

Redistricting Challenges and Opportunities Await. Will Your District be Ready?

PCC John Kirry, Chair, MD19 Strategic Planning Committee

In The Strategic Planning Committee's last report to the council of Governors in June, we wrote these words to describe the emerging importance of redistricting MD19:

“The Strategic Planning Committee has concluded that MD19 is rapidly approaching a critical point in its history that, absent a significant reversal of membership and leadership trends, redistricting will be the only option remaining for MD19 to effectively continue serving its Lions. As result, the committee feels it would be remiss to simply kick the problems, and the viable solutions to those problems, down the road. Simply put, the time has come to face a very real possibility that redistricting MD19 will be necessary.”

At that June 2021 meeting the Council approved the plan to implement a full redistricting plan for consideration to the clubs and districts of MD19, and to place it on the ballot at a special MD19 Virtual Meeting sometime in May or June of 2022.

At this point in the process, the urgent need for redistricting continues. Quite frankly, we are behind in our District preparations. While we have populated the MD19 website with documents pertaining to redistricting, we only have a few months to finalize the full plan and get it ready to be reviewed by each of our nine districts.

That said, it is imperative that Districts organize and mobilize merger committees to begin discussions with their merger counterpart(s). Some Districts have already begun to do so and are well along the way. Other districts have not come up to speed yet, and we need to fully engage those districts. Beginning on October 19, we will expand our Zoom meetings to weekly events and invite all the Merger Committee members from each of the nine districts to participate in those information sharing meetings.

Those expanded meetings will allow us to delve into the many specific requirements and actions of each of the District Merger Committees. It is our hope that those meetings are productive and will result in Districts fully understanding how the process works. The end of the calendar year is coming up fast and we want all districts to be fully informed and ready to discuss and implement the next steps in the Redistricting process at their upcoming Spring conventions in 2022.

The clock is ticking. Will your district be prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities ahead?

