

## **A. NEW CLUB CRITERIA**

### **1. Application**

Application for a Lions club charter may be made to the association by any group, club or assembly which has been duly organized and has elected officers. Such application, signed by not less than such number of members as the International Board of Directors shall require, shall be made, on forms provided, to the International Office of the association and shall be accompanied by such charter fees as the International Board of Directors shall determine. Upon approval thereof by said board, a charter, signed by the president and secretary of the association shall be issued to such club. A Lions club shall be considered chartered when its charter has been officially issued. The acceptance of charter by a Lions club shall be ratification of, and agreement on its part to be bound by, the constitution and by-laws of the association and a submission by said Lions club to have its relationship with this association interpreted and governed by the constitution and by-laws according to the laws in effect, from time to time, in the state of incorporation of The International Association of Lions Clubs.

### **2. Documentation**

No proposed club shall be issued a charter, entered upon the record of Lions Clubs International or be officially recognized until the day the following items are received at the International Headquarters in Oak Brook, Illinois, USA and approved by the international board or its designee:

- a. Completed official application for charter.
- b. The names of a minimum of twenty (20) charter members, 75% of whom reside or work within the multiple district and are new Lions, except in the case of friendly separation of a large existing club.
- c. Corresponding charter fees - The charter fee shall be US\$30.00. Lions in good standing, transferring from an active Lions club shall pay a US\$20.00 charter fee except for club branch members who are exempt. The charter fee and the new member entrance fee are non-refundable.

(1) No district, sub-district or club shall impose any charter fees in addition to those specified in the Lions Clubs International constitution or authorized by board action.

(2) In countries other than the United States and Canada, a duplicate deposit slip from a recognized banking institution of that country showing the funds credited to the account of Lions Clubs International will fulfill the requirement of funds having been received by Lions Clubs International.

### **3. Charter Members**

All members joining a Lions club before charter night will be considered charter members, provided the charter night is held within 90 days after the charter approval date. All club charters will be closed, if not closed prior thereto, upon the expiration of

said 90 day period.

#### **4. Club Sponsor**

a. Every new club must be sponsored by a club, zone, region, district cabinet, or a district committee as provided by the multiple district constitution and by-laws. The new club sponsor shall be provided for from within the boundaries of the district in which the club is located. The new club sponsor shall be thoroughly indoctrinated in its responsibilities. A sponsoring club may be assisted by one or more co-sponsoring clubs, as authorized by the district governor of the club location. The co-sponsoring club may come from another district. In club extension in new countries, the coordinating Lion shall assist.

b. The first club in a new geographical area shall be sponsored by a Lions club and/or its district. Each additional club may be sponsored by Lions clubs from the initial sponsoring district, as well as by Lions clubs from another district with the stipulation that said sponsoring clubs acknowledge their full responsibility for sponsorship, including assignment of qualified Guiding Lions, until the undistricted area is formed into a provisional district. Under special circumstances, as determined by the board of directors or the members of the Executive Committee, the sponsoring club may be designated from an undistricted territory.

The criteria for the approval of a new club under these special circumstances shall be any of:

(1) When no other existing districted Lions club is in close geographical proximity to the proposed club.

(2) When no other districted club will act as sponsor, because of the implied financial responsibility attached to such sponsorship.

(3) When members of a proposed sponsoring club have strong personal ties to the proposed club and potential members.

(4) When financial subsidies from a sponsoring undistricted club may be the only way to advance Lions membership in that area, because districted clubs are unable to, or refuse to, advance Lionism. This is limited to charter fees only.

c. An embroidered Lions emblem surrounded by the words "New Club Sponsor," which may be mounted on the official club banner, will be presented to the sponsoring club.

#### **5. Club Name**

a. A proposed Lions club must be known by the actual name of the "municipality" or its equivalent governmental subdivision in which it is located. The term "municipality" is construed to mean the city, town, village, prefecture, county or similar officially named governmental unit. If the proposed club is not located within a municipality, it must be known by the name of the most appropriate and locally identifiable official governmental unit in which it is located.

b. The "distinguishing designation" for clubs located in the same "municipality" or equivalent governmental subdivision may be any name which clearly identifies the

club from all other clubs in the same municipality or equivalent governmental subdivision. The distinguishing designation will be affixed after the governmental municipality and separated within parentheses on the official records of the association.

c. The term "Host Club" shall be a title of prestige and recognition of the parent club in the municipality. It shall carry no other special priority, benefits or privileges.

d. Lions clubs shall not be named after living individuals except those individuals who have served in the position as president of Lions Clubs International.

e. No Lions club may add "International" as a distinguishing designation to its name.

f. The term "Leo" may be added as a distinguishing designation to the name of a Lions club.

g. When including a company name in naming of a Lions club, a letter or document demonstrating that the company has authorized the use of its corporate name in connection with the naming of the club must be provided (for example, a letter from a corporate representative on company letterhead) prior to approving the name of a club that includes a company name.

## **6. Club Boundaries**

The boundaries of the club shall be the boundaries of the municipality or equivalent governmental subdivision in which the club is located, or within the boundary of a single, sub, or provisional district within the jurisdiction of the district governor, with approval of the district cabinet as provided by the multiple district and/or district constitution and by-laws, where the club is located.

## **7. Charter Approval Date**

The date the charter application is approved will be the charter approval date. This date will appear on the club charter and on the official association records.

## **8. Charter**

a. The president and the secretary of Lions Clubs International shall sign all charters for new clubs. The sponsoring club or district cabinet's or district committee's name will also be shown.

b. Charters for new clubs shall be sent directly to the district governor or coordinating Lion. An approved charter for an undistricted club shall be sent to the president of the new club.

## **9. Dues**

Charter member dues begin the first of the month following the date upon which the member's name was reported to the sponsoring club, coordinating Lion and Lions Clubs International. The new Lions club will be billed for dues shortly after its charter is closed.

## **10. Charter Application Deadline**

Complete charter applications received by the International Headquarters at Oak Brook, Illinois, USA, on or before the close of business on June 20th will be processed for the current fiscal year.

### **11. Ensuring Viable New Clubs**

A district that charters ten or more new clubs in a fiscal year must provide verification that the new clubs will be supported for long-term growth and therefore shall be required to 1) submit a detailed plan outlining the support that the new club will receive; 2) provide payment of one-half the annual International dues when the charter applications are submitted; 3) have the charter applications certified by both the district governor and the first vice district governor; 4) through December 31 of each fiscal year, when the First Vice District Governor approval is not received, a charter application over the tenth, that the GMT Area Leader approval may be substituted; and 5) each charter application will require approval from the Membership Development Committee.

A district that charters ten or more new clubs in a fiscal year must provide verification that the new clubs will be supported for long-term growth and therefore shall be required to 1) submit a detailed plan outlining the support that the new club will receive; 2) provide payment of one-half the annual International dues when the charter applications are submitted; 3) have the charter applications certified by both the district governor and the first vice district governor; and 4) each charter application will require approval from the Membership Development Committee.

Effective October 10, 2013

Chapter X

Page 3