

## CHAPTER XVII MEMBERSHIP

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### A. CLASSIFICATIONS

#### 1. Honorary Membership

- a. The total number of Honorary Memberships shall not exceed 5% of the total active membership of the club; any fraction shall permit one additional Honorary Member.
- b. As a guide, the minimum age limit for Honorary Membership shall be established at thirty years.

#### 2. Life Membership

- a. All applications for Life Membership shall be reviewed and qualifications confirmed by the international office for approval.
- b. Life Members approved after July 1, 1980 will receive, in addition to the silver card, one Life Member tab without cost. Additional tabs can be purchased.
- c. Life Membership may be revoked by order of the board of directors when due cause is shown.

#### 3. Membership in a Lions club shall be as follows:

- a. **Active:** A member eligible to seek, if 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 obligation shall include prompt payment of dues, participation in club activities and conduct reflecting a favorable image of this Lions club in the community. This membership category shall be included in the club delegate formula calculation.
- 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. The 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. This membership category shall be included in the club delegate formula calculation.
- c. **Honorary:** An individual, not a member of this Lions club, having performed outstanding service for the community of 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. This membership category shall not be included in the club delegate formula calculation.

- 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. This membership category shall be included in the club delegate formula calculation.
- 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 \$650.00, or its equivalent in the respective national currency, by this club in lieu of all future dues to the association, and

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.

This membership category shall be included in the club delegate formula calculation.

- 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 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 an Associate; PROVIDED, however, nothing shall prevent this club from assessing an Associate such dues as it shall deem proper. This membership category shall not be included in the club delegate formula calculation.

- 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. This membership category shall be included in the club delegate formula calculation.

**EXHIBIT A**

**MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY CHART**

CATEGORY	PROMPT PAYMENT OF DUES (CLUB, DISTRICT AND INTERNATIONAL)	PARTICIPATION IN CLUB ACTIVITIES	CONDUCT REFLECTING FAVORABLE IMAGE	ELIGIBILITY TO SEEK CLUB, DISTRICT OR INT'L OFFICE	VOTING PRIVILEGES	DELEGATE AT DISTRICT OR INT'L CONVENTION
ACTIVE	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES	YES
AFFILIATE	YES	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES	NO	CLUB MATTERS ONLY	NO
ASSOCIATE	YES, CLUB ONLY	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES	NO	DISTRICT CONVENTION (PRIMARY) CLUB MATTERS ONLY (BOTH)	NO
HONORARY	NO, CLUB PAY APPLICABLE INT'L AND DISTRICT DUES	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES	NO	NO	NO
LIFE	YES, DISTRICT & CLUB ONLY- NO INT'L DUES OBLIGATIONS	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES	YES, IF FULFILLS OBLIGATIONS OF ACTIVE MEMBER	YES, IF FULFILLS OBLIGATIONS OF ACTIVE MEMBER	YES, IF FULFILLS OBLIGATIONS OF ACTIVE MEMBER
MEMBER AT LARGE	YES	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES	NO	YES, CLUB MATTERS ONLY	NO
PRIVILEGED	YES	YES, WHEN ABLE	YES	NO	YES	YES

## **B. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AND FAMILY DUES PROVISION**

1. The Family Membership Program provides families with the opportunity to join a Lions club, upon invitation, under a special family dues concession. The program is designed for either existing members who wish to invite other family members to join their club and for clubs that wish to expand their community service by involving more families from the community they serve, subject to the provisions and regulations as described below.
2. For the purpose of this program, the eligibility definition for 'family' shall be as follows: A family includes all members living in the same household related by birth, marriage or other legal relationship. Common household family members include parents, children, spouses, aunts and uncles, cousins, grandparents, in-laws and other legal dependents.
3. The Family Membership Program is open to family members who are (1) eligible for Lions membership, (2) currently in or joining the same club and (3) living in the same household. New family members must be invited and approved by the clubs board of directors. Family membership is limited to five qualifying family members per household, and new clubs must have a minimum of ten full paying members. Same-household residency is not required for members under age 26 if they are pursuing higher education or serving in their country's military.
4. The first family member (head of household) pays full international dues (as well as any applicable club, district or multiple district dues), and up to four qualifying family members pay half international dues. Life Members qualify as the full paying first member. All family members pay the one-time entrance fee and shall be Active Members with all rights and privileges. The designated head of household is not eligible for other dues discount programs.
5. To qualify for the family membership dues rate, existing qualifying family members shall be certified and reported as family members by the May 31 and November 30 deadline dates in order to be billed at the discounted family rate for that upcoming respective semi-annual dues billing. Subsequent family members, up to a limit of four more, who meet the Family Membership Program qualifications, shall be required to pay one half the normal international dues. Club officers reporting new family unit members to Lions Clubs International, shall certify the family relationship as well as the residence information. Clubs using the paper Monthly Membership Report form will submit the Family Unit Certification Form at the same time as the Monthly Membership Report listing the new member. Lions Clubs International will not issue credits to clubs that complete certification after the new member has been added; in these cases, the family unit billing rate will take effect with the next semi-annual dues billing.
6. In the case of newly chartered clubs, family unit certification shall be done at the time the members are added to the club either online via MyLCI or on the Report of Charter Members form. A minimum of 10 members who are paying full dues is required when utilizing the Family Membership Program to charter a new club.

7. Per the association's constitution, formal membership is limited to individuals who are above the age of majority. Therefore, adolescents and minor children shall not be entitled to formal membership and not be added to the membership roster. In such cases, clubs are encouraged to sponsor Leo clubs, or organize a Cub club, for these younger family members as desired.
8. No credits will be issued to clubs that change a Lions join date in order to receive the family dues rate.
9. To verify same household residency and other eligibility requirements, the club secretary shall complete certification for each family unit and provide a certification key code indicating the type of supporting documentation he/she reviewed for determining the family members meet the eligibility requirements. The application shall be completed using MyLCI, or submitted in paper form for clubs reporting member additions using the hard copy Monthly Membership Report.
10. Clubs that add more than 10 family members in a month shall be required to provide additional documentation to LCI confirming their eligibility for family membership, and such members will not be added to the association's membership records until such documents have been reviewed.
11. Family member units, under the Family Membership Program, shall receive only one copy of LION Magazine.
12. Family members shall be subject to the year-and-a-day rule with respect to the club delegate formula provision.
13. Clubs determined by the association to be misapplying the Family Membership Program or misusing it to affect voting delegate strength may be required to pay full dues for all family members in the club to the point at which the misuse was found to occur. Furthermore, the association retains the right to prohibit such clubs from adding family members under the Family Membership Program for a period of two years after the infraction.
14. In cases where the family membership discount has been abused or misused in which the family membership discount has been applied to family members not living in the same household (with the exception of those members under age 26 if they are pursuing higher education or serving in their country's military) or to non-family members, a full investigation will be conducted.

### **C. STUDENT MEMBER AND LEO TO LION PROGRAMS AND DUES PROVISION**

1. The Student Member Program provides students with the opportunity to join any Lions club, including campus clubs, upon invitation, under a special student dues concession.

The program is designed for Campus Lions clubs and for clubs that wish to expand their humanitarian service by involving more students from the community they serve, subject to the provisions and regulations as described below.

2. The Student Member Program is open to students between the age of legal majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30.
  - a. For the purpose of this program, the eligibility definition for “student” shall be as follows: A student is an individual enrolled in an educational institution. New student members must be invited and approved by the club’s board of directors.
  - b. Any membership awards program that includes campus clubs or student members as part of the earnings recognition module will not be fulfilled until all outstanding dues and fees are paid.
3. Students members, who meet the qualifications as outlined in paragraph 2 above, shall be required to pay one half of the normal international dues and be exempt of any entrance fees. Once a student meets this qualification, the student shall continue to receive the concession until graduation, notification of student status change or once the student reaches age 31, whichever comes first. It should be further recommended that districts and multiple districts consider either exempting or lowering their dues for student members as deemed appropriate. Students over the age of 30 and who are joining or chartering a Campus Lions Club are eligible to pay a discounted entrance/charter fee of \$10USD. All qualifying student members shall be Active Members with all rights and privileges.
4. Student members shall be required to provide documentation verifying enrollment in an educational institution and age. The district governor, guiding Lion or club secretary shall complete a Student Member Certification Form for each student member, indicating the type of supporting document he/she reviewed to verify enrollment in an educational institution and age or submit information via MyLCI.
5. In the case of Campus Lions clubs, student members shall receive an extended billing adjustment period for the semi-annual billings in order to accommodate the typical school schedule. Campus Lions clubs have through March 31 for the January per capita billing and through September 30 for the July per capita billing to amend the club roster. Lions Clubs International will give credits to clubs for roster adjustments submitted within this time period.
6. Clubs determined to be misapplying the Student Member Program may be required to pay full dues for all student members in the club to the point at which the misuse was found to occur. Furthermore, the association would retain the right to prohibit such clubs from adding student members under the Student Membership Program for a period of two years after the infraction.

7. The Leo to Lion Program provides an easy transition for graduating Leos. Current and former Leos, who have been a Leo for at least a year and a day and are between the age of legal majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30, shall be required to pay one half of the normal international dues and be exempt of any entrance fees. A member who meets the initial Leo to Lion requirements shall continue to qualify for the Leo to Lion Program until the member reaches the age of 31.
8. Additionally, in the event that a group of current or former Leos apply to charter a new club with other like-minded young adults, all new club members between the age of legal majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30 qualify for the Leo to Lion Program under the provision that at least 10 new club members are former Leos who have been a Leo for at least a year and a day. Members over the age of 30 shall qualify for membership in the club, but do not qualify for the Leo to Lion Program.
9. Leo-Lions shall be required to provide the Leo Completion of Service Certificate and documentation verifying Leo membership and age. Young adults shall be required to provide documentation verifying age. The district governor, guiding Lion or club secretary shall complete a Leo to Lion Certification Form for each Leo-Lion and young adult member, indicating the type of supporting document he/she reviewed to verify Leo membership and/or age.
10. In the case of a newly chartered campus club, or a club with a majority of student members, each charter member who qualifies for the Student Member Program is required to prepay one year International dues at the student member rate at the time of charter. Such fees shall be submitted with the charter application.
11. Existing members must be listed as a Leo or former Leo in their membership history in order to update their member type to Leo-Lion. To receive former Leo status as an existing member, the Leo to Lion Certification Form (LL-2) must be submitted to Lions Clubs International or submit information via MyLCI.

#### **D. CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP**

The Executive Committee shall use its discretion in granting continuous membership in cases in which a political situation is involved in a country.

#### **E. FEES**

1. New members shall pay an entrance fee of US\$35.00.
2. The entrance fee for former and existing Leo club members presenting a copy of the Leo Completion of Service Certificate shall be waived.



3. The charter fee for former and existing Leo club members presenting a copy of the Leo Completion of Service Certificate shall be waived.

## **F. MEMBERSHIP AWARD PROGRAMS**

### **Key Award Program**

1. Effective July 1, 2002, Membership Key Awards will be earned for a total of new members sponsored, who have met the requirements for eligibility, in the following increments:

2 Membership Key	100 Membership Key
5 Membership Key	150 Membership Key
10 Membership Key	200 Membership Key
15 Membership Key	250 Membership Key
20 Membership Key	300 Membership Key
25 Membership Key	350 Membership Key
50 Membership Key	400 Membership Key
75 Membership Key	450 Membership Key
	500 Membership Key

Each key will comport with its specific design as approved by the board and will, as appropriate, bear the number of sponsored members appropriate for said key. All keys will be made to be worn on the lapel.

All Membership Keys, beginning at the 25 – member key level will be accompanied by a medallion matching the key in design but proportionally larger. The medallion will be made to be worn suspended from a ribbon.

Awards resembling the official Membership Key Awards of Lions Clubs International may not be used by any Lions clubs or districts.

### **2. Eligibility**

- a. A new member must remain a Lion for one year and a day before the name may be used as credit toward a Membership Key.
- b. The name of the new member and the sponsor must be reported via MyLCI, with the sponsor's member number and club number.
- c. No sponsor shall receive more than one key of the same type.
- d. Transfer and reinstated members cannot be used as credit for a key.
- e. Only one sponsor can receive credit for a new member.
- f. Requests for sponsor changes must be received by LCI Headquarters within 90 days of the new members' join date.
- g. Key awards will be issued to a sponsor if the new member's club is in good standing.

### **3. Chevrons**

- a. Charter Monarch and Monarch Milestone Chevrons will be awarded each year on the following membership anniversaries: 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75 and over.
- b. Former Lionesses, choosing to become Lions, can retain their Lioness service years as part of their Lions record. Such Lioness service may date back to 1975, the official approval year of the program. The Lioness Conversion Program Form (LP3) is used for this purpose.
- c. Former Leos, choosing to become Lions, can retain their Leo service years as part of the Lions records. The Leo to Lion Certification Form (LL2) is used for this purpose.

### **G. REPORTS**

The Cumulative Membership and Club Summary Report shall contain both club and charter member data and membership data uniformly ending on the last day of each calendar month and culminating on June 30 of each calendar year.

### **H. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

Lions Clubs International affirms a policy of non-discrimination. Lions clubs and members may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, marital status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected status. A violation of this policy would be considered conduct unbecoming a Lion and/or Lions Club and may result in placing a club in “status quo” and/or cancelling a club charter in accordance with the policies set forth by the International Board of Directors.