

CHAPTER XIII
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

A. RELATIONSHIP OF LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL TO THE UNITED NATIONS (ECOSOC)

Article 71 of the Charter of the United Nations states, “The Economic and Social Council may make suitable arrangements for consultation with nongovernmental organizations which are concerned with matters within its competence. Such arrangements may be made with international organizations.”

Lions took a leading role in activities during the UN Charter Conference at San Francisco in 1945. Since 1947, Lions Clubs International has been one of the nongovernmental organizations holding consultative status to the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). It is incorrect, however, to say that Lions have consultative status to the UN in general.

The Economic and Social Council, one of the main bodies of the United Nations, is concerned primarily with advancing the welfare of all human beings. It is the Security Council of the UN that has direct responsibility for the first purpose of the United Nations, “To maintain international peace and security...” Lions Clubs International has no relationship with the Security Council. It is not the policy of Lions Clubs International to endorse particular resolutions or actions of the United Nations taken to further the first stated purpose of the UN, “To maintain international peace and security.”

With regard to the second and third stated purposes of the United Nations, “To develop friendly relations among nations...” and “To achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character...” comparison is invited to the first Object of Lions Clubs International: “To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.”

Lions Clubs International supports the United Nations idea of a world at peace. Lions membership is encouraged to be informed, to support, and to promulgate information about the UN, its humanitarian objectives, and the work of its agencies – especially in public observations of United Nations Day on October 24 each year.

B. AFFILIATION WITH INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

The following criteria shall be used as the basis for establishing the continuing affiliation with international organizations:

1. Affiliation be considered only with those international organizations that can provide guidance, direction, and mutual cooperation in implementing specific projects related to the following basic areas:
 - a. Education, in the broadest sense
 - b. Implementation of specific humanitarian service programs designed to help people help themselves
 - c. Emergency relief and assistance where required.
2. A complete report on the benefits of such an affiliation and the nature of the cooperative endeavors be presented to the board for consideration and discussion at least one board meeting prior to any action taken to effect such affiliation.
3. Appointments be made annually by the international president to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations, UNESCO, the World Health Organization, UNICEF and the Council of Europe. An appointment to Junior Chamber International shall be made for a three-year term by the international president in consultation with the first and second international vice presidents. Appointees shall be Lions, preferably past international presidents or past international directors who live near the headquarters of the respective international organization. Such appointees shall be entitled to reasonable reimbursement based on an allocated budget approved by the Finance and Headquarters Operation Committee. Each appointee is expected to submit periodic reports to the appropriate committee of the International Board of Directors. These reports should represent a thoughtful consideration of matters on which our association and the affiliated organization can: (1) exchange information and/or (2) mutually cooperate to better humanity.

The international president may appoint additional representatives to regional branches of these associations. Such appointments, however, will have no expense reimbursement except in special situations approved by the international president.

Appointees invited by the respective international organization to assume additional duties or positions in their capacity as association representatives shall obtain approval from the international president in consultation with the other members of the Executive Committee before accepting.

4. Once established, the relationship shall be reviewed periodically by the appropriate board committee, along with a recommendation to continue or discontinue the relationship.

C. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS MONTH – OCTOBER

The month of October shall be “International Relations Month.” Worldwide celebration of United Nations Day and World Lions Service Day occur during this month. Appropriate and timely announcements and information regarding successful activities which can be performed in the international relations field shall be circulated to Lions through our various publications.

D. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS PROGRAMS

1. Vocational Assistance

The Vocational Assistance Program shall be implemented as an international project.

Guidelines are contained in the District International Understanding and Cooperation booklet (IAD-65) and are also distributed upon request.

2. International Club Twinning

The International Club Twinning Program is a reciprocal program between clubs of different countries. Its purpose is to give Lions, and Leos of different cultures an opportunity to learn more about each other. Twinning should only take place between like clubs: i.e., Lions with Lions, and Leo with Leo.

3. District Governors-Elect Twinning

The District and Club Administration Division will compile a list in which each district governor-elect will be twinned with another district governor-elect for the ensuing year. They will meet at an international luncheon held in conjunction with the district governors-elect school. In addition, these district governors-elect twins will be seated at an “international table,” at which representatives from as many different countries as possible will be seated.

The purpose of this function is to allow district governors-elect an opportunity to exchange information on a personal basis and to discuss possibilities of district twinning.

4. District Twinning

District twinning is a form of international partnership in which a district in one country enters into a relationship with a district in another country to mutually cooperate on specific projects in either their own districts, or a district in still another country, and to foster club and community twinings in the respective districts.

5. Lions Day with the United Nations

BE IT RESOLVED, That to promote “Lions Day with the United Nations,” Lions clubs be encouraged to hold meetings with representatives of U.N. agencies on the same day as the international president of our association meets with the secretary-general of the U.N. The official representative(s) to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations as appointed annually by the International President shall chair and coordinate the program of the annual Lions Day with the United Nations held in New York.

E. REQUESTS FOR MONEY, MATERIALS OR SERVICES

Requests for money, materials or services received by headquarters from Lions clubs or districts and individuals shall be channeled through their respective district governors. The district governor is in a more favorable position to evaluate such requests, and to advise as to resources available in the district or a nearby area. He/she should use discretion but may forward the request to an appropriate district governor of his/her own or another country. Such undertakings must be done in the spirit of joint projects by the Lions, and the requesting Lions club or district must indicate how they will participate in the project.

F. INTERNATIONAL PLEDGE

The following pledge is recommended for Lions use during sponsoring ceremonies:

I pledge allegiance to my country and to the cause of peace throughout the world.

I believe in the principles of Lionism as contained in the Lions Code of Ethics.

I am proud to be a Lion, dedicated to the service of others.

G. INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS RECOGNITION PROGRAM

1. Objective:

To encourage the involvement of every Lions club in activities which further the first Object “To create and foster a spirit of understanding among the peoples of the world.”

2. Lions International Relations Award

An appropriate award shall be provided annually to district governors for presentation to a Lion within the district who has demonstrated the most outstanding international relations activity in one or more of the following areas of qualification:

- (1) Outstanding achievement in LCIF activities
- (2) United Nations projects and efforts

- (3) Initiatives to promote peace and cooperation among peoples of different nations and cultures
- (4) Leadership in international assistance projects
- (5) Other distinguished accomplishments in international relations.

3. Awards to Clubs

a. Twinning Recognition Award

Clubs which report having twinned shall receive a twinning patch in recognition of their twinning. Only one twinning award will be provided per fiscal year regardless of the number of twinings initiated during a particular fiscal year. Annual awards are not issued for twinings that continue over the years. Twinning should only take place between like clubs: i.e., Lions with Lions, and Leo with Leo.

b. Lions Outstanding Club Patch

To promote activities that emphasize international understanding and cooperation, the international president awards a special patch each year to one Lions club per district nominated by the district governor for outstanding participation in international relations activities.

4. UNICEF School-in-a-Box Program

Lions clubs donating US\$500 or more through LCIF for the UNICEF School-in-a-Box program shall receive a Lions/UNICEF School-in-a-Box banner patch award. Lions clubs making repeat donations of US\$500 or more through LCIF for the UNICEF School-in-a-Box program in subsequent years shall receive a chevron patch award.

5. International Relations Chairperson Awards

a. District International Relations Chairperson Award

An appropriate award shall be provided annually to district governors for presentation to the district chairperson for achievement in fulfilling the requirements of the position.

b. Multiple District International Relations Chairperson Award

An appropriate award shall be provided annually to council chairpersons for presentation to the multiple district chairperson for achievement in fulfilling the requirements of the position.