

MD19 Constitution and Bylaws Committee

Report by: Lion Larrie Taylor, Chairperson

Date Report Sent: January 20, 2016

The vote at the MD19 Convention in October 2015 requires that a number of amendments be made to the MD19 Constitution and Bylaws. I have tried to identify the Articles that must be amended to reflect the changes resulting from the vote. The text in **blue** are issues for which direction is sought. Those text in **green** are proposed changes. Those items in **red** text reflect proposed deletions to the existing document. The text in **orange** is LCI required changes to District Constitutions and By-laws.

However, I would ask that this document be accepted as a draft report. A meeting[s] including the Council Chairperson, the Immediate Past Chairperson and the MD19 Executive Secretary/Treasurer and the members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee is scheduled in early February [but after the deadline submission of this report] The outcome of this meeting [s] will be submitted prior to the Council meeting.

List of required changes

Article IV

Officers

SECTION 3. The Council Chairperson and the Vice Council Chairperson of the Multiple District shall be elected at the Annual Convention of the Multiple District. **When should this occur as we have to have these officers in place at the end of the Lionistic Year but the Convention is scheduled about 3+ months after they must take office.**

PCC Rod Barnes and EST Patty Allen have proposed the following option for the election of these MD officers:

Proposed Solution

Candidates for the Offices of Council Chair, and Vice Council Chair are to have their announcements as well as their endorsements filed with the MD Office by the end of December. It would appear to make sense that at the time of the nine Districts' Spring Conferences beginning in February or March and ending in May, voting for CC and VCC could be accomplished at each District Conference. The ballots would be sealed and delivered to the MD Office until the last of the Nine Districts' ballots were received. Once the Nine Districts' ballots, are received, at the MD Office, they would be counted by representatives of each District and then the winners could be announced.

EST Patty added the following details to this proposal:

Two ballot boxes would be provided, one that is opened and ballots counted at the conference for the district officers and one that remains sealed with the multiple district officers ballots inside.

The sealed ballot box (sealed with some sort of official seal?) would be taken back to the MD19 Office where it would remain until all District Spring Conferences have taken place.

The ballots would be counted in the presence of the Election Committee Chairperson, the Executive Secretary, and the scrutinizer for each of the candidates. I don't know how many more people you want to use, but a small amount is better for a variety of reasons.

SECTION 10. The official voting delegates from each District shall nominate and elect a District Governor and 1st and 2nd Vice District Governor for their District ~~at a specially scheduled meeting of the District held in conjunction with~~ their Annual ~~Sub~~-District Conferences held during the months of March, April or May of the Lions Year preceding taking office ~~at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the Multiple District Annual Convention~~

Each club shall be entitled to cast its vote for District Governor and 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors in accordance with the provisions of ARTICLE VI, Sections 6 to 8 inclusive of this Constitution.

SECTION 12. The officers of this Multiple District shall take office at the close of the Annual Convention of the International Association of Lions Clubs next succeeding their election, and shall serve for a period of one year, or until their successor shall be duly elected and enter upon his/her duties of office.

Article V

SECTION 3. The Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall provide an updated Policy Manual on the Multiple District website reflecting the actions and decisions of the Multiple District Council of Governors ~~each Council Meeting, following the Annual Convention of this Multiple District along with following.~~ The current updated Multiple District 19 Constitution & By-Laws will be posted on the MD19 website following the Annual Convention of this Multiple District. Constitution and By-laws amendments should be voted on at the MD's Annual Convention.

Article VI

SECTION 3. Where more than one club exists in a convention city, one of the clubs shall be designated the Host Club in sponsoring the Annual Convention ~~or Fall Forum.~~

SECTION 5. The officers of the Multiple District shall be the officers of the conventions of the Multiple District. How do we want to handle the overlap as the Convention is essentially the wrap of the previous Council but a new Council is now in place?

Article IV BL

Section 1

e. In planning and preparing the budget for the Council of Governors, the Host Club shall not budget in excess ~~of 95%~~ of the Council of Governors' approved budget for the Convention ~~or Forum. The remaining 5% of the budgeted amount for the Convention or Forum shall be held in reserve to cover any emergency expense not provided for in planning.~~ The budgeted MD19 Convention Reserve will provide a reserve for any emergency expenses not provided for in planning.

f. The Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to pay the Host Club, upon its request, the sum of \$2,000.00 from the budgeted amount for the Annual Convention, to cover preliminary expenses incident to the planning, preparation, and conduct of the Annual Convention. ~~The Multiple District Executive Secretary Treasurer is authorized to pay the Host Club for the Fall Forum, upon request, the sum of \$500.00 from the budgeted amount for the Fall Forum, to cover preliminary expenses incident to the planning, preparation, and conduct of the Fall Forum.~~

~~g. When the Council of Governors has approved the plans and budget of the Convention, or Forum, as prepared by the Host Club, the Host Club shall be entitled to receive from the Multiple District Executive Secretary Treasurer the balance of the MD19 budgeted Annual Convention or Forum amount, less the 5% held in reserve.~~

hg. As soon as possible, and not later than sixty (60) days following the close of the convention, the Host Club shall submit a complete statement of income and expenses on account of the convention, to the Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer and upon approval of the same by the Council of Governors, the Host Club shall receive from the Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer such amount from the Convention Fund 5% reserve as may be necessary to balance its accounts. In no event, however, shall the Host Club receive from the Convention Fund any amount in excess of the total budgeted for the Convention ~~or Forum.~~

SECTION 2. Any surplus of funds found to be in excess of the actual expenses of the Convention, ~~or Forum,~~ after receipt of the budgeted allocation ~~and the retained 5% Reserve Fund by the Host Club,~~ shall be paid by the Host Club into the General Fund of the Multiple District, except that surpluses less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) may be retained by the Host Club upon approval of the Multiple District Council of Governors, providing no funds have been used from the Convention Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE VII

Finance

SECTION 2. A percentage of the Multiple District dues levied upon each member per month is hereby appropriated for defraying the expenses of the ~~Fall Forum and~~ the Annual Convention of the Multiple District. The percentage of the Multiple District dues appropriated for the Convention Fund shall be specified in the Policy Manual. A registration fee may be charged those attending any Convention, ~~Forum~~ or Conference held in this Multiple District.

ARTICLE II "BL"

Duties of Officers

Section 5

c. Prepare and distribute the Multiple District monthly report, reports for the Annual Convention, ~~Fall Forum~~, and as directed by the Council of Governors; prepare and distribute other publications and materials.

f. The Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer shall be designated as Director of the Multiple District Convention ~~and the Fall Forum~~. He/she shall also coordinate with Lions International, Multiple District 19 participation in the International Convention.

ARTICLE IV "BL"

Convention Financing

Section 1

e. In planning and preparing the budget for the Council of Governors, the Host Club shall not budget in excess ~~of 95%~~ of the Council of Governors' approved budget for the Convention ~~or Forum~~. ~~The remaining 5% of the budgeted amount for the Convention or Forum shall be held in reserve to cover any emergency expense not provided for in planning.~~ ~~The budgeted MD19 Convention Reserve will provide a reserve for any emergency expenses not provided for in planning.~~

f. The Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to pay the Host Club, upon its request, the sum of \$2,000.00 from the budgeted amount for the Annual Convention, to cover preliminary expenses incident to the planning, preparation, and conduct of the Annual Convention. ~~The Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer is authorized to pay the Host Club for the Fall Forum, upon request, the sum of \$500.00 from the budgeted amount for the Fall Forum, to cover preliminary expenses incident to the planning, preparation, and conduct of the Fall Forum.~~

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SECTION 2. Any surplus of funds found to be in excess of the actual expenses of the Convention, ~~or Forum~~, after receipt of the budgeted allocation and the retained 5% Reserve Fund by the Host Club, shall be paid by the Host Club into the General Fund of the Multiple District, except that surpluses less than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) may be retained by the Host Club upon approval of the Multiple District Council of Governors, providing no funds have been used from the Convention Reserve Fund.

ARTICLE VII "BL"

~~This Article is held in abeyance from 2011 through 2016 for a trial period allowing an MD19 Fall Annual Convention as passed by the delegates at the 2009 MD19 Annual Convention.~~

~~Fall Forum~~

~~SECTION 1. Upon approval by the Multiple District Council of Governors at its meeting during the preceding Fall Forum or Annual Convention, after a study of a suitable meeting location, housing, travel, and other facilities, a Fall Forum may be called, preferably during the month of September, or October, as a Special Convention of the Multiple District; provided, however, that the site of all Fall Forum shall be fixed by the Multiple District Council of Governors not less than two (2) years prior to the date thereof, subject to inspection by, and approval of, the Convention Director as being capable of handling such a Conference.~~

~~SECTION 2. The call for this Forum shall be issued and mailed to the member clubs sixty (60) days in advance.~~

~~SECTION 3. The Fall Forum may be a three day event for the purpose of Training, Education, and Motivation for all levels of Officers and Committee Chairpersons. A Council of Governors' Meeting may be held on one of the three days. Committee reports, reports of Council actions and other such business as may be appropriate, or expedient, may be received and approved, but amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws, or elections of Multiple District Officers may not be acted upon.~~

ARTICLE VIII "BL"

Zone Chairperson, Vice District Governors, District Governor, Vice Council Chairperson and Council Chair-person

Section 3

g. If there are no Council Chairperson and/or Vice Council Chairperson candidates registered with the Multiple District Office by the first day of the Multiple District Annual Convention, any qualified Council Chairperson and/or Vice Council Chairperson candidate may be nominated from the floor; providing the candidate's home club has submitted written endorsement prior to the convening of the Annual Convention. *As the Convention is now in the fall should this occur at the previous Convention or at some time prior to the end of the Lionistic Year?*

ARTICLE IX "BL"

International Officers Above the District Level

SECTION 1. This Multiple District shall make no rules regarding candidates for International office except that, if a candidate is to claim or receive the endorsement of the Multiple District as such, the following procedure shall be followed:

a. The candidate must secure the endorsement at a convention of his / her District in order for the District to propose his / her candidacy to the Multiple District. Written notice to the Clubs of the Multiple District must be given at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the Annual Convention or a special convention of the Multiple District at which the resolution will be proposed.

ARTICLE XII "BL"

Amendments

SECTION 1. These By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the certified voting delegates present at the Annual Convention of this Multiple District.

SECTION 2. Proposed amendments, other than those submitted by the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, shall have the written approval of at least one club of the Multiple District over the signature of the club President and attested by its Secretary, and a two-Thirds (2/3) majority vote of the certified voting delegates present at the ~~Sub~~-District annual conference of which the submitting club is a member. All proposed amendments shall be submitted to the ~~Sub~~-District Cabinet Secretary with the reasons 60 days prior to the ~~Sub~~-District conference. The ~~Sub~~-District Cabinet Secretary shall then submit the proposed amendments to the Secretary of each club within the ~~Sub~~-District at least 30 days prior to the opening date of the Sub-District conference. Does the time change impact this process?

SECTION 3. The Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer of the Multiple District shall submit all proposed amendments to the Secretary of each club. All proposed amendments must be received by the club Secretary at least 30 days prior to the opening date of the Annual Multiple District Convention. Amendments, unless dated otherwise, so proposed and adopted shall become effective at the close of the convention. Does the time change impact this process?

e. Candidates for the office of Zone Chairperson shall obtain their Club's endorsement, or the majority of the Clubs in the Zone. The letter(s) of endorsement shall be filed with the Zone Chairperson with copies to the Multiple District Secretary no later than thirty (30) days prior to the ~~Sub~~-District's annual Spring Conference. If no candidates for a Zone have declared thirty (30) days prior to the ~~Sub~~-District's Spring Conference, nominations may be made from the floor, and elections conducted at Zone Meetings held in conjunction with the ~~Sub~~-District's Spring Conference. In any event an election shall be held, and reported to the Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer, prior to 1 May to enable attendance at the Zone Chairperson Training, ~~held at the Multiple District's Annual Convention.~~ In the event that a Zone Chairperson is not elected in a Zone by 1 May, the District Governor Elect of the affected ~~Sub~~-District shall appoint a Zone Chairperson for that Zone. The Zone Chairperson so appointed shall meet the qualifications for the office stated in Article IV, Section 9 of the Multiple District 19 Constitution.

International Board Changes

The position of International Third Vice President was re-instated effective with the 2016-17 Lions year which means both a 2nd and 3rd Vice President of LCI will be elected at the Fukuoka Convention.

The name of the "Leadership" Committee was changed to "Leadership Development" Committee to more accurately reflect its purpose.

Effective July 1, 2016 requiring dues to be paid no later than the 15 days prior to a District or Multiple District convention for a delegate or the club of a candidate to be in "Good Standing " for the purpose of voting or running for office.

EST Patty's comment

I enthusiastically disagree with LCI in one vital area. I believe that clubs should be allowed to pay their MD19 dues at the conferences and conventions in order to vote. It is one of the best ways for us to collect dues and would be a shame if we decide not to allow this. We even accept International dues and send to LCI following the conference. I think it is a mistake not to let us collect these dues. It's a great leverage . . . one of the few we have.

Information from the LCI Legal Division

Each District should review [and amend as required] their respective Constitutions and By-laws regarding the following:

- Selection of district committees involved in the election process;
- Certification of delegates and candidates prior to election;
- Official call, site changes, and official report provisions;
- District Convention rules procedures;
- The Standard ballot form.

Many of the required changes are identified in the Standard Form District Constitution and By-laws on the LCI webpage.

END OF REPORT