

## MD19 Website Report

**To:** MD19 Council Of Governors

**Date:** October 10, 2018

**From:** J.D. Nellor, Vice Council Chair

The new MD19 website launched in June 2018, shortly after the Spring Council Meeting and training sessions.

There were a couple of challenges with the launch, the most significant of which was that the host server of the existing website, [www.lionsmd19.com](http://www.lionsmd19.com), was not big enough or fast enough to handle the new site. Some pages simply rendered as blanks. But, as luck would have it, I discovered that the domain name “[lionsmd19.org](http://lionsmd19.org)”, which had not been available, suddenly was available. So I reserved the name [lionsmd19.org](http://lionsmd19.org) and then loaded the new site under the new domain name to a new host ([inmotionhosting.com](http://inmotionhosting.com), the host of my office account, on temporary basis), and launched the new site on [www.lionsmd19.org](http://www.lionsmd19.org). It took about 24 hours for [lionsmd19.org](http://lionsmd19.org) to seed the internet (both [lionsmd19.com](http://lionsmd19.com) and [lionsmd19.org](http://lionsmd19.org) were up for a short time). Once [lionsmd19.org](http://lionsmd19.org) was up and running, [lionsmd19.com](http://lionsmd19.com) was shut down. And through a little magic, all traffic to the old address ([www.lionsmd19.com](http://www.lionsmd19.com)) was redirected to the new address: If you typed [www.lionsmd19.com](http://www.lionsmd19.com) into your browser you ended up at [www.lionsmd19.org](http://www.lionsmd19.org); And you still do; And you probably did not even notice it.

So where did [lionsmd19.com](http://lionsmd19.com) go? It is still there. And I recommend keeping it there, at least for the time being. There is little reason to get rid of it— it is part of the MD19 phone service package (Qwest.net, now CenturyLink), so it does not cost anything to keep the site, and the cost is minimal (\$10.00 to \$15.00 a year) to retain rights to the domain name [lionsmd19.com](http://lionsmd19.com).

What happened to the old website that was on [lionsmd19.com](http://lionsmd19.com)? It is still there, just in case we need something from it. The public just can’t get to it. And archive copies have been made. It should be okay to delete the old website from the servers after the first of next year.

As an aside, the [lionsmd19.com](http://lionsmd19.com) address was also serving the MD19 email accounts. Those are in the process of being changed to [lionsmd19.org](http://lionsmd19.org) email accounts— the .org accounts actually work right now, they just forward through to the .com addresses. That will be reversed once all the MD19 computers have been configured to the new accounts, and we are sure they are working properly. In either case, both addresses work: For example, if you send an email to Peter at either [md19est@lionsmd19.com](mailto:md19est@lionsmd19.com) or [md19est@lionsmd19.org](mailto:md19est@lionsmd19.org), he will get it. And so on...

The big test for the new site was entering the 2018-2019 club, officer and committee data. That was one reason the site launched in June— so I could go through at least one an “annual” update and see what the challenges would be entering a new, fiscal year’s data. That process began in August. It took about 8 hours total time to get the new data entered and formatted. Next fiscal year it should take much less time.

The new website appears to be working well; Lots of positive comments, which is nice.

The process of updating the site with changes seems to be working. Clubs send changes and updates to the MD19 office constantly, which are forwarded to me, and I make the change.

The site changes frequently: New ads, new events, removing old events, adding documents for download. Hardly a week goes by without some change. That is a good thing!

The latest additions to the site are: The Lions Journey (with a video!), a Site Map (table of contents) and a topical Index. The site is getting big— there are currently 144 pages— so I added the site map and index pages (even though they make the site bigger) to help visitors find things.

There is no dedicated search function on the site— perhaps in the future, we will see. But all current browsers have a Find function that works very well. What? You didn't know your browser had a Find function? Well, here is how you use it on the most common browsers out there... pass the word:

**In Safari:** Either type `<command><f>`, or select “Find” from “Edit” in the menu bar. In the search bar that opens, type in the text you want to find.

**In Google Chrome:** Either type `<command><f>` (on a Mac) or `<control><f>` (on a PC), or select “Find” from “Edit” in the menu bar. On some PC versions of Chrome you can also click on the hamburger menu or the 3 dots in the upper right corner of the window and select “Find...” In the search bar that opens, type in the text you want to find.

**In Firebox:** Click the “Menu” button (it looks like 4 horizontal lines) in the command bar at the top of the window. Then select “Find in This page...”. In the search bar that opens, type in the text you want to find.

**In Microsoft Edge:** Click the “More Actions” button (it looks like an ellipsis) in the upper right of the command bar at the top of the window. Then select “Find on page”. In the search bar that opens, type in the text you want to find.

**In Microsoft Internet Explorer 9, 10, 11:** Click the “Tools” button (it looks like a gear) in the upper right of the command bar at the top of the window, or press `<control><f>`. Then click and hold on “File”, and then select “Find on this page”. In the search box that opens, type in the text you want to find.

What's next? In no particular order:

- Move the site to its own account— it is living on my office account, which is no big deal, but it deserves its own account. There is a cost that we need to budget for: about \$6.00 to \$9.00 a month depending on the hosting package. Between the domain name registrations and the hosting, we should budget about \$90.00 to \$120.00 a year for the website. The timing: the second half of this fiscal year.

- Getting the Districts to use their District pages. So far District G has been sending District information to post on its page(s), and District C has started posting its District newsletters on its page. But beyond that, the District pages are under-utilized. Get the word out to the Districts!
- Building a database to implement what I learned from the fiscal year updates in July and August. The goal is to build a database of all MD19 members and clubs that the MD office can use. It will (or can) look like the Excel spreadsheets that are currently being used to store and format data that goes to the website and that is used in the Roster. Once that is done, the MD office should be able to edit the information on the fly, which will automatically update the website, and use the data to make and update the Roster. And then, we can create a version of the Roster that those who want it can download from the website. The timing: Most likely 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of the fiscal year, but I may want to go through one more manual annual update.
- Turn all of the forms on the website into fillable pdf files.
- Create data entry pages so that Zone Chairs (and Clubs) can fill out and file their MD reports from the website, instead of downloading the forms, printing them out, filling them in, and mailing or emailing them to the MD19 office.
- Create payment pages where Clubs and Lions can make online payments of MD19 assessments, registrations for the MD19 conventions and counsel meetings, and the like.
- Fully documenting the site for successor webmasters.
- Getting a committee of webmasters to monitor and help update the site. I have 1 volunteer so far. I would like 9.

I hope you are all enjoying the site. And I encourage everyone to let me know what can be done better, what you would like the website to do, and to not be shy about reporting corrections, errors and omissions.

Respectfully submitted,

J. D. Nellor

Vice Counsel Chair  
MD19 Lions Clubs International

