

Motion to MD19 Council of Governors

Subject: Inclusion of All Active Members Paying Full MD19 Dues in Voting Headcount

Motion:

I move that MD19 formally adopt the policy that all active Lions Club members who pay full Multiple District 19 (MD19) dues be counted in the official headcount used for voting representation at both Multiple District and District elections, regardless of any dues discount or status at the international level.

Background and Rationale:

At the international level, Lions Clubs International (LCI) provides certain dues discounts, such as those for qualifying family units or senior members. However, it is critical to recognize that these discounts apply only to the international portion of dues.

At the Multiple District 19 (MD19) level, all active members — regardless of international discount eligibility — pay full MD19 dues without any reductions. As such, from the perspective of MD19 operations and finances, every active member contributes equally and should be recognized equally. It is consistent, fair, and logical that any active member meeting their full MD19 financial obligation be included in the headcount for voting purposes at the multiple district and district levels.

Strong Argument for Adoption:

- Fair Representation: Every member who financially supports MD19 fully deserves a voice in its governance. Excluding any dues-paying member undermines the democratic principles of our organization.
- Equity and Inclusiveness: Our commitment to service and fellowship must extend to how we govern ourselves. Recognizing every active member equally fosters greater inclusion, unity, and morale among our clubs.
- Financial Alignment: Since MD19 receives full dues from each active member, there is no financial reason to differentiate among members when determining voting rights. Representation should reflect financial support accurately.
- Simplicity and Clarity: A uniform policy eliminates confusion at election time, removing the need for complex calculations about who qualifies. Every active, fully paying member counts — simple and transparent.

Counterarguments and Responses:

- Counterargument: "Some members pay discounted dues at the international level, so they should be treated differently."

Response: The discount applies solely to the international portion of dues, not to the MD19 portion. MD19's operations are fully supported by full dues from every active member. Our headcount and representation policy should reflect our own district's financial structure, not that of LCI.

- Counterargument: "Differentiating members could maintain closer alignment with international practices."

Response: MD19 has the autonomy to set policies that reflect its own financial and organizational realities. Our practice should align with how MD19 is funded and structured, not be constrained by international policies that are unrelated to the functioning of the multiple districts.

- Counterargument: "Changing the policy could create confusion."

Response: On the contrary, adopting this policy simplifies the process. Every active, full-dues-paying member is counted. There would be less room for confusion or debate about eligibility during elections.

Conclusion:

This motion ensures that MD19's practices align with its financial reality and organizational values of fairness, inclusivity, and transparency. It recognizes the full contribution of every active Lion and strengthens our governance through more accurate and equitable representation.

I respectfully urge the Council of Governors to support and adopt this motion.