

CHAPTER VI
CODE OF ETHICS & CONDUCT ~~FLAG~~

A. CODE OF ETHICS

TO SHOW my faith in the worthiness of my vocation by industrious application to the end that I may merit a reputation for quality of service.

TO SEEK success and to demand all fair remuneration or profit as my just due, but to accept no profit or success at the price of my own self-respect lost because of unfair advantage taken or because of questionable acts on my part.

TO REMEMBER that in building up my business it is not necessary to tear down another's; to be loyal to my clients or customers and true to myself.

WHENEVER a doubt arises as to the right or ethics of my position of action towards others, to resolve such doubt against myself.

TO HOLD friendship as an end and not a means. To hold that true friendship exists not on account of the service performed by one to another, but that true friendship demands nothing but accepts service in the spirit in which it is given.

ALWAYS bear in mind my obligations as a citizen to my nation, my state and my community, and to give them my unswerving loyalty in word, act and deed. To give them freely of my time, labor and means.

TO AID others by giving my sympathy to those in distress, my aid to the weak, and my substance to the needy.

TO BE CAREFUL with my criticism and liberal with my praise; to build up and not destroy.

B. ETHICAL STANDARDS AND CONDUCT

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, the Executive Officers, the International Directors, the Board Appointees, 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 our core values that serve as the foundation for our Ethical Standards:

Commitment to SERVICE

We are responsive to the needs of our communities and the world we share. We seek to bring positive change to the people we serve and the places we call home.

Dedication to EXCELLENCE

We are passionate about the causes we serve and the difference we are making together. We strive for excellence, and we measure it by every community we impact and every life we touch.

Appreciation for DIVERSITY

We believe that diversity is our strength, and it starts with fostering understanding, appreciating our differences, and valuing our unique talents and experiences. We know we can better serve the world when we embrace everyone, because together we are more.

Dynamic COLLABORATION

We work as a team to solve problems, meet challenges and bring our service to life. We thrive by collaborating with our communities, local and global partners, and everyone with a heart for service.

Personal and Professional INTEGRITY

We promote and live by the principles of good citizenship. We are dependable, trustworthy and accountable for our actions and their results.

Spirit of INNOVATION

We evolve to meet the changing needs of those we serve, embracing growth and creativity. We embrace new ideas, best practices and continual improvement.

1. Executive Officers, International Directors and Board Appointees

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. The International Board Policy Manual highlights areas that concern Lions Clubs International Ethical Standards, including our Mission Statement (Ch.I, Paragraph A.3.), Code of Ethics (Ch.VI, Paragraph A.), Non-Discrimination Policy (Ch.XVII, Paragraph J.), Obligations of a Chartered Club (Ch.V, Paragraph A.), Use of Publicly Raised Funds (Ch.XV, Paragraph B.), General Reimbursement Policy (Ch.XXI, Paragraph C.), Conflict of Interest (Ch.XI, Paragraph G.), and Privacy Policy (Ch.XXVI, Paragraph D.). The International Constitution and By-Laws and the International Director training also provide 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 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.

2. Council Chairperson

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.

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3. District Governor

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 District Governor 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.

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4. Club Officer

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 Club Officer 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 your District Governor, 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.

C. NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

Lions Clubs International affirms a policy of non-discrimination. Lions clubs and members may not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, creed, national origin, ancestry, gender, marital status, age, disability, veteran status or any other legally protected status. A violation of this policy would be considered conduct unbecoming a Lion and/or Lions Club and may result in placing a club in “status quo” and/or cancelling a club charter in accordance with the policies set forth by the International Board of Directors.

C. OFFICIAL LIONS FLAG

~~1. The Lions International Flag shall have:~~

~~the white background with gold fringe for indoor use and a gold border for outdoor use with the emblem in the middle stating “Lions International” in proper proportions.~~

~~2. The Lions International Flag shall be sold by the Club Supplies, E-Commerce & Logistics Department.~~

D. CODE OF CONDUCT

Lions Clubs International believes all individual members participating in any Lions club, district, multiple district or association event must exemplify conduct that is welcoming to all attendees, appropriate for the community where the event is conducted, and is consistent the association's purposes and mission. A violation of this policy may be considered conduct unbecoming a Lion.

1. Lions must not engage in harassing or discriminatory behavior. Serious violations for improper conduct may result in additional action by the International Board of Directors up to, and including, loss of membership.
2. Chartered clubs and districts (single, sub- and multiple) are recommended to create a code of conduct for meetings and events.
3. A Lions Club or district (single, sub- and multiple) shall review any allegations of improper conduct in accordance with the appropriate dispute resolution procedure as provided in Chapter XXV. Dispute Resolution Procedures.
4. Alleged violations of conduct at any association event will be reviewed and addressed in accordance with the appropriate policies.