

LIONS CLUB

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS



*The Lions Club of
Mattapoisett, Massachusetts USA*

Chartered by and under the jurisdiction of

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS

Effective June 22, 2005

Revision Date:

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Constitution and By-Laws



The Lions Club of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts USA

Chartered by and under the jurisdiction of

THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS

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

MATTAPOISETT LIONS CLUB ORGANIZATION PLAN

Officers and Directors (Board of Directors)

President, Secretary and Treasurer

1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and 3rd Vice President

Lion Tamer, Tail Twister, Immediate Past President and 4 Directors

Membership Director, Bulletin Editor

Administrative Committees None

Activities Committees Harbor Days Planning Committee

CLUB CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I Name, Slogan and Motto

Section 1. **NAME.** The name of this organization shall be the Lions Club of Mattapoisett, Massachusetts USA, 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 appears 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. 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. If approved by a majority of said board, 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 shall have the minimum of 10 members in good standing.

ARTICLE VI 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, bulletin editor and elected directors.

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

ARTICLE VII 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, bulletin editor and three 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 and state 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.

ARTICLE VIII Delegates to District and State Conventions

Section 1. **DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT DISTRICT and STATE CONVENTION.** Inasmuch as all district matters are presented and adopted at the district conventions, this club shall be entitled to send its full quota of delegates to all such conventions. This club shall be entitled in each annual convention of its district 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 IX Dispute Resolution

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 matter whatsoever which cannot be satisfactorily resolved through other means, shall be settled by dispute resolution.

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. Within fifteen (15) days of receipt, the district governor shall appoint a 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 a club which is a party to the dispute, in the district in which the dispute arises. The selected conciliator shall be acceptable to the parties. Upon being selected, 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. 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 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. All decisions of the conciliators are subject to the authority of the International Board of Directors.

ARTICLE X Amendments

Section 1. **AMENDING PROCEDURE.** This constitution may be amended at any regular or special meeting of this club, at which a quorum is present, by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present in person and voting, provided that the board has previously considered the merits of the amendments.

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 of this club at least fourteen (14) calendar days prior to the meeting at which the vote on the proposed amendment is to be taken.

BY-LAWS

ARTICLE I Membership

Section 1. MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES.

(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.

(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 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 fifteen 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. 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:

(a) recommendation of this club to the association,

(b) payment to the association of US\$300.00, or its equivalent in the respective national currency, by this club in lieu of all future dues to the association, and

(c) approval by the International Board of Directors. Nothing herein shall prevent this club from charging a Life Member such dues as it shall deem proper. 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.

(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.