

## **ETHICAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT (Council Chairperson)**

Ours is an association of service, and the manner in which the service is rendered is fully as important as the service itself. Our members, your Council of Governors, the International Board of Directors, the Executive Officers, the Administrative Officers, the International Office staff and our communities expect honest and ethical conduct from each of you every day. No act or request on the part of Lions clubs and their members, officers, board of directors or staff within our association with whom, or the community for whom, we render services can justify the breach of this guideline. Honest and ethical conduct is defined by four core values that serve as the foundation for our Ethical Standards:

**Integrity** – Lions Clubs International insists on the highest standards of personal and professional integrity. We must all make every possible effort to safeguard the association’s assets. We must also comply with all association policies and applicable laws.

**Accountability** – Lions Clubs International expects all Council Chairpersons to honor commitments as authorized and made on behalf of the association and take individual responsibility for all actions and outcomes. It has no tolerance for ethical violations.

**Teamwork** – Lions Clubs International seeks to maintain a service environment that encourages innovation, creativity and positive results through teamwork. We must all practice leadership to train, inspire and promote full participation and individual development for all Lions. We encourage open and effective communication and interaction.

**Excellence** – Lions Clubs International is dedicated to fair treatment, mutual respect, diversity and trust. We must challenge each other to improve our services, our processes and ourselves. We must strive together to serve our membership and communities and help the association achieve its goals.

Your responsibilities begin with understanding of the core values and Ethical Standards of Lions Clubs International. Your role in the association demands an ongoing vigilance to maintain these standards of honest and ethical conduct. Lions Clubs International has adopted several policy statements that concern the association’s Ethical Standards, such as our Mission Statement, Code of Ethics, Anti-Discrimination Guidelines for Service Activities and Membership, Obligations of a Chartered Club, Use of Publicly Raised Funds, Rules of Audit, Conflict of Interest, Solicitation, and Privacy. The International Constitution and By-Laws, the Council Chairperson Manual and the International Board Policy Manual provide information about these policy statements and additional guidance in the areas of ethical standards and conduct. In many instances, ethical standards intersect legal requirements. If an ethical or legal compliance issue arises that raises a question in your mind, you have a **responsibility** to bring that issue to the attention of the appropriate International Board committee or International Office division (for example, the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee reviews Conflict of Interest issues; the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and/or Legal Division review Legal issues). You may also bring ethical or legal concerns to the attention of the International Board of Directors, the Executive Officers, or the Administrative Officers of the association.

The core values of the Ethical Standards of Lions Clubs International, along with the policies of the International Board of Directors, provide a guide and framework to help you understand what is expected from you and to help you make good decisions. As they are not all inclusive, your good and best judgment is essential in doing the “right” and ethical thing. Please join us in continuing Lions Clubs’ tradition of honest and ethical practices in serving millions of people in need.