

Dear Lions of 18-D,

You have all had an opportunity to read the constitution that will be voted on at the state convention next month. Attached you will find your DGs responses to some of the questions which the proposed constitution has raised from some of the readers.

Dick
DG 18-D

P.S. If your club is coming to the state convention, please bring along a couple of gifts that will be given out at our district breakfasts. I know that this is not a constitution issue, but this is a tradition I don't want to see disappear during my year as DG.

PROPOSED CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Who requested the Constitution and By-laws be revised?

The constitution and by-laws revision was under taken as a portion of the comprehensive review that the Council of Governors requested of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Why was this requested?

The constitution and by-laws needed to be revised due to the addition of the First and Second Vice District Governor office from Lions Clubs International. The Council asked that since this was being changed that the committee look at the entire document.

Did the Lions of Georgia have an opportunity to hear the Long Range Planning Committees presentation or to otherwise participate in the process?

Yes. At the August 2008 Council meeting, which was consistent with all Council meetings, open to attendance by any Lion, the Council charged the Long Range Planning Committee (LRPC) with providing the council with an update of the Constitution and By-laws. The minutes of this meeting were subsequently published and available to all Lions. The LRPC then met numerous times. PCC Mark Miller, Chairperson of the LRPC, advised the Council and the Lions of Georgia at the November Council meeting of these meetings, of the progress of their work, and of proposed submission by the January Council meeting of the detailed LRPC report. During the January 10, 2009 Council meeting, PCC Mark Miller provided each district governor with a copy of the LRPC Transformation Program for their review and provided the Council with an oral explanation of the proposed Constitutional Changes. The January 30, 2009 meeting was announced at the January 10, 2009 meeting. It was explained that, although it was a meeting for the District Governors, it was an "open" meeting. In the minutes of the January 30, 2009 meeting, the process for the open meeting was explained before we received the LRPC program report; that although it would be an informal discussion in an open meeting setting and "any comments were to be voiced by the District Governors or Vice District Governors." The meeting was attended by 3 Lions who were neither members of the Council nor members of the LRPC.

Does Multiple District 18 have a Policy and Procedure Manual?

Yes. This manual is assembled each year by Linda Selby, State Secretary, and given to the incoming governors each year during their training. The manual lists all committees and job descriptions for state offices and will be revised when the constitution and by-laws are passed by the delegates of the Lions of Georgia.

Committee responsible for making revisions. From January 30, 2009 minutes: “A Long Range Planning Subcommittee was formed to review and rewrite the Policy Manual. That subcommittee will consist of Mark Miller, Sandy Mercer, Myers Banister, Steve Humphry and Linda Selby.”

Has the offices of State Lion Tamer and State Historian been eliminated from the constitution and by-Laws?

No. Since they are elected by the Lions of Georgia they have been moved under the Article IX of the proposed Constitution. Article V, Section 2 of the model constitution and bylaws of Lions Clubs International for a Multiple District states “the offices of the council shall be the chairperson and vice chairperson, secretary and treasurer and such other officers as the Council of Governors shall deem necessary, all of whom shall be **elected** annually by the **Council of Governors.**” The proper procedure for election of the Lion Tamer and Historian would be governed by the procedure outlined in Article IX. This is the same as the election of International directors. This requires a vote of delegates of the MD 18 Convention.

The duties of the State Lion Tamer and State Historian are in Section 4, pages 4, 5, 6 and 7, of the current Policy and Procedure Manual. These duties are not listed in the current constitution and by-laws

Has there been any deletion of committees?

No. The Policy and Procedure Manual currently provides a listing of **ALL** committees with job descriptions. They are in Section 2, pages 1, 2, and 3, of the Policy and Procedure Manual.

Has there been any deletion of projects?

No. Each year the District Governors ask “what are the projects of the Lions of Georgia.” Each year there is a variation of these projects. Only the state entities of the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation, Inc. and the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind, Inc. will be in the constitution and by-laws. **No other projects are currently listed in the current constitution and by-laws.** The projects will be listed in the Policy and Procedure Manual for proper clarification. These projects will be voted on each year by the District Governors.

Leader Dog was voted on by the Lions of Georgia as a project in 1976. No other project has been voted on by the Lions of Georgia. Southeastern Guide Dogs were voted on by the Council of Governors in 2002, not by the convention delegates. It has always been stated that the Georgia Lions All State Band, Leader Dog, Southeastern Guide Dogs, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, and others, are endorsed state projects, but none of these entities have been officially been voted on by the **delegates** of the Lions of Georgia at a state convention. Projects like Camp Kudzu and others are supported by several clubs but are not Lions of Georgia projects. There are many such projects through out the state and the nation that Lions support. We need a reasonable list that the Lions of Georgia support and if a Club or District elects to support others, then they have that right.

The current constitution and by-laws only states there will be a committee for the Georgia Lions All State Band not a project.

Has there been a change in the qualifications of a Zone Chair?

No. It has always been a qualification requirement for zone chair to have served as a **club president**. This is not a change in the new constitution and by-Laws. LCI's policy manual, every district governor's manual and even the international model district constitutions have always required this. The fact that the current state constitution fails to state this requirement, does not affect the requirement that LCI imposes.

Are there any other changes in the document?

Yes. The document allows for a district to vote on the Multiple District Annual per capita tax (Discretionary Dues) of up to \$5.00. This is a change from \$3.00. The requirement of notifying the Secretary and President of each club in said district has been removed.

Has the Council of Governors or anyone else, made any major changes to the constitution and by-laws that was discussed in Centerville?

No. The only changes were punctuation and spelling changes. No changes to the wording. Excerpt from January 30, 2009 meeting: "After a great deal of discussion, DG Ron moved and DG Georgia seconded the motion to accept the substance of the revised Constitution, with minor corrections and tweaking to follow. The Constitution in its final form would be reviewed for a final recommendation/vote at the April Council Meeting. The motion carried."

Who recommended the constitution and by-laws be sent to the Lions of Georgia for a vote?

The 2008-2009 Council of Governors voted to send the document to the Lions of Georgia for a vote at the 2009 state convention in Jekyll Island, Georgia.

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS

Article VI – Finances Section 1. Statement reads “Cabinet Secretary/Treasurer” (no provision for districts having a different cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer. Could districts legally have different officers?).

Yes. This is the same as written in the current document.

C. International Candidate Expense Fund - \$160,000.00 is mentioned at the top of the third paragraph, and \$150,000.00 is mentioned in the middle of the paragraph. Which one is correct? Who will raise the money? How will money be raised? This is a lot of money and a deviation from past practices and needs to be addressed.

This fund can accumulate to \$160,000.00. However If a Lions is running for an International office other than International Director, this Lion can only use \$150,000.00. This is the same as in the current document.

Article I – District Organization – Section 2. Election of District Governor/first and second Vice District Governor. (The election of the second vice district governor should have been the primary reason for a proposed new constitution, as this will bring the Multiple District Constitution in compliance to the Lions Club International Constitution. Very Vague.

More material from old By-Laws should be included.

This information is from Lions Clubs International

Article II – Club visitation. To whom should the visiting officer submit a report for each visit? This is located in the District Governors Manual.

Article III – District Convention – Section 1. Time and place.

This is the same as in the present constitution. The time of the year they are held is at least 30 days prior to the International Convention.

**Section 2. Club Delegate Formula. (This a repeat from Constitution & By-Laws)
Too complicated. Recommend that each delegate in good standing from a club in good standing, who attends the district convention, vote.**

One is for state convention other is for district conventions. This is a requirement of Lions Clubs International.

Article IV – District Nominations, Elections, and Appointments (Recommend that rules governing requirements for DG, 1st VDG and 2nd VDG be expanded to include President, Secretary and Treasurer). Many Lions become Secretaries and Treasurers and never become President. Club Secretaries and Treasurers hold very important Leadership positions).

This is as per Lions Clubs International.

Section 5 – District Governor Vacancy Qualifications for vacancy very skimpy, recommend more qualifications needed.

Requirements for this vacancy are in the District Governors manual.

Section 6 – First and Second Vice District Governors and Other Vacancies. Qualifications need to be strengthened with more qualifications.

This is as per Lions Clubs International.

Voting has become very complicated and amounts to a huge headache for Lions delegates and Convention Committee. This should be changed.

Policy for voting is set by the Constitution and By-Laws of Lions Clubs International. No changes can be made.

Other comments made from around the state:

The majority of you have either met me on several occasions or you have emailed me with questions. Since I was your District Governor in 2003-2004, I have continued to be active in the club, zone, district and multiple district levels. Yesterday I received the May issue of the 18B Newsletter. After reading PDG Rick Mizell's editorial, I visited the Georgia Lions website and read the comments made by PDG David Forrest of District 18E. PDG Forrest has a number of errors in his comments as does PDG Rick in his editorial. I would like to call your attention to the correct answers.

PDG Forrest states in his comments (No. 3) that “there will be no need for state Lions to meet for voting purposes....” Article XI in the proposed Constitution covers amendments and Article VII in the Bylaws covers amendments to the Bylaws. Both require voting at the MD 18 Convention by delegates. His remark regarding Section 4 Council Function that new DGs are very busy so how can they formulate and adopt a policy manual. Does he realize that starting this year, the Council has 18 members? Surely there are enough District Governors and Vice District Governors to form a committee to do this. He keeps referring to a policy manual. I did some asking and found out that MD 18 already has a policy manual; it is out of date, but we have one. I remember when it was printed and distributed—how many of us older Lions have ever read it much less read the present Constitution and Bylaws?

PDG Forrest's comments re Art. VI, Sec. 1. This is the wording that is used by LCI. Yes, districts could have two separate positions and (d) refers to separate offices of cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer. Sec. 3 regarding the state newspaper. We have not had a state newspaper for over a year. It is not only expensive and eats up your dues, but it needs almost a full-time editor. In his comments re Art VII Sec 7 Voting Delegates, we cannot have every Lions in good standing to vote. LCI is very specific in who can be a voting delegate. In fact, the section that PDG Rick Mizell printed in the May newsletter is incorrect. Several years ago, LCI passed an amendment (Bylaws Art IX, Sec. 3) that states who may be a voting delegate. LCI Legal Division further states that no Multiple District or sub-district or club constitution or bylaws be in conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws and Policy Manual of Lions Clubs International. His comments re Art IV on requirements for District Governors, 1st VDG, and 2nd VDG again are not in line with LCI requirements. We cannot change the requirements of LCI with additional requirements to hold office nor can we add additional qualifications to the positions and be in compliance with LCI

PDG Forrest has comments concerning recognized projects being in the Constitution and Bylaws. These projects—Leader Dogs for the Blind, RB&D, EmoryChildren's Eye Clinic, etc., are just that—recognized projects. These should never be in the Constitution or Bylaws as these are projects that are the property of others—not the property of the Lions of Georgia. We have no control over any of these projects. We have Lions who work with these projects, but we have no say as to how they are operated. The proposed Constitution and Bylaws does recognize the two projects that are the property of the Lions of Georgia—the Georgia Lions Lighthouse Foundation and the Georgia Lions Camp for the Blind—in Art X and state that they are managed by each with their own Constitution and Bylaws as adopted by their respective boards.

I do hope that each of you will discuss the proposed Constitution and Bylaws with your club members and vote accordingly. Please remember that for the Lions of Georgia to go forward and grow, we must have a working Constitution and Bylaws that can be used by all the Lions of Georgia and not some document that is tossed in the corner or on a shelf and never read.