L CONVENTION
ACTIVE	YES	YES	YES
AFFILIATE	NO	CLUB MATTERS ONLY	NO
ASSOCIATE	NO	DISTRICT CONVENTION (PRIMARY) CLUB MATTERS ONLY (BOTH)	NO
HONORARY	NO	NO	NO
LIFE	YES, IF FULFILLS OBLIGATIONS OF ACTIVE MEMBER	YES, IF FULFILLS OBLIGATIONS OF ACTIVE MEMBER	YES, IF FULFILLS OBLIGATIONS OF ACTIVE MEMBER
MEMBER AT LARGE	NO	YES, CLUB MATTERS ONLY	NO
PRIVILEGED	NO	YES	YES

**EXHIBIT A (Continued)**

**MEMBER CATEGORY LIMITS**

Honorary Members – Not to exceed 5% of total actual membership; any fraction shall permit one additional honorary member.

Affiliate Members – Not to exceed 25% of total actual membership.

## LIONS CODE OF ETHICS

to show my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

to seek success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

to remember that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

whenever a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position or action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

to hold friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

always to bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor, and means.

to aid others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

to be careful with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

THE  
MYSTIC LIONS CLUB  
P. O. BOX 94  
MYSTIC, CONNECTICUT 06355, USA  
<http://mysticlionsct.lionwap.org>