

August 6, 2016

MD-6 Council Chair Andy  
MD-6 Council of Governors  
Fellow Lions

Re: Report for the MD-6 Constitution and By-Laws Committee

At this first council meeting of the new Lions year I urge you to read or review from time to time the MD-6 Constitution, By-Laws and Policy Manual. It is an important guide to help you be more successful and correct in carrying out your duties as an officer of Lions International.

We urge you to read Article XV of the Constitution which pertains to amending the constitution. You might note the first sentence of Section 1. **Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the State Council or by any Lions Club in good standing within the State.** From there it is mainly timing and procedure that needs to be adhered too. The complete Article XV is quoted as follows;

**Section 1.** Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by the State Council or by any Lions Club in good standing within the State. The proposed amendments must be approved by a majority vote of the membership of said Club or by a majority vote of the entire membership of the State Council. No proposed amendment shall be considered unless written notice of such action, together with a copy of the proposed amendment, is mailed or delivered to the Secretary of State Council not less than sixty (60) days prior to the opening of the next State Convention; the Secretary of the State Council on receipt of same shall forthwith submit the same to the State Council appointed Constitution and By-Laws Committee, which shall review the proposed amendments and prepare recommendations. The Secretary of the State Council must in turn mail a copy of such proposed amendments with the recommendations of said Constitution and By-Laws Committee to the Secretary of each Club in the State at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the next State Convention.

**Section 2.** Report to the Convention. The Secretary of the State Council shall refer all proposed amendments to the Committee on Constitutions and By-Laws which shall make a report thereon to the next State Convention. The Chairman of the Constitution and By-Laws committee shall report to the convention assembled all duly proposed amendments to State Constitution and By-Laws with said Committee's recommendations and notice of same to be placed on ballot. No amendments to said proposed amendments may be made from the floor.

**Section 3.** Adoption. A two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote of the votes cast by Certified Delegates at the State Convention shall be required to adopt any amendments. Each amendment shall take effect at the close of the convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

Article I of the By-Laws should be followed closely as LCI has experienced it gives a clear guide to eliminate problems and disagreements in district nominations and elections. This Article was revised in MD-6 in 2015 so parts of it is a little different than previously administered. A volunteer organization runs much more smoothly when leaders consensually following the Constitution and By-Laws. Future leaders are

watching and learning by example which leads to a more happy family organization of Lions members which helps us be more successful in our mission to our communities. The complete Article I is quoted as follows;

## **BY-LAWS**

### **ARTICLE I**

#### **DISTRICT NOMINATIONS AND ELECTIONS**

**Section 1.** At least sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the District Convention, each District Governor **shall** appoint, and designate the chairperson of a Nominating Committee consisting of not less than three (3) and no more than five (5) members each of whom shall be a member in good standing of a different Lions Club in good standing in the District and shall not at the time through the duration of their appointment hold any district cabinet or international office either by election or appointment. The names and addresses of Lions so appointed shall be sent to all Clubs in the District at least sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the District Convention. It shall be the committee's responsibility to review the qualifications of each nominated candidate within 5 days prior to the election and rule on the eligibility of the same.

**Section 2.** Any member in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in the District seeking an office shall file his/her intention to so run in writing with the District Governor, and/or the Nominating Committee, thirty (30) days prior to the day of the Convention involved, and furnish therewith evidence of his/her compliance with the qualifications for said office as set out in the effected governing entity. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the convention the names of all candidates so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the Office may be made from the floor. Each candidate shall be allowed one (1) nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one (1) seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration. If there is only one nomination for the office, except for the office of District Governor or First Vice District Governor or Second Vice District Governor, delegates will be asked to stand and cast their vote by a show of hands.

If two (2) or more nominations are made from the floor for the office, an election shall be conducted by a secret written ballot; with the candidate receiving the majority of the votes cast declared the winner. In event of a tie vote, or failure of one nominee to receive the required majority, on any ballot, balloting shall continue with respect to the two nominees only who received the largest number of votes on the previous ballot until one receives the required majority of the votes cast.

**Section 3.** Any member of a Club in the District seeking the office of First Vice District Governor or Second Vice District Governor must meet all of the qualifications for and follow the procedures set forth for a candidate for District Governor in Section 4 of this Article I. Any member elected to the office of First Vice District Governor may succeed to the Office of District Governor only upon receiving a majority vote at the next annual District Convention.

**Section 4.** An election for the office of District Governor or First Vice District Governor or Second Vice District Governor shall be conducted by a secret written ballot, with the respective candidates required to secure a majority of votes cast by the voting delegates present and voting in order to be elected. A majority is defined as a number more than one-half of the total valid votes cast excluding blanks and abstentions. In case of a tie on any ballot, balloting shall continue on the tied candidates until one (1) is elected. The results shall be reported to the Lions Clubs International Office by the current District Governor.

**A.** A candidate for the office of district governor shall:

(1) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.

(2) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or sub-district.

(3) Currently be serving as the first vice district governor within the district from which he/she is to be elected.

(4) Only in the event the current first vice district governor does not stand for election as district governor, or if a vacancy in the position of first vice district governor exists at the time of the district convention, any club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of second vice district governor as set forth in these by-laws or constitution and who is currently serving or who has served one (1) additional year as a member of the district cabinet, shall fulfill the requirements of subsection (c) of this section

**B.** A candidate for the office of first vice district governor shall:

(1) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.

(2) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or sub-district.

(3) Currently be serving as the second vice district governor within the district from which he/she is to be elected.

(4) Only in the event the current second vice district governor does not stand for election as first vice district governor, or if a vacancy in the position of second vice district governor exists at the time of the district convention, any club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of second vice district governor as set forth in these by-laws or constitution shall fulfill the requirements of subsection (C) of this section.

**C.** A candidate for the office of second vice district governor shall:

(1) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.

(2) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or sub-district.

(3) Have served or will have served at the time he/she takes office as second vice district governor:

a. As president of a Lions Club for a full term or major portion thereof, and a member of the board of directors of a lions club for no less than two (2) additional years; and

b. As zone chairperson or region chairperson or cabinet secretary and/or treasurer for a full term or major portion thereof.

c. With none of the above being accomplished concurrently.

**Section 5.** In the event a vacancy occurs in the office of District Governor, the First Vice district Governor shall act as the District Governor and shall perform the duties of, and have the same authority as, the District Governor until such time as said vacancy is filled by the International Board of Directors for the remainder of the term. The immediate Past District Governor or, if he/she is not available, the most recent Past District Governor who is available shall convene a meeting within fifteen (15) days of the notification by the International Board of Directors to recommend an eligible and qualified nominee to the International Board of Directors. The person convening this meeting shall send invitations to attend said meeting to the District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governors, Region Chairpersons, Zone Chairpersons, and the Secretary and Treasurer or Secretary/Treasurer and all Past International Presidents, Past International Directors and Past District Governors who are members in good standing of a chartered Lions Club in good standing in the district; it shall be the duty of the chairperson to convey the results to the International Board of Directors within seven (7) days, together with evidence of invitations sent and attendance at said meeting. Each Lion who is entitled to receive an invitation to attend and is present at said meeting shall be entitled to cast one (1) vote for the Lion of his/her choice as nominee for the appointment to the office of District Governor.

**Section 6.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of First or Second Vice District Governor, the District Governor shall convene a meeting of the members of the existing cabinet and all Past International Officers who are in good standing in a chartered Lions Club in good standing in the district. It shall be the duty of the attendees at this meeting to appoint a qualified club member as First or Second Vice District Governor, whichever is vacant, for the remainder of the term. In filling said vacancy, it shall be the duty of the District Governor, or if not available the most recent Past District Governor who is available, to send out invitations to attend said meeting and it shall be his/her responsibility to preside as chairperson of the meeting, and it shall be the duty of the chairperson to convey the results to the International office within seven (7) days together with evidence of invitations sent and meeting attendance. Each Lion entitled to receive an invitation to attend, and is present at said meeting, shall be entitled to one (1) vote for the Lion of his/her choice.

**Section 7.** Any vacancy in any District Office except the office of District Governor and the First and Second Vice District Governors shall be filled by appointment by the District Governor for the unexpired term thereof.

This committee urges anyone to feel free to contact any member of the committee for any clarification or questions on the Constitution or By-Laws.

We Serve,

MD-6 PID Homer Hill, Chairman,  
Constitution & By-Laws committee

Committee members: PID Homer Hill, PID Ken Schwols, PCC Bob Selle