

February 14th, 2022

Report from MD19 Election Chairperson for February 18-19th, 2022 Council Meeting

Dear Council Chairperson John and fellow Lions Leaders:

In February, I have emailed to all the District Governors regarding election system survey as follows:

“Dear District Governors,
Good day to everyone. Your District Election is coming up soon in March till May according to The Convention schedules I viewed from MD19 website:

19A Virtual on April 15-16, 2022

19B Virtual on April 2nd

19C April 8-9th

19D Virtual on April 23rd

19E May 6-7th

19F Virtual on March 25-26th

19G May 13-14th

19H Virtual on March 12th

19I April 1st

Please kindly respond to the following questions to help me to file my Election Chairperson report for the February Council meeting:

- 1) Will your Election procedure be conducted physically or electronically?
- 2) If your District is going to conduct the Election by electronic voting, which online election system will you be applying?
- 3) Do you need to seek support on electronic voting?
- 4) Do you have any questions or information you need on District Election that I can provide support?

I have searched online for Electronic Election software and there are two that you may want to use them:

a) Simply Voting (costs: USD200 for 100 voters to USD 700 for 1,500 voters) - this system was used by LCI

b) Election Buddy (costs: USD19 for upto 350 voters, USD89 for 1,000 voters, and USD299 for 2,500 voters) - used by some MD19 districts last term.”

Four Governors replied with sincere thanks as follows:

19D Plans to apply electronic election, they would discuss further on Feb. 13th, 2022.

19G In person voting.

I have directed DG Marilyn to contact Executive Director Peter Anderson for getting election materials such as voting ballots, allowed delegates per Club and Zone binders etc.

19H Voting by mail in ballot, same as last term.

19F Plans to email ballots to each Club eligible to vote. These ballots can be filled out and returned via email or mail. If there is not an email address for the president or secretary of a Club, they will receive paper ballots to be filled out and returned.

Except District 19A, B, C, E, and I (follow up emails were sent). Therefore, I have no idea of their plans at this time.

Thanks to PCC J.D. Nellor, I wish to share his message regarding the election during Covid19 pandemic which may be helpful:

“LCI has said about elections relating to COVID at <https://www.lionsclubs.org/en/covid-19-election-faqs>. But here is a summary:

- Elections for officers (district, multiple district, sub district, club) must be held. They are not waived by LCI.
- A nominating committee must be named.
- A credentials committee must be named.
- An elections committee determines the ballot format and other election materials, the validity of the ballots and vote tabulation.
- If elections are not held, there is a vacancy in the office, and the rules/bylaws, etc. governing the filling of those vacancies applies.
- The way elections are to be held can be different than “normal”, by which they mean electronic elections are permissible.
- No particular electronic elections “platform” is required by LCI. It is up to the districts (single, multiple or sub) to determine what best fits their situation and budget.
- Voting must be by secret ballot.
- If voting is conducted electronically, the results must be made available to the elections committee for final certification.
- Quorum requirements must be met whether the voting is in person or electronic.
- The COVID rules offered by LCI apply only if governmental restrictions prohibit the districts from conducting elections.

Note that where you see the word “must” in the above summary, that is LCI’s specific wording on the subject.

Note as well what LCI has not said:

- It has not said that constitution and bylaw provisions governing the elections of officers are waived.
- It has not said that a council of governors can change the voting requirements of the applicable constitutions and bylaws.

- It has not said that applicable constitutions and bylaws can be ignored when elections are not contested.
- It has not said that expedience overrules applicable constitutions and bylaws.
- It has not said that we don't have to have elections because of COVID.

I again conclude that the elections of the 2022-2023 CC and VCC must be held by voting of the delegates at each District's spring conference pursuant to Article BL III Section 2 of the MD19 Constitution and Bylaws. It does not matter how or when those conferences are held, but the elections must be held where and when the district conducts its "spring conference".

This is my report.

Respectfully submitted by
Lion Grace Hwo, 19A PDG