

It has been recommended that this information in Chapter 12 of the Policy Manual be moved back to the By-Laws of the MD. These recommendations are approved by the Governance Committee and recommend a “Do Pass” by the Council of Governors at the Spring Council meeting on 17 June 2023, the MD19 Membership would vote of this at the MD Convention in Surrey, 14 October 2024, then this information would be removed from the Policy Manual.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS: (Many of the following proposed amendments have been removed from MD19 Policy Manual and inserted in the MD19 Constitution and By Laws as seen below.)

ARTICLE BL III, ELECTION OF COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON AND VICE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

SECTION 1. ELECTION PROCEDURES AND SUBMISSION DEADLINES

When running for an office above the district level, the following procedures shall be followed by the candidates in the order listed:

- a. Council Chairperson and Vice Council Chairperson
 1. By e-mail, fax, and/or letter the candidate shall state his/her intent to seek the position of Council Chairperson or Vice Council Chairperson. The candidate shall state the qualities he/she believes qualify him/her for the said position. The e-mails, faxes, and/or letters shall be sent to the secretary of his/her club, the seated Zone Chairperson of the zone in which his/her club is located, the seated Vice District Governor(s), and seated District Governor of the district in which his/her club is located and the MD19 Executive Director. The e-mails, faxes, and/or letters must be received by the for mentioned officers on or before December 31 of the current Lions year.
- b. Vice Council Chairperson
 1. The proposed Vice Council Chairperson candidate's club secretary shall submit an e-mail, fax, and/or letter of club endorsement to the seated Zone Chairperson of the zone in which the club is located, stating that the candidate is an active member in good standing in a club in good standing and further, that candidate was endorsed by a majority vote at a regular club meeting. A copy of the e-mail, fax, and/or letter must be submitted to the seated District Governor and the seated Vice District Governor(s) of the district in which the candidate's club is located and the MD19 Executive Director on or before December 31 of the current Lions year.
 2. The Zone Chairperson shall submit an e-mail, fax, and/or letter of zone endorsement of the candidate for Vice Council Chairperson. It must include a copy of the zone meeting minutes stating the motion to endorse the candidate, and further, that the candidate was endorsed by a majority vote at a regular zone meeting. The e-mail, fax, and/or letter must be sent to the seated District Governor of the district in which the zone is located. Copies of the e-mail, fax, and/or letter of endorsement must be sent to the seated Vice District Governor(s) of the district in which the zone is located and to the MD19 Executive Director on or before December 31 of the current Lions year.
 3. The District Cabinet Secretary shall submit an email, fax and/or letter of the District Cabinet's endorsement of the candidate for the office of Vice Council Chairperson to the Multiple District Executive Secretary. It must include a copy of the Cabinet Meeting Minutes stating the motion to endorse the candidate and further that the candidate was endorsed by a majority vote at a regular

cabinet meeting. Copies of the letter must be sent to the seated District Governor, the Vice District Governors and Zone Chairperson in which the candidate's club is located. A courtesy copy to the candidate should be sent.

4. If there are two candidates requesting the endorsement of a club, zone, or district, only one candidate will be able to garner a majority vote of that entity.

d. Voting for Vice Council Chairperson and Council Chairperson shall be by ballot at the ~~District Conferences~~ Multiple District 19 Annual Convention.

e. A candidate's certification of endorsement must specify the single office sought and no candidate may seek election for any office other than the office designated in his/her certification. No candidate shall have more than one (1) endorsement pending for more than one (1) office within his/her zone or district in the same election year.

f. If there are no announced Council Chairperson and/or Vice Council Chairperson candidates registered with the Multiple District Office at the time of a District's Conference, any qualified Council Chairperson or Vice Council Chairperson candidates with proper endorsements may be nominated from the floor of the district to be that district's candidate.

g. If there are no Council Chairperson and/or Vice Council Chairperson candidates registered with the Multiple District Office by December 31 of the Lions Year, the procedures for filling these positions shall be followed in accordance with the procedures prescribed in MD 19 ARTICLE BL IV, SECTIONS 1 and 2.

____ YES ____ NO

AND Section 2: MULTIPLE CANDIDATES: In an election where there are three or more candidates for Vice Council Chairperson and no candidate receives a majority vote for the office, the same shall be reported to the Council at the MD 19 Spring Council Meeting following the district elections **Lions attending the MD Annual Convention prior to noon on Saturday, the day of the election.** The candidate with the least number of votes will automatically be dropped and a second and subsequent ballot shall be taken ~~by email of the clubs in each district.~~ **until one of the candidates received a majority of the vote.** ~~The email vote will be conducted by the MD 19 Office. The results of the second ballot will be announced by the MD 19 ED by email to the Council of Governors within three days after the ballot are counted.~~

Reason: If an additional vote is required the polling place will be required to remain open until the voting is complete.

____ YES ____ NO

ARTICLE BL IV – VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON, VICE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON OR AN OFFICER OF THE COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

SECTION 2 VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF THE VICE COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

c. ...**MD19** Executive Director, obtained by resolution the endorsement of his/her club and his/her zone, and has obtained by vote, his/her district **cabinet's** endorsement per ARTICLE BL III SECTION 1 b 3.

____ YES ____ NO

Proposed amendments for ARTICLE BL VII DISTRICT and ZONE OFFICERS

Move current **SECTIONS 4**“DUTIES OF VOTING DISTRICT DELEGATES” and **SECTION 6** “DUTIES OF VOTING ZONE DELEGATES” in **ARTICLE. BL VII** to **New SECTION 5 d.1) and 5 d. 2)** in same **ARTICLE BL VII.** (with minor amendments).

Renumber Current **SECTION 5** to **SECTION 4** “EVERY ZONE CHAIRPERSON SHALL:” (No changes in Section other than renumbering.)

New SECTION 5. ELECTION PROCEDURES OF DISTRICT AND ZONE OFFICERS

- a. District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governor, and Zone Chairperson Declaration of Candidacy:
- 1) No Lion may declare his/her candidacy for any office above the club level unless the Lion and his/her club are both in good standing with Lions Clubs International and MD19. All candidates meeting the requirements for the office of District Governor, Vice District Governor, and Zone Chairperson must submit their declaration of candidacy in writing indicating the candidate to be a Lion of good standing in a club of good standing, which must be received by the Multiple District Office and their District Governor no later than December 31st prior to the year of the election. If only one candidate for an office has submitted a declaration of candidacy and complied with Article VIII "BL" by the stated deadline, said candidate shall be unopposed at the election for said office.
 - 2) If no candidate has declared in accordance with Paragraph 1, above, then all candidates meeting the requirements for the office of District Governor, Vice District Governor, and Zone Chairperson may declare their candidacy to be received in writing by the Multiple District Office and their District Governor and the District Nominating Committee as per the Lions Clubs International Constitution (30) days prior to the first day of the District Convention.
 - 3) If NO candidate has declared his/her candidacy in accordance with the above, the candidate(s) meeting the requirements and with proper endorsements for the office of District Governor and Vice District Governor may be nominated from the floor at the General Session of the District Convention.
- b. Candidates for the office of First Vice District Governor, Second Vice District Governor and District Governor shall obtain their Club's endorsement. If his/her Club endorsement is not secured, the candidate may secure the endorsement in writing of a majority of the Clubs in his/her District. The secretary of each Club endorsing the candidate by a majority vote at a regular or special meeting shall submit an e-mail, fax, and / or letter stating the Club's endorsement to the Zone Chairperson, First Vice District Governor, District Governor, and MD19 Executive Director on or before December 31 of the current year.
- c. Candidates for the office of Zone Chairperson shall obtain their Club's endorsement, or the endorsement of the majority of the Clubs in the Zone. The letter(s) of endorsement shall be filed with the current Zone Chairperson with copies to the Multiple District Office no later than thirty (30) days prior to the district's annual spring convention. If no candidates for a Zone have declared thirty (30) days prior to the district's spring convention, nominations may be made from the floor, and elections conducted at Zone Meetings held in conjunction with the district's spring convention. In any event an election

shall be held, and reported to the Multiple District Executive Director, prior to 1 May to enable attendance at the Zone Chairperson Training. In the event that a Zone Chairperson is not elected in a Zone by 1 May, the District Governor Elect of the affected District shall appoint a Zone Chairperson for that Zone. The Zone Chairperson so appointed shall meet the qualifications for the office stated in Article IV, Section 9 of the MD19 Constitution.

d. District and Zone Voting Delegates

d.1) and d.2) below are the current ARTICLE BL VII, SECTION 4 and SECTION 6

- 1) The official District Voting Delegates from each District shall nominate and elect a District Governor and 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors at their Annual District **Convention** held during the months of March, April or before the third week of May of the Lions Year preceding **their** taking office. Each club in good standing shall be entitled to ~~cast its vote~~ **select its voting delegates to vote** for District Governor and 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors in accordance with the provisions of ARTICLE VIII, SECTIONS 4 & 5 of this Constitution.
- 2) The designated Zone Delegates of each Zone shall nominate and elect a Zone Chairperson for their Zone at a specifically designated Zone Meeting fixed within the limits of practical planning to precede or coincide with the District **Convention**. Each Lions Club in good standing shall be entitled to two delegates to the Zone Meeting, each with one vote and such delegates shall be the President and the Secretary, or their official representatives, in the case of their inability to be present. It shall be the duty of each Lions Club in good standing to be represented by their delegates at all zone Meetings.

Renumber Current SECTION 7 VACANCY IN THE OFFICES OF DISTRICT GOVERNORS, VICE DISTRICT GOVERNORS OR ZONE CHAIRPERSONS: to SECTION 6.

(No other changes. The wording remains the same.)

Renumber Current SECTION 8. OFFICE HOLDERS. to SECTION 7.

(No other changes. The wording within Section remains the same.)

Section 8 - District Operations

- A. The Sections of this Article shall not supersede District Constitution and By-Laws if those sections are provided for in the Constitution and By-Laws of the district and adopted prior to 1 July 1995. Subsequent amendments of the district thereafter shall not conflict with the Multiple District Constitution and By-Laws.
- B. The office of First Vice District Governor is required and shall be an elected office by the members of the district, and the qualifications for such office shall be in compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the International Association of Lions Club. The office of Second Vice District Governor shall be an elected office by the members of the district, and the qualifications for such office shall be in compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the International Association of Lions Club.
- C. The voting members of a District Cabinet shall be: The District Governor, the First Vice District Governor, the Second Vice District Governor, the Immediate Past District Governor, the Secretary of the Cabinet, the Treasurer of the Cabinet, (if a Secretary/Treasurer, only has one (1) vote, Zone Chairperson of the zones of the district and each appointed committee Chairperson.

YES NO

The following were recommended to the council last October:

Amend ARTICLE BL, VI, SECTION 7. REGIONS to Read:

~~“Regions shall not be formed within Districts unless it can be shown that the best interests of Lionism and the affected Zones will be served thereby, and then only upon the advice and consent of the Multiple District Council of Governors.”~~

“Regions may be formed within District(s) by the District Governor when in the best interests of the district and Lionism.”

Reason: Based on the size of and number of clubs in a district, the District Governor may wish to form regions.

YES NO

Amend ARTICLE BL IX, Meetings, Section 3. QUORUM, to read:

~~“The personal presence of a majority of the Council of Governors shall constitute a quorum at any meeting, unless financial matters are to be acted upon, then 66.67% (2/3rd) of the total Council members are required”.~~

Reason: There will be 17 voting members of the Council of Governors and for financial matters there should be more than a simple majority to pass any recommendation from the Budget Committee or a member of the council. After 1 July 2024, there will be 13 voting members of the Council of Governors.

YES NO

Multiple District Conventions & District Conventions Article VIII

New Section 14. ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE VOTE

Once the voting for Lion(s) running for office are completed, the membership will be informed of the winning Lions(s) within a timely manner. At NO time shall the total votes for or against be announced.

In the case of Amendments to the Constitution and/or By-Laws, the total yes and no's can be announced as well as the total votes cast and within a timely manner. At NO time shall the vote by either clubs or districts be announced.

Reason: Put in writing that which has been the unwritten understanding.

YES NO

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL GOVERNORS

Amend Article VI, Section 3, Powers (f), line 1 to read.

~~Each member of the Council of Governors including the Council chairperson shall have one (1) vote on each question requiring action of the Council of Governors. The Council chairperson shall vote only to break a tie or make a tie on the question. (See BL X, Section 6 (d)).~~

Reason: This is in violation of Robert's Rules of Order which governs the proceedings of the meeting of the Council of Governors. (In any meeting the chairperson has no vote other than to break a tie or make a tie.)

___YES___NO

Multiple District Convention & District Conventions.

Amend Article VIII, Section 4. CLUB DELEGATE FORMULA to read:

Each chartered club in good standing in Lions Club International, and its district, and this Multiple District shall be entitled in each convention of this Multiple District to one (1) delegate and one (1) alternate for each ten (10) members, who have enrolled for at least one year and a day in the club or major fraction thereof, of said club as shown by the records of the International office on the first day of the month last preceding that month during which the convention is held. The major fraction referred to in this section shall be five (5) or more members. Each certified delegate present in person, **or in the case of an electronic election present within the time allowed for the voting**, shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote only for each office to be filled by, and one (1) vote only on each question submitted to, the respective convention. Unless otherwise specified herein, the affirmative vote of a majority of the delegates voting on any question shall be the act of the convention. All eligible delegates must be members in good standing of a club in good standing in this **Multiple** District. Any Lions Club chartered less than 12 months preceding the MD19 Annual Convention are entitled to one delegate and one alternate delegate. All Multiple District 19 Seated and Past International Directors shall have an automatic vote in elections, in addition to those allocated to his/her club, in accordance with the Lions Clubs International Constitution and By-Laws.

A member who has transferred to another Lions Club, who is a member in good standing and has been a member over one year and one day shall be considered an enrolled member.

This formula shall be used for district convention.

Delinquent dues may be paid, and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification, and as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention. **In the case of an electronic election, the club’s check must be received in the Multiple District office ten (10) days prior to the first day of the convention.**

Reason: Lions Club members who were in clubs that merged into another club were not counted as enrolled members and were disenfranchised from voting. This also address electronic voting. The ten (10) day period allows for payment by check to be in the MD office the week prior to voting.

___YES___NO

Re-write ARTICLE BL III, Election of the Council Chairperson and Vice Council Chairperson, Section 2: VOTING FOR COUNCIL CHAIR and VICE COUNCLE CHAIR to Read: **Voting for these Officers shall occur at the Multiple District Annual Meeting.**

Reason: The voting at District Spring Convention will no longer be required after 1 July 2023.

___YES___NO

Respectfully submitted,

Charles V. Waid, PDG
Chairman 21 April 2023