

DEBORAH HERLAN-KUTEJ
LEO-LION BOARD LIAISON

Deborah Herlan-Kutej of Munich, Germany, has been appointed by International President Mark Lyon to serve as the Leo-Lion representative to the Lions Clubs International Board of Directors for 2026-27.

Herlan-Kutej is a member of the Goslar Unitas Mundi Lions Club, an international club. She currently works as a corporate attorney focusing on mergers and acquisitions and as a business mediator and arbitrator. She is an esteemed member of the Singapore International Arbitration Center and active in the German-American Law Association. She now continues to lead her family's company in third generation.

Herlan-Kutej joined Leos in 2009 while on a student exchange in Florida. One of her first activities, serving at a Christmas market, marked the start of her long-term involvement with the association. She later became an Omega Leo and then a Leo-Lion, continuing her service alongside her father, who joined Lions right after she became a Leo and her husband who she met during her Leo years.

During her time with Leos and Lions, she has held several leadership roles, including international liaison officer, Leo Advisory Panel chairperson, Lions United Nations Day panelist and Leo Europa Forum president. She has also served as a Special Olympics World Games Leo delegation appointee and as a member of the Ad Hoc Committee for Young People and Women Membership. One of her most notable service activities was supporting the Healthy Athletes "Opening Eyes" initiative at the Special Olympics World Games, where Leos contributed to providing vision care and glasses to athletes. She is a Progressive Melvin Jones Fellow. She was also the recipient of the International Leo of the Year award in 2023-2024 and has received an International President's medal and three International President leadership awards.

Herlan-Kutej is focused on the global cause of vision, with an emphasis on improving access to eye care services, supporting vision screenings and raising awareness about preventable vision impairment through service initiatives and partnerships. She emphasizes the importance of engaging the next generation with a focus on women, noting the need for young leaders and "everyday heroes" who are ready to step forward, serve and make a difference.

Outside of Lions, Herlan-Kutej stays active with skiing and diving, including environmental service activities such as underwater cleanups and tennis. She also enjoys reading, especially mystery novels by Agatha Christie, and visiting museums.