



**Lions of Virginia
Multiple District 24
Proposed Amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws
February 22, 2024**

TO: Lions of Multiple District 24

Six proposed amendments to the Constitution and By-Laws of the Lions of Virginia, Multiple District 24, are attached. Three Constitution amendment proposals and three By-Laws amendment proposals.

The delegates will consider the proposals for adoption at the 101st Annual Convention, in Herndon, Virginia, April 18 - 21, 2024

This notice is in accordance with Article XII, Section 3, of the Constitution, and Article X, Section 3, of the By-Laws. These articles state that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee shall give to each Lions Club, in the State Organization, a written notice of each such proposed amendment, at least thirty (30) days prior to the convening date of the Annual Convention (April 19, 2024).

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Wallace Burrus'.

**Lion Wallace Burrus - District 24-L
Constitution and By-Laws Committee
General Chairperson**

**PID Lion Richard Chaffin
District Chairperson, 24-C**

**PDG Lion Helen Person
District Chairperson, 24-I**

Constitution and By-Laws Proposals Require 2/3 Vote

Order of Presentation

Constitution

1. **Article VI - Officers and Council of Governors**
Section 1 - Composition - Page 8
Proposed and submitted by Montclair Lions Club
MD 24 Council of Governors Neutral

2. **Article VII - State Convention**
Section 2 - Future Annual State Convention - Page 10
Proposed and submitted by MD 24 Council of Governors

3. **Article VIII - Elections**
Section 3 - Club Delegate Formula - Page 14
(d) Delinquent Dues
Proposed and submitted by MD 24 Constitution & By-Laws Committee
Endorsed by MD 24 Council of Governors

By-Laws

4. **Article II - Appointment of Council Chairperson**
Section 1 - Council Chairperson Selection - Page 21
(b) Process of selection
Proposed and submitted by MD 24 Constitution and By-Laws Committee
MD 24 Council of Governors does not endorse this proposal

5. **Article IV - Multiple District Committees**
Section 2 - State Convention Committee - Page 24
(a) State Convention Chairperson
Proposed and submitted by MD 24 Constitution and By-Laws Committee
MD 24 Council of Governors does not endorse this proposal

6. **Article X - Amendments**
Section 1 - Amending Procedure - Page 29
Proposed and submitted by the MD 24 Council of Governors
Endorsed by MD 24 Council of Governors

Proposed Amendment to the MD24 Constitution and By Laws – Requires 2/3 Vote

Constitution

Proposed Amendment #1

Article VI Section 1 Page 8

Proposed and Submitted by the Montclair Lions Club

MD 24 Council of Governors Neutral

Vice District Governors as Permanent Members of the COG

Currently Reads:

MD 24 Constitution,

Article VI – Officers and Council of Governors

Section 1 - Composition. “There shall be a Council of Governors composed of all the districts governors in the multiple district and shall include one current or past district governor who shall serve as Council Chairperson.”

Changed to Read:

MD 24 Constitution,

Article VI – Officers and Council of Governors

Section 1 - Composition. “There shall be a Council of Governors composed of all the districts governors in the multiple districts and shall include one current or past district governor who shall serve as Council Chairperson. **The current 1st and 2nd Vice District Governors shall be included as non-voting members and entitled to observe all deliberations and information exchanges of the COG and entitled to review and retain all documentation made available to the COG.**”

Rationale:

Ensuring the training of the future District Governors is an important task and opportunity for the Multiple District Council of Governors (COG). Additionally, decisions and activities of the Council of Governors affect not only their current year but can have lasting effects on their successors. Insights into those discussions and decisions is an important tool to the future district leaders. Furthermore, the International Constitution and By Laws provides “the multiple districts, by provision in its constitution and by-laws, to include certain other Lions as members of the Council of Governors.” LCI Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 4 (By Laws, pg. 30) allows the inclusion of PDG, PID, PIP, PIVP as members of the COG. Finally, current procedures allow the sitting COG to determine the level of participation (prohibit, limit, or allow the inclusion) of the Vice District Governors on an annually determined basis.

Proposed Amendment to the MD24 Constitution and By Laws – Requires 2/3 Vote

**Constitution
Proposed Amendment #2**

Article VII State Convention - Section 2 - Page 10

Proposed and Submitted by the MD 24 Council of Governors

Currently Reads:

MD 24 Constitution

Article VII - State Convention

Section 2 - **FUTURE ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION.** The location of the Annual State Convention four (4) years thence shall be recommended by a vote of accredited delegates before the close of each Annual State Convention. Sub-Districts L, C and I will alternate hosting annual MD24 State Convention, with each Sub District to host one annual convention, and with the understanding that any Sub District may decline hosting a convention and the convention will be hosted by the Sub District next in line. At the following Annual State Convention, the Council of Governors shall approve the recommendation and designate the site for the following State Convention. If such time and place so designated shall become unavailable, for any reason, the Council of Governors shall re-designate a site and/or a new date.

Change to read: FUTURE ANNUAL STATE CONVENTION. The location of the Annual State Convention ~~four (4)~~ **two (2) years** thence shall be recommended by a vote of accredited delegates before the close of each Annual State Convention. Sub-Districts L, C and I will alternate hosting annual MD24 State Convention, with each Sub District to host one annual convention, and with the understanding that any Sub District may decline hosting a convention and the convention will be hosted by the Sub District next in line. At the following Annual State Convention, the Council of Governors shall approve the recommendation and designate the site for the following State Convention. If such time and place so designated shall become unavailable, for any reason, the Council of Governors shall re-designate a site and/or a new date.

Rationale:

Timeliness and the ability to negotiate acceptable contracts is more difficult with 4 years before the event. Many venues are reluctant to negotiate that far out. Moving this to two years would increase responsiveness for Convention planning.

Proposed Amendment to the MD24 Constitution and By Laws – Requires 2/3 Vote

**Constitution
Proposed Amendment #3**

Proposed and Submitted by the MD 24 Constitution and By Laws Committee

Endorsed by the MD24 Council of Governors

Article VIII Section 3 Page 14

Clubs Not in Good Standing

Currently Reads:

MD 24 Constitution

Article VIII – Elections

Section 3 – Club Delegate Formula

(d) Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention.

Change to Read:

MD 24 Constitution

Article VIII – Elections

Section 3 – Club Delegate Formula

(d) **Clubs determined to be “not in good standing” may not have delegates on the floor nor be allowed to cast votes for any item before the Convention.** Delinquent dues may be paid and good standing acquired up to fifteen (15) days prior to the close of credential certification, as such closing time shall be established by the rules of the respective convention.

Rationale:

To align with LCI, any club not in good standing may not field delegates nor vote on any issue before the general membership

Proposed Amendment to the MD24 Constitution and By Laws – Requires 2/3 Vote

**By Laws
Proposed Amendment #4
Article II Section 1 Page 21**

Proposed and Submitted by the MD 24 Constitution and By-Laws Committee

MD 24 Council of Governors does not endorse this proposal

Council Chair Election Process

Currently Reads:

MD 24 By-Laws

ARTICLE II – APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON

Section 1. COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON SELECTION

(b) The process by which the selection shall be made is:

(iv) A meeting of the district governors of the multiple district who will be in office during the term of the council chairperson appointed shall be called at the Council meeting most immediately preceding the Annual State Convention, the First Vice District Governors shall meet in executive session with the sitting Council Chairperson as facilitator.

Change to Read:

MD 24 By Laws,

Article II – Appointment of Council Chair

Section 1 – Council Chair Selection

(b) – The process by which the selection is made

(iv) **The council chairperson, shall be appointed by the District Governors of the multiple district provided that such chairperson shall be a current or past district governor when they take office. The council chairperson shall serve for a one-year term only and cannot serve in that capacity again. A meeting of the district governors of the multiple district who will be in office during the term of the council chairperson appointed shall be called following the multiple district annual convention, but no later than 30 days following the closing of the International Convention for the purpose of selecting a council chairperson. It shall be the duty of the attendees at this meeting to appoint a club member in good standing in a club in good standing in the multiple district as the council chairperson.**

Rationale:

This proposed amendment would align Multiple District 24 with LCI with regard to Council Chair selection as identified in the Standard Multiple District Constitution and By Laws.

Proposed Amendment to the MD24 Constitution and By Laws – Requires 2/3 Vote

**By Laws
Proposed Amendment #5
Article IV Section 2 Page 24**

Proposed and Submitted by the MD 24 Constitution and By Laws Committee

MD 24 Council of Governors does not endorse this proposal

Annual State Convention Chairperson

Currently Reads:

MD 24 By Laws,

Article IV – Multiple District Committees

Section 2 – State Convention Committee

(a) State Convention Chairperson - The Council of Governors shall appoint a State Convention Chairman whose term of office shall be from the conclusion of the first meeting of the Council of Governors from within the State to the conclusion of the next following first meeting of the Council of Governors within the State. The Chairman shall be from the District in which the State Convention shall be held. In the event of a vacancy in the position, the Council of Governors shall fill such vacancy at its next regular or special meeting.

Change to Read:

MD 24 By Laws,

Article IV – Multiple District Committees

Section 2 – State Convention Committee

(a) – State Convention Chairperson - The Council of Governors shall appoint a State Convention Chairman whose term of office shall be from the conclusion of the first meeting of the Council of Governors from within the State to the conclusion of the next following first meeting of the Council of Governors within the State. The Chairman shall be from the district in which the State Convention shall be held **but will not be a member of the Council of Governors nor a member of the State Convention Host Club.** In the event of a vacancy in the position, the Council of Governors shall fill such vacancy at its next regular or special meeting.

Rationale:

Non-profits are charged with ensuring no conflicts of interest exist. A member of the Council of Governors (DG or CC) whose Lions Club is serving as State Convention Host Club has a financial stake in items in which they are asked to vote on. A member of the Council of Governors (DG or CC) also serving as the State Convention Chairperson or in the State Convention Host Club presents a clear conflict of interest.

Proposed Amendment to the MD24 By Laws – Requires 2/3 Vote

By Laws

Proposed Amendment #6

Article X Page 29

Proposed and Submitted by the MD 24 Council of Governors (COG)

Endorsed by MD 24 Council of Governors

By Laws Amendment Approval

Currently Reads:

MD 24 By Laws

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE. These By Laws may be amended only at a multiple district convention, by resolution reported by the Convention Committee on Constitution and By-Laws and adopted by the affirmative vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the majority of the delegates present in person, registered, and voting on any question shall be the act of the convention of the delegates.

Change to Read:

MD 24 By Laws

ARTICLE X – AMENDMENTS

Section 1. AMENDING PROCEDURE. These By Laws may be amended only at a multiple district convention, by resolution reported by the Convention Committee on Constitution and By-Laws and adopted by the affirmative vote of a **majority of the delegates present in person**, registered, and voting on any question shall be the act of the convention of the delegates.

Rationale:

LCI C&BL requires a simple majority to approve amendments to the By Laws. Approving this proposed amendment will align MD24 with LCI.

Administrative Changes to MD 24 Constitution and By- Laws

Administrative changes to the MD 24 Constitution and By-Laws are allowed to correct errors and to update changes required by Lions Club International.

Four (4) administrative corrections are being made to the MD 24 Constitution and By-Laws which do not require a vote from convention delegates. For transparency the information is being shared at this time.

Future corrections made to our governing document will be posted to the MD 24 Lions of Virginia website - State and International Forms and Publications page. Please refer to Record of Changes document.

1. Constitution - Article VII - Elections - Section 3 Club Delegate Formula

Change - Insert paragraph prior to subsection (a)

Discounted Member: A member of this club who pays discounted dues as a result of their family membership status, student status or participation in any other discounted membership program offered by the association who desires to retain membership in this club and meets the qualifications for discounted dues. The membership status shall be verified by the board of directors of this club. A Discounted Member shall be eligible to hold office in district or international meetings, but shall pay such 52 dues as the local club may charge, which dues shall include district and international dues. This membership category shall not be included in the club delegate formula calculation.

Reason for change - required by LCI Board of Directors - mandatory change effective January 1, 2024.

2. Constitution - Article IX - Financial Accounting - Section 1 Per Capita Tax

Change - Insert Student Dues prior to subsection (a)

For student membership programs as adopted by the International Board of Directors, eligible student members shall pay a per capita annual tax equal to one-half (1/2) of the total amount of dues as provided in sub-section (a) above with disbursement to also be one-half (1/2) of designation for full membership dues.

Reason for change - This section was inadvertently left out of the MD 24 Constitution and By-Laws adopted at the 100th annual MD24 State Convention April 2023.

3. Constitution - Beginning Page 15 - 19

Due to error duplicating Article Vii on pages 11 and 15, beginning with page 15 all Articles will be renumbered. The index on pages 2 - 3 will reflect changes.

Reason for change - Cannot have duplicate Article numbers.

4. By-Laws - Article II - Appointment of Council Chairperson - Section 1 (a) (i) page 21

Currently reads: A candidate for the Council Chairperson position must be an active member in good standing and a Past District Governor when he takes office.

Change to read: A candidate for the Council Chairperson position must be an active member in good standing and current or Past District Governor when he takes office.

Reason for change - current subsection directly contradicts page 21 Article II - Appointment of Council Chairperson.