



# MULTIPLE DISTRICT 49 CONSTITUTION

## INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS



As adopted at the  
70th Annual Multiple District 49 Convention  
Revised Fairbanks, AK. 2013

### Lions Clubs International

#### 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.*

Multiple District 49

CANADA-USA, Alaska, British Columbia, Northwest Territories & Yukon Territory

Date Adopted: 27 April 2013

**MULTIPLE DISTRICT 49 CONSTITUTION  
TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**ARTICLE I – Name** .....3

**ARTICLE II – Purposes** .....3

**ARTICLE III – Membership** .....3

**ARTICLE IV – Emblem, Colors, Slogan and Motto**

    SEC. 1 – Emblem.....3

    SEC. 2 – Use of Name and Emblem.....3

    SEC. 3 – Colors .....4

    SEC. 4 – Slogan.....4

    SEC. 5 – Motto.....4

**ARTICLE V – Supremacy** .....4

**ARTICLE VI – Officers and Council of Governors**

    SEC. 1 – Composition .....4

    SEC. 2 – Officers .....4

    SEC. 3 – Powers.....5

    SEC. 4 – Removal .....5

**ARTICLE VII – Multiple District Convention**

    SEC. 1 – Time and Place.....5

    SEC. 2 – Club Delegate Formula.....6

    SEC. 3 – Quorum.....6

    SEC. 4 – Special Convention.....6

**ARTICLE VIII – Multiple District Dispute Resolution Procedure**

    SEC. 1 – Disputes Subject to Procedure.....7

    SEC. 2 – Complaints and Filing Fee.....7

    SEC. 3 – Response to Complaint .....7

    SEC. 4 – Confidentiality .....7

    SEC. 5 – Selection of Conciliators .....7

    SEC. 6 – Conciliation Meeting & Decision of Conciliators.....8

**ARTICLE IX– Amendments**

    SEC. 1 – Amending Procedure .....8

    SEC. 2 – Automatic Update .....9

    SEC. 3 – Notice .....9

    SEC. 4 – Effective Date .....9

## **MULTIPLE DISTRICT 49 CONSTITUTION**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **Name**

This organization shall be known as Lions Multiple District No. 49, hereinafter referred to as "multiple district."

### **ARTICLE II**

#### **Purposes**

The purposes of this multiple district shall be:

- (a) To provide an administrative structure with which to advance the Purposes of Lions Clubs International in this multiple 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 multiple district chartered by Lions Clubs International. This multiple district shall consist of two (2) sub-districts (49A/49B), with boundary lines as adopted by a multiple district convention and approved by the International Board of Directors of Lions Clubs International.

### **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 Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws shall govern the multiple district unless otherwise amended so as not to conflict with the 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 multiple district constitution and by-laws and the International Constitution and By-Laws, then the International Constitution and By-Laws shall govern.

Section 1. Each Sub-District of this Multiple District shall establish its own Constitution and organization within the prescribed objects of the Multiple District and The International Association of Lions Clubs.

Section 2. The Constitution of each Sub-District so approved by the certified delegates of that Sub-District at their Annual Convention in conjunction with the Multiple District Convention shall be filed with the Multiple District Council of Governors and the International Association of Lions Clubs.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **Officers and Council of Governors**

Section 1. **COMPOSITION.** There shall be a Council of Governors composed of all the district governors in the multiple district and shall also include one past district governor who shall serve as council chairperson. The officers of this multiple district shall be the members of the Council of Governors. Each member of the council of governors, including the council chairperson, shall have one (1) vote on each question requiring action of the council of governors. The council chairperson shall serve for a one-year term only and cannot serve in that capacity again. (Note: Article VIII, Section 4 of the International By-Laws permits the multiple district, by provision in its constitution and bylaws, to include certain other Lions as members of the Council of Governors.)

Section 2. **OFFICERS.** The officers of the Council of Governors shall be a chairperson and vice-chairperson, secretary and treasurer and such other officers as the Council of Governors shall deem necessary, all of whom shall be elected annually by the Council of Governors.

(a). The Past District Governor member of the Council shall be elected at the annual Multiple District Convention and shall be Chairman of the Council of Governors.

(b). The Past District Governor elected as Chairman of the Council of Governors shall serve one term only and cannot serve in that capacity again. In the event of a vacancy in the office Multiple District Council Chairman, the Governors of that Council and the Immediate Past Governors of each District shall meet and appoint a new Council Chairman to serve the remainder of that term. The Past District Governor selected must be from the same District as the elected Chairman and must meet the qualifications for Council Chairman as outlined in **Article II, Section 1**, of the By-Laws to this

Constitution. An appointed Chairman of the Council with less than six (6) months in office will still be eligible for a full term if subsequently elected.

(c). The Past District Governor elected as Chairman of the Council of Governors shall have one (1) vote only and to be cast only in the event of a tie vote by the Members of the Council.

Section 3. **POWERS.** Except where inconsistent with and contrary to the provisions of the articles of incorporation and constitution and by-laws of Lions Clubs International, the powers granted therein to the board of directors of said association, and the policies and acts of said board of directors, the Council of Governors shall:

(a) Have jurisdiction and control over all officers and agents, when acting as such, of the Council of Governors and all committees of the multiple district and multiple district convention;

(b) Have management and control over the property, business and funds of the multiple district;

(c) Have jurisdiction, control and supervision over all phases of the multiple district convention and all other meetings of the multiple district;

(d) Have original jurisdiction, when authorized under policy of the international board of directors and under rules of procedure prescribed by said board, to hear and rule upon any complaint of a constitutional nature raised by any sub-district or districts, and Lions club, or any member of a Lions club, in the multiple district. All such rulings of the Council of Governors shall be subject to review and decision by said international board;

(e) Have control and management of all budgetary matters of the multiple district and committees of the multiple district and multiple district convention. No obligation may be approved or made which shall affect an unbalanced budget or deficit in any fiscal year.

Section 4. **REMOVAL.** Members of the Council of Governors, other than a District Governor, may be removed for cause by an affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the entire number of the Council of Governors.

Section 5. The personal presence of a majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum at any meeting thereof, provided that each Sub-District is represented.

Section 6. The Council shall hold a regularly meeting immediately following the Multiple District Convention and such other meetings during the year as the Council deems advisable. The Council Chairperson shall issue a written call at least forty-five (45) days prior notice of each meeting of the Council, with the time and place thereof to be set out in the call as determined by the Chairperson.

## **Article VII**

### **Multiple District Convention**

Section 1. **TIME AND PLACE.** The Annual Convention of the Multiple District shall be held each year prior to the International Convention at a place selected by a previous Annual Convention of the Multiple District and at a date and time fixed by the Council, provided, however, that the selection of the Convention site shall be made at least five (5) years and not more than eight (8) years in advance.

- (a). The members of the Council shall be the Officers of the Annual Multiple District Convention.
- (b). A convention of each Sub-District in this Multiple District shall be held in conjunction with the Multiple District Convention. The registered and certified delegates of a Sub-District in attendance at a Multiple District Convention shall constitute the delegates of the Annual Convention of the Multiple District.
- (c). The Council shall retain, and have, absolute power to change at any time, for good reason, the Convention site chosen by the Multiple District Convention, and neither Council nor the Multiple District shall incur any liability thereby to any Club or Sub-District
- (d). The site of the Multiple District Convention shall rotate, in turn, from year to year among the Sub-Districts of the Multiple District. In the event a Sub-District shall fail to provide a site for the same in the year of its turn, then, subject to **SECTION 4**, above, The Council shall determine the site

**Section 2. CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA.**

- (a). Each chartered club in good standing in Lions Clubs International, and its district, and this multiple district shall be entitled in each convention of this multiple 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 the club or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the international office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members. Each certified delegate present in person shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote only for each office to be filled by, and one (1) vote only on each question submitted to, the respective convention. Unless otherwise specified herein, the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates voting on any question shall be the act of the convention. All eligible delegates must be members in good standing of a club in good standing in this district. Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired at any time prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention.
- (b). Any Past District Governor attending a Convention of this Multiple District and its appropriate Sub-District who is a member in good standing of a Lions Club in good standing in this Multiple District and its appropriate Sub-District shall be granted full delegate status, independent of the herein specified Club Delegate quota.

**Section 3. QUORUM.** A majority of the delegates in attendance at any session of a sub- or multiple district convention shall constitute a quorum.

**Section 4. SPECIAL CONVENTION.** A Special Convention of the clubs of the Multiple District may be called by a two-thirds vote of the Council of Governors at such time and place as they shall determine; provided that such Special Convention shall conclude no less than 15 days prior to the convening date of the International Convention. Written notice of the Special Convention setting forth the time, place and purpose thereof, shall be provided to each club in the Multiple District by the Multiple District Council Secretary, no less than 30 days prior to the convening date of the Special Convention.

## **ARTICLE VIII**

### **Multiple 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 multiple district constitution and by-laws, or any policy or procedure adopted from time to time by the multiple district council of governors, or any other internal Lions multiple district matter that cannot be satisfactorily resolved through other means, arising between any clubs or sub-districts in the multiple district, or any club(s) or sub-district(s) and the multiple district 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 multiple district council chairperson, 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 or sub-district within the association (the “complainant”) may file a written request with the council chairperson (a “complaint”), with a copy to the Legal Division, asking that dispute resolution take place under this procedure. The complaint must be filed with the council chairperson 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 or cabinet secretary certifying that a resolution in support of filing the complaint has been adopted by a majority of the entire membership of the club or district cabinet. 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 multiple district which shall be submitted to the council chairperson 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 multiple district 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 multiple district 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 multiple district 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 multiple district 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 multiple district, unless established multiple 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. **RESPONSE TO COMPLAINT** The respondent(s) to the complaint may file a written response to the complaint with the council chairperson 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), council chairperson 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, who shall be a past district governor, preferably a past council chairperson, 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 multiple district in which the dispute arises, and shall be impartial on the matter in dispute and without loyalties to any party to the dispute. The selected conciliators shall select one (1) neutral conciliator who will serve as chairperson, and who shall

be a past international director and is currently a member in good standing of a club in good standing in the multiple district 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. In the event there is no neutral past international director who may be selected from within the multiple district in which the dispute arises, the selected conciliators may select one (1) neutral conciliator/chairperson who shall be a past international director and is a member of a club in good standing outside the respective multiple district. The selected conciliators' decision relative to the selection of the conciliator/chairperson shall be final and binding. 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 fifteen (15) days, 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 multiple district in which the dispute arises, the selected conciliators may select one (1) neutral conciliator/chairperson who shall be a past international director and is a member of a club in good standing outside the respective multiple district. In the event the second team of selected conciliators cannot agree on the selection of the conciliator/chairperson from within or outside the multiple district in which the dispute arises, then the past international director who most recently served on the International Board of Directors from within the multiple district in which the dispute arises or from an adjacent multiple district, 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 multiple district council chairperson or the conciliators.

**Section 6. CONCILIATION MEETING & DECISION OF CONCILIATORS** 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 multiple district council chairperson, the multiple district council of governors and, upon request, 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. AMENDING PROCEDURE.** This constitution may be amended only at a multiple district convention, by resolution reported by the Convention Committee on Constitution and By-Laws and adopted by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast.



Section 2. **AUTOMATIC UPDATE.** When amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws are passed at the International Convention, any amendments that would have an effect on this Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws shall automatically be updated in this district constitution and by-laws at the close of the convention.

Section 3. **NOTICE.** No amendments shall be so reported or voted upon unless the same shall have been passed by a majority vote of a local Board of Directors present of a Lions Club in good standing. Such proposed amendment(s) shall be forwarded to the District Governor of the sponsoring Club prior to the annual Mid-Winter Conference for District Cabinet recommendations of “Unconditional Pass”, “Pass on Condition that...”, or “Do Not Pass”. Proposed recommendations with Cabinet recommendations and any other comments or changes made by the sponsoring Club per Cabinet recommendations shall then be forwarded by that Club to the Multiple District 49 Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee by certified or registered mail not less than ninety (90) days prior to the convening date of the Multiple District Convention. The Constitution and By-Laws Chairman shall then mail copies to each Club in the Multiple District 49 not less than forty-five (45) days prior to the convening of the Annual Convention along with notice that each will be voted on at said Convention by secret ballot.

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