

**MD-20  
LIONS CLUBS OF  
NEW YORK STATE & BERMUDA, INC.**

**CONSTITUTION  
AND  
BY-LAWS**

**REVISED & AMENDED  
MAY 2008**

**CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS  
LIONS CLUBS OF NEW YORK STATE AND BERMUDA, INC.  
MULTIPLE DISTRICT 20  
LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL, INC.**

**ARTICLE I**

**NAME**

**SECTION 1.** This organization shall be known as the Lions Clubs of New York State and Bermuda, Inc. Multiple District 20, Lions Clubs International, Inc., herein referred to as Multiple District 20.

**ARTICLE II**

**OBJECTS**

**SECTION 1.** To provide Multiple District 20 with an organization for the express purpose of advancing Lionism and to provide proper administration throughout Multiple District 20, to coordinate, standardize, and direct the activities, other than local activities, of all affiliating Lions Clubs within Multiple District 20 and to promote the general welfare of The International Association of Lions Clubs, and to carry out the ideas and principles of Lionism.

**ARTICLE III**

**MEMBERSHIP**

**SECTION 1.** Membership in this Organization shall consist of all Lions Clubs in Multiple District 20, duly chartered and in good standing with The International Association of Lions Clubs.

**ARTICLE IV**

**MULTIPLE DISTRICT OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** The District Governors of the respective Districts and the Council Chair shall be officers and directors of Multiple District 20 and shall assume their Multiple District duties on the last day of the International Convention.

**SECTION 2.** For the sole purpose of electing a Council Chair the Vice District Governors shall also be considered members of the Council and each Vice District Governor shall have one vote.

**SECTION 3.** When a seated District Governor is absent from a duly noticed meeting of the Council of Governors the Vice District Governor from that unrepresented District if present shall be considered a member of the Council for the purpose of having voting privileges.

## **ARTICLE V**

### **MULTIPLE DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**SECTION 1.** There shall be a Multiple District Council of Governors, hereinafter referred to as “Council”, composed of all the District Governors in Multiple District 20 and one (1) Immediate Past District Governor who shall serve as Multiple District Council Chair.

**SECTION 2.** The Council Chair shall be elected by a majority vote of the preceding Multiple District Council and the seated Vice District Governors at the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) Council Meeting of that fiscal year.

**SECTION 3.** There shall also be a Vice-Chair who shall be a District Governor and who shall be elected by a majority vote of the Council at its first called meeting following the International Convention.

**SECTION 4.** The Council shall appoint a Multiple District Secretary/Treasurer at its third (3<sup>rd</sup>) meeting. The term of said appointment shall be for one (1) fiscal year unless said office is declared vacant by reason of death, resignation, or removal for cause. The Secretary/Treasurer shall have no vote in any meeting or action of the council.

**SECTION 5.** A majority of the Council shall constitute a quorum.

**SECTION 6.** The Council shall call its first meeting within sixty (60) days after the date on which the District Governors officially take office. Three (3) subsequent meetings shall be held at such times and places as deemed necessary and advisable.

**SECTION 7.** Special meetings of the Council may be called either by the Chair as he/she deems necessary or advisable, or by the written request of any four (4) members of the Council made to the Chair, or in his/her absence or unavailability, the Vice-Chair, or if neither of them is available, to the Secretary/Treasurer. Upon receipt of such written request, the Chair, the Vice-Chair, or the Secretary/Treasurer shall, without delay, notify in writing, all members of the Council of the time and place of such special meeting stating therein the purpose for which the meeting is being called. In no event shall the date of such meeting be less than seven (7) days, nor more than fifteen (15) days from the date of such notification.

**SECTION 8.** The powers of this Organization, expressed or implied, shall be vested in the Council.

- (a) The Council shall constitute the executive body and its action shall be final.
- (b) The Council shall have the general management and control of the business, property, and funds.

- (c) The Council shall exercise general control and supervision over all committees and officers of this Organization except the District Governor in their capacity as officers of The International Association of Lions Clubs.
- (d) The Council shall have such other powers, duties, and authority as prescribed in the By-Laws herein.

## **ARTICLE VI**

### **MULTIPLE DISTRICT CONVENTION**

**SECTION 1.** A Convention of Multiple District 20 shall be held each year, no later than thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the International Convention at a place selected by a majority vote of the Council of Governors at a regularly scheduled meeting of the council.

**SECTION 2.** The Council shall receive all invitations from places desiring to host the Convention. The selection of a Convention site shall not be made more than three (3) years in advance.

**SECTION 3.** A registration fee, the amount of which shall be set by the Multiple District Council, may be collected from each delegate, alternate, and guest attending the Multiple District Convention.

**SECTION 4.** The Council shall have supervision over all phases of the Convention.

**SECTION 5.** Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern all parliamentary procedure, except as otherwise provided in the Rules of Procedure adopted by the Convention.

**SECTION 6.** Nomination for the office of District Governor and Vice District Governor shall be held at the Annual Convention of the Multiple District.

**SECTION 7.** Each chartered club in Multiple District 20, in good standing, shall be entitled to one (1) voting 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, 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 such vote based on membership can be cast only by a certified delegate present in person at the Convention and no delegate shall cast more than one vote on each question. It is, however, provided that each District Governor in each District, by virtue of the office and each Past District Governor, who is an active member of a chartered Lions Club in good standing, shall be a certified delegate to each such Convention, but shall not be included in the delegate quota of the club for any such Convention.

**SECTION 8.** A club in good standing is defined as one having all financial obligations paid to the International Association of Lions Clubs and Multiple District 20.

**SECTION 9.** For the purpose of conducting convention business, a quorum shall be a majority of the certified delegates present and voting.

## **ARTICLE VII**

### **DISTRICT OFFICERS**

**SECTION 1.** The Officers of each District shall be the District Governor, who shall be the presiding officer, the Vice District Governor, the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer, the Region Chair, Zone Chair, and the Immediate Past District Governor.

**SECTION 2.** Candidate Requirements for District Governor:

- (1) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in his/her single or Sub-District.
- (2) Secure the endorsement of his/her Club or majority of Clubs in his/her single or Sub-District.
- (3) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as District Governor: (a) As President of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the Board of Directors of a Lions Club for no less than two (2) additional years; and (b) As Zone Chair or Region Chair or Cabinet Secretary and or Treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof, and one (1) additional year as a member of the District Cabinet (c) with none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

**SECTION 3.** Candidate Requirements for Vice District Governor:

- (1) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in his/her single or Sub-District.
- (2) Secure the endorsement of his/her Club or a majority of Clubs in his/her single or Sub-District.
- (3) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as Vice District Governor: (a) As President of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the Board of Directors of a Lions Club for no less than two (2) additional years; and (b) As Zone Chair or Region Chair or Cabinet Secretary and or Treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof, and one (1) additional year as a member of the District Cabinet (c) with none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

**SECTION 4.** Qualifications for Region and Zone Chairs:

- (1) Be an active member in good standing in his/her Region or Zone.
- (2) Have served or will have served at the time of taking office as Region or Zone Chair as President of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the Board of Directors of a Lions Club for no less than two (2) additional years.

**SECTION 5.** The District Governor and Vice District Governor of each District shall be elected at the Annual Multiple District Convention and shall take office immediately upon adjournment of the International Convention next succeeding their election.

**SECTION 6.** The District Governor shall appoint, at the time he/she officially takes office, one Region Chair in each Region of his/her District, who shall be an active member of a Lions Club in the Region where appointed.

**SECTION 7.** The District Governor shall appoint, at the time he/she officially takes office, one Zone Chair in each Zone of his/her District, who shall be an active member of a Lions Club in the Zone where appointed.

**SECTION 8.** The District Governor shall appoint a Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer who shall be an active member of a Lions Club in his/her District.

**SECTION 9.** In the event of a vacancy in any District office, except that of District Governor or Vice District Governor, the District Governor shall have power to fill such vacancy for the unexpired term thereof.

**SECTION 10.** In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of District Governor and/or Vice District Governor, said vacancy shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

**SECTION 11.** There shall be no salary paid to any officer of any District in this Multiple District.

**ARTICLE VIII**

**DISTRICT CABINET**

**SECTION 1.** There shall be a District Cabinet in each District composed of the District Governor as its presiding officer, the Vice District Governor, the Immediate Past District Governor, the Region Chairs, the Zone Chairs, and the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer. Other voting members of a District Cabinet shall be in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of said District, if any.

**SECTION 2.** In the event any Region Chair or Zone Chair shall, during his/her term of office, move into a club in a Region or Zone other than the one from which he/she was appointed, the term of office of such officer shall terminate immediately and his/her successor for the remaining term shall immediately be appointed by the District Governor.

**SECTION 3.** A majority of District Officers shall constitute a quorum for the purpose of conducting District business.

**SECTION 4.** The District Governor shall call at least four (4) regular meetings of the District Cabinet during the year and the first of these meetings shall be held within ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the preceding International Convention. A ten (10) days written notice of the meetings of the District Governor's Cabinet shall be given to each member by the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer. Special meetings of the District Cabinet may be called by the District Governor at his/her discretion and shall be called upon written request made either to the District Governor or the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer by a majority of the District Officers. Not less than seven (7) days and not more than fifteen (15) days written or telegraphic notice of special meetings of the District Governor's Cabinet shall be given to each member by the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer.

**SECTION 5.** The District Governor's Cabinet shall provide for an audit of the books and accounts of the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer annually or at more frequent intervals, if necessary, by an Auditing Committee. A copy of said audit shall be sent to each club in the District and to the Multiple District Office.

## **ARTICLE IX**

### **DISTRICT ORGANIZATION**

**SECTION 1.** Each District shall be divided by its District Governor into Regions of not more than sixteen (16), nor less than ten (10) Lions Clubs each, due regard having been given to the geographic locations of the clubs and shall be subject to change by the District Governor as is deemed necessary for the best interests of Lionism and the individual Lions Clubs.

**SECTION 2.** Each Region shall be divided by the District Governor into Zones, which Zones shall be composed of no more than eight (8), nor less than four (4) Lions Clubs each, due regard having been given to the geographic locations of the clubs and shall be subject to change by the District Governor as is deemed necessary for the best interests of Lionism and the individual Lions Clubs.

**SECTION 3.** Meetings of all member clubs in a Region may be designated and known as Region Meetings and Region Meetings shall be held throughout the District during the year at times and places to be fixed by the Region Chairs and Zone Chairs of the respective Regions, with the Region Chair in active charge. Such Regional Meetings

shall be so arranged and of such a number as will make it possible and convenient for members of each club in the Region to attend at least one of such meetings each year.

**SECTION 4.** Meetings of all the member clubs in a Zone shall be designated and known as Zone Meetings. Zone Meetings may be held throughout the District during the year at times and places to be fixed by the Zone Chair of each individual Zone, who shall be in active charge. Such Zone meetings shall be so arranged and of such a number as will make it possible and convenient for the members of each club in each Zone to attend at least one such meeting each year.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 1.** There shall be a District Governor's Advisory Committee in each Zone composed of the Zone Chair and the Presidents and Secretaries of the clubs in each Zone.

**SECTION 2.** The Zone Chair in each particular Zone shall call not less than four (4) meetings of this committee during the year.

**SECTION 3.** A Zone meeting may be held in conjunction with any Advisory Committee Meeting.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S HONORARY COMMITTEE**

**SECTION 1.** There may be in each District a District Governor's Honorary Committee. The membership of this Committee shall consist chiefly of Past International Officers, Past International Directors, and Past District Governors within the District. The Immediate Past District Governor may be the Chair of this Committee.

**SECTION 2.** The District Governor's Honorary Committee shall meet when and as called upon by the District Governor.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **DISTRICT AND MULTIPLE DISTRICT REVENUE**

**SECTION 1.** For the purposes of District and Multiple District operation there shall be a Per Capita Tax, per member of sixteen dollars and no cents (\$16.00) for the operating year following passage of this amendment, and eighteen dollars and no cents (\$18.00) for each operating year thereafter, plus any specially designated Per Capita Taxes now in force or provided for by future action of the Assembled Delegates at a Multiple District Convention.



**SECTION 2.** Notwithstanding the above, for student membership programs as adopted by the International Board of Directors, eligible student members shall pay a semi-annual per capita tax equal to one-half (½) of the total amount of dues as provided in Section 1 of this Article.

**SECTION 3.** Said per Capita Tax shall be collected by the Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer in two (2) semi-annual payments as follows: One half of the above stated tax on July 15<sup>th</sup> and one half on January 15<sup>th</sup> to cover the respective six (6) months period of the fiscal year. The billings shall be based upon the membership figures as reported by the Club Secretaries to The International Association of Lions Clubs on their May and November reports, immediately preceding the billing period. The billings are due and payable by the 15<sup>th</sup> of July and January respectively. If the assessments remain unpaid beyond 90 days from that date, a late charge shall be one and one half per cent (1.5%), per month. New and reorganized clubs shall be billed only for the semi-annual period next following their organization or re-organization.

**SECTION 3.** District refunds shall be made by the Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer to the District Governor of each District. The payments shall be made before the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the following month, as when collected. It shall become and remain a fund of said District and shall be disbursed only for Administrative expenses of the District as are approved by the District Governor's Cabinet. Payment out of said District Administrative Fund shall be by checks drawn and signed by the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer and counter-signed by the District Governor.

**SECTION 4.** The Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer shall be required to make bond, covering the Council Chair, Council Vice-Chair, Secretary-Treasurer, and the Multiple District Office.

**SECTION 5.** The Council shall order an annual audit. Such audit is to be performed by a certified public accountant.

### **ARTICLE XIII**

#### **ADOPTION**

**SECTION 1.** This Constitution shall be in effect when it has been adopted by the affirmative vote by a majority of the certified delegates present and voting at an annual convention of Multiple District 20.

### **ARTICLE XIV**

#### **AMENDMENTS**

**SECTION 1.** This Constitution can be amended only at the Multiple District Convention by resolution reported by the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws as such annual meeting and adopted by the affirmative vote of two thirds (2/3<sup>rd</sup>'s) of the votes cast.

**SECTION 2.** No amendment shall be submitted to the Convention unless a copy of the proposed change shall have first been printed and circulated to the membership of the Multiple District in the Multiple District magazine, or other official publication, at least thirty (30) days prior to said Convention.

**SECTION 3.** Notwithstanding the above, in the event that an amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws of Lions Clubs International creates a conflict or inconsistency with any existing provision of this Constitution, the provision of the International document shall control. In order to reconcile any such conflict or inconsistency without recourse to the formal process set forth in this Article, the Council of Governors may, upon the advice of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, adopt by resolution such amendments as are necessary to ensure consistency with the International document.

Amended May 2005 at Multiple District Convention in Rochester, NY  
Amended May 2008 at Multiple District Convention in Niagara Falls, NY

## BY-LAWS

### ARTICLE I

#### DISTRICT NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS

**SECTION 1.** Each District Governor shall appoint a member to the Multiple District Nomination Committee who shall each be an active member of a Lions Club in good standing in the District and shall not, at the time of the appointment, hold any Multiple District or International Office. Each such appointee shall receive notification of his/her appointment at least thirty (30) days prior to the annual Multiple District Convention.

**SECTION 2.** Nomination for District Governor and Vice District Governor must be filed at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention date with the Secretary-Treasurer. The nominating committee person shall report to the District Meeting of the Convention the names of such nominees as have been qualified. A nomination for District Governor and or Vice District Governor may be made from the floor of the Convention only with the approval of the Nominations committee of the Convention and only when a District reaches a Convention without a qualified candidate for District Governor and or Vice District Governor who has not previously filed a nomination in the Multiple District Office.

SECTION 3. The election shall be by secret ballot and the candidate receiving the largest number of the votes cast shall be declared elected. In case of a tie, balloting for those tied shall continue until one candidate is elected.

## ARTICLE II

### DUTIES

#### SECTION 1. DISTRICT GOVERNOR.

The District Governor shall preside at all meetings of the Cabinet and as chief executive shall supervise the work and activities of his/her District and shall perform such other duties as they pertain to that office, and as set forth in the International Constitution and By-Laws. In the event of the absence of the District Governor at a Cabinet Meeting, the Vice District Governor shall perform the duties of the District Governor at the meeting. In the event of the absence of the District Governor and Vice District Governor, the District Cabinet, by resolution, shall appoint one of its members to perform the duties of the District Governor at the meeting.

SECTION 2. The District Governor shall have authority to dismiss any Region Chair, Zone Chair, or any other officer appointed by him/her for good and sufficient reason.

#### SECTION 3. VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR

The vice district governor, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be chief administrative assistant to the district governor. He/she shall assist the district governor in the performance of his/her duties as directed to promote the purposes of the association. He/she shall play an active role in membership growth and leadership development programs within the district, and shall actively participate in cabinet meetings, and attend council of governor meetings and participate therein as appropriate. He/she shall perform such other duties as set forth in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

#### SECTION 4. CABINET SECRETARY-TREASURER.

Under the supervision and direction of the District Governor and his/her Cabinet, the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Cabinet and shall within fifteen (15) days after each meeting forward copies of the minutes of same to all members of the Cabinet and the Office of The International Association of Lions Clubs. He/she shall assist the District Governor and the Cabinet in conducting the business of the District and shall perform such duties as are specified or implied in the Constitution and By-Laws of this Organization, or as may be assigned to him/her from time to time by the Cabinet. He/she shall sign all notices and documents issued by the District, keep the accounts, receive all monies paid to the District, and shall make a financial report to the Cabinet at each meeting of the Cabinet

and at such other times as said Cabinet may require. He/she shall deposit all monies received by him/her in such bank or banks as may be designated by the Cabinet and shall disburse the same by order of said Cabinet. His/her accounts, books, and records shall at all times be open to the inspection of the Cabinet, the District Governor, and any auditors named by the Cabinet. A copy of said audit shall be sent to each club in the District and the Multiple District Office.

#### SECTION 5. REGION CHAIR.

The Region Chair shall be a member of the District Governor's Cabinet and shall attend the regular and special meetings and deliberations of the Cabinet. He/she shall assist the District Governor in the promotion of Lionism in his/her Region. In addition to performing the duties of Region Chair as set forth in the International Constitution and By-Laws, it shall be his/her duty to promote the annual Multiple District and International Conventions among the clubs in his/her Region and he/she shall endeavor to have them represented at each of these Conventions by at least the full quota of delegates to which they are entitled. He/she shall assist the Zone Chair of his/her region in the performance of their official duties. The official actions of the Region Chair shall be under the supervision of the District Governor.

SECTION 6. ZONE CHAIR. The Zone Chair shall be a member of the District Governor's Cabinet and shall attend the regular and special meetings and deliberations of the Cabinet. The Zone Chair shall hold regularly scheduled Advisory Committee meetings as provided in Section 2 of Article X of this Multiple District Constitution. He/she shall be the presiding officer of these meetings. The Zone Chair shall make a report of each Advisory Committee Meeting and send copies within ten (10) days thereafter to his/her Region Chair, the District Governor, and The International Association of Lions Clubs. In addition to performing the duties of Zone Chair as set forth in the International Constitution and By-Laws, it shall be his/her duty to see to it that every club within his/her Zone is efficiently operating under The International Association of Lions Clubs organization plan. The official actions of the Zone Chair shall be under the supervision of the District Governor and of the Region Chair of the Region of which his/her Zone is a part.

SECTION 7. DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S CABINET. The District Governor's Cabinet is the deliberative and assisting body to the District Governor in the formulation of administration plans and policies affecting the welfare of Lionism within the District. It shall serve in an advisory and administrative capacity only.

SECTION 8. DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE. This committee is an advisory body from the Zone level to the District Governor and his/her Cabinet, and represents all of the District Clubs. It shall serve in an advisory and administrative capacity. From the Club President and Club Secretary, along with Zone Chair, the membership shall be comprised. This committee shall receive and make recommendations effecting the welfare of Lionism and the Clubs in the Zone.

**SECTION 9. MULTIPLE DISTRICT COUNCIL.** The Multiple District Council is the deliberative and assisting body in the formulation of administrative plans and policies effecting the Multiple District including the annual Multiple District Convention. It shall make all contracts and approve all bills relating to the Convention administrative expenses. It shall designate a depository for the Organizations funds, set the amount of corporate surety bond, and approve the surety company with which they shall be bonded. The Council must receive from the Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer, quarterly financial reports, and shall make provisions for an audit at the end of the fiscal year of the books and accounts of the Multiple District. When found necessary, the Council shall recommend to the Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws Committee changes pertaining to the amount of Multiple District per capita tax.

**SECTION 10. MULTIPLE DISTRICT SECRETARY-TREASURER.** Under the supervision and direction of the Council, the Secretary-Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Council and shall within twenty (20) days after each meeting forward copies of the minutes of same to all members of the Council and the office of The International Association of Lions Clubs. He/she shall assist the Council in conducting the business of the Districts and shall perform such duties as are specified or implied in the Constitution and By-Laws, or as may be assigned to him/her by the Council. He/she shall handle disbursements and receipts subject to the supervision of the Council as regards all funds coming into his/her hands; all checks drawn by the Secretary-Treasurer shall be counter-signed by the Council Chair. He/she shall deposit all monies received by him/her in such bank or banks, as may be designated by the Council and shall disburse the same by order of said Council. The Multiple District accounts, books, and records shall at all times be open to inspection of the Council and any auditors named by the Council. The Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer shall provide to the Lions of MD-20 a year end fiscal report and shall have said report published in the September/October issue of the MD-20 magazine or other official publication.

### ARTICLE III

#### MULTIPLE DISTRICT COMMITTEES

##### SECTION I. STANDING COMMITTEES:

- (a) The Standing Committees of the Multiple District shall be composed of four members whose term of office shall be four years. All terms shall begin as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.
- (b) To provide the Multiple District with wide representation, there shall be one member appointed from each of the four areas of the State as follows: Area I – Districts 20-N, 20-E1, 20-E2; Area II – Districts 20-W, 20-Y1, 20-Y2; Area III – Districts 20-O, 20-R1, 20-R2; Area IV – Districts 20-K1, 20-K2, 20-S. Only one member shall serve at any time from each Area and within one Area, each Sub-District shall have representation before any Sub-District shall be eligible for a second appointment.

- (c) Members of the appointing Council shall not be eligible for appointment to any Standing Committee.
- (d) The Chair of any Standing Committee shall be the member who is serving his/her last year, unless otherwise directed by the Council.
- (e) No Lion shall be appointed to serve on more than one Standing Committee concurrently.
- (f) Unless otherwise specified, an active member of a Lions Club in good standing in the Multiple District may be appointed as a member of a Standing Committee.
- (g) There shall be other special committees as the Council may appoint for specific purposes for a term not to exceed one year.

SECTION 2. THE FOLLOWING ARE THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF MD-20:

- (a) FINANCE. This committee shall assist the Secretary-Treasurer in preparation of proposed budgets for all of the Multiple District to be submitted to the sitting Council at its fourth meeting for approval. Final approval shall be at the first meeting of the succeeding Council. The committee shall, on a continuing basis, review and study all funds, the Multiple District per capita dues and Rules of Audit, and make any recommendations to the Council for its approval. It shall assist and advise the Council in all fiscal matters of the Multiple District. The membership of this committee shall be drawn from Multiple District 20 Past Governors and two seated Vice District Governors appointed by the Council Chair with the approval of the Council. The Vice District Governors shall serve on this committee only during their term as Vice District Governor and no Vice District Governor shall be eligible to serve as chairperson of the committee. Any past or current International Officers who are active members of a Lions Club in New York State, Bermuda, and the Multiple District Secretary-Treasurer shall be non-voting ex-officio members of this committee.
- (b) MULTIPLE DISTRICT PUBLICATION. This committee shall be responsible for the operation of the Multiple District Magazine. The Editor shall be an ex-officio member of this committee.
- (c) MULTIPLE DISTRICT YOUTH BAND. This committee shall be responsible for the operation of the Multiple District Youth Band, including the logistics of the participation of the Band at the Multiple District Convention and at the International Association of Lions Clubs Convention, when possible. The Band Director, appointed by the Council, shall be an ex-officio member of this committee.
- (d) INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION. This committee shall be responsible for the planning and execution of the Multiple District participation at the International Association of Lions Clubs, International Convention. The Chair of this committee shall be

allowed travel and lodging expense to the International Convention as specified by the Rules of Audit of the Multiple District.

- (e) HEALTH SERVICES. This committee shall be responsible for identifying and analyzing projects and activities to reduce substance abuse in which the clubs in the Multiple District may participate.
- (f) YOUTH SERVICES. This committee shall be responsible to create and foster a spirit of understanding and promote leadership, experience, and opportunity for young persons in the Multiple.

### SECTION 3. ACTIVITY CHAIRS:

- (a) The Council shall appoint Multiple District Chairs for the following Multiple District Activities: Leo Clubs, L.C.I.F., and USA/Canada Leadership Forum.
- (b) The Council, by a majority vote, shall have the authority to remove a member of any appointed committee or appointed Multiple District Chair for inactivity or other valid cause. In the event of a vacancy resulting from death or resignation, the Council shall be authorized to fill the unexpired term.
- (c) The Chair of each of the Multiple District Activity Committees shall make reports as directed or requested by the Council unless otherwise specified. Such report to be made at or before the time of the third Council Meeting.

### SECTION 4. AT LARGE COMMITTEES:

- (a) CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS. This committee is responsible for review and evaluation of all proposed changes to the Constitution and By-Laws. Appointment each year is of one member for a three year term by the Council of Governors. In the first year, the Council shall appoint one member for a three year term one member for a two year term and one member for a one year term. The Chair of this committee shall be the appointed member who is serving in the last year of his/her term, unless otherwise directed by the Council. The Council shall have the option of re-appointing any of the members when their term expires. Other members of the committee shall be the Chair of the Policy Manual Committee and the Chair of the Long Range Planning Committee. In addition, the Council Chair may appoint two members of the MD-20 International Family as ex-officio, non voting members of this committee.
- (b) POLICY MANUAL. To be composed of the Chair of the Council of Governors, Chair of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, Past International President, if any, sitting Officer or Director, if any; two sitting District Governors named by the Vice Council

Chair with the approval of the Council, a Vice District Governor named by the Council Chair with the approval of the Council, two Past International Directors named by the Council Chair with the approval of the Council, and the MD-20 Secretary-Treasurer. The Committee to name its own Chair.

- (c) LONG RANGE PLANNING. The committee shall be responsible for identifying and analyzing current and future issues in the Multiple District and to recommend to the Council actions to be taken to address each issue. It shall plan for the future of Lionism in the Multiple District and recommend courses of action to the Council to improve the cause of Lionism in the Multiple District. To be composed of the last three Council of Governor Chairs with the senior in terms of service to be the Chair of the committee. If for any reason one of the Past Chairs cannot serve, a replacement shall be appointed by the Council of Governors.
- (d) LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE:
  - (1) Appointment by the Council of Governors of two (2) members each for a three (3) year term.
  - (2) The Leadership Development Committee shall be responsible for promoting, coordinating and conducting all MD-20 training.
  - (3) The duties of the Leadership Development Committee shall include those responsibilities referred to in the Policy Manual under Article III. Section D. 4.
- (e) MEMBERSHIP. Appointment of a Chair by the Council of Governors for a three (3) year term.
- (f) SIGHTFIRST. Appointment of a coordinator by the Council of Governors for a two (2) year term.

## ARTICLE IV

### INTERNATIONAL SPECIAL PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

**SECTION 1.** The Council of Governors shall have the authority to appoint a Lion as the Chair of an International Special Project and/or Program, for a term to be so determined by the International Association of Lions Clubs.

**SECTION 2.** The District Governor shall appoint a Lion(s) to chair such programs in such respective Sub-Districts. The term to be so determined by the International Association of Lions Club guidelines.



## ARTICLE V

### MULTIPLE DISTRICT PUBLICATION

SECTION 1. There shall be a Multiple District Lions Magazine published and mailed to each member of every active Lions Club in Multiple District 20 under the terms of a proper contract approved by the Council, a copy of which shall be on permanent file in the Multiple District Office.

SECTION 2. The Editor of the Multiple District publication shall be appointed by the Council at its third meeting. The term of said appointment will be for one (1) year, from July 1 to June 30, unless said office is declared vacant by reason of death, resignation, or removal for cause.

## ARTICLE VI

### FISCAL YEAR

SECTION 1. The fiscal year of this Multiple District shall be July 1 of a particular year through June 30<sup>th</sup> of the following calendar year.

## ARTICLE VII

### NOMINATION AND ENDORSEMENT OF CANDIDATES FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR AND INTERNATIONAL SECOND VICE PRESIDENT

SECTION 1. Subject to the provision of The International Association of Lions Clubs Constitution and By-Laws, a member of a Lions Club in the Multiple District 20 seeking endorsement as a candidate for International Director or Second Vice President shall:

- (a) File, by mail or in person, a written notice of intention to seek endorsement by the Convention to the Multiple District Office no later than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of such convention.
- (b) Deliver with said notice of intention, evidence of fulfillment of qualifications for such office as required by The International Constitution and By-Laws.

### SECTION 2.

(a) The Chair of the Multiple District Nomination Committee shall place in nomination candidate(s) for the International Office. Each nominee seeking endorsement shall be entitled to one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration at the Multiple District Convention.

(b) When candidates for both the offices of International Second Vice-President and International Director will be on the ballot, the ballot must include a place for the delegates to vote on which position (International Second Vice-

President or International Director) they are supporting. The other places on the ballot would be for the delegates to indicate which candidate for each position they prefer. Delegates would vote on all three items at the same time, and once the position is determined, the candidate with the greatest number of votes would be the endorsed candidate of MD 20.

SECTION 3. Any candidate seeking endorsement at the Multiple District Convention must first have the endorsement of his/her (Sub) District. Such endorsement shall be made at a regularly scheduled (Sub) District Cabinet Meeting. Certification of such endorsement must be made in writing by the District Governor and Cabinet Secretary to the Multiple District Office no less than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the Multiple District Convention. Only one certification of endorsement may be submitted by a (Sub)District.

SECTION 4. The vote on endorsement shall be by secret ballot unless there is only one candidate, in which case a voice ballot may be taken. The nominee receiving a plurality of the votes cast shall be declared the endorsed candidate of the Multiple District. In the event of a tie vote on any ballot, balloting shall continue until one receives the required plurality of votes cast.

SECTION 5. Any endorsement by the Multiple District Convention shall be valid only for the two succeeding Lions International Conventions to which the endorsee can be certified.

SECTION 6. Certification of endorsement by the respective Conventions, Sub-Multiple, shall be made in writing to The International Association of Lions Clubs Office by the District and Multiple District Officers designated and in accordance with the requirements therefore set forth in The International Association of Lions Clubs Constitution and By-Laws.

SECTION 7. No endorsement of any candidacy of any member of a Lions Club in Multiple District 20 shall be valid unless and until the provisions of this Article VII have been met.

## ARTICLE VIII

### CONFORMITY TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

SECTION 1. In the event that the Constitution and By-Laws of The International Association of Lions Clubs shall be amended, deleted, or otherwise changed in such manner as to render these By-Laws inoperable, these By-Laws shall not be rendered inoperable until proper opportunity is presented under the provisions of these By-Laws to amend such affected Articles and Sections.

SECTION 2. In the event of such change, the Council of Governors and such duly authorized committees, shall have the power to act and conduct the affairs of this

Organization. At that time, the Multiple District By-Laws shall be amended to conform to such change.

SECTION 3. Sub-District Constitutions and By-Laws and amendments hereto must first be submitted to the MD-20 Constitution and By-Laws Committee to check for conformity to both the MD-20 Constitution, By-Laws, and Policy Manual and the Constitution, By-Laws, and Policy Manual of Lions Clubs International prior to their adoption by the Sub-District.

## ARTICLE IX

### AMENDMENTS

SECTION 1. These By-Laws can be amended only at the annual Multiple District Convention by resolution reported by the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws and adopted by an affirmative vote of a majority of the certified delegates present and voting at such meeting."

SECTION 2. Amendments to these By-Laws may originate with the Council or the Constitution and By-Laws Committee." All proposals shall be printed in the Multiple District Magazine or other official publication and circulated thirty (30) days prior to the convening of the Multiple District Convention.

SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the above, in the event that an amendment to the Constitution or By-Laws of Lions Clubs International creates a conflict or inconsistency with any existing provision of these By-Laws, the provision of the International document shall control. In order to reconcile any such conflict or inconsistency without recourse to the formal process set forth in this Article, the Council of Governors may, upon the advice of the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, adopt by resolution such amendments as are necessary to ensure consistency with the International document.

Revised: May 1992 at the Multiple District Convention in Uniondale, NY

Revised: May 1993 at the Multiple District Convention in Buffalo, NY

Revised: May 1994 at the Multiple District Convention in Lake Placid, NY

Revised: April 1996 at the Multiple District Convention in Saratoga Springs, NY

Revised: May 1997 at the Multiple District Convention in Niagara Falls, NY

Revised: May 2002 at the Multiple District Convention in Binghamton, NY

Revised: May 2004 at the Multiple District Convention in Lake Placid, NY

Revised: May 2005 at the Multiple District Convention in Rochester, NY

Revised: May 2006 at the Multiple District Convention in Buffalo, NY

Revised: May 2008 at the Multiple District Convention in Niagara Falls, NY