

Constitution & By-Laws

Report to the Council of Governors

October 13, 2011 - Yakima, WA

I would like to begin by thanking the members of the MD19 Constitution & Bylaws Committee who worked so diligently on these proposals. There were a multitude of issues to work through and I appreciate the active participation and careful consideration that these Lions put forth. It should also be noted that, because we now hold our annual convention in the fall rather than near the end of our Lions year, many of these items extended beyond a single years' committee.

2011-12 C & BL Committee

A PZC Bob Rasmus
B PDG Janet Rinehart
C PZC Bill Zidel
D vacant
E PDG Jerry Flood
F PDG Marie Vogel
G PDG Mark Koelsch
H PZC Dave Bock
I PCC Laurie Taylor
EST Patty Allen

2010-2011 C & BL Committee

A PZC Bob Rasmus
B PDG Janet Rinehart
C PZC Bill Zidel
D PDG Barbara Dower
E PDG Louis Walker
F PDG Bill Shepherd
G PDG Mark Koelsch
H PZC Dave Bock
I PCC Laurie Taylor
EST Patty Allen

After reviewing recommendations and requests received from the Council of Governors, the Budget & Finance Committee and MD19 Lions, the following seven proposed changes are being placed on the ballot by the Constitution & Bylaws Committee. These proposed changes will be voted on by the Lions members of Multiple District 19 at this Fall Annual Convention. The existing language is in regular print, removed language has strike-through lines and suggested new language is in red.

1) **Prorated Dues**

At their Spring 2011 Council meeting, the Council of Governors recommended a Do Pass on assessing clubs who report new members on their MMR's dues on a pro-rated basis. [page 16 of official Minutes of the June 2, 2011 COG meeting]

Article VII Section 1. As Multiple District dues, there shall be paid by every member club a per capita tax for each and every member carried upon its rolls, and reported to **Lions Clubs International** ~~the Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer~~ upon its monthly report under "Members at Close of Month" for June and December. **All new members reported on MMR's subsequent to the June and December MMR's shall be assessed on a pro-rated basis.** This sum shall be billed in U.S. Funds for clubs located in the U.S. and in U.S Funds or the Canadian currency equivalent for clubs located in Canada. This sum shall be paid semiannually on or before the last day of August and the last day of February. The dues payment shall be made payable to "Multiple District 19", and shall be payable in US Funds by clubs located in the U.S., and in U.S. Funds or the Canadian currency equivalent by clubs located in Canada, as billed by the Multiple District Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

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## 2) Student Membership Plan Dues Structure

At their Spring 2011 Council meeting, the Council of Governors recommended a Do Pass for the Campus Club Member dues. [page 16 of official Minutes of the June 2, 2011 COG meeting]

**Article VII New Section 6.** The per capita administrative tax of Multiple District 19 shall include provisions for a Student Membership Plan as adopted by the International Board of Directors. Eligible students who are less than 30 years old at the semi-annual billing date members shall pay a semi-annual per capita tax equal to one half (1/2) of the total amount of the dues. Documentation of student members shall be made through Lions Clubs International utilizing the approved criteria and application form.

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At their Spring 2011 Council meeting, the Council of Governors expressed concerns with language drafted to an increase in dues with a provision for regular increases in the future. They delayed their vote and directed the Constitution & Bylaws Chair (me) to attempt a rewording of the proposed change. The language was reworded, with input from other Lions, and brought back to the Council for their consideration. The new wording presented for Article 1, Section 5 of the MD19 Constitution & By-Laws was:

"Section 5. The per capita tax for Multiple District 19 dues shall be levied semi-annually. The cost per member semi- annually shall be ~~eight dollars and thirty cents (\$8.30)~~ **nine dollars and thirty cents (\$9.30).** Commencing July 1, 2013 and continuing at the beginning of every fiscal year thereafter, the semi-annual cost per member may be increased at an annual rate of up to 3%, subject to approval **BY the Council of Governors and approval of a balanced annual budget.** The per capita tax shall be apportioned as prescribed in the MD19 Policy Manual."

A motion was made and seconded to recommend a "Do Pass" on the newly worded proposed amendment to Article I, Section 5, of the MD19 Constitution & By-Laws as presented by PDG Mark Koelsch, contingent upon approval of said new wording by the Constitution & By-Laws committee. Motion passed with one negative vote. [page 20 of official Minutes of the June 2, 2011 COG meeting]

The motion included both a one-time dues increase and the ability to have regular small increases if needed to balance the annual budget. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee felt strongly that these are two separate concepts and should be addressed as two separate amendments. Consequently, the committee is proposing new language to Section 5 to address the one-time dues increase together with a new Section 7.

3) Dues Increase – Article VII Section 5:

Article VII Section 5. The per capita tax for Multiple District 19 dues shall be levied semi-annually. The cost per member semi-annually shall be ~~eight dollars and thirty cents (\$8.30)~~ **nine dollars and thirty cents (\$9.30)**. The per capita tax shall be apportioned as prescribed in the Policy Manual.

The second concept raised in the motion by the Council of Governors was to provide for an annual review of dues by the Budget and Finance Committee when proposing the annual budget. If, during the analysis and preparation of the budget, the Budget & Finance Committee believed that a dues increase was needed for an adequately balanced budget, then they could recommend a small increase to the Council of Governors. The Council of Governors would then decide whether or not to approve the increase. The amount would be between 0 and 3%.

4) Annual Review of Dues Article VII Section 7:

Suggest that a new section be added to read as follows:

Article VII New Section 7. Commencing July 1, 2013, and continuing at the beginning of every fiscal year thereafter, the Council of Governors shall be allowed to levy an increase to the semi-annual cost per member, provided that the proposed increase has been recommended by the Budget & Finance Committee; and the annual rate of the increase is 0 - 3%; and that any increase must be specifically approved by the Council of Governors; and that the Council of Governors approve a balanced annual budget.

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In response to recommendations and requests from several Lions, the 2010 - 2011 Constitution & Bylaws Committee discussed the concept of a Family Plan dues structure similar to Lions Clubs International dues. This item was reviewed and considered by this years' committee. The proposed change would bring the MD19 dues structure into alignment with the dues structure of Lions Clubs International allowing for reduced dues for additional members within the same household.

**5) Family Plan Dues Structure – Article VII New Section 8:**

**Article VII New Section 8.** The per capita administrative tax of Multiple District 19 shall include provisions for a Family Membership Plan as adopted by the International Board of Directors. Eligible family members living in the same household as the Head-of-Household shall pay a semi-annual per capita tax at the same reduced rate as assessed by Lions Clubs International. Documentation of family members shall be made through Lions Clubs International utilizing the approved criteria and application form.



When we moved our annual convention from May to October, we created an unforeseen consequence in the manner in which a vacancy in the office of Vice Council Chairperson is handled. It came to light this year, when a vacancy actually occurred. ARTICLE IV, SECTION 15 currently states that if there is a vacancy, the office remains vacant until the next Annual Convention when an election can be held. This wasn't a problem when our annual convention was in May since there were only a few months between the district conferences and our annual convention, and before the beginning of our Lions year. However, because we now have to wait until October, we do not have a Vice Council Chairperson for the first four months of the Lions year, which means our MD19 District Support Team (LEMPRR) is operating without a leader/facilitator and the team building between the Vice Council Chairperson and the Vice District Governors is reduced. We will have to wait until the Fall Annual Convention in October to have an official, duly elected Vice Council Chairperson. This is going to happen again next year unless we can correct this manner of filling a vacancy.

**6) Vacancy in the Office of Vice Council Chair – Article IV Section 15:**

~~SECTION 15. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Multiple District Vice Council Chairperson, this Office shall remain vacant until the next annual election, at which time a Chairperson of the Multiple District and a Vice Council Chairperson shall be elected according to Article VIII "BL", Section 1.~~

**Article IV New Section 15.** Vacancy in the Office of Multiple District Vice Council Chairperson  
a. Should a seated Vice Council Chairperson find it necessary to resign his/her position, he/she shall send written notification of such resignation immediately to the seated MD19 Council Chairperson and to the MD19 Executive Secretary-Treasurer.

b. The Council Chairperson must notify the MD19 Council of Governors, all Vice District Governors and each of the Lions Club secretaries in MD19 by email, fax, and/or letter of the vacancy in the office of Vice Council Chairperson. This communication must be sent within five (5) business days of receiving the vacancy notification from the resigning Vice Council Chairperson.

c. In the event of a vacancy in the Office of Vice Council Chairperson, the MD19 Council of Governors shall at a regularly scheduled Council meeting fill by election the vacancy in this office. The election shall be held only after a candidate(s) for the office of Vice Council Chairperson has declared his/her candidacy in writing to the Council Chairperson and the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, obtained by resolution the endorsement of his/her club and

his/her zone, and has obtained by vote, his/her district's endorsement per ARTICLE VIII "BL" SECTION 3.a. Said resolutions must be submitted in writing to the Council Chairperson and Multiple District 19 Office at least 30 days prior to the Council of Governors' Meeting at which the election shall occur, or within 24 hours of the close of a candidate's District Conference in the event that his/her district conference occurs less than 30 days prior to the Council Meeting.

d. Any Candidate for the Office of Vice Council Chairperson must meet the qualifications stated in ARTICLE IV, Section 5 of the Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws.

e. The MD19 Executive Secretary-Treasurer must notify each member of the Council of Governors by email, fax, and/or letter of the declared candidates for Vice Council Chairperson with notice of the selection process.

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It was requested that the name of the Long Range Planning Committee be changed to the Strategic Planning Committee. This is to better define its intended focus, and clearly describe its current activities and responsibilities.

7) Changing the Name of Long Range Planning Committee– Article III "BL" Section 2 a.

Article III "BL", Section 2.

a. The Standing Committees of Multiple District 19 are Budget and Finance, Constitution and By-Laws, Contests and Awards, International Participation, ~~Long Range Planning~~, **Strategic Planning Committee**, and Policy Manual.

Respectfully submitted,



Mark N. Koelsch, Chair

MD19 Constitution & By-Laws