

Vision for the Future of the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation

The New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation (NYSBLF) is an official State project of Multiple District 20. As such, it is, in essence, the responsibility of every Lion in the Multiple District. Since its inception in 1995, the Foundation's financial growth has been nominal, limiting its long-term potential and the breadth of its impact. This proposal is intended to change that reality.

For many years, the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation has served as a trusted and meaningful vehicle for Lions to support charitable causes across New York State and Bermuda. Built on volunteerism, compassion, and service, the Foundation reflects the very heart of Lionism. While this model has served us well, the needs of our communities have grown significantly, and so too must our ability to respond in a meaningful, sustainable, and impactful way.

Across the country, other state Lions foundations have evolved into large, professionally governed philanthropic organizations with assets in the millions. These foundations have demonstrated that when a foundation is structured for long-term growth, strong governance, and strategic fundraising, it can dramatically expand its reach and effectiveness. Remaining a small, club-style operation limits our capacity to raise significant funds, attract major donors, and award grants that can truly transform lives. New York State and Bermuda Lions now have both the opportunity—and the responsibility—to build a foundation of equal strength and credibility.

To attain this goal requires that we rewrite and adjust our By-Laws, and that the Lions of Multiple District 20 formally accept and adopt them at the MD-20 Convention in Syracuse this spring. This evolution has been a deliberate, two-year process and is now coming to fruition. The proposed By-Law revisions provide the governance structure, financial oversight, and strategic framework necessary to support sustainable growth while remaining firmly grounded in Lion values and service.

The next phase brings together a diverse board of professionals with expertise in finance, law, fundraising, marketing, and nonprofit governance to focus on long-term sustainability and expansion. At the same time, this model intentionally preserves and strengthens Lion involvement. Lions will continue to lead the mission through committees focused on fundraising, marketing, grants, community engagement, and storytelling. This structure does not exclude Lions; rather, it elevates their service by providing the tools, support, and infrastructure needed to succeed.

By taking this next step, we honor the legacy of those who built the Foundation while responsibly preparing it for the future. A stronger foundation means more grants, broader reach, increased credibility, and a lasting impact across New York State and Bermuda. This transformation ensures that the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation will remain a powerful force for service—not just today, but for generations to come.

A complete copy of the rewritten By-Laws has been e-mailed to all MD-20 Lions in good standing with a valid e-mail address on file with the MD-20 office. The By-Laws are also posted on the MD-20 website and on the New York State and Bermuda Lions Foundation website at www.nysblf.org.