



DISTRICT A-15 LIONS CLUBS®
THE INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
LIONS CLUBS



Agenda, A-15 Cabinet Meeting, Sunday August 10, 2025, 3:00 pm
South Wellington Community Lions Club Branch
Ennotville Historical Library, 7722 6th Line Elora (off Hwy 6 between Fergus and Guelph)

1. Call to order
2. O Canada: ZC E. George Woodley
3. Land Acknowledgement: ZC William Belrose
4. Moment of Silence: DG Linda Vinette
5. Welcome from DG Linda Vinette
6. Protocol: VDG Rick Mallon
7. Installation of Cabinet: PID Art Woods
8. Guest Speaker
9. Remarks from District Governor
10. Additions/Changes to and Approval of the Agenda
11. Motion to receive minutes of previous Cabinet Meeting June 21, 2025, available at:
<https://a15lions.org/pages/uploads/Events/CabinetMinutes20250621Jun.pdf>
12. Motion to ratify the actions of the previous Cabinet
13. Secretary's Report
14. Treasurer's Report:
 - a) Year End Report and Financial Statements – June 30, 2025
 - b) Budget Review for 2025-2026. Discussion
 - c) Motion re: New Memorial Forest Maintenance Fund
 - d) Motion re: Spousal Travel to International Convention
15. Cabinet Reports
16. Committee Reports
 - a) PDDG George Patton re: A15 Bylaws
 - b) Approval of Convention 2026 Budget
17. Old Business
18. New Business: Increasing Convention Levy
19. Special Presentations & Awards: Presentation of Art Woods Golden Tree Award by PID Art Woods
20. Anything for the Good & Welfare of Lionism
21. Announcements
22. Next Cabinet Meeting Wednesday October 29, 2025, 7:00 pm, Drumbo Lions Club
23. Blessing for the meal: IPDG Bill Robinson
24. Adjournment

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Good day fellow Lions

A brief report. I'm a servant leader. I believe that the clubs are our number one priority. We are here to assist them to be the most successful they can be. Visitations have been scheduled. I look forward to working with Governor Linda's team to make this a fabulous year for Lions in A15

Respectfully Submitted

Rick Mallon

1stVDG A15

2nd Vice District Governor Report – District A15

Presented by: Lion Paul Anstett

Date: August 10/25

Fellow Lions,

I am pleased to present my report as 2nd Vice District Governor for District A15.

I have attended the first Vice District Governors' Development Session, which provided valuable insights into leadership, communication, and the responsibilities associated with serving in this role. The session reinforced the importance of collaboration and continuity within our leadership team.

My visitations to the Clubs I have been assigned to represent on behalf of District Governor Linda have been scheduled. I look forward to these opportunities to engage with Club members directly, share District initiatives, and strengthen relationships across our Lions family.

In addition, I am actively engaged in further training through the Lions Learning Center on The Portal. I am currently completing modules specific to the 2nd Vice District Governor role, which are helping to enhance my leadership capacity and deepen my understanding of Lions Club operations and governance.

My goals for this year are to support District Governor Linda and her team in advancing the goals of Lions International and to serve as a reliable and proactive member of the District leadership team. I am committed to working collaboratively to ensure that our Clubs continue to thrive in service, membership, and leadership development.

Yours in Service,

Lion Paul Anstett

2nd Vice District Governor, District A15

Secretary's Report to Cabinet August 10, 2025

This is my second term as Cabinet Secretary, and as yet, there's nothing specific to report. I hope to continue working on the skills needed to perform the duties of secretary, and have made some progress familiarizing myself with the Google platform used by A15. I very much enjoyed meeting so many Lions last year in my new position and I hope to make more new friends this year. I attended some anniversary celebrations last year and I look forward to accompanying RC Kevin March on some of the zone visits in 37 South this year. I think visiting other clubs is important because it offers an opportunity to make new friends, bring new ideas back to your club and opens up the possibility of Lions working together with other clubs on joint fundraising and service activities.

On a personal note, we are the proud parents of two new fur babies. Gizmo and Molly are 10 week old black and white Shih Tzus. We picked them up on our way home from a camping trip in the bush. We camped at The Watershed, 8 km in off the highway and an hour and a half from Timmons, where we had to go for groceries after our fridge died on the 2nd day. \$100 for a new cooler, \$180 for a dining tent because the mosquitoes had teeth, \$200 for a hotel room on the last night so we could shower, and then we blew a tire on the trailer on the way home, so \$675 for four new trailer tires! It was an expensive vacation to say the least. I think we could have toured Europe for less money! And I fell after getting out of bed and landed in the closet, which didn't help. Our friend Mark asked me if I would ever do this again (i.e. camping in the bush). Hahaha. Not unless we win the lottery!

Dianna Hewitt
Cabinet Secretary
A15 Lions



District A-15 Lions Clubs

Administration Account - Balance Sheet

As at:	June 30 2025	June 30 2024
ASSETS		
Kindred		
Kindred Emergency Fund Cash	24,886.49	24,886.49
Kindred Cash	43,249.99	47,066.63
Total Cash in Kindred	<u>68,136.48</u>	<u>71,953.12</u>
Shares in Kindred	25.00	25.00
Total Cash	<u>68,161.48</u>	<u>71,978.12</u>
District Dues Receivable	-	(48.01)
Total Current Assets	<u>68,161.48</u>	<u>71,930.11</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u><u>68,161.48</u></u>	<u><u>71,930.11</u></u>
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Fines to be donated to LCIF	-	10.00
Centennial Project Fund	328.97	328.97
Convention Fund	-	4,455.79
DGE Partner Travel	941.17	3,600.17
Total Current Liabilities	<u>1,270.14</u>	<u>8,394.93</u>
Long Term Liabilities		
International Director - Contra	9,100.25	8,782.50
New Club Assessment - Contra	8,200.08	7,249.08
Total Long Term Liabilities	<u>17,300.33</u>	<u>16,031.58</u>
Total Liabilities	18,570.47	24,426.51
Equity		
Emergency Reserve Fund	23,000.00	23,000.00
Retained Earnings	24,503.60	21,411.23
Net Income	2,087.41	3,092.37
Total Equity	<u>49,591.01</u>	<u>47,503.60</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u><u>68,161.48</u></u>	<u><u>71,930.11</u></u>



District A-15 Lions Clubs

Profit & Loss - Budget vs. Actual

Administration Account - July 1 2024 - June 30 2025

	Actual	Budget	Over/(Under Budget)
Income			
District Directory	-	-	-
District Dues	10,663.50	10,803.50	(140.00)
Interest Earned	102.89	-	102.89
Leadership Development	1,400.00	1,400.00	-
Membership Assessment	1,906.50	1,906.50	-
Pin Sales	290.00	400.00	(110.00)
Leadership Grant from LCI	-	-	-
GAT Grants from LCI and MDA	1,100.00	1,000.00	100.00
Total Income	15,462.89	15,510.00	(47.11)
Expense			
Awards - Cabinet	667.73	1,000.00	(332.27)
Awards - Other	102.74	500.00	(397.26)
Total Awards	770.47	1,500.00	(729.53)
Badges & Patches	717.71	1,200.00	(482.29)
Bank Charges	353.29	250.00	103.29
Cabinet Expense	1,088.87	1,535.00	(446.13)
Convention Expense	574.18	2,000.00	(1,425.82)
District Chair Expense			
Comm Chair	950.00	1,100.00	(150.00)
District Chair - Other	-	300.00	(300.00)
Total District Chair Expense	950.00	1,400.00	(450.00)
District Directories	-	-	-
Global Action Team	1,577.80	2,300.00	(722.20)
Internet	197.85	375.00	(177.15)
Marketing and Canopy maintenance	2,904.22	300.00	2,604.22
Leadership Seminars	1,602.26	500.00	1,102.26
Leadership Institutes	-	450.00	(450.00)
Pins Purchased , District	1,328.69	1,500.00	(171.31)
Postage & Telephone	11.09	200.00	(188.91)
Office Expense	399.05	500.00	(100.95)
USA / Canada Forum	900.00	1,500.00	(600.00)
Total Expense	13,375.48	15,510.00	(2,134.52)
Net Income	2,087.41	-	2,087.41



District A-15 Lions Clubs Trust Accounts - Balance Sheet

ASSETS	June 30, 2025	June 30, 2024
Chequing/Savings		
Trust Sight Imprest	5523.38	5523.38
Youth Exchange Imprest	12858.83	12858.83
Total - Youth	12858.83	12858.83
Kindred-Trust Account	217459.21	23629.68
Total Cash	235841.42	42011.89
Trf fm Admin for Interest Income	0.00	-30.65
Total Cash and Receivable	235841.42	41981.24
Total Current Assets	235841.42	41981.24
TOTAL ASSETS	235841.42	41981.24
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Liabilities		
Current Liabilities		
Centennial Project- Gates	1029.20	1820.20
Effective Speaking Acct	614.01	2314.01
Hearing Equipment	803.07	803.07
Diabetes Awareness	0.00	500.00
Lions Foundation of Canada		
LCIF \$150,000 US Matching Grant	202504.94	0.00
Leash Free Park	1604.86	1604.86
Total Lions Foundation of Canada	204109.80	1604.86
LIONS Quest Contra Account	0.00	5741.78
LIONS Quest Canada	0.00	602.00
Peace Poster	1939.55	1749.53
Vision Screening	2972.94	2972.94
Youth Camp / Y. Ex. Contra Acct	16106.81	15606.81
Total Current Liabilities	227575.38	33715.20
Long Term Liabilities		
Youth Camp Capital	8266.04	8266.04
Total Long Term Liabilities	8266.04	8266.04
Total Liabilities	235841.42	41981.24
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	235841.42	41981.24



District A-15 Lions Clubs

Administration Budget 2025-2026

	Budget	Membership - 1,306 Clubs - 55	2024-25 Actual	Difference
Income				
District Directory	300.00	50 directories @ \$6.00	-	300.00
District Dues	11,101.00	1,306 members @ \$8.50	10,663.50	437.50
Interest Earned	-		102.89	(102.89)
Leadership Development	1,375.00	55 clubs @ \$25.00	1,400.00	(25.00)
MD 'A' Dues	-	* collect and remit to MDA	-	-
Membership Assessment	1,959.00	1,306 members @ \$1.50	1,906.50	52.50
Pin Sales	400.00	80 Pins @ \$5.00	290.00	110.00
Leadership Grant from LCI	-		-	-
GAT Grants from MDA	1,000.00		1,100.00	(100.00)
Total Income	16,135.00		15,462.89	672.11
Expenses				
Awards - Cabinet	750.00	Cabinet and Committee	667.73	82.27
Awards - Other	146.50	Club Service awards	102.74	43.76
Total Awards	896.50		770.47	126.03
Badges & Patches	1,025.00	Cabinet and Committee	717.71	307.29
Bank Charges	375.00		353.29	21.71
Cabinet Expense	2,326.00	4 in-person meetings	1,088.87	1,237.13
Meal costs for Cabinet & Comm Chairs				
Mileage for CS, CT, GAT Video chair				
Convention Expense	820.00	For items not covers by Levy	574.18	245.82
		Registration fees for Cabinet		
		Memorial Service costs		
District Chair Expense				
Comm Chair	1,250.00	Honorariums	950.00	300.00
District Chair - Other	120.00		-	120.00
Total District Chair Expense	1,370.00		950.00	420.00
District Directories	1,322.50	250 Directories	-	1,322.50
Global Action Team	2,775.00	GLT/GMT/GST programs	1,577.80	1,197.20
		Mileage for GAT members		
		Membership workshops		
		New Member booklet		
Internet	275.00	Webhosting renewal	197.85	77.15
Marketing and Canopy maintenance	300.00	Display panels & Canopy	2,904.22	(2,604.22)
Leadership Seminars	2,190.00	3 in-person training sessions	1,602.26	587.74
		Officers training school and		
		two ZC & RC sessions		
Leadership Institutes	75.00	RLLI - currently online	-	75.00
Pins Purchased , District	1,010.00	District Pins	1,328.69	(318.69)
Postage & Telephone	100.00	Postage for DG, CS, CT, etc	11.09	88.91
Office Expense	475.00		399.05	75.95
Video Conferencing Software - Zoom		2 Licence renewals		
Database Software - YAMM		1 Licence renewal		
Printer Supplies		Copy Paper, Toner Cartridges		
Debit machine - Square				
USA / Canada Forum	800.00		900.00	(100.00)
Total Expense	16,135.00		13,375.48	2,759.52
Net Income	-		2,087.41	(2,087.41)

Hello everyone! Hoping everyone is enjoying their summer so far. Hard to believe we're into August already!

My name is Terry McDougall. I'm taking on the role of Region Chair for Zone 37. I am looking forward to this new role.

I would like to thank previous RC37 Joyce Townsend. She did an admirable job as RC. I have big shoes to fill!

I joined Plattsville and District Lions in December 2018. I've been an active member for 6.5 years now. I am currently the President going into my third year in the role.

Last year was my first year on District Cabinet as Zone Chair for 37south. It was a great experience! I didn't think initially I had enough experience as a Lion to take on the role when I was first asked. So I did my homework and talked to a few other people. I was told the ZC was a fun position, the easiest! You go around to the Clubs, talk to them and they feed you! I felt that was a fair exchange. But I got more than just a meal. There were some really good meals by the way! I also built priceless relationships. I met a lot of people, listened to them, laughed with them and helped them. I want to thank Immediate Past DG Bill and past DG Tracey for their unwavering support of me. Bill reached out to me and encouraged me to be on his Cabinet as ZC. I'm glad I accepted.

As Region Chair, I get to visit more Clubs and build new relationships while helping them along the way. My door is always open. If you have a question, need help on a project, need an induction, anything....if I don't have the answer, I will get it for you.

This year I plan to visit all Clubs in 37west to meet and build new relationships. I also plan to revisit Clubs in 37south. I will be there to support RC Kevin March who is filling in for the vacant ZC 37s position.

I have the support of my family. Married 29 years, two adult sons. Born and raised in the KW area. Employed with Waterloo Regional Police Service 23 1/2 years. Member of the Chiefs Honour Guard 5 1/2 years.

Thank-you for all you do in Lions. I look forward to my new role and being a part of DG Linda's Cabinet!

Wishing you all a great year! Enjoy the rest of your summer.

Yours in Lionism,

Lion Terry McDougall

Region Chair 37

District A15

WHERE THERE IS A NEED, THERE IS A LION.

(2025 Aug 10 Cabinet Meeting)

Fellow Lions:

I am happy to be returning as Region Chair 51 for another exciting year of service. I look forward this year to working with Zone Chair for 51 West George Woodley (Belwood Lions), and new Zone Chair for 51 East William Belrose (Guelph Lions).

I'm happy to assist with service projects from different clubs in addition to zone meetings, and joint zone meetings.

I've been a Lion since 1981. I'm a life member of the Rockwood & District Lions Club, and president this year. I have successfully completed the online LCI Guiding Lion Course, and hope to make use of what I've learned. I want to help all of the clubs in A15 grow in membership and do our part to reach 1.5 million members by 2027.

Kevin March

Region Chair 51, A15 Lions



Cabinet Meeting August 10, 2025

All Club Visits have been arranged and should be completed by November 25th.

First Zone Advisory is planned for Thursday September 18 in Lynden hosted by the Lynden Lions Club. The agenda for this meeting will be geared to the membership needs of the Clubs of Zone 9C. I hope to have a questionnaire out beforehand and a group discussion on membership retention/ increases at the meeting.

I will be attending the GAT meeting on the 17 August to get ideas for the advisory meeting.

I will be away in Australia From October 14 to November 10 but I hope to have a lot of work done prior to this.

Submitted By

Neil Stephenson, Zone Chair

Zone 9C

District A-15 Lions

905-689-6148





Dear Cabinet Secretary and District Governor Linda,

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as Zone Chair for 9E this year. It's a privilege to support the incredible clubs in this zone and contribute to the momentum building across District A15 under your leadership.

Update on Meeting bookings for all 9E clubs can be found [here](#).

As we begin the Lions year, I'm focusing on four key priorities:

1. Leadership & Succession

I'm working with each club to help identify, develop, and retain future leaders. This includes:

- Promoting participation in the Lions Learning events and the Lions Leadership Journey.
- Encouraging smoother officer transitions by sharing tools and templates.
- Highlighting and mentoring members who are active in service but not yet in leadership roles.

2. Club Health & Membership Growth

Membership is the lifeblood of our clubs. This year, I will:

- Support clubs in assessing what makes membership meaningful and attractive to their communities.
- Encourage peer-to-peer outreach and storytelling to inspire new members.
- Share creative approaches that go beyond traditional recruitment—such as service-first engagement, family memberships, and legacy-building.

3. Modernizing Communications & Marketing

Many clubs are doing amazing work, but the community doesn't always hear about it. I'd like to help clubs:

- Improve visibility through refreshed websites, social media presence, and email communication.
- Use simple tools to share their impact stories with the public and potential members.
- Create consistency in branding and messaging, so Lions are easily recognized and understood in their communities.

4. Connection & Celebration

To strengthen unity across the zone, I'll:

- Inspire inter-club service opportunities and co-hosted events.



- Launch a quarterly “Zone 9E Highlights” newsletter to celebrate club achievements and share ideas.
- Encourage every club to proudly share at least one success story with the district this year.

A Personal Note:

As the daughter of a founding member of the Copetown Lions Club, I’ve seen firsthand how powerful our mission can be when we evolve with purpose. This year, I’ll champion both tradition and transformation to ensure every club in our zone is positioned for long-term impact.

If there’s one theme that will guide me this year, it’s:

Serve with purpose. Lead with heart. Communicate with clarity.

In service,

Colleen Martin

Zone Chair, 9E
Copetown Lions Club
zone9e@a15lions.org



Fellow Lions:

I have volunteered to be Acting Zone Chair for 37 South this year, and look forward to working with all of the clubs in the zone. The visits are booked and if we don't get an early winter, I'll be getting to meet lots of Lions in 37 South.

I started in Lions in 1975 as a Leo member of Rockwood & District, and became a Lion in 1981. I've held many different positions in the club. I've been Zone Chair a few times before, and then Region Chair.

I'm happy to be working with Region Chair Terry McDougall and Zone Chair Trudy Carter in whatever capacity I can.

Kevin March

Acting Zone Chair 37 South

A15 Lions

ZC 37W Cabinet Meeting Report

August 10, 2025

Hello Fellow Lions,

My name is Trudy Carter, and I have the privilege of being the Zone Chair for 37 West for the 2025-2026 Lions year. All my visits and Zone meetings have been arranged, and I look forward to building a great relationship with the Lions in Zone 37W. I look forward to working with RC Terry and Acting ZC Kevin as well as all the members of DG Linda's cabinet in the upcoming Lions year.

Thank you,

Lion Trudy Carter
Zone Chair 37 West
519-949-2175

Fellow Lions,

As the Zone Chair for 51E, I am looking forward to the year ahead and the opportunity to support our clubs in meaningful and productive ways. While I have not yet met with the club leaders individually, I plan to begin those conversations soon to better understand their current needs and priorities.

My focus for the 2025–2026 Lions year will be on membership growth, with an emphasis on exploring innovative approaches to recruitment and retention. Recognizing that traditional methods may no longer be as effective in today's environment, I intend to:

Encourage clubs to think creatively about how they present themselves in the community.

Promote the use of social media and digital tools to increase visibility and attract new members.

Support inter-club collaboration to share ideas and successes across the zone.

Offer guidance on making meetings and service opportunities more engaging and accessible.

My goal is to help foster stronger, more dynamic clubs that are well-positioned for growth and long-term sustainability. I am eager to begin visiting clubs and working together to make this a successful year for Zone 51E.

Yours in service,
William Belrose
Zone Chair, 51E
Lions Clubs International

Zone Chair 51W Report - Update

Submitted by: Zone Chair 51W – E. George Woodley

July 24, 2025

Summer is upon us and not much has transpired thus far. All is quiet on the Western Front. I am happy to report that all my visits to the various clubs in my Zone have been finalized, including date and time. These will all happen from September to November 2025.

Our Joint Zone meeting has been arranged by RC Lion Kevin and will be held on March 03, 2026.

For the upcoming year, I would like to go on a mini campaign and share my thoughts on how to retain current members. A lot of time is spent on trying to recruit new members, but we tend to ignore the fact that we are also losing existing members. I am also a huge proponent of sponsoring and donating to the Dog Guides initiative, having volunteered at the Breslau DogGuide last year. My task was to play with the puppies. What a tough job that was (lol)!

Other than that, there is not much to report thus far.

Lion George, ZC51W; Club President, Belwood & District Lions Club

August 10 Global Membership Team (GMT) coordinator report

On July 26–27, I had the opportunity to attend the *Mission 1.5 Membership Summit* held in Winnipeg, Manitoba. This national event brought together Canadian GMTs, GETs, and District Governors from across the country. The summit theme, “**Nurturing a Culture of Growth,**” sparked many conversations and shared ideas for strengthening membership across our clubs.

Over the coming weeks, I’ll be sharing some key takeaways and ideas from the summit that may benefit your club’s membership efforts.

This fall, District A15 will be launching several new initiatives to continue building on our recent success:

- **Hosting our own District Membership Summit** – a chance to learn, collaborate, and share practical strategies for growth.
- **Developing a plan to add Leo Clubs to the district** – learning how we can create a Leo club
- **Rolling out a retention-focused support program** – providing tools and ideas for clubs to strengthen member satisfaction and long-term engagement.

Last year, we celebrated a net membership gain of 38 members – a fantastic result! I’m optimistic that with continued effort and collaboration, we can keep this positive momentum going in 2024– 2025.

Let’s keep growing, together!

GMT Coordinator

Garry Ransom

Global Leadership Team(GLT)

Lion Ken Linington
August 2025

Background

The Global Action Team (GAT) is composed of three main components: i) Global Leadership Team (GLT); ii) Global Membership Team (GMT); iii) Global Service Team (GST). This group of Lions at the District level are to assist individual Lions and Lions Clubs develop the skills and confidence necessary to create or continue a successful Lions Club.

One of the outstanding characteristics of Lionism is their ability to develop “leaders”. Lions members witness or observe individuals in leadership roles (i.e. Region Chairs, Zone Chairs, President, Secretary, Treasurer etc.), but, may not appreciate or understand the skills to be successful at these leadership positions. Lions International is exceptionally well prepared to assist members *develop the skills* to become leaders. Not only does the GLT have access to written material, it also knows people in the organization with leadership skills. Not everyone wants to be a leader, nor do they have the skills. Leadership skills are easily transferable to other aspects of life like minor sports teams, church groups, work, travel and other interests.

What’s New For 2025

In a word “engagement”. So often training is a “me talk, you listen” environment, or, go on a website and read a manual. Reading a manual or a computer screen or listening to a lecture is one way communications. *Two way communications, or having a dialogue with others often has more impact.* Those being trained will be engaged in discussion with their peers or those with real life experiences. “Learn to do by doing” is the motto of 4-H Clubs. It is also a great approach to becoming a leader in your Club and District. Take some training, and then “just do it”.

How does a new secretary become a good secretary? By *engaging* or talking with the previous secretary (or a secretary from a different club). The secretary of a club has many tasks and will need to constantly “prioritize” and “do”. Reading manuals goes a long way, but engaging with other secretaries provides a level of comfort not found in manuals. Good secretaries are usually willing to assist new secretaries. The same is true for all the positions in the Club and the District.

The goal of the GLT is to create a learning environment where you can “*engage*” with members that have the skills to be successful at the position you are accepting.

REPORT TO AUGUST 2026 CABINET MEETING

Governor Linda and Cabinet:

As directed at the June Cabinet meeting, the A-15 Bylaws [A15BL] have been re-organized to bring their order into synchronization with the Standard District Bylaws [SDBL] of Lions Clubs International. It is understood that the SDBL supersedes the A15BL. Therefore, both documents should contain virtually the same wording although local variations are required. This re-organization, as much as possible, places the articles and sections of both documents in a similar location.

It should be noted the A-15 Constitution and the Standard District Constitution were not dealt with in this re-organization.

This activity has brought to the committee's attention several areas of the A15BL which need attention to further bring both documents ([A15BL] and [SDBL]) into harmony as well as clean up some redundancies. This will be undertaken in the form of amendments to be brought forward for consideration by the voting delegates at the A-15 convention next spring.

It should be noted that the 'EXHIBITS' attached to the SDBL are now also included at the end of the A15BL. Since these are only 'Exhibits' they do not form part of either set of bylaws but are included for information and guidance only.

I would ask for a motion from Cabinet to direct the replacement of the present A15BL on the A15 web site, and any other locations, with this re-organized version of our bylaws.

Respectfully submitted,

George Patton

A15 Constitution and Bylaws Chair

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LIONS CLUBS



DISTRICT A-15 BY-LAWS

[Adopted April 2004]

**[Revised April 2008, May 2009, April 2012, March 2015, April 2016,
April 2018, April 2019, June 2020, April 2021, April 2023, April 2024]**

Re-organized August 2025

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Article I – Organization

Section 1 - DISTRICT CABINET

The district shall have a district cabinet composed of the district governor, the immediate past district governor, the first and second vice district governors, the region chairpersons (if the position is utilized during the district governor's term), the zone chairpersons, a cabinet secretary-treasurer or a cabinet secretary and a cabinet treasurer, and such other club members as may be included in this section as amended in accordance with the amendment procedures contained herein. In addition, the global membership team district coordinator, global leadership team district coordinator, global service team district coordinator, district global extension team coordinator, district marketing chairperson and LCIF district coordinator may be non-voting members of the district cabinet. Each such cabinet member shall be a member in good standing of a Lions club in good standing in the district.

ARTICLE II - District Nominations, Elections and Appointments

Section 1 - NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Each District Governor shall appoint by written notification received at least sixty (60) days prior to the District A-15 Convention a Nominating Committee of not less than three (3) and not more than five (5) members, each of whom shall be a member in good standing of a different Lions Club in good standing in the District, and shall not through the duration of their appointment hold any District Cabinet or International office either by election or appointment.

Section 2 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTION PROCEDURES

Any qualified member of a Club in the District seeking the office of District Governor shall file their intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the day of its report to the convention, and furnish evidence of compliance with the qualifications for said office set out in the International Constitution and By-Laws and the Multiple District "A" Constitution and By-Laws. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the District Convention the name(s) of all candidate(s) so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the office may be made from the floor. A candidate nominated from the floor shall be allowed one (1) nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one (1) seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration.

Section 3 - FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTION PROCEDURES

Any member of a Club in the District seeking the office of First Vice District Governor shall file their intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the election, and furnish evidence of compliance with the qualifications for said office set out in the International Constitution and By-Laws and the Multiple District "A" Constitution and By-Laws. The

Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the District Convention the names of all candidates so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the office may be made from the floor. A candidate nominated from the floor shall be allowed one (1) nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one (1) seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration.

Section 4 - SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTION PROCEDURES

Any member of a Club in the District seeking the office of Second Vice District Governor shall file their intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the election, and furnish evidence of compliance with the qualifications for said office set out in the International Constitution and By-Laws and the Multiple District "A" Constitution and By-Laws. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the District Convention the names of all candidates so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the office may be made from the floor. A candidate nominated from the floor shall be allowed one (1) nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one (1) seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration.

Section 5 - ENDORSEMENT

Candidates for all offices shall name the Club/Clubs who have provided their endorsement. The Candidate shall furnish proof of this endorsement, which shall include:

- (a) The date of the Board of Directors Meeting and the General Meeting at which the endorsement was made;
- (b) The name of the Nominator and the Seconder;
- (c) The name of the Candidate and the office sought;
- (d) Said Candidate shall submit to the Governor, in writing, their acceptance of the nomination, and
- (e) All nominations must be received by the District Governor and the Nominating Committee at least thirty (30) days prior to the day of its report to the convention.

All Lions Clubs in the Zone or Region shall be notified by the District Governor of all nominees as soon as nominations are closed.

Section 6 - BALLOT

The election shall be by secret written ballot. When two or more candidates are placed in nomination, the candidate receiving the simple majority of the votes cast by delegates present and voting in order to be declared elected. If, on the first ballot, and subsequent ballots, no candidate receives a majority, the candidate or tied candidates receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and balloting shall continue until one (1) candidate receives a majority. In case of a tie on any ballot, balloting shall continue on the tied candidates until one is elected. The successful candidates shall take office effective the day the International Convention closes.

Section 7 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR VACANCY

In the event of a vacancy in the office of District Governor, the same shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws. The Immediate Past District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governor's, Past District Governor's, Past International Governor's, and Past International Director's and Past International President's in the District shall convene at a date, time and place called and determined by the Immediate Past District Governor to select a replacement for recommendation to the International Board of Directors. (See Exhibit B at the end of this booklet.) It shall be the duty of the immediate Past District Governor, if he/she is not available, the most recent Past District Governor who is available, to send out invitations fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting to attend said meeting.

In order for a Lion to be eligible and qualified to be selected to fill a vacancy in the office of District Governor, he/she must:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (b) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in the district.
- (c) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as District Governor:
 - (i) As officer of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof; and
 - (ii) As a member of the district cabinet for two (2) full terms or major portion thereof.
 - (iii) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

Section 8 - FIRST AND SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR AND OTHER VACANCIES

Any vacancy in office except that of District Governor and First and/or Second Vice District Governor shall be filled by appointment from the District Governor for the un-expired term. In event of a vacancy arising in the office of First and/or Second Vice District Governor, the District Governor shall convene a meeting of the Immediate Past District Governor, First Vice District Governor and Second Vice District Governor, all Past International officers who are members in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in District A-15. It shall be the duty of the attendees at this meeting to appoint a qualified Club Member as First and/or Second Vice District Governor for the remainder of the term. In filling said vacancy, it shall be the duty of the District Governor, or if not available, the most recent Past District Governor who is available, to send out invitations fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting to attend said meeting and it shall also be his/her responsibility to preside as Chairperson of the meeting. The Chairperson shall convey the results to the International Office within seven (7) days together with evidence of invitations sent and meeting attendance. Each Lion that is entitled to receive an invitation to attend and is present at said meeting shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for the Lion of their choice.

In order for a Lion to be eligible and qualified to be selected to fill a vacancy in the office of first or second Vice District Governor, he/she must:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.
- (b) Secure the endorsement of his or her club or a majority of the clubs in the District.
- (c) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as first or second Vice District Governor:
 - (i) As officer of a Lions club for a full term or major portion thereof; and
 - (ii) As a member of the district cabinet for a full term or major portion thereof.
 - (iii) With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

Section 9 - REGION/ZONE CHAIRPERSON QUALIFICATIONS

Each Region and Zone Chairperson shall:

- (a) Be an active member in good standing in their respective Region or Zone; and
- (b) Have served or will have served at the time of taking office as Region or Zone Chairperson 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.
- (c) Have not previously served a full term or a major portion thereof as District Governor.
- (d) Zone and Region Chairpersons' may serve not more than three (3) cumulative years in said position.

Section 10 - REGION/ZONE CHAIRPERSON VACANCY

If any Region Chairperson or Zone Chairperson shall cease to be a member of a Club in the Region or Zone, as the case may be, to which he/she was appointed, his/her term of office shall thereon cease and the District Governor shall appoint a successor to fill said office. Provided, however, the District Governor, in his/her discretion may determine not to use the position of Region Chairperson for the remainder of the term.

ARTICLE III - Duties of District Officers/Cabinet

Section 1 – DISTRICT GOVERNOR.

Under the general supervision of the International Board of Directors, they shall represent the association in their district. In addition, they shall be the chief administrative officer in their district and shall have direct supervision over the first and second vice district governor, region chairpersons, the zone chairpersons, the cabinet secretary-treasurer and such other cabinet members as may be provided for in this district constitution and by-laws. Their specific responsibilities shall be those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Clubs International (as amended from time to time).

Section 2 – FIRST VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR.

The first vice district governor, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be the chief administrative assistant and representative of the district governor. Their specific responsibilities shall be, but not limited to, those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time)

Section 3 - SECOND VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR.

The second vice district governor, subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor. Their specific responsibilities shall be, but not limited to, those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 4 - CABINET SECRETARY-TREASURER.

(or Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Treasurer if the position is split)

They shall act under the supervision of the district governor. Their specific responsibilities shall be those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 5 - GLOBAL SERVICE TEAM (GST) DISTRICT COORDINATOR.

Under the supervision of the district governor, the GST district coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. Their responsibilities include those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 6. - GLOBAL MEMBERSHIP TEAM (GMT) DISTRICT COORDINATOR.

Under the supervision of the district governor, the GMT district coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. Their responsibilities include those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 7 - GLOBAL LEADERSHIP TEAM (GLT) DISTRICT COORDINATOR.

Under the supervision of the district governor, the GLT district coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. Their responsibilities include those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 8 - LCIF DISTRICT COORDINATOR.

Under the supervision of the district governor, the LCIF coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. Their responsibilities include those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 9 - REGION CHAIRPERSON

(if the position is utilized during the district governor's term).

The region chairperson subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be the chief administrative officer in their region. Their specific responsibilities should be found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 10 - ZONE CHAIRPERSON

The zone chairperson subject to the supervision and direction of the district governor, shall be the chief administrative officer in their region. Their specific responsibilities should be found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 11 - DISTRICT MARKETING CHAIRPERSON.

Under the supervision of the district governor, the District Marketing Chairperson is a member of the District Global Action Team. Their responsibilities include those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 12 - GLOBAL EXTENSION TEAM (GET) COORDINATOR.

Under the supervision of the district governor, the Global Extension Team Coordinator is a member of the District Global Action Team. Their responsibilities include those found in the Standard District Constitution and Bylaws of Lions Club International (as amended from time to time).

Section 13 - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

The Sergeant-at-Arms shall maintain order and decorum at the respective Conventions and Meetings and perform such other duties as are incident to the office under ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

IV - District Governor's Advisory Committee

Section 1 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

In each Zone, the Zone Chairperson and the Presidents, First Vice Presidents and Secretaries of the Clubs in the Zone shall compose a District Governor's Advisory Committee, with the Zone Chairperson as Chairperson. At a date, time and place called by the Zone Chairperson, this Committee shall hold a first meeting within ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the preceding International Convention; a second meeting in the month of November; a third meeting in the month of February or March; and a fourth meeting approximately thirty (30) days prior to the Multiple District "A" Convention. The club service chairpersons, club marketing, communications chairpersons, and club membership chairpersons should attend when information is shared that relate to their position. This committee shall assist the Zone Chairperson in an advisory capacity, procure recommendations affecting the welfare of Lionism and the Clubs in the Zone, and relay the same through the Zone Chairperson to the District Governor and Cabinet.

Section 2 - DISTRICT GLOBAL ACTION TEAM.

Chaired by the District Governor and includes the GMT district coordinator, GST district coordinator and GLT district coordinator. Develops and initiates a coordinated plan to help clubs expand humanitarian service, achieve membership growth, and develop future leaders. Meets regularly to discuss the progress of the plan and initiatives that may support the plan. Collaborates with members of the multiple district's Global Action Team to learn about initiatives and best practices. Shares activities, achievements and challenges with members of the multiple district Global Action Team. Attends the District Governor Advisory Committee meeting and other zone, region, district or multiple district meetings that feature service, membership or leadership initiatives to share ideas and gain knowledge that may be applied to club practices.

Section 3 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR'S HONORARY COMMITTEE

The District Governor shall appoint a District Governor's Honorary Committee composed of Past International Officers who are members in good standing of Clubs within District A-15. This Committee shall meet when and as called upon by the District Governor. It shall act under the direction of the District Governor in the promotion of harmony throughout the District. The Chairperson of this Committee shall attend Meetings of the Cabinet when requested by the District Governor.

Section 4 - DISTRICT CABINET COMMITTEE

The District Governor may establish and appoint such other Committees and/or Chairpersons as he/she deems necessary and appropriate for the efficient operations of the District. Such Committee Chairpersons shall be deemed non-voting members of the District Cabinet.

ARTICLE V - Meetings

Section 1- DISTRICT CABINET MEETINGS

Regular

A Regular Meeting of the Cabinet shall be held in each quarter of the fiscal year, with the first of which should be held not later than the 31st of August. Ten (10) days written notice of meetings setting forth a date, time and place determined by the District Governor shall be given to each member by the Cabinet Secretary.

Special

Special Meetings of the Cabinet may be called by the District Governor at his/her discretion, and shall be called upon written request made to the District Governor or the Cabinet Secretary by a majority of the members of the Cabinet. No fewer than five (5) nor more than twenty (20) days written (including letters, electronic mail, facsimile transmission, or cable) notice of special meetings, setting

forth the purposes and a date, time and place determined by the District Governor, shall be given to each member by the Cabinet Secretary.

Quorum and Vote

The attendance of a majority of the officers of this District shall constitute a quorum for any cabinet meeting. The voting privilege shall be extended to the voting members of the district cabinet as defined in Article 1, Section 1 of the District A-15 Bylaws.

Minutes of all Cabinet meetings shall be distributed to all members of District Cabinet and each Club within the District.

Section 2 - REGIONS AND ZONES (Amended April 16, 2023)

Regions and Zones shall be subject to change by the District Governor, with the approval of the District Cabinet and when it is in the best interests of the Clubs, District and the Association. The District should be divided into Regions of sixteen (16) to ten (10) Lions Clubs. Each Region should be divided into Zones of between eight (8) and four (4) Lions Clubs, giving due regard to the geographical locations of the Clubs.

Region Meetings

Meetings of representatives of all Clubs in a Region, with the Region Chairperson (if the position is utilized during the District Governor's term) or other District Cabinet member as may be assigned by the District Governor presiding, should be held during the fiscal year at times and places fixed by the Region Chairperson of the respective Region.

Zone Meetings

No less than four (4) meetings of representatives of all the Clubs in a Zone, with the Zone Chairperson presiding, shall be held during the fiscal year at times and places fixed by the Zone Chairperson.

ARTICLE VI - District A-15 Convention

Section 1 - LION'S YEAR CONVENTION SUPERVISION

There shall be a Convention Committee advising the District Governor. This committee shall be appointed by the District Governor and its composition shall be defined in Convention Policy and have duties as defined in Convention Policy. The Governor shall also appoint a Host Committee whose composition and duties shall be defined in Convention Policy.

Section 2 - CONVENTION SITE SELECTION

The District Governor shall receive invitations in writing from places desiring to entertain the succeeding year(s) Annual Convention. All invitations shall set forth such information as the District Governor shall from time-to-time require and shall be delivered to him no later than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the convention at which they are to be voted upon. Procedure to be followed in investigation of bids and in presentation of the same to conventions, as well as action to be taken by a convention in the event no bids are acceptable to or so received by the District Governor, shall be determined by the District Governor.

Section 3 - SITE CHANGE

The District Cabinet shall retain, and have, power to change at any time, for good reason, the convention site previously chosen, and neither the District, officers of the District nor any member of the District Cabinet, shall incur any liability thereby to any Club or Club Member in District A-15. Notice if this site change shall be furnished in writing to each club in the District no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the annual convention.

Section 4 - OFFICERS

The officers of the District shall be the Officers of the Annual District Convention.

Section 5 - SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

A Convention Sergeant-At-Arms and such Assistant Sergeant-At-Arms as deemed necessary shall be appointed by the District Governor.

Section 6 - OFFICIAL REPORT

Within fifteen (15) days after the close of the District A-15 Convention, the Cabinet Secretary shall transmit one (1) copy of the complete proceedings to the International Office upon written request from any club in the District a copy shall be furnished to said club.

A full and complete Convention Report, including financial statements shall be prepared by the Convention Chairperson and presented to the District A-15 Cabinet within sixty (60) days of the close of the convention. Such report shall include:

- (a) Number of Registrants;
- (b) Attendance at various functions;
- (c) Pertinent information as to success or failure of various events, and
- (d) Recommendations for future conventions

Section 7 - CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE

The Credentials Committee of the District Convention shall be composed of the District Governor, as Chairperson, the Cabinet Secretary or the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer and two (2) other non-officers of the District appointed by the District Governor, each of whom shall be a member in good standing

of a different Lions club in good standing in the District. **The non-officers** shall not, through the duration of the appointment, hold any District or International office either by election or appointment.

The Credentials Committee shall have the powers and perform the duties set forth in ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

Section 8 - ORDER OF CONVENTION BUSINESS

The District Governor shall arrange the Order of Business for the District Convention, and the same shall be the Order of the Day for all sessions.

Section 9 - DISTRICT CONVENTION COMMITTEES

The District Governor shall appoint the Chairperson of, and fill any vacancies occurring in the following District Convention Committee: Resolutions, Elections, Constitution and By-Laws, Rules of Procedure and International Convention. Each Region, if any, shall have at least one (1) representative on each such committee. These committees shall perform such duties, as the District Governor shall designate.

Section 10 - CONVENTION FUND LEVY

In lieu of or in addition to a District Convention Registration fee, an Annual Per Capita District Convention Fund Levy of \$1.40 shall be levied upon each member of each club in the District and shall be collected and paid in advance by each club, except newly chartered and reorganized Clubs, on the first day of September each year, assessment based on Lions Clubs' membership on the June Monthly Membership Reports. This levy shall be collected from the clubs by, and remitted to, the District Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) who shall account for such monies in a separate folio.

The funds so collected shall be used exclusively for defraying expenses, detailed in Convention Policy, of the District A-15 Convention and shall be expended only by district cheques drawn and signed by the District Treasurer (or Secretary-Treasurer) and countersigned by the District Governor. Any club which is chartered or reorganized in a current fiscal year shall collect and pay said Convention Per Capita Levy for said fiscal year on a pro-rate basis from the first day of the second month following the date of its (re) organization as the case may be.

Section 11- GOOD STANDING

- (a) Good standing for a Lions Club shall mean that such is not in status quo, is not in arrears of any dues to District A-15 or Multiple District 'A' or to Lions Clubs International. The determination of arrears shall be the responsibility of the District Governor. Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by rules of the respective convention.

- (b) Good standing for a Lion shall be as defined in the Standard Form Lions Club Constitution and By-laws.

SECTION 12 – OFFICIAL CALL

The District Governor shall issue an official call by printed or electronic means to all clubs for the annual District Convention not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date fixed for holding the same, stating the place, day and hour thereof.

ARTICLE VIII - District Administration Fund

An Administrative Fund Budget shall be presented for approval at the first Cabinet Meeting to provide revenue to defray the administrative expenses of District A-15.

Section 1 - DISTRICT REVENUE

To provide revenue to defray the administrative expenses of District A-15, an Annual District Administrative Fund Per Capita Tax of \$8.50 is hereby levied upon each member of each Club in District A-15 with billings of the same to be based upon Lions Club Membership submitted on June monthly Membership and Activities reports, except as provided in subsections (a).

- (a) For student membership programs, as adopted by the International Board of Directors, eligible student members under the age of 30 shall pay no District A-15 Per Capita Tax. In order to qualify, eligible student members must be reported to LCI by club secretaries using accepted forms and procedures.

All Lions Clubs to be billed by the Cabinet Treasurer on the first of September each year. Said tax shall be paid to the Cabinet Treasurer by each Club in District A-15, except Newly Chartered and Reorganized Clubs, which shall collect and pay said Per Capita Tax on a pro-rata basis from the first day of the second month following the date of their organization (or reorganization, as the case may be). Any outstanding balance shall become subject to interest at the rate of 12%, calculated annually. Said Per Capita Tax shall be disbursed for administrative expenses of District A-15 and only upon the approval by the District Governor's Cabinet. Disbursement there from shall be by cheque drawn and signed by the Cabinet Treasurer and/or District Governor and/or the District Secretary.

Section 2- REMAINING FUNDS

In any fiscal year, any balance remaining in the Convention Fund after payment of all convention administrative expenses in that year shall remain in said Convention Fund and become available for future convention expenses and be treated as income in any fiscal year in which expended or otherwise budgeted for payment of such expenses.

Section 3 - FEE COLLECTION

Such fee as the District Governor shall set may be collected, under procedures set by the District Governor, from each Delegate, Alternate, and Guest attending the District Convention to defray the actual cost of convention meals and entertainment.

Section 4 - AUDIT OR REVIEW

The District Governor shall provide for an annual or more frequent audit or review of the District Convention Fund and shall give an Annual Financial Report of said fund to each Annual District Convention.

ARTICLE IX – Miscellaneous

Section 1 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR EXPENSES – INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

Expenses of the District Governor, in connection with attending the International Convention at the end of that his/her year, may be considered by the District Cabinet and will not be a Lions Club International administration expense. Reimbursement for such expenses, if granted, shall be made on the same basis as outlined in the General Reimbursement Policy of Lions Clubs International.

Section 2 - FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS

The District Governor and Cabinet shall not incur obligations in any fiscal year, which will affect an unbalanced budget or deficit in said fiscal year.

Section 3 - CABINET TREASURER BOND

The Cabinet Treasurer and authorized signatories shall be bonded in such amount and with such Surety Company as shall be approved by the District Governor's Cabinet and the cost of same shall be an administrative expense.

Section 4 - AUDIT OR REVIEW OF BOOKS

The District Governor's Cabinet shall provide an annual or more frequent audit or review of the books and accounts of the Cabinet Treasurer and a Statement of the Financial Condition of the District shall be sent to Lions Club International and each Club in the District at the close of the fiscal year by the Cabinet then in office.

Section 5 - COMPENSATION

No officer shall receive any compensation for any service rendered to this District in his/her official capacity.

Section 6 - FISCAL YEAR

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

Section 7 - DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Clubs in the District shall pursue all complaints, disputes or claims according to the terms and conditions of rules or procedure adopted, from time-to-time, by the International Board of Directors.

Section 8 - GENDER DISCLAIMER

Whenever the male gender or pronoun presently appears in this By-Law, it shall be interpreted to mean both male and female.

ARTICLE X - Nominations and Endorsement - International Director and Second Vice-President Nominees

Section 1 - ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE

Subject to the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws, any member of a Lions Club in the District seeking the endorsement of a District Convention as a candidate for the office of International Director or Second Vice-President shall:

- (a) Deliver (by mail or in person) written Notice of Intention to seek such endorsement to the District Governor and if this is a sub-district of a Multiple District to the Multiple District Council Secretary-Treasurer no less than 180 days prior to the convening date of the District Convention at which such question of endorsement is to be voted upon;
- (b) Deliver with said Notice of Intention evidence of fulfilment of the qualifications for such office set forth in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2 - NOMINATION

Each Notice of Intention so delivered shall be transmitted forthwith by the District Governor to the Nominating Committee of the respective Convention, which shall review and perfect the same by obtaining from each prospective candidate any additional evidence of such intention and qualifications as may be necessary under the International Constitution and By-Laws, and shall place in nomination at the respective Convention the name of each such prospective candidates who has fulfilled said procedural and constitutional requirements.

Section 3 - SECONDING SPEECH

Each such nominee for endorsement shall be entitled to one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes in duration.

Section 4 - VOTE

The vote on the question of endorsement shall be by secret written ballot, unless there shall be only one nominee seeking the same, in which event a voice vote may be taken. The nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared endorsed (elected) as the candidate of the Convention and District. In the event of a tie vote, or failure of one nominee to receive the required majority, on any ballot, balloting shall continue until one receives the required majority of the votes cast.

Section 5 - CERTIFICATION OF ENDORSEMENT

Certification of Endorsement by the respective Convention shall be made in writing to the International Office by the District officials designated, (and if the District is a sub-district in the Multiple District to the Multiple District Council of Governors) in accordance with the requirements set forth, in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 6 - VALIDITY

No District endorsement of any candidacy of any member of a Lions Club in District A-15 shall be valid unless and until the provisions of this Article VII have been met.

ARTICLE XI - Policy/Procedures Manual

The District Cabinet, under the responsibility of the First Vice District Governor, but if he/she is not available, the Second Vice District Governor shall formulate and publish a "District A-15 Policy and Procedures Manual" to establish suggested guidelines and procedures to: - direct, assist, and standardize - District A-15 and the individual Lions Clubs of the said District. The procedure for amending the said Policy and Procedures Manual will be to present changes to the District Cabinet that may be approved by a simple majority vote of Cabinet voting members.

Should the Policy and Procedures Manual or any amendments thereto are in conflict with the Constitutions or By-Laws of the International Association of Lions Clubs, Multiple District "A" or District A-15 then the provisions of those Constitutions and By-Laws shall govern and control.

ARTICLE XII – Amendments

Section 1 - AMENDING PROCEDURE

These By-Laws may be amended only at a District A-15 Convention, by resolution reported by the District Constitution and By-Laws Committee and adopted by a majority of the votes cast. Provider

further that, where mandatory amendments or repeals are required due to changes in the laws of the Province of Ontario and/or the Constitution of Multiple District 'A' (as amended from time to time) and/or the Constitution of Lions Clubs International (as amended from time to time), such amendments or repeals may be approved by a vote of not less than a majority of the members of voting Cabinet present at a regularly constituted meeting of voting Cabinet provided that each voting member shall have received at least five (5) days written notice, before the meeting, of such amendments or repeals. Such amendments or repeals shall come effective immediately and remain in effect only until the next A-15 Convention unless confirmed thereat by not less than a majority of the votes cast.

Section 2 - NOTICE

No amendments to the By-laws will be entertained by the Constitution and By-laws Committee unless they have been previously approved by a majority vote at a Lions Club, Zone, Region or Cabinet Meeting. Such amendments are to be voted upon by the Delegates at the next District A-15 Convention.

Proposed amendments to the By-laws shall be in writing and in the hands of the Cabinet Secretary not less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the Convention.

No amendment shall be so reported or voted upon unless the same shall have been furnished in writing to each Club no less than thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the Annual Convention with notice that the same will be voted upon at said Convention.

Section 3 - EFFECTIVE DATE

Each amendment shall take effect at the close of the District A-15 Convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

ARTICLE XIII – Rules of Order and Procedure

SECTION 1 – RULES OF PROCEDURE

Unless otherwise provided by this Constitution and by-laws, all questions of Order or Procedure with respect to any meeting or Convention of this District A-15, its Cabinet, Region, Zone or member club or any committee appointed hereunder, or operation hereunder, shall be determined in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, as revised from time to time.

ARTICLE XIV - Effective Time

These By-Laws shall take effect at the close of the District A-15 Convention at which the same is adopted by a majority of the votes cast.

RECOMMENDED RULES OF PROCEDURE - DISTRICT A-15 CONVENTION EXHIBIT A

Rule 1 – Order of Business

The District Governor shall arrange the Order of Business for the District Convention. Except for registration and certification hours, which may not be changed, deviation from the announced Order of Business shall be made only by consent of three-fourths (3/4) of the Certified Delegates assembled at any session at which a quorum is present. A majority of those Certified Delegates present in person at any session shall constitute a quorum.

Rule 2 – Order of Procedure

Except as otherwise provided in the Lions Clubs International Constitution and By-Laws, the District A-15 Constitution and By-Laws, national custom and practice or these rules, Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern all questions of Order and Procedure.

Rule 3 – Credentials Committee

- (a) The Credentials Committee shall be composed of the District Governor, as Chairperson, the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer and two other non-officers of the District appointed by the District Governor; provided, however, the District Governor may designate any other Committee Member as Chairperson. The Credentials Committee's primary responsibility shall be to verify Club Delegate credentials. In carrying out this responsibility, the Credentials Committee shall have the powers and shall perform the duties as established by national custom and practice or as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised.
- (b) The registration and certification of Delegates shall occur on the day(s) of _____ between the hours of _____ and _____.
- (c) The number of Certificated Delegates shall be announced to the convention upon close of certification and prior to the commencing of voting.

Rule 4 – Nominating Committee

- (a) Prior to the Convention, the District Governor, unless otherwise provided, shall appoint, and designate the Chairperson of a Nominating Committee. This committee shall not consist of more than five (5) members. It shall be the committee's responsibility to review the qualifications of each nominated candidate and rule on the eligibility of the same.
- (b) Candidates may withdraw from the contest at any time prior to the issuance of the final report of the Nominating Committee.

Rule 5 - Replacement of Delegates and Alternate Delegates

- (a) To replace a Delegate and/or Alternate Delegate already certified, the replacement must provide a certificate signed by two officers of the club, certifying that the replacement is eligible as an alternate delegate.

- (b) On the day of voting, a duly certified Alternate Delegate shall be allowed to obtain a ballot and vote in lieu of a duly certified Delegate from the same Lions Club by presenting his/her copy of his/her Alternate Credential Certificate together with the copy of the Certified Delegate's Credential Certificate to the voting personnel at which time the voting personnel will make the necessary notation on the Credential Records marking that a substitution has been made on the respective Club's Delegate entitlement. Alternate Delegates who were not certified cannot replace a Certified or Uncertified Delegate.

Rule 6 – Nominating Speeches

Standard nominations for the offices of District Governor, Vice District Governor and such other offices to be filled by the convention shall be limited to nominating/seconding speeches not to exceed five (5) minutes for each nominee.

Rule 7 – Elections Committee

- (a) Prior to the Convention, the District Governor shall appoint and designate the Chairperson of an Elections Committee consisting of three (3) members. Each duly nominated Candidate shall also be entitled to designate one (1) observer from his/her Club. The observers may oversee election procedures only, but may not participate directly in the committee's decision making
- (b) The Elections Committee shall be responsible for preparation of elections materials, provide a suitable procedure for a secret ballot, vote tabulation, resolving questions concerning the validity of individual ballots and present a motion to destroy ballots. The Committee's decision shall be final and binding.
- (c) The Elections Committee shall prepare a comprehensive report of the election results containing the following components: date, time and place of election, specific voting results by candidate, signature of each committee member and observer. The District Governor, Council Chairperson and all candidates shall be provided a copy of the committee's report.

Rule 8 - Voting

- (a) Voting will take place at a predetermined location and time.
- (b) To ensure a ballot card, the Delegate shall present his/her Credentials Certificate to voting personnel for verification. Once verified, the Delegate shall be issued a ballot.
- (c) The voter shall indicate his/her vote by placing a mark in the appropriate location by the name of the candidate of his/her choice. The mark must be placed in the proper location to constitute a vote. Any ballot containing votes for more than the specified number of offices to be filled in any section shall be declared invalid to that particular section.
- (d) A simple majority vote shall be necessary to elect the District Governor. If a simple majority vote is not received in the election of District Governor, a vacancy shall occur and Article IV, Section 7 (d) of the International Constitution shall apply, and subsection (e) of this rule shall be followed.
- (e) A simple majority vote shall be necessary to elect all other candidates. In the event any one candidate shall fail to receive the required number of votes to be elected, additional balloting shall take place as outlined in By-Law Article III, Section 5, until such time as one candidate secures a simple majority vote.
- (f) The successful candidates shall take office effective the day the International Convention closes.

RULES OF PROCEDURE - SPECIAL MEETING TO RECOMMEND A LION FOR APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR EXHIBIT B

Rule 1

In the event of a vacancy in the office of District Governor, the same shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws. The Immediate Past District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governor's, Past District Governor's, Past International Governor's, and Past International Director's and Past International President's in the District shall convene at a date, time and place called and determined by the Immediate Past District Governor to select a replacement for recommendation to the International Board of Directors. It shall be the duty of the Immediate Past District Governor, if he/she is not available, the most recent Past District Governor who is available, to send out invitations fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting to attend said meeting.

Rule 2

Written invitations to this meeting shall be sent as soon as possible so that the meeting is held within the required fifteen (15) days of receipt of notification. The Immediate Past District Governor, as the meeting's Chairperson, shall have the authority to select the meeting site, date and time. However, he/she shall use their best efforts to select a centrally located meeting venue, and schedule the meeting at a convenient date and time within the required fifteen (15) days.

Rule 3

The Chairperson shall maintain a written attendance roster.

Rule 4

Each Lion who is entitled to attend the meeting may take one nomination of his/her choice from the floor.

Rule 5

Each such Nominee shall be entitled to one seconding speech only, in his/her behalf of not more than three (3) minutes in duration, and may speak personally for five (5) additional minutes. When each Nominee has had an opportunity to present his/her remarks, the Chairperson shall declare the nominations closed. No additional nominations shall be accepted after the close of nominations.

Rule 6: Voting

- (a) Voting will occur immediately after the close of nominations.
- ~~(b)~~ Voting will be by written ballot.
- (c) The member shall indicate his/her vote by writing the name of his/her choice on the ballot. Any ballot containing votes for more than one Nominee shall be declared invalid.

- (d) A simple majority vote shall be necessary to recommend a member for appointment as District Governor. In the event any one candidate shall fail to receive the required number of votes to be selected, additional balloting shall take place as outlined in By-Law Article III Section 5 until such time as one candidate secures a simple majority vote.

Rule 7

At the conclusion of the meeting, but in no event more than seven (7) days after the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairperson will forward a written report of the voting results to the International Office together with evidence of invitations sent and attendance at the meeting.

Rule 8

The International Board of Directors, pursuant to Article IX section 6(a) (4) of the International By-Laws shall consider, but is not bound by any recommendation resolved at the special meeting. The International Board of Directors reserves the right to appoint the recommended or any Club Member as District Governor for the (remainder of the) term.

SUMMARY OF RULES - SPECIAL MEETING TO RECOMMEND A LION FOR APPOINTMENT AS DISTRICT GOVERNOR

1. The International office has advised the District to convene a Special Meeting to recommend a member for appointment as District Governor.
2. The Immediate Past District Governor prepares invitations for the Special Meeting. Invitations are to be sent to the Immediate Past District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governor, the Region Chairperson, Zone Chairperson and the Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary-Treasurer and all Past International Presidents, Past International Directors and Past District Governors who are members in good standing of a Chartered Lions Club in the District. The invitations should state the date, time and location for the meeting.
3. The Chairperson maintains an attendance roster at the meeting.
4. Nominations are made from the floor. Each Nominee may speak for five (5) minutes, and his/her Secunder may speak for an additional three (3) minutes.
5. Voting begins immediately after nominations close. Voting is by written ballot unless a majority of attendees select another voting method.
6. A simple majority of votes cast by those present and voting is necessary to be recommended. If no one candidate secures a simple majority vote, voting continues as outlined in the rules of procedure.
7. The Chairperson forwards the meeting results at the conclusion of the meeting.

2026 District A-15 Convention Budget - Proposed

REVENUE

				Notes/Comments
ITEM	Number	Price	Total \$\$\$\$	
Registration	175	\$ 30.00	\$ 5,250	excl Cabinet/Committee Chairs - see below
Registration - Sunday only	25	\$ 15.00	\$ 375	
Sponsorship / Program Ads			\$ 2,000	
Convention Pins Sold	85	\$ 5.00	\$ 425	
			\$ -	
Sat Lunch	85	\$ 35.00	\$ 2,975	
Sat Banquet	100	\$ 60.00	\$ 6,000	
Hospitality Space	4	\$ 170.00	\$ 680	
District Reg'ns for Cab & CC	36	\$ 30.00	\$ 1,080	District pays at end of conv for attendance Policy 28.1.12.2
Raffle and/or Auction fundraiser			\$ 2,000	
			\$ -	
Rebate from District	1250	\$ 1.40	\$ 1,750	\$1.40 per member - ESTIMATE
TOTAL			\$ 22,535	

EXPENSES

				Notes/Comments
	Number	\$\$\$\$/unit	Total \$\$\$\$	
Pins Purchased	100	\$ 5.50	\$ 550	ESTIMATE
Printing, Office, Registration, Lanyards etc			\$ 500	ESTIMATE These 2 categories could be considered together.
			\$ 1,000	
VIP Dinner - Fri Night	20	\$ 50.00	\$ 1,000	
Sat Am PDG Breakfast			\$ -	Hotel Vouchers cover cost.
Meal Cost Lunch,	85	\$ 33.28	\$ 2,829	Base price \$26 + Tax & gratuity
Meal Cost Banquet	100	\$ 64.00	\$ 6,400	Base price \$50 + Tax & gratuity
Hospitality Wine & Cheese			\$ 1,000	Committee provides on Saturday in Gretzky Room
Entertainment &/or Speaker			\$ 250	Incl Piper for Saturday banquet
Hotel Banquet Rooms			\$ 2,627	Breakdown per committee
Hospitality Room Cost			\$ -	\$300 incl in Banquet Room Costs
Complimentary Function Cost			\$ 1,250	Policy 28.1.12.1 - DG, Guest, Protocol, CS, & CT all X 2
Guest Rooms for VIPs			\$ 876	Policy 28.1.9.4 - DG, Guest & Protocol X 2 nights
Int'l Speaker Gift			\$ 250	Comes from Levy but full amount of revenue incl above.
Bank fees/Liab Ins			\$ 600	Ins \$500; s/c & other
Raffle Costs / Prizes			\$ 1,000	
Flower/decorate incl Memorial			\$ 200	
Casino Night			\$ 750	Per committee
Promotion & advertising?			\$ 500	
Bus for Saturday Excursion			\$ 500	
TOTAL Exp.			\$ 22,082	

Surplus \$ 453

Notes

Early Registration paid by March 1, 2026 will INCLUDE \$20. of fun Money to be used at Casino night on Saturday
 Registration paid AFTER March 1 will be \$30 but NO fun money included.

Hotel Rooms - booked directly with the hotel - on or before March 1 will be \$129 + tax & includes breakfast for 2 at the hotel.

Cabinet report for August cabinet Meeting

LCIF Giving Update and Challenge for 2025–2026

Last Lions year, our District was asked to contribute \$37,200 to LCIF. Unfortunately, we fell short of that goal, reaching only 66.7% with donations totaling \$24,981. This was the lowest percentage of giving in all of MDA.

Despite my challenge to the Past District Governors and Cabinet members to personally contribute, the response was limited. I appreciate those who did step up and want to recognize that, as a District, we did support the new guide dog facility in Oakville.

Looking ahead, I plan to issue the same challenge again this year—to our PDGs and Cabinet members—to contribute at least **\$60.00** each to LCIF. Every bit counts, and leadership by example is powerful.

I will also be visiting Zone Meetings this year and may include a small promotional game or incentive activity to raise awareness and support for LCIF.

I have not yet received the 2025–2026 requested giving amount from LCIF, but I expect to have it before our Cabinet meeting on **August 10**.

In August, I will also be sending a letter to each club, asking that they include a line item in their 2025–2026 budget specifically for LCIF giving. Planning ahead can make a real difference in helping us meet our goal.

Together, with commitment and teamwork, I believe we can reach—and exceed—our target this year.

Yours in Service,

Tony Davidson

LCIF Coordinator, District A-15

District A15
LEO Cabinet Report
August 10, 2025
Woodstock, ON

Governor Linda, Cabinet Officers & Fellow Lions:

Over the last couple of years, I am sad to say, there has been very little interest from clubs in District A15 to sponsor a LEO Club.

At this time, we only have two (2) LEO Clubs, Guelph-Bridgeport and KW. Creating a partnership with our Youth is in many ways important.

Instead of continuing to write, the value of a LEO Club is best reviewed by this link to the Lions webpage.

<https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/resources-for-members/resource-center/start-a-leo-club>

I am always available to provide more information at one of your club meetings.

Yours in Service.

Lion OJ

Lion O.J. Wilura
District A15
LEO Chairperson

Cabinet Report – August 01, 2025

Sight Conservation and Screening Report for A15

District A15 Vision Screening Activities:

Region of Waterloo (ROW) –

Plans are underway to continue vision screening in the ROW this Fall. This will be a modified program involving the Public/Catholic School Boards, local Lions, Cowan Foundation and the University of Waterloo School of Optometry. Public Health will not be involved as vision screening is no longer mandated by the Ontario Government. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is being prepared now for this program. New Volunteers will be needed for this revised program, recruiting efforts are underway now!!!!

Huron Perth Public Health Unit (HPPHU) – No Action.

Special Olympics – In July two vision Teams conducted vision screening for Athletes participating at the Games. This was a one evening event on July 9th where screening was conducted by Volunteers from District A15 and A3. About 80 Athletes were evaluated (Auto Refractor, Randot 3D, and Visual Acuity).

Thank you to the volunteers from the Bridgeport Lions, the Kitchener Oktoberfest Lions, the Stratford Lions and Friends of Lions for helping out!!!!

Other:

Eyeglass and hearing aids continue to be recycled across A15. Recycled items are forwarded to CLERC in Calgary.

Recently the Woolwich Community Lions Club collected, cleaned, packaged and shipped over 1400 pairs of glasses. Great Work.

The Milverton Lions recently ordered and received 15 collection boxes.

If any Clubs require Eyeglass Collection Boxes I have a few. It is asked that if you receive boxes that a donation is sent to CLERC (suggested \$5 per box, or more).

Regards

Lion Dave Millard

2025/2026 Sight Conservation and Screening Chair

Hello Lions:

My name is Lion Debbie Nelligan and I am the Peace Poster/Essay contest for the Visually impaired co-ordinator for the A15 District. I am a member of the Copetown Lions.

It is that time of year again to start thinking about the peace poster contest. I have peace poster kits to hand out (these kits are free to clubs) if anyone is interested, I can mail them to you. The topic this year is **"Together as One"**

THE 2025-2026 CONTEST

Together As One

When we come together, we can do amazing things. This year, we are inviting students around the world to envision what can happen when a diverse group of people unites around a common cause or goal. Imagine a world where we all come together as one!

Some reminders:

- Contact your local school by the end of September to meet the timelines, ask to speak with the grade 7 or 8 art teacher and tell them your club will sponsor this event. This contest is open to children ages 11, 12 & 13. Ask your club to sponsor this event possibly with prizes. In your kit is also a flyer for the Essay contest for the Visually impaired.
- **It is Important that the students' artwork is done on the proper size poster paper. Artwork must be no smaller than 13 inches by 20 inches (do not matt or frame artwork). Full contest rules will be in your kit.**

The posters are due to Debbie Nelligan by the week of November 9th, so I can deliver them to the District Governor by the deadline November 15th, 2025. Take the poster entries back to your club so they can vote on the winner, and then arrange pickup of your poster through me. Lastly, if your club would like to donate to this great cause, and help support youth in your community, you can send your donations to the treasurer of the A-15 District. Please mark cheque for A15 Peace Poster & Essay Contest.

If you have any questions, I would be pleased to chat with you

I can be reached by email. peacepost@a15lions.org

Sincerely,

Lion Debbie Nelligan - A-15 Chair - Peace Poster & Essay Contest for the Visually Impaired
905 870-7709

Hello fellow Lions,

My name is Dawn Raynard, and I'm proud to serve as this year's Hunger Chair for District A15. Hunger is a cause that's deeply personal to me.

I've seen firsthand how access to nutritious food can change lives, and I'm passionate about helping clubs find meaningful ways to serve in this area.

Whether your club already has an ongoing hunger project or is just getting started, I'm here to support you with ideas, resources, and connections. From food drives and community dinners to school meal programs and pantries, every effort matters.

As part of my role, I kindly ask that clubs report all hunger related service projects to MDA each month. This helps us showcase the incredible impact Lions are making across Ontario and allows us to identify where more support is needed.

If you have questions, need ideas, or just want to brainstorm ways your club can help fight hunger, please don't hesitate to reach out. I'm here to serve with you.

Together in service,

Lion Dawn Raynard

A15 Hunger Chair

Hunger@a15lions.org

July 2025 Diabetes Chairperson Report

A15 Lions,

Currently, I have no report to hand in, so here is a short history about my Diabetic Journey.

My name is Raymond Derouin. Known as Lion Ray. I have been a Lion member for over 20 years. I'm currently a member of the Kitchener Oktoberfest Lions. I was diagnosed type 2 diabetic over 30 years ago. Back then I was informed that I was PRE-DIABETIC. As some of you know, there is no such thing as pre-diabetic. You are either a diabetic or not a diabetic. I was prescribed different medications to prevent problems with my kidneys, liver, pancreas and other organs. Today, I am insulin dependent and taking even more pills. My father was type 2 and brother was type 1. They both passed due to diabetic complications. Diabetes runs in my family.

This is the reason that I accepted the position of Diabetes Chairperson when asked by now District Governor Lion Linda.

It is very important that the Lion Clubs in District A15 keep donating to Diabetic Canada for research and other diabetic activities.

Lets keep up the fight against Diabetes.

Thank You

Lion Ray

CHILDHOOD CANCER UPDATE

I am please to shout the good works of those clubs that have donated to causes supporting the area of Childhood Cancer in the last quarter of the Lions Year 2024/2025.

Hickson & District – Cancer Relay For Life

Kitchener-Waterloo Community Spirit – Campfire Circle

Innerkip & District – Childcan

Thamesford – Childcan

Woolwich Community – POGO

Woodstock – Ride For Kids Cancer

Burford – Ronal McDonald House Charities South Central Ontario

I am positive other clubs have given donations to organizations supporting Childhood Cancer and encourage you to report these in the future.

Organizations I encourage supporting are:

- Campfire Circle
- POGO
- Comfy Cases (OPPAC)
- Ronal McDonald House – for example “Toys For Joy” London

Should you need additional information about programs I would be pleased to provide.

Respectfully Submitted,

Janice Fleming, Childhood Cancer Chair

Fellow Lions,

The MDA Accessibility Committee is reassembling under the continued leadership of Lion Kristina Engel-Jackowitz A-16. All Reports from and through this Committee will be forwarded as appropriate.

Last year, all Clubs received two Accessibility Reports:

Clear Print Guidelines

Accommodating Club Members With Hearing Loss

They are attached for your convenient access. For those visiting Club in your official capacity please draw these Reports to their attention.

Please forward any Accessibility areas of concern or need.

Thank you,

Jim Sanders

Accessibility Chair

For Lion Club Members

Introduction

Welcome to the Lion Club's **Clear Print Accessibility Guidelines**. These guidelines are designed to help members, especially Secretaries, create clear and accessible print and electronic communications. By following these instructions, you ensure that all correspondence is easy to read and inclusive for everyone, including individuals with vision impairments.

1. Contrast

Why It Matters: High contrast between text and background enhances readability, especially for individuals with vision loss.

Guidelines:

- **Use High-Contrast Color Combinations:**
 - **Preferred:** Black or dark blue text on a white or yellow background.
 - **Alternative:** White or yellow text on a black or dark blue background.

Example:

- **Good:** Black text on a white background.
 - **Poor:** Light gray text on a white background.
-

2. Font Style

Why It Matters: Simple and standard fonts are easier to read and recognize.

Guidelines:

- **Choose Standard, Easy-to-Read Fonts:**
 - **Recommended Fonts:** Arial, Verdana, Helvetica, or Times New Roman.
 - **Avoid:** Decorative or overly complex fonts.

Example:

- **Good:** Arial and Verdana.
 - **Poor:** Script or ornate fonts.
-

3. Font Size

Why It Matters: Larger text improves readability for all, especially those with vision impairments.

Guidelines:

- **Use a Large Enough Font Size:**
 - **Recommended Size:** Between 12 and 18 points, depending on the font.
 - **Consider Audience:** Adjust size based on who will be reading the material.

Example:

- **Good:** 14-point Arial for body text.
 - **Poor:** 8-point decorative font for important information.
-

4. Leading (Line Spacing)

Why It Matters: Adequate spacing between lines helps readers follow text more easily.

Guidelines:

- **Ensure Sufficient Line Spacing:**
 - **Recommended Leading:** 25% to 30% of the font size.
 - **Adjust for Typeface:** Heavier fonts may require slightly more leading.

Example:

- **Good:** Properly spaced lines that prevent overlap.
- **Poor:** Overlapping lines that make text hard to follow.

5. Margins and Columns

Why It Matters: Organized text layout reduces eye strain and makes content easier to navigate.

Guidelines:

- **Use Columns to Structure Text:**
 - **Benefits:** Less eye movement and reduced need for peripheral vision.
- **Set Wide Margins:**
 - **Recommended:** Use wide binding margins or spiral bindings for printed materials.
 - **Flat Pages:** Ensure pages lie flat to accommodate vision aids like magnifiers.

Example:

- **Good:** Text divided into two or three columns.
 - **Poor:** Single, wide-spanning paragraphs that are difficult to read.
-

6. Paper Finish

Why It Matters: Non-glossy finishes minimize glare, enhancing readability.

Guidelines:

- **Choose Matte or Non-Glossy Paper:**
 - **Benefits:** Reduces glare and eye strain.
- **Avoid Distracting Elements:**
 - **Do Not Use:** Watermarks or complex background designs.

Example:

- **Good:** Matte-finished paper.
 - **Poor:** Glossy paper with watermarks.
-

7. Distinctive Colours

Why It Matters: Using distinctive colors helps differentiate materials and improves navigation.

Guidelines:

- **Incorporate Unique Colors, Sizes, and Shapes:**

- **Purpose:** Makes covers and materials easily distinguishable.

Example:

- **Good:** Color-coded folders or covers.
 - **Poor:** Uniform, monochromatic materials that blend together.
-

8. Making Photos and Graphics Accessible

Why It Matters: Accessible visuals ensure that all members, including those with vision impairments, can understand and engage with the content.

Guidelines:

- **Use High-Contrast Images:**
 - Ensure that images have clear distinctions between elements.
- **Provide Alternative Text (Alt Text):**
 - Describe the content and purpose of images and graphics.
- **Simplify Graphics:**
 - Avoid overly complex or cluttered images that can be confusing.
- **Use Large, Clear Graphics:**
 - Ensure that any text within images is legible and appropriately sized.

Example:

- **Good:** A bar graph with contrasting colors and descriptive alt text.
 - **Poor:** A busy infographic with small text and no description.
-

9. Electronic Correspondence Considerations

While the above guidelines primarily focus on print, many principles apply to electronic communications as well:

- **Ensure Digital Documents are Accessible:**
 - Use accessible PDF formats.
 - Utilize heading structures for easy navigation.
 - **Optimize for Screen Readers:**
 - Include alt text for all images.
 - Ensure that all links are descriptive.
 - **Maintain High Contrast and Readable Fonts:**
 - Follow the same contrast and font guidelines as for print.
-

Accommodating Club Members With Hearing Loss

With age comes increasing hearing loss. Diminishing loss of hearing is gradual and often not recognized by the individual. Even with the support of hearing aids, most will have some difficulty even with short comments.

It is important to consciously pronounce each word at a level appropriate for the size of the room. Side conversations during the formal meeting can compete with the Lion who has the floor.

For larger meetings, a hand-held portable mike will make a significant difference for the participation of all. As an aside, those joining by Zoom can only hear the speaker through the use of a mike.

The following has been provided by Guelph, Lion Cees Van Arendonk, Hearing Instrument Specialist

What to Expect During a Hearing Test

Hearing loss can be a scary thing to admit. It's difficult to face the reality when conversations seem mumbled, you frequently have to ask people to repeat themselves, or worse, you miss the punchline of a joke. Taking the first step toward addressing hearing loss—by scheduling a hearing test—is a brave and empowering decision.

Feeling Comfortable with Your Hearing Care Provider

The first priority is to feel comfortable with your hearing care provider. A strong level of comfort ensures that you'll return for follow-ups and openly discuss any challenges or concerns that arise. Building trust with your provider is essential for long-term success.

A Comprehensive Intake Process

Look for a provider who conducts an in-depth intake process. This includes asking about your medical history, lifestyle, and communication challenges. A good professional will review your intake form, ask follow-up questions, and delve deeper into your specific hearing difficulties. This thorough approach ensures they fully understand your situation and can provide tailored solutions.

Otoscopy: Examining the Ear

An otoscopy is a key part of the hearing test. Your provider will examine your ear using a specialized tool to check for:

1. Earwax buildup
2. Holes in the eardrum
3. Signs of infection or abnormalities

Some professionals may share images of your ear canal and eardrum, helping you stay informed and engaged in your care.

The Hearing Assessment

The actual hearing assessment typically includes:

1. **Pure-Tone Testing:** You'll wear headphones and listen to a series of tones at different volumes and pitches. Each time you hear a tone, you'll press a button or raise your hand. This measures your ability to hear various frequencies.
2. **Speech Testing:** This involves listening to words or sentences and repeating them back. You might also listen to sentences in noisy environments to evaluate how well you understand speech in challenging conditions.
3. **Bone Conduction Testing:** A small device is placed behind your ear to measure how well your inner ear functions, bypassing the outer and middle ear.
4. **Tympanometry:** This test assesses the pressure in your middle ear and ensures it is functioning properly.

Understanding Your Test Results

Once the tests are complete, your provider will explain the results in detail. They should help you understand why you're struggling to hear or understand, offering clear insights into your specific hearing challenges.

Exploring Hearing Aid Options

If hearing aids are recommended, your provider will present options tailored to your needs. Factors considered include:

1. Your level of hearing loss
2. Dexterity and mobility
3. Lifestyle preferences

Typically, hearing aids come in four technology levels: basic, standard, advanced, and premium. Your provider should outline the pros and cons of each option, share pricing details, and discuss financing options, as policies vary by clinic.

Warranties and Policies

Ask about warranties, which should ideally cover three years, including loss and damage protection. Clarify return policies and any associated restocking fees.

Follow-Up Care

Once you choose hearing aids, follow-up care is essential. Ensure the clinic offers:

1. Scheduled follow-ups to adjust and fine-tune your devices
2. Clear return policies
3. Support to help you adapt to wearing hearing aids

The Importance of Comfort

Ultimately, your comfort with the professional and the process is key. If you don't feel at ease, even the best hearing aids may go unused. On the other hand, a provider who makes you feel supported will help you understand the importance of wearing your hearing aids and empower you to make the most of them.

Historian's Report to Cabinet

Just carrying on as usual - happy to receive any history that clubs send me.

Best wishes for this Lions year.

Nancy.

**DISTRICT GOVERNORS
NEWSLETTER
Cabinet Report Summer 2025**

Building on the established quality of our newsletter issues, we recognize that there is always room for improvement. The next issue is under construction, and we are seeking submissions and photos. Event advertising is not only allowed but also encouraged.

The newsletters are distributed electronically, photo resolution is not quite as important as it is for print versions, however, submissions may find their way into the LION magazine, and quality photos are important.

Submissions can be in most formats; PDFs are preferred, but most other platforms can be converted. Contact the bulletin editor if you have questions about file formats. Microsoft Word seems to be the most popular format, and that is suitable. The writer, being a bit of a dinosaur, still uses WordPerfect.

The editor continues to search for a replacement. Discussions are underway with a suitable candidate.

Respectfully,
Lion Bob Pearson, Copetown Lions
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District A-15 Technology Report

August 2025

Governor Linda, Cabinet, Lions:

Cabinet, Committee, and Club information on the District web site will again be a bit different from the 2024-2025 Lions year. More information for Cabinet will be available, and key contact information for Clubs will be available. In order to continue preserving privacy, the full electronic copy of the Directory, plus full Club contact information, will only be available behind some password security. Access will be provided to Club and District officers. As in the past, for full Club information, you may visit the Lions Clubs International "Lions Portal" – a link to which will be found on the Club information pages. You **WILL** need your Lions Portal credentials to access this information.

Changes to availability to protected information for Clubs will be available when the format changes have been completed. Until that is complete, the same type of information as last year will remain. A big thank you and shout out to all the work done by District Administrator Denis (and I suspect DG Linda :-)) to make the on-line directory available.

Most Cabinet members, Committee Chairs and Club Secretaries look after their own e-mail needs, with their ability to send to Cabinet and to the Clubs in the District by logging in to the Google Mail site. If assistance is needed with this task, either District Administrator Denis or I will be happy to assist. Please visit the web site Publications/Use of Technology section and read the E-Mail and Communications Guidelines found there.

I would also like to point out a few things about the web site:

- Committees may maintain their own information on the site if they wish to do so;
- Pictures can be relatively easily uploaded to the site;
- The site has a "Search" function to help in locating information;
 - Search can use a Google search link on the site, or the site search tool;
- A "Recent Changes" link is available to help in monitoring site content changes;
- Cabinet, Committee and Club Directory information made available on the site is maintained in a database on the web site, with past year's information made available on the "History" page;
- The site will mostly function even if active content (JavaScript/Java/Flash) is turned off in the browser (only email addresses will not show up - they are protected with JavaScript).

Thank you for allowing me to serve yet again.

Lion Ted Rypma
District Technology Chair
<http://a15lions.org/>