



# **MARKHAM LIONS CLUB**

## **CONSTITUTION & BY-LAWS**

**Effective March 6, 2025**

**Updated March 9, 2025**

# **CONSTITUTION**

## **Article I**

Section 1. The name of this organization is **Markham Lions Club**, located in Markham, ON, Canada and chartered by, and under the jurisdiction of, the International Association of Lions Clubs.

Section 2. The **Markham Lions Club** adopts the current Standard Form Club Constitution and By-Laws of the International Association of Lions Clubs.

A copy of the Standard Form Club Constitution and By-Laws may be found on the LCI website at: [www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org).

## **Article II**

Section 1. Markham Lions Club is incorporated under the Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act, 2010 (herein after referred to as the “Act”).

Ontario Corporation Number: 71724

Date of Incorporation: January 13, 1954

Section 2. If any of the provisions contained in this Constitution and Bylaws are inconsistent with those contained in the Articles of Amendment for this Club, the provisions contained in the Articles shall prevail.

# **BY-LAWS**

## **Section 1**

### **A. Organization**

The Board of Directors (also called Officers) of the Markham Lions Club shall be the following:

President

Immediate Past President

1<sup>st</sup> VP

2<sup>nd</sup> VP

3<sup>rd</sup> VP

Treasurer

Secretary (Recording)

Secretary (Reporting)

Service Chairperson

Membership Chairperson

Marketing Chairperson

Club LCIF Coordinator

## **B. Voting**

- i. In the event of a tie vote, the meeting chairperson shall cast the deciding vote in any issue.
- ii. All active voting members in good standing have the right to vote on any issue, propose a motion, and second a motion at any Board of Directors meeting of the Markham Lions Club. However, a quorum of the Board of Directors has the power to veto any motion at the same meeting the motion is presented.

## **C. Quorum**

- i. Meeting of Members: The presence in person of more than 35% of the members in good standing shall be necessary for a quorum at any members meeting of this club, and the act of the majority of the members present shall be the act and decision of the entire club.
- ii. Meeting of Board of Directors: The presence in person of a majority of the directors, including those named to officer titles without holding officer positions as defined in the MLC Policy Manual, shall constitute a quorum at any meeting of the board of directors, and the act of a majority of the directors present at any meeting of the board shall be the act and decision of the entire board of directors.

## **Section 2**

### **Financial Rules**

#### **Article I**

All monies collected from the general public will be directed to the Club's Service Account, including interest thereon.

#### **Article II Signing Officers**

All cheques, vouchers & contracts shall be signed by any two of the following: President, First Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer.

#### **Article III**

The Annual Budget of the club is to be presented by the Finance Committee to the Board of Directors no later than the October Board of Directors meeting.

- a. Upon approval of the budget by the Board of Directors, it is to be ratified by a simple majority of club voting members in attendance at the next regular club meeting.
- b. By this ratification, the Committee Chairpersons are given the authority to spend these budgeted amounts for the purposes specified without further approval of the Board of Directors or the club membership.
- c. Notwithstanding this, the Board of Directors has the power and authority at any time to reassess the club's financial condition and place a moratorium on spending in any amount.
- d. The budgeted funds cannot be redirected for other purposes without approval of the Board of Directors, and when the item is in excess of \$500. it must also be ratified by a simple majority of club voting members in attendance at the next regular or special club meeting.

#### **Article IV**

- (a) Any proposed new expense, not included in an approved budget, must be approved by the Board of Directors and, if over \$500., ratified by a simple majority of club voting members in attendance at the next regular or special club meeting.
- (b) Any such proposed new expense, prior to presentation to the Board of Directors for approval, shall involve:
  - (1) the respective committee for their deliberation, report & recommendation, and then, if such proposed new expense is over \$500.,
  - (2) the Finance Committee for their review & recommendation.

#### **Article V**

Notwithstanding the foregoing, an amount not in excess of \$1,000. may be expended, provided such expenditure:

- i. is required to deal with an emergency situation as determined by the President and two elected Officers, and
- ii. has been approved by a simple majority of the elected Officers of this Club, and
- iii. is reported at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board of Directors, and thereafter at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Club.

If the expenditure is for Disaster Relief, then for any one disaster:

- Maximum donation of \$500. when the disaster occurs outside District A-16
- Maximum donation of \$1000. when the disaster occurs within District A-16

#### **Article VI**

The Markham Lions Club will pay from the Administration Account the cost of tickets to the following Charter Anniversary Celebrations:

- two tickets to the Lions Club of Stouffville Charter celebrations.

#### **Article VII**

- a) The Tail Twister's fine will be in the amount of twenty-five (25) cents.
- b) All funds collected by the Tail Twister, including fines and draws, shall be given to the Treasurer for the Administration account.

#### **Article VIII**

##### **A) Entrance Fee**

Each new member shall pay an entrance fee of \$55.00. This fee shall include the current association entrance fee and be collected before such member is enrolled as a member of this club and before the secretary may report such member to Lions Clubs International, with the exception that the said entrance fee is waived for any member granted membership as an Associate Member, Student Member, Honourary Member or by transfer or reinstatement within twelve (12) months of termination of his/her prior Lions Club membership.

##### **B) Annual Dues**

Each member of this club shall pay the following indicated regular annual dues. These dues shall include an amount to cover current international, multiple district & district dues and club administration

requirements effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, and shall be paid in the month of June for the next Lions fiscal year which begins July 1<sup>st</sup>.

<b>Category</b>	<b>'23-'24</b>	<b>'24-'25</b>	<b>'25-'26</b>	<b>'26-'27</b>
Active	\$110.00	\$115.00	\$120.00	\$125.00
Subsequent qualifying family members*	\$90.00	\$94.00	\$97.00	\$100.00
Affiliate	\$110.00	\$115.00	\$120.00	\$125.00
Privileged	\$110.00	\$115.00	\$120.00	\$125.00
Life	\$55.00	\$60.00	\$60.00	\$60.00
Associate	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$20.00
Honourary	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Student	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$30.00	\$35.00
Member-at-Large	\$110.00	\$115.00	\$120.00	\$125.00

\*Note: maximum 4 subsequent qualifying family members

C) Any change in the Club dues must be recommended by the Finance Committee to the Board of Directors for their approval and subsequently ratified by a majority of the Club voting members at the next regular meeting.

**Article IX**

Any increase in meal costs must be recommended by the Program Committee to the Board of Directors for their approval and subsequently ratified by a majority of the club voting members at the next regular meeting

**Article X**

The cost of up to three (3) meals for prospective new members will, with the authorization of the Membership Chairperson, be paid for by the club. Such expense will be paid out of the Guest and Speaker Meals & Donations MLC Service Account.

**Article XI**

Meals for guests invited by the club will be paid for by the club. Such expense will be paid out of the Guest and Speaker Meals & Donations MLC Service Account. All other guests will normally pay for their own meals.

**Article XII Club Member Meals**

All Active (except Student) members of the Markham Lions Club are required to pay for Regular dinner meeting meals in advance.

Normally these payments will be collected by the Treasurer at the first Regular dinner meetings in September, January, and April. In the event that a member is absent, for any reason, on the date that payment is due, said member will be expected to pay at the next Regular dinner meeting he/she attends and payment is to include any dinner meeting(s) missed.

Payment of meals/snacks/refreshments for Regular casual meetings is to be paid at the meeting when in attendance.

No credit will be offered for meals missed, regardless of reason with the one exception being a member who, if approved by the Board of Directors as a 'Member at Large', may request in writing, after he/she returns to his/her regular membership status, a credit for meals missed. With approval by the Board of Directors, credit will be issued by the Treasurer.

Affiliate, Privileged, Associate, non-active Life, Honourary, Student and Member-at-Large members, and also members who are currently District A-16 Officers, are required to pay for meals as and when in attendance at a Regular dinner or casual meeting.

Any Member who advises the Club in writing that they cannot, for medical reasons, eat food served at Regular dinner meetings but still wish to attend, may, with approval by the MLC Board of Directors, be forgiven the requirement to pay for meals.

The Board of Directors of the Club must approve any relief or deviation from this By-Law.

### **Article XIII**

Payment of all annual meals in one initial payment may result in a discount if approved by the Board of Directors yearly and subsequently ratified by a simple majority of club voting members.

### **Article XIV**

The Markham Lions Club will provide financial assistance annually for members whom are candidates for District Office. Campaign expenses will be to a maximum of \$500. each. Such expense will be paid out of the MLC Administration Account.

### **Article XV**

Club members attending Zone Meetings, Cabinet Meetings and District/MD'A' training schools/forums/sessions will have their registration and meal costs paid by the club. Such expense will be paid out of the MLC Services Account.

### **Article XVI**

Club members who accompany Markham Lions who hold International or District Office will, on their official visits to clubs in the District, have their meal costs paid by our club. Such expense will be paid out of the MLC Administration Account.

### **Article XVII**

Any proposed new fundraising activity is to be presented to the Board of Directors for their approval and subsequently ratified by a simple majority of club voting members at a Regular meeting.

### **Article XVIII**

Food Booth committee shall have up to \$3,000 available at the beginning of each new Lions year (July 1) without the requirement of the Board of Directors approval, to fund preparation of the food booth for operation. This is a pre-approved expense that shall be later included in the Food Booth budget when our club approves that year's budget.

### **Article XIX Fiscal Year**

The fiscal year of District Markham Lions Club shall be from July 1<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## **Section 3**

### **By-Law Revisions**

#### **Article 1**

Section A. When amendments to the International Constitution and By-Laws are passed at the International Convention, any amendments that would have an effect on the Markham Lions Club Constitution and By-Laws are to be automatically updated in the Markham Lions Club Constitution and By-Laws.

Section B. These By-Laws may be altered, amended or repealed at any Regular or special meeting of this club at which a quorum is present, by the vote of a majority of the voting members present in person and voting. When possible, it is appropriate to take proposed amendments to the Board of Directors, requesting their support, prior to the full membership at a Regular or special meeting for approval.

Section C. No amendment shall be put to vote unless written notice thereof, stating the proposed amendment, shall have been mailed or delivered personally or electronically to each voting member at least fourteen (14) days prior to the meeting at which the vote on the amendment is to be taken.