

**Report of the MD19 Strategic Planning Committee**  
**MD19 Council of Governors Fall Council Meeting, October 13-14 2022**  
PCC John Kirry, Chair

**Redistricting is Approved by LCI - Challenges and Opportunities Lie Ahead**

On October 6, 2022, the Lions International Board of Directors approved the 367 page MD19 Application to consolidate our current nine districts into five larger districts. Over a span of the last 2-1/2 years, the Council of Governors have approved this plan, a majority of the voters of MD19 have approved this plan, and now the LCI International Board of Directors have approved this plan. Effective July 1, 2023, legacy districts A-B-C-D-E-F-G-H and I will be consolidated into new districts L-I-O-N-S.

The Council of Governors and the 18 members of the Strategic Planning Committee have shown strong and focused leadership. As we expected, there have been a lot of ups and downs along the way. But redistricting, one of the most significant changes in our Multiple District history, will take place at the beginning of the next Lions year.

The Strategic Planning Committee is united in its desire to see MD19 continue to be a strong and vibrant organization that will serve Lions Clubs and their communities for many years into the future. Districts will be large enough to have robust pools of trained and qualified leaders as well as meaningful annual conventions, and adequate resources to support the operations and development of the clubs in them. It is our hope that redistricting will usher in a new era of steady growth in service, leadership and membership among our five consolidated districts.

**Our First Order of Business - Elections**

Since we are only eight months away from making the switch to five districts, we are presented with a challenge right away: We need to elect our district officer teams so that they may focus on organizing their new districts. Ordinarily we would have these district elections next spring, but in our case, Lions Board Policy requires that we have elections on or before January 1, 2023, so that the incoming District Governor can be scheduled to attend DG school in February 2023.

We are therefore proposing to hold elections for each of the new DG, 1VDG and 2VDG positions. Conforming to Board Policy, many merging districts have already decided which individuals will run for which positions, especially in the DG and 1VDG slots. If there are more than one 2VDG candidates, each will be placed on the ballot.

MD19 Constitution and Bylaws requires a 30 day notification period before any special election, and we propose that the 30 day clock begin at the close of the MD19 Annual Convention in Penticon on October 15, 2022. That would mean elections could not commence until on or after November 15, 2022. We further propose that the Multiple District convene special elections for all districts simultaneously over a five day period in late November. This election would be online using ElectionBuddy. Clubs from each of the merging districts will vote for candidates in their new consolidated district during the common five-day window. For example,

the club delegates of merger partners district H and district B will vote on the candidates for DG, 1VDG and 2VDG for the new district O. Election results will be tallied and posted by the MD19 Elections Chair and MD19 Executive director at the close of voting.

### **The Opportunities Ahead**

Inside this challenge lies an opportunity. By electing these candidates earlier than we normally do, we can have our new leadership teams in place to begin the hard work of consolidating our districts. The good news is many of our districts have already begun the hard work of planning this consolidation. Our merger teams must consider such wide-ranging topics as these: District Budget and Finance, Constitution and Bylaws, District GLT, GMT and Service Programs, Websites, Newsletters and Social Media accounts, District and Multiple District Representation, spring conventions and much more. I am attaching “The Role of the District Merger Committees” for an expanded look at the work ahead.

The Strategic Planning Committee will also resume our twice monthly Zoom meetings to discuss questions and concerns as we move forward. These meetings will be a time to pool information and focus on how to get the consolidation done.

In closing I will use the recent words of Council Chair Lyndon Harriman:

*“It is time for us to look ahead, not focus on the past, but to plan for the future. We need to work together to make our Multiple District the very best it can be. That will take all of us working together. Each new district faces challenges unique to itself. We need to rely on the expertise of our fellow Lions to move into the future and make it as bright as we can. WE can do this, WE can work together.*”

For the Strategic Planning Committee,

PCC John Kirry, Chair

Oct 12, 2022

