

## CHAPTER XVIII MEMBERSHIP

### A. CHEVRONS (MEMBERSHIP LONGEVITY)

1. Chevrons shall be purchased through the Official Club Supplies Catalog and presented to qualifying members in recognition of long periods of membership in the association, starting with the tenth year and in multiples of five years thereafter. Chevrons are of two designs – Charter Monarch Chevrons and Monarch Chevrons.
2. Charter Monarch Chevrons or Monarch Chevrons shall be offered, through the club supplies official catalog, to members who have had membership for ten or more years with the exception of Charter Monarch Chevrons and Monarch Chevrons marking 25 years, 50 years and beyond of membership longevity, which shall be forwarded directly to the qualifying member's club at no cost to the member or the club.
3. Former Lionesses, choosing to become Lions, can retain their Lioness service years as part of their Lions record. Such Lioness service may date back to 1975, the official approval year of the program. The Lioness Conversion Historical Record Form is used for this purpose.

### B. CLASSIFICATIONS

#### 1. Honorary Membership

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

#### 2. Life Membership

- a. All applications for Life Membership shall be reviewed and qualifications confirmed by the international office for approval.
- b. Life Members approved after July 1, 1980 will receive, in addition to the silver card, one Life Member tab without cost. Additional tabs can be purchased.

c. Authority to approve Life Memberships is granted to the executive director, acting on behalf of the board of directors.

d. Life Membership may be revoked by order of the board of directors when due cause is shown.

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

a. **Active:** A member entitled to all rights and privileges and subject to all obligations which membership in a Lions club confers or implies. Without limiting such rights and obligations, such rights shall include eligibility to seek, if otherwise qualified, any office in this club, district or association and the right to vote on all matters requiring a vote of the membership; and such obligation shall include regular attendance, prompt payment of dues, participation in club activities and conduct reflecting a favorable image of this Lions club in the community. As provided in the Family Membership Program criteria, qualifying family members shall be Active Members and be entitled to all rights and privileges thereof. As provided in the Student Member Program criteria, qualifying student, former Leo and young adult members shall be Active Members and be entitled to all rights and privileges thereof.

b. **Member-at-Large:** A member of this club who has moved from the community, or because of health or other legitimate reason, is unable regularly to attend club meetings and desires to retain membership in this club, and upon whom the board of directors of this club desires to confer this status. The status shall be reviewed each six months by the board of directors of this club. A Member-at-Large shall not be eligible to hold office or to vote in district or international meetings or conventions, but shall pay such dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues.

c. **Honorary:** An individual, not a member of this Lions club, having performed outstanding service for the community of this Lions club, upon whom this club desires to confer special distinction.

This club shall pay entrance fees and international and district dues on such a member, who may attend meetings, but shall not be entitled to any privileges of active membership.

- d. **Privileged:** A member of this club who has been a Lion fifteen or more years, who, because of illness, infirmities, advanced age or other legitimate reason, as determined by the board of directors of this club, must relinquish his/her active status. A Privileged Member shall pay such dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues. He/she shall have the right to vote and be entitled to all other privileges of membership except the right to hold club, district or international office.
- e. **Life Member:** Any member of this club who has maintained Active membership as a Lion for 20 or more years and has rendered outstanding service to this club, his/her community, or this association; or any member who is critically ill; or any member of this club who has maintained such active membership for 15 or more years and is at least 70 years of age; may be granted Life Membership in this club upon:
- (1) recommendation of this club to the association,
  - (2) payment to the association of \$500.00, or its equivalent in the respective national currency, by this club in lieu of all future dues to the association, and
  - (3) approval by the International Board of Directors.

Nothing herein shall prevent this club from charging a Life Member such dues as it shall deem proper.

A Life Member shall have all privileges of active membership so long as he/she fulfills all obligations thereof.

A Life Member who desires to relocate and receives an invitation to join another Lions club shall automatically become a Life Member of said club.

Former Lioness members, who are now Active members of their Lions club or who become Active members of a Lions club on or before June 30, 2007, may apply all of their prior Lioness service toward Life membership eligibility. Lioness

members who become Active members of a Lions club after June 30, 2007, will not be eligible for Lioness service credit for the purposes of Life membership eligibility.

- f. **Associate Member:** A member who holds his/her primary membership in another Lions club but maintains a residence or is employed in the community served by this club. This status may be conferred by the invitation of the board of directors and shall be reviewed annually. The club shall not report an Associate Member on its Membership Report.

An Associate Member may be eligible to vote on club matters, at meetings where he/she is present in person, but may not represent the club as a delegate at district (single, sub-, provisional and/or multiple) or international conventions. He/she shall not be eligible to hold club, district or international office nor district, multiple district or international committee assignments through this club. International and district (single, sub-, provisional, and/or multiple) dues shall not be assessed on an Associate; PROVIDED, however, nothing shall prevent this club from assessing an Associate such dues as it shall deem proper.

- g. **Affiliate Member:** A quality individual of the community who currently is not able to fully participate as an Active member of the club but desires to support the club and its community service initiatives and be affiliated with the club. This status may be conferred by the invitation of the club's board of directors.

An Affiliate Member may be eligible to vote on club matters at meetings where he/she is present in person, but may not represent the club as a delegate at district (single, sub, provisional, and/or multiple) or international conventions.

He/she shall not be eligible to hold club, district or international office, nor district, multiple district or international committee assignment. An Affiliate Member shall be required to pay district, international and such dues as the local club may charge.

### C. FAMILY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM AND FAMILY DUES PROVISION

1. The Family Membership Program provides families with the opportunity to join a Lions Club, upon invitation, under a special family

dues concession. The program is designed for either existing members who wish to invite other family members to join their club and for clubs that wish to expand their community service by involving more families from the community they serve, subject to the provisions and regulations as described below.

2. For the purpose of this program, the eligibility definition for 'families' shall be as follows: A family includes all members living in the same household related by birth, marriage, adoption, and other legal dependents, including such common family relations as parents, children, spouses, aunts/uncles, cousins and grandparents, and in-laws and other legal dependents.
3. The Family Membership Program is open to family members who are above the age of majority, living in the same household, belonging to the same club, or wishing to join the same club as an existing family member. New family members must be invited and approved by the clubs board of directors. In case of young adult family members between the legal age of majority and under age 26, the same household residency requirement is not required if attending an institution of higher education or serving in the country's military.
4. The first member of the family shall pay the normal entrance fees and full international dues (as well as any applicable club, district or multiple district dues). Life Members qualify as the full paying first member under the family membership dues rate. Subsequent family members, up to a limit of four more, who meet the qualifications as outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, shall be required to pay one half of the normal international dues and be exempted of any entrance fees. All qualifying family members shall be Active Members with all rights and privileges.
5. To qualify for the family membership dues rate in the semi-annual per capita billing cycle for LCI dues, existing qualifying family members shall need to be certified and reported as family members by the May 31 and November 30 deadline date in order to be billed at the discounted family rate for that upcoming respective per capita billing cycle. Subsequent family members, up to a limit of four more, who meet the qualifications as outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, shall be required to pay one half of the normal international dues and these new family members shall be exempt of any entrance fees. When reporting new members to Lions Clubs International that are part of a family unit, the Family Unit Certification Form shall be submitted at the same time as the Monthly Membership Report listing the new member. Lions Clubs International will not issue entrance or charter fee credits to clubs that submit the Family Unit Certification Form after the new member has been added; in these cases, the family unit billing rate will take effect with the next per capita billing cycle.
6. In the case of newly chartered clubs, the first family member shall be required to pay the normal club charter entrance fee, but subsequent family members who meet the above definitions in paragraphs 2 and 3 above, shall be exempted from any charter fee. A corresponding Charter Family Unit Certification Form shall be submitted along with the Charter Member Forms on which the charter member is being added and reported to Lions Clubs International. When using the family membership program to charter a new club there shall be a minimum of ten (10) members who are paying full dues.
- 6a. Existing Lions who are transferring to a newly chartering club and are being certified as a second, third, fourth, or fifth family member of the club are eligible for a credit/waiver of transfer charter fees as long as the corresponding Charter Family Unit Certification Form is submitted along with the Report of Charter Members form (TK-21A) on which the charter member is being added and reported to Lions Clubs International.
7. Per the association's constitution, formal membership is limited to individuals who are above the age of majority. Therefore, adolescents and minor children shall not be entitled to formal membership and not be added to the membership roster. In such cases, clubs are encouraged to sponsor Leo Clubs for these younger family members as desired.
8. No credits will be issued to clubs that change a Lions join date in order to receive the family dues rate.
9. To verify same household residency and other eligibility requirements, the club secretary shall complete a Family Unit Certification Form for each family unit and provide a certification statement indicating the type of supporting documentation he/she reviewed for determining the family members met the eligibility requirements. The application form shall be available on-line as part of the WMMR (Web Monthly Membership Reporting) web site or in paper form for clubs reporting member additions using the hard copy Monthly Membership Reporting form.

10. Clubs that add more than 10 family members in a month shall be required to provide additional documentation to LCI confirming their eligibility for family membership and such members will not be added to the association's membership records until such documents have been reviewed.
11. Any time an MMR or WMMR report shows an add or drop for a family member that may change the family's eligibility status under the program, LCI shall send the club secretary a form for recertifying whether the family still meets the requirements for the Family Dues Rate.
12. Family member units, under the Family Membership Program and Family Dues Rate, shall receive only one copy of THE LION magazine and one new member kit. However, membership certificates and lapel pins shall be provided to each member.
13. Family members shall be subject to the year-and-a-day rule with respect to the club delegate formula provision.
14. Clubs determined by the association to be misapplying the Family Membership Dues Rate or misusing it to affect voting delegate strength may be required to pay full dues for all family members in the club to the point at which the misuse was found to occur. Furthermore, the association would retain the right to prohibit such clubs from adding family members under the Family Dues Rate for a period of two years after the infraction.

**D. STUDENT MEMBER AND LEO CONVERSION PROGRAM AND DUES PROVISION**

1. The Student Membership Program provides students with the opportunity to join any Lions club, including campus clubs, upon invitation, under a special student dues concession. The program is designed for Campus Lions clubs and for clubs that wish to expand their humanitarian service by involving more students from the community they serve, subject to the provisions and regulations as described below.
2. The Student Membership Program is open to students between the age of legal majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30 for the purpose of this program, the eligibility definition for "student" shall be as follows: A student is an individual enrolled in an educational institution. New student members must be invited and approved by the club's board of directors.
3. Students members, who meet the qualifications as outlined in paragraphs 2 and 3

above, shall be required to pay one half of the normal international dues and be exempt of any entrance fees. Once a student meets this qualification, the student shall continue to receive the concession through age 30. It should be further recommended that districts and multiple districts consider either exempting or lowering their dues for student members as deemed appropriate. All qualifying student members shall be Active Members with all rights and privileges.

4. Student members shall be required to provide documentation verifying enrollment in an educational institution and age. Club secretaries shall complete a Student Member Certification Form for each student member indicating the type of supporting document he/she reviewed to verify enrollment in an educational institution and age.
5. In the case of Campus Lions clubs, student members shall receive an extended billing adjustment period for the semi-annual billings in order to accommodate the typical school schedule. Campus Lions clubs with student members have through April 15 for the January per capita billing and through October 15 for the July per capita billing to amend the club roster. Lions Clubs International will give credits to clubs for roster adjustments submitted within this time period.
6. Clubs determined to be misapplying the Student Member Program may be required to pay full dues for all student members in the club to the point at which the misuse was found to occur. Furthermore, the association would retain the right to prohibit such clubs from adding student members under the Student Membership Program for a period of two years after the infraction.
7. To provide an extended transitional period for graduated Leos (age traditionally deemed appropriate is 28), current and former Leos between the age of legal majority in the jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30 shall qualify for the Student Member Program upon the submission of the Leo Club Completion of Service Certificate and Student Member Certification Form. Enrollment in an educational institution is not required.
8. Additionally, in the event that a group of current or former Leos apply to charter a new club with other like-minded young adults, all new club members between the age of legal majority in jurisdiction in which they reside and through the age of 30 qualify for the Student Member Program under the provision that at least 10 new club members meet

the qualifications specified in paragraph 7. Enrollment in an educational institution is not required. A member who meets the initial requirements shall continue to qualify for the Student Member Program until the member reaches the age of 31. Members over the age of 30 shall qualify for membership in the club, but do not qualify for the Student Member Program.

9. In the case of a newly chartered campus club, or a club with a majority of student members, each charter member who qualifies for the Student Member Dues Provision is required to prepay one year International dues at the Student Member Rate at the time of charter. Such fees shall be submitted with the charter application.

#### **E. CONTINUOUS MEMBERSHIP**

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

#### **F. FEES**

1. New members shall pay an entrance fee of US\$25.00
2. The entrance fee for former and existing Leo club members presenting a Leo Service Certificate shall be waived.
3. The charter fee for former and existing Leo club members presenting a Leo Service Certificate shall be waived.

#### **G. MEMBERSHIP PROGRAMS**

##### **Key Award Program**

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

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

Keys will be issued automatically, 13 months after the date the new member was reported on the Monthly Membership Report, to the sponsor listed on the report. These keys will

only be issued after July 1, 2002 and will not be issued retroactively.

Each key will comport with its specific design as approved by the board and will, as appropriate, bear the number of sponsored members appropriate for said key.

All keys will be made to be worn on the lapel.

All keys, beginning at the 100-member key level will be accompanied by a medallion matching the key in design but proportionally larger. The medallion will be made to be worn suspended from a ribbon.

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

#### **2. Eligibility**

- a. A new member must remain a Lion for one year and a day before the name may be used as credit toward a Key.
- b. The name of the new member and the sponsor must be reported on the Monthly Membership Report of the club, with the sponsor's member number and club number.
- c. No sponsor shall receive more than one key of the same type.
- d. Transfer and reinstated members cannot be used as credit for a key.
- e. Only one sponsor can receive credit for a new member.

#### **H. REPORTS**

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

#### **I. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY – Membership**

Lions Clubs International affirms a policy of non-discrimination in its membership criteria. A person of legal majority and of good moral character and good reputation in his/her community may be granted membership in any duly authorized Lions club. While membership shall be by invitation only, Lions clubs are encouraged to invite qualified members, irrespective of their race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, marital status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected status.