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STANDARD MD 27 LIONESS CLUB CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

1. The name of this organization is the Lioness Club.

ARTICLE II

Purpose

1. The purposes of this club shall be:

a. To cooperate with the Lions Club(s) of _____ in carrying out its service programs and activities.

b. To provide community service opportunities for individuals.

c. To unite its members in friendship, fellowship and mutual understanding.

ARTICLE III

Sponsorship

1. This club is an affiliate of the sponsoring Lions Club(s) _____ and its operations shall be and are subject to the jurisdiction and super vision of said Lions club(s). Such jurisdiction and supervision shall be exercised in a manner which will promote the best interests of the Lioness Club Program.

ARTICLE IV

Projects

1. Subject to the provisions of Article III, this club may plan and implement service projects within its community in addition to those projects in which it lends support and cooperation to the Lions Club(s) of _____.

2. Community services of this club shall be financed primarily through public fund-raising projects. Direct costs of any such project may be paid from funds so raised, but no portion of the net income realized in any public fundraising project shall be used to finance any administrative expense of this club or to directly or indirectly benefit this club or any member thereof. All such net income shall be used exclusively for charitable purposes.

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ARTICLE V

Membership

1. Membership in this club shall be granted to any person who is of legal majority, good moral character and good reputation in the community, and who, upon sponsorship by a member of this club and approval by the club and approval by the club's board of directors, receives and accepts a written invitation to join and pays the then required fees of this club.
2. Classes: Membership in this club shall be active and such other classes as the bylaws of this club may provide. Members of all classes shall be included in the total membership count for the purpose of determining the annual levy.
3. Termination - Membership in this club shall cease and terminate upon:
 - a. Acceptance by the club's board of directors of a written resignation. The board may withhold acceptance of any resignation until all in debt has been paid, all club funds and property have been returned, and all right to the use of the club name, emblem and other insignia has been surrendered.

OR

- b. Termination of existence of this club as provided in Article XV.

OR

- c. Vote therefore at a regular or special club meeting of no less than two-thirds of the entire membership of this club in good standing at the time of such vote.

OR

- d. Vote therefore of no less than two-thirds of all members of this club's board of directors.
- e. If a club wishes to terminate a member, the provisions of ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED must be followed.

ARTICLE VI

Meetings

1. Club Meetings

- a. Regular business meetings of this club shall be held at such times and places as set forth in the bylaws.
- b. The club president may at any time call, and upon written request by no less than twenty-five (25%) percent of the members in good standing, shall call a special meeting of the club. Such call may be given verbally or in writing, but it shall be given to each member in good standing and shall designate a time and place reasonably convenient to a majority of the members in good standing and state, generally, the purpose of such meeting. Such notice, if written, shall be considered as given when deposited in the mails and addressed to a member at the address shown on the club records at the time of mailing.

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c. Quorum: The presence in person of a majority of the members in good standing shall be necessary for a quorum at any regular or special meeting of this club, unless otherwise stated in the club bylaws.

2. Board of Directors Meetings

a. Regular business meetings of the board of directors shall be held at times and places as provided in the bylaws.

b. The president may at any time call, and upon the written request of any three (3) members of the board shall call, a special meeting of the board. Such call may be given verbally or in writing, but it shall be given to every member thereof, and shall designate a time and place reasonably convenient to a majority of such members and set forth, generally the purpose of such meeting. Such notice, if written shall be considered as given when deposited in the mails and addressed to the member at the address shown on the club records at the time of mailing.

c. Quorum: The presence in person of the president or vice president and any three (3) other members of the board shall be necessary for a quorum at any regular or special meeting of the board.

c. Any member of this club in good standing shall have the right to attend any regular or special meeting of the board of directors, but no such member may speak at any board meeting except by consent of the board.

3. Except as otherwise specifically provided, the act of a majority of the members present at any meeting shall be the act and decision of the entire club.

ARTICLE VII

Officers

1. The officers of this club shall be a president, immediate past president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer and such other officer(s) as may be provided in the bylaws. Each officer shall be a member in good standing, and with the exception of the immediate past president, shall take office on July 1 following the election, and shall serve for a term of one (1) year or until a successor has been elected and qualified. No member may hold two (2) offices simultaneously.

2. Unless specifically provided otherwise in this constitution, the duties of the officers shall be those assigned to their respective offices under ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

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ARTICLE VIII

Board of Directors

Subject to the provisions of Article III:

1. The control and supervision of the business and affairs of this club shall rest in a board of directors composed of all officers of the club and three (3) directors elected from the members in good standing.
2. Unless rescinded or modified by the board itself decisions of the board of directors shall be effective for all purposes unless and until reversed or modified by a vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members of this club in good standing at the time of the vote.
3. The board of directors shall have general control over all committees and officers, may override the decision or action of any officer, and for good cause, may declare any office vacant and appoint a member in good standing to fill any unexpired term thereof.
4. The board of directors shall present an annual report of its operations to the club membership and to the sponsoring Lions club.

ARTICLE IX

Elections

1. Elections of officers and directors shall be held annually, not later than April 15, at a meeting specified in the club bylaws. No more than a plurality of the votes cast for any office or directorship shall be necessary for election thereto.
2. New officers shall be reported to the District Governor within thirty (30) days following the elections.

ARTICLE X

Committees

1. The bylaws shall provide for constitution and bylaws, finance, project and such other standing committees as may be deemed necessary for administration of the club. The president, with the approval of the board, may appoint such special committees as necessary from time to time.

ARTICLE XI

Fees and Dues

1. This club shall charge such fees and dues as shall be necessary from time to time to meet the administrative costs of this club and as are specified in the bylaws.

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2. Any member who shall owe this club any monetary obligation at the time of any vote at any regular or special meeting, or at any other time at which the question of good standing is raised, shall automatically forfeit the privilege of voting by virtue thereof and be considered for all purposes as not in good standing so long as said obligation remains unpaid.

ARTICLE XII

1. By accepting membership herein, each member of this club agrees to uphold and be bound by Lioness club policies of the Lions District Cabinet and the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of this club.

ARTICLE XIII

Bylaws

1. The board of directors of this club shall prepare and present, and a majority of the members in good standing of this club shall adopt, at a regular or special meeting, such bylaws as are deemed necessary to the efficient operation of this club; PROVIDED, however, that all such bylaws shall be consistent with the provisions of this constitution, any bylaws, or amendments thereto or repeal thereof, which shall contravene any provision of this constitution or any policy of The Lions District Cabinet shall be null and void and of no effect from inception.

ARTICLE XIV

Emblem

1. The emblem of this club shall be:

Such emblem shall be and remain the sole property of The International Association of Lions Clubs and shall be the emblem of the club and members thereof only so long as the special license has been obtained by your sponsoring Lions Club, and has not been revoked by the International Association of Lions Clubs.

2. Each member of this club shall be entitled to wear or otherwise display the same in a dignified and appropriate manner only during the period of Lioness membership. Such entitlement shall automatically cease upon termination of membership or the existence of this club.

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ARTICLE XV

Duration

1. This club shall cease to exist upon the occurrence of any of the following:
a. Vote of this club to terminate.

1. If Lioness club members wish to terminate their Lioness club, upon submission of Lioness Club Cancellation Form to the Lions District Cabinet, the Lioness club will be canceled.

b. Receipt by any officer of this club of written notice of withdrawal of sponsorship by the Lions Club(s) of _____.

1. If a Lions club wishes to cancel its Lioness club without the mutual agreement of the Lioness members, the Lions club shall give the Lioness club ninety days' notice, along with a written report listing reasons for cancellation; a copy of this report shall be sent on the same date to the Lioness club liaison, district Lioness club chair and the district governor.

If the district officials are not able to resolve the differences between the Lions and Lioness clubs within a ninety day period, the Lions club shall then send notice in writing to all members of the Lions club, advising them that at one of the next regularly scheduled Lions club meetings, the Lions club members will vote on whether or not to terminate the Lioness club. This notice in writing must be mailed to each Lions club member at least twenty-one days before the meeting will take place. The meeting must be held at a regular time and at a regular meeting place, and fifty percent of the members in good standing must be present at this meeting. Along with the notice of this meeting shall be a copy of the written report listing reasons for cancellation which was sent to the Lioness club ninety days previously.

A copy of this meeting notice and reasons for cancellation must be sent to the president of the Lioness club, district Lioness club chair, Lioness district president _____ and the district governor for their information on the same date it is mailed to the Lions club members.

If two-thirds of the members in good standing at said meeting vote to cancel the Lioness club the Lions club must send a copy of the report listing reasons for cancellation, along with the Lioness Club Cancellation Form to the Lions District Cabinet. Copies of this should also be sent to the president of the Lioness club, the Lioness club liaison, District Lioness club chair and the District Governor. Upon receipt by the Lions District Cabinet of a copy of this report, the Lions District Cabinet shall then advise the Lioness club of its cancellation.

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c. Receipt by any officer of this club of written notice of revocation of Certificate of Organization of this club by the Lions District Cabinet.

2. By virtue of termination under any provision in Section 1, and without the necessity of any other act, all rights and privileges of this club and each member thereof to use the Lioness club name and emblem shall thereon be automatically relinquished and surrendered.

ARTICLE XVI

Parliamentary Authority

Unless specifically provided otherwise in this constitution, all questions of parliamentary procedure in the operations of this club shall be governed by ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

ARTICLE XVII

Amendments

This constitution may be amended only by action of the Lions District Cabinet and all amendments adopted by said cabinet shall automatically amend and become provisions of this constitution.

ARTICLE XVIII

The fiscal year of this club shall run from July 1st to June 30th.

HISTORY: Adopted by Motion #152, State Council Meeting 6/25/1992

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 27 POLICY MANUAL

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STANDARD AFFILIATE DISTRICT CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I

Name

1. This organization shall be known as Affiliate District 27-_____.

ARTICLE II

Objects

1. To provide an administrative structure with which to advance the Purposes of the Lioness Club Program in this District.

ARTICLE III

District Organization

1. The Affiliate District shall include all officially recognized Lioness Clubs within the territorial boundaries of the District.

2. The territorial boundaries of the Affiliate District shall coincide with the boundaries of the respective Lions District 27-_____.

3. The members of this organization shall be all officially recognized Lioness Clubs sponsored by Lions Clubs in said District.

ARTICLE IV

Affiliate District Officers

1. Affiliate District President: An election for the office of Affiliate District President shall be held at each annual Affiliate District Convention. No Affiliate District President may succeed themselves by election or appointment except with the approval of the Lions District 27-_____ Cabinet.

a. Qualifications

The qualifications for Affiliate District President shall be:

1. Member in good standing of a recognized Lioness Club in the District.
2. Have served as an elected President, Vice-President, Secretary or Treasurer of a Lioness Club in the respective District.
3. Have received the endorsement of their Lioness club.

b. Election Procedure

1. Nominations

Nominations to the office of Affiliate District President shall be by written nomination of any duly qualified member, such nomination to be in writing to reach the Affiliate District Secretary at least thirty days prior to the opening of the Affiliate District Convention. No nomination shall be in order which is not so made and received.

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Nominations for the office of Affiliate District President shall:

- a. be made by any recognized Lioness Club in good standing in the respective District,
- b. be endorsed by the Lioness Club of which the nominee is a member, and
- c. be acknowledged by the duly qualified nominee as evidence of assent to the nomination.
- d. In the event no written nominations are made or no duly nominated candidate stands for election at the date of the Affiliate District Convention, nominations of qualified Lioness for the Affiliate District President may be made by any delegate from the floor of the Affiliate District convention, provided the eligibility of the candidate(s) is confirmed.

Election

The election of the Affiliate District President shall be by secret ballot, the following provisions applying thereto:

- a. In the event there are only two nominees, the nominee obtaining the majority of votes cast shall be declared elected. In the event of a tie, a flip of a coin by the election committee chair with the candidates present shall decide.
- b. In the event there are three or more nominees, the one receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared elected.
- c. In the event there is but one nominee, then by majority vote the printed ballot rule may be suspended and a unanimous voice vote may be cast in favor of said single nominee.

2. Affiliate District Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. An annual election for the offices of Affiliate District Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be held at each Affiliate District convention. The qualifications for said offices and the procedure for nomination and election thereto shall be the same as prescribed for the office of Affiliate District President. The Affiliate District Secretary and Affiliate District Treasurer may be appointed by the Affiliate District President if the provisions of the District by-laws so state.

If the Affiliate District Secretary and Affiliate District Treasurer are appointed, in the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of Affiliate District President, the new District Affiliate President may appoint a new Affiliate District Secretary and Affiliate District Treasurer.

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3. Vacancies. In the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of Affiliate District President, the Affiliate District Vice-President shall automatically advance to and fill said office. In the event the Affiliate District Vice-President refuses to serve in the office of Affiliate District President for any reason, the Lions District Governor shall fill the vacancy created by such refusal by appointment for the unexpired term.

4. Other Affiliate District Offices. The Affiliate District President shall appoint, by the time office is taken, such other District Officers as may be proposed by an Affiliate District convention and as approved by the Lions District 27-_____ Cabinet.

5. Affiliate District Cabinet. There shall be an Affiliate District Cabinet composed of Affiliate District President, Affiliate District Vice-President, the Affiliate District Secretary, the Affiliate District Treasurer and such other Affiliate District Officers as may be provided for in accordance with Article IV, Section 4. Each Affiliate District Cabinet Officer shall have one vote. The Lion, appointed as District Affiliate Chair, shall serve as an advisory, nonvoting member.

6. Affiliate District Chair. Besides serving as an advisory, nonvoting member of the Affiliate District Cabinet, the Affiliate District Chair shall also serve as the official liaison between the Lions District Cabinet and the Affiliate District Cabinet. The Affiliate District Chair shall report to the Lions District Cabinet all resolutions of the Affiliate District Cabinet.

ARTICLE V

Affiliate District Cabinet Meetings

1. Meetings of the Affiliate District Cabinet shall be held at least twice annually at times and places fixed by the Affiliate District President and provided that one of such meetings shall be held at the time of the Affiliate District Convention.

2. Quorum and Vote. The attendance of a majority of the voting members of the Cabinet shall constitute a quorum for any meeting thereof.

3. Except where inconsistent with and contrary to the provisions of the Lions District Constitution and By-Laws, the District Affiliate Cabinet shall:

a. Have jurisdiction and control over all officers and agents when acting as such, of the Affiliate District Cabinet and all committees of the Affiliate District Convention.

b. Have management and control over property, business and funds of the Affiliate District.

c. Have jurisdiction, control and supervision over all phases of the Affiliate District Convention and all other meetings of said District.

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(d) Have original jurisdiction, when authorized under policy of said Lions District 27-_____ Cabinet and under rules of procedure prescribed by said Cabinet, to hear and rule upon any complaint of a Constitutional nature raised by any Lioness Club or any member of a Lioness Club in the said Affiliate District. All such rulings of the Affiliate Cabinet shall be subject to review and decision of the Lions District Cabinet.

(e) Have control and management of all budgetary matters of the Affiliate District and committees of the Affiliate District and Affiliate District Convention. All transactions shall be subject to approval of the Lions District Cabinet and no obligation may be approved or made which shall effect an unbalanced budget or deficit in any fiscal year.

ARTICLE VI

Affiliate District Convention

1. An Affiliate District Convention shall be held annually
2. The location of the annual Affiliate District Convention shall be determined at the previous annual Affiliate District Convention. The date and time of the Affiliate District Convention shall be determined by the current Affiliate District Cabinet. A Committee appointed by the Affiliate District Cabinet shall plan the Affiliate District Convention.
3. Each recognized Lioness Club in good standing in the Affiliate District shall be entitled to one voting delegate. Clubs with membership of over ten members will be entitled to additional delegates for each additional ten members of the club in good standing or major fraction thereof. The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five or more members. Each Affiliate Past District President, who is a member in good standing of a Lioness Club within the District, shall be entitled to one vote. 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 rules of the respective Convention. A vote may be cast only by a delegate present in person at the time of voting and no delegate may cast more than one vote on any question.
4. A majority of the delegates present in person at any session shall constitute a quorum.
5. A two-thirds majority vote of delegates present in person at a session shall be sufficient for the adoption or rejection of any resolution before the Affiliate Convention.

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ARTICLE VII

Affiliate District Funds

1. To provide revenue to defray the administrative expenses of this District, an annual per capita tax shall be levied upon each member of each club in the Affiliate District.

The levy shall be collected and paid in advance by each Lioness Club to the Affiliate District Secretary. The frequency, amount and dates for such payments shall be determined by the respective Affiliate District Convention.

All taxes to be levied and collected shall be administered through an Affiliate District Administrative Fund. Expenditures therefrom shall be for such items only as are approved by the Affiliate District Cabinet. The Cabinet shall not incur any financial liability in excess of funds realized in the fiscal year in which it serves.

2. A banking account shall be opened for the purpose of receiving moneys and all checks and negotiable instruments drawn thereon shall be signed by the Affiliate District Treasurer and the Affiliate District President.

3. The Affiliate District Cabinet shall provide for an annual audit of the Affiliate District Accounts by an Auditor appointed by the Affiliate District Cabinet. An audit report of the Balance Sheets and Income and Expenditure Accounts for the previous fiscal year shall be submitted at each Annual Affiliate District Convention and to the Lions District Cabinet.

4. Any undeposited Affiliate District Administrative Fund collections remaining at the end of each fiscal year shall be turned over to the incoming Affiliate District Cabinet by the person or persons holding the same and such collections together with the Affiliate District Administration Fund Account balances then remaining shall be considered as funds realized by the incoming Affiliate District Cabinet.

ARTICLE VIII

Titles

Only the titles designated in this Constitution may be used by Affiliate District Officers. Titles such as District Governor, Region Chair, Zone Chair and any other terminology used by or appropriate to Lions District Officers shall not be used.

ARTICLE IX

By-Laws

The Affiliate District Cabinet shall present, and the Affiliate District Convention shall adopt, such By-Laws as are deemed necessary to the efficient operation of said Affiliate District PROVIDED however that all such By-Laws shall be consistent with the provisions of this Constitution, and shall be endorsed by the Lions District Cabinet. Any By-Laws or Amendments thereto, which shall contravene any provision of this Constitution, or action of said Lions District 27- _____ Cabinet shall be null and void and of no effect.

MULTIPLE DISTRICT 27 POLICY MANUAL

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ARTICLE X

Duration

1. The Affiliate District shall cease to exist upon the first to occurrence of any of the following:

a. Vote of said Affiliate District to terminate. If an Affiliate District wishes to terminate its Affiliate District status, upon submission of a letter requesting termination to the Lions District 27-__ Cabinet, the Affiliate District shall be canceled.

b. Receipt by the Affiliate District President of written notice of withdrawal of approval by the Lions District Cabinet.

1. If a Lions District Cabinet wishes to cancel its Affiliate District without the mutual agreement of the Lioness clubs within that District, the Lions District Cabinet shall give the Affiliate District Cabinet ninety days' notice, along with a written report listing reasons for the cancellation; a copy of this report shall be sent on the same date to the Affiliate District President, President of each Lioness Clubs in the District and the District Affiliate Club Chair.

If the District officials are not able to resolve the differences between the Lions and the Affiliate District within a 90 day period, the Lions District shall then send notice in writing to the Presidents of all the Lions Clubs in the District, advising them that at the next Lions District Convention a vote will be taken on whether or not to terminate the Affiliate District. Each certified delegate present in person shall be entitled to cast a vote. This notice of this meeting shall be a copy of the written report listing the reasons for cancellation which was sent to the Affiliate District Cabinet ninety (90) days previously. Presidents of all Lioness Clubs in the District, the Affiliate District Club Chair, and Affiliate District President on the same date it is mailed to the Lions Club Presidents.

If a vote is taken at the Lions District Convention to cancel the Affiliate District and is passed by two-thirds of the voting delegates, the Lions District Cabinet must send a copy of the report listing reasons for the cancellation to the Affiliate District Cabinet.

Copies of this report should also be sent to each Lioness Club President, the District Affiliate Club Chair and Affiliate District President.

2. By virtue of this termination, provided in Section 1, all monies on deposit to the credit of said Affiliate District shall be remitted to the Lions District Cabinet.

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ARTICLE XI

Amendments

1. This Constitution may be amended only by action of the Multiple District Council of Governors, upon the recommendation of the Affiliate Advisory Committee. All amendments when so adopted shall automatically amend and become provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE XII

Fiscal Year

The fiscal year of this Affiliate District shall run from July 1st to June 30th.

HISTORY Adopted by Motion, State Council meeting 6/25/1992; Amended by Motion #49, State Council meeting 7/25/1998; Adopted as a Multiple District Policy by Motion #100, State Council meeting, 10/11/2003.