



# Club President and First Vice President

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e-Book



**Lions Clubs International**



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## **Welcome to the Club President and Vice President e-Book!**

This guide is designed to support you through two terms of service; not only as club president, but as club first vice president. It contains tools and resources to be successful not only in your individual role as you serve, but also as the leader of a cohesive team of fellow club members and officers.

It's easy to navigate the e-Book. Just click on the topic headings contained in the Table of Contents. From there, you may click on hyperlinks that will take you directly to tools, resources and documents that make your job easier.

### **Club First Vice President**

#### **Prepare to Lead as Club First Vice President; Prepare to Succeed as Club President**

While serving as a first vice president, you will complete training and prepare to lead your club as president. As club president, you will implement the plan of your club leaders. You will help execute their plans for service, membership growth and communicating your club's service to your community.

As the club vice president, your tasks are two-fold. One of your top priorities is to stand ready to fulfill the duties of the club president if the president is unable to do so for any reason. Most likely, you will also have other duties as assigned by the president and may be asked to lead one or more committees during the year.

In addition to those duties, you should dedicate time preparing to serve as club president. It is important to understand the role of club president and all of its responsibilities well before you begin to serve.

#### **Self-study Training for Club President**

If you have not served as a club vice president or president, it is good to spend some time in the self-study online training module.

Log in to the [Lions Learning Center](#) to access online club officer courses which review key aspects of your role and responsibilities.

Club Officer Training – this module delivers an introductory overview of club officer roles and responsibilities and club structure

Club President Responsibilities – This module provides basic information and resources necessary to prepare for the club president position:

- Appointing chairpersons.
- Planning and conducting meetings.
- Preparing to actively participate in zone meetings (District Governor’s Advisory Committee).
- Managing club elections and leadership succession.
- A module on *Robert’s Rules of Order*.

### **Become Familiar with Your Club Constitution and By-Laws**

Your club constitution and by-laws provide the basic structure and policies to guide your club’s operations and to meet the obligations of a club chartered with the International Association of Lions Clubs. It also serves as your club’s main reference document if there are questions about appropriate procedures to conduct club business.

[Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws](#) - This template document serves as the basis for a club to create its own governing document in accordance with the International Constitution and By-Laws. If your club does not have its own, use this standard document.

### **The Club Board of Directors**

Look at the [Standard Club Structure](#).

To be a successful club president, you will need to empower your leadership team; the club board of directors. Each board member fills a specific leadership role designed to ensure the successful operation of your club providing needed service to the community. By understanding the roles and responsibilities of each member of the club board, you can help ensure that the skills of the member match the job you are asking them to do. It also ensures that no one officer is burdened beyond their willingness and capability to succeed.

Review the officer duties in the [Standard Form Constitution & By-Laws](#) for these positions to match the skills and willingness of potential leaders with the tasks of the officers’ roles. Doing so will increase the likelihood that serving as a leader of the club will be a positive experience for each member on your team. There are customized web pages on the Lions Clubs International website that provide specific guidance as noted for the officers list below.

[Club President](#) – The club president is the chief executive officer of the club. He/she presides over meetings and calls the club to action to fulfill its program of service works; coordinating the efforts of board members and chairpersons to implement all activities of the club in both fellowship and service.

Club First Vice President – The club first vice president not only serves as a leader ready to step in for the president, but as a catalyst to annually assess club activities and then implement new goals in the next fiscal year as club president.

Club Second Vice President – The club second vice president also stands ready to be in succession and serves as requested by the club president to lead specific committees or projects.

[Club Secretary](#) - The club secretary keeps the history of the club’s official proceedings, an accurate accounting of the club membership roster and assists in every communication effort to members. This board member serves as the communications liaison between club, district and association.

[Club Treasurer](#) – The club treasurer serves as the main bookkeeper for the clubs financial accounts; both administrative and public funds (service activities). This includes the administration of membership dues invoicing and collection, making deposits and recording expense receipts. The treasurer prepares, distributes and retains all financial reports and records.

[Club Membership Chairperson](#) – The club membership chairperson leads the charge in recruiting new members, orienting them into involvement opportunities with the club and nurturing relationships between established members and new members.

[Club Service Chairperson](#) – The club service chairperson coordinates all the service activities chosen by the club as its program of works.

[Club Marketing Communications Chairperson](#) – The club marketing communications chairperson keeps all the activities of a club in the public eye and promotes the club and its service to the community.

Immediate Past Club President – This officer serves as a welcoming host for all new prospective members and greets members and visitors at each meeting.

Club Branch Liaison – If your club has a [club branch](#), it is your obligation to appoint a club branch liaison to support the branch activities and keep parent club leaders informed.

[Leo Advisor](#) – To provide effective guidance, sponsoring Lions clubs appoint a Lion to serve as the Leo club advisor. This Lion should be someone who enjoys working with youth and engaging others in service.

[LCIF Club Coordinator](#) – This position educates club members of the many projects provided by LCIF and encourages members to become involved and directly support the efforts of LCIF.

Lion Tamer (optional) – This position takes care of the club paraphernalia and assists to prepare for each meeting as a sergeant-at-arms.

Lion Tail Twister (optional) – This position promotes the fun and good fellowship at meetings.

Club Administrator – This position is not formally recognized by LCI as club officer or director, but functions to provide administrative assistance only. In order to assist some club officers who may have difficulty operating certain technologies, Lions Clubs International created the role of “club administrator” to support a club president or secretary with administrative tasks that are completed through MyLCI/MyLion. This role has access to the same information in MyLCI/MyLion as the club president and secretary. Together and in consultation, the president and secretary may assign this administrative role if deemed beneficial for effective club operations.

### **Move Your Club Forward Each Year with a Plan**

As club first vice president, one of your most important tasks is to lead your club forward into the next fiscal year and explore yet unrealized potential, after your club members review together its activities and accomplishments. There are several tools designed to assist your club, no matter how simple or sophisticated your operation.

[Club Quality Initiative](#) - The Club Quality Initiative is a fun, interactive process that brings members together to look at what your club is today and what it can be tomorrow. This serves as a great starting point for a review of previous accomplishments and dreams for the future.

[Build A Vision for Your Club](#) – Success starts with a vision! Use this [planning guide](#) and [PowerPoint](#) to discover your clubs strengths, ways to improve and new opportunities that will help your club grow and thrive! Planning forms help develop a vision, assess your club’s needs and organize your plan for a successful implementation. ***Coming soon in languages***

[Your Club, Your Way!](#) - This resource offers ideas for ways that your club can customize your meetings for an enjoyable membership experience.

## Create Your Logon for the Member

The [Member Portal](#) – allows you access to all Lions applications: MyLion, MyLCI, Insights, Learn, Shop and Connect.

[Registration and Password Instructions](#) - These easy instructions will aid you in gaining access to MyLCI if you haven't already set up your profile.

- MyLion – Connect.Serve.Report! This site is where clubs report service, plan their service projects, connect with other Lions and create personal profiles. If you have further questions regarding MyLION, please email [MyLION@lionsclubs.org](mailto:MyLION@lionsclubs.org)
- MyLCI – Tools for the Lion leaders! This site is where the club can manage their membership, create district and club profiles, check club voter eligibility, document and plan conventions as well as check new club charter application status. If you have further questions regarding MyLCI, please email [myLCI@lionsclubs.org](mailto:myLCI@lionsclubs.org)
- INSIGHTS – Comprehensive overview of LCI in the areas of Membership, Service Activity, Donations and Club strength. Also featured is Campaign100 and District Goals Progress.
- LEARN – Provides Lions a central location to complete Lions Learning Center (LLC) courses, search for LCI-hosted institutes (ALLI, FDI and LCIP) and view local trainings as reported by Multiple District and District GLT Coordinators.
- SHOP – The LCI Store is an easy way to order the most common club supplies and Lions Clubs International branded merchandise. If you have further questions regarding club supplies, please email [orderdetails@lionsclubs.org](mailto:orderdetails@lionsclubs.org)
- CONNECT \*NEW\* – A new virtual meeting feature called [Connect](#) that ions can access using their Lion Account login information. The meeting functionality is run using a third-party software called Big Blue Button.

## The First 30 Days as Club First Vice President

### Attend Club Officer Training Offered by Your District

The training offered through your district is designed to assist your entire team of club leaders to be more effective as a leadership team and provides an opportunity for each officer to learn the basic skills of effective club operations.

## Monthly Meetings and Events

Club Meetings - If your club has a head table, you may be asked to sit by your club president during the club's regular proceedings.

Board of Director Meetings - Your participation as an active member of the board is essential in your preparations to be club president and remain fully aware of club operations, programs and issues.

Service Activities - As a club leader, it is important to serve alongside your fellow members.

Assigned Committee Meetings - You may be heading up committees or standing in for the club president in some committee work.

## Quarterly Meetings

### Zone Meetings

Zones consist of a group of 4 to 8 surrounding area clubs. The club officers from these clubs meet on a quarterly basis, usually during the first three quarters of the fiscal year, led by your zone chairperson. If you don't know who your zone chairperson is, you can find all of your district officers' contact information on your club homepage of MyLCI. Look there for your zone chairperson's name and contact information.

[The Model District Governor Advisory Committee Meeting](#) - This guide assists both the zone chairperson and club officers in understanding what to expect at the quarterly zone meetings. Often times the zone chair asks a club to report regarding service, membership or other events. Each meeting may have a specific focus and provides an opportunity for club officers to meet and learn from each other.

## Annual Events

### The Annual Club Business Meeting and Club Elections

Elections are usually held at the beginning of the fourth quarter (April). Refer to the [Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws](#) for the provisions regarding elections.

The nominations committee will provide information for the names of those who have been nominated for officer and director positions. The secretary will then prepare ballots for elections as per policy. See "Exhibit B" in the [Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws](#).

By April 15, or directly after the club completes its elections, the club president or secretary may report officers and directors [via MyLCI](#) or via the Officers Reporting Form [PU101](#).

## **District/Multiple District Conventions**

If your district offers club officer training at its annual district convention, it is a good opportunity to receive direct local training and meet other incoming club presidents who will be serving in the same year as you.

## **Delegates for the International Convention**

Each club is entitled to participate in the election of International Officers by assigning club members to serve as voting delegates to the convention.

## **The Transition to Club President**

### **Complete Strategic Planning and Make a Plan**

Once the club elections are complete and the directors and officers have been determined, you may begin to plan for the next fiscal year. If your club has not previously completed any type of planning exercise, the [Club Quality Initiative](#) and [Build A Vision for Your Club Blueprint for a Stronger Club](#) are a great place to start. ~~take out Build a Vision for Translation and Blueprint out for EN~~

Be sure to assess previous projects, programs and processes.

Create a plan for club meetings, events, service activities and other opportunities offering wider involvement at the district level.

Delegate responsibilities specific to the duties of the club officers and chairpersons (membership, service and marketing communication) relevant to the club goals and activities.

Work with the incoming officers to finalize the club calendar so that it may be communicated in an effective and timely manner.

Assist the current club president with the transition process between the outgoing officers and the incoming officers.

You may want to also review the new [Club and Community Needs Assessment](#) to find the best ways for the club to support its community.

Set a fundraising goal to support Campaign 100. There are a variety of recognition programs for clubs to participate in and achieve. Read more about these programs [here](#).

## **Your Role as Club President - Put the Club Plan in ACTION!**

If your club completed a basic set of goals of what it wants to accomplish for the next fiscal year, you have the task of pulling it together into an actionable plan that all club members can participate in.

### **Monthly Events**

#### **Club Meetings**

You may find yourself responsible for the programs, speakers and guests at the club meetings. You have a wonderful opportunity to foster fun and meaningful programs that members find worthy of their time. The club meeting is the time to focus on the great service the club is providing the communities it serves.

[Your Club, Your Way!](#) - This resource offers ideas for ways that your club can customize your meetings for an enjoyable membership experience.

[Hosting LCI guests](#) - Your club may determine the level of protocol that you wish to follow for all visitors, including district governor and international guests. Be sure to communicate your club's traditions and level of formality when welcoming guests so that the guest understands what to expect when visiting your club.

[New Members Induction Ceremonies](#) - This guide contains suggested wording to induct new members into the club.

Prepare agendas - Work with your club secretary to organize, prepare and distribute the agenda for club meetings.

Lead the meetings - Be prepared to preside over meetings, and that may include diffusing differences of opinion and keeping the meeting on track with the agenda to make the best use of member's time.

Follow-up after the meetings – Complete any follow-up required after a meeting in a timely fashion.

#### **Board of Directors Meetings**

The board of directors meetings focus on “working on the business” of the club: this includes both the business functions of the club, and the programs operations; member satisfaction, community service, and marketing communications.

Agendas – Be sure to set an expectation that all officers and chairpersons report on a monthly basis to ensure transparency of operations.

Minutes and committee reports – Communicate with the board members prior to board meetings to prepare proper report documentation in writing. This includes meeting minutes, program activities and all financial

transactions on a monthly basis to ensure that the club members receive full disclosure of the club's operations.

Follow-up – Keep the club in good standing by making sure that it meets all of its fiduciary, reporting and due diligence obligations to the association as well as any local governing body as required by local law.

## **Quarterly Meetings**

### **Zone Meetings**

Zones consist of a group of 4 to 8 surrounding area clubs. The club officers from these clubs meet on a quarterly basis, usually during the first three quarters of the fiscal year, led by your zone chairperson. If you don't know who your zone chairperson is, you can find all of your district officers' contact information on your club homepage of MyLCI. Look there for your zone chairperson's name and contact information.

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## **Annual Events**

### **The Annual Club Business Meeting and Elections**

Elections are usually held at the beginning of the fourth quarter (April). Refer to the [Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws](#) for the provisions regarding elections.

As club president, you are responsible for the work of the nominations committee, preparations for the election documents with the assistance of the club secretary and managing the election process as per the policies and procedures outlined in your club constitution and by-laws.

The nominations committee will provide to the president the names of those who have been nominated for officer and director positions. The secretary will then prepare ballots for elections as per policy. See "Exhibit B" in the [Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws](#).

### **District/Multiple District Conventions**

You as club president serve as the leading representative of your club and should encourage your members to attend the district convention for education, sharing best practices with fellow Lions and the election of district officers. You may also be called upon to assist with several tasks associated with the district or multiple district conventions.

The district may contact the club leadership to confirm the club delegate list in preparation for the district conventions. The delegate formula is defined in [The International By-Laws, Article IX](#).

Work with the club secretary to complete any requested registrations for district events, including advertising, hospitality rooms and convention attendees.

Check with the convention organizers for the opportunity to participate in the printed convention program ad pages or club reports.

Process documents and any local club endorsement requirements for members running for higher officer positions.

### **Constitutional Area-wide Events**

[Lions Clubs International Forums](#) - All Lions are invited to participate in the Constitutional Area where the Forum is held.

### **International Events**

[Lions Clubs International Calendar of Events](#) -This international headquarters calendar contains upcoming events and important award application deadlines along with information on global service initiatives.

### **Transitioning Out of Club President**

**Recognition and Celebrating Success** - At the conclusion of the fiscal year, it is a good time to honor those club leaders that have served as outstanding leaders of the club in its effort to reach its goals. Visit the LCI Shop in your Member Portal to see what is available.

[Club Excellence Award](#) - Clubs and districts that excel in community service, membership growth, communication and organizational management may qualify for the prestigious Excellence Award.

[Ceremony for Installation of Officers](#) – One of your final official acts as club president may be to install the new incoming officers for the next fiscal year.

## About Lions Clubs International Foundation

[Lions Clubs International Foundation \(LCIF\)](#) is the charitable arm of Lions Clubs International. LCIF's mission is to support the efforts of Lions clubs and partners in serving communities locally and globally, giving hope, and impacting lives through humanitarian service projects and grants.

Since 1968, LCIF has funded humanitarian service through donations from Lions Clubs International members; the general public; and partners. LCIF's funding model ensures 100% of donations support grants and programs.

To date, LCIF has awarded more than 16,000 grants worldwide totaling US\$1.1 billion. The Foundation has multiple accomplishments, which include:

- Funding 9.3 million cataract surgeries
- Helping youth and educators in more than 105 countries through Lions Quest, the Foundation's premier youth development and social and emotional learning program
- Providing US\$140 million for disaster relief and preparedness
- Helping more than 100 million children become immunized against measles

LCIF supports efforts to combat vision problems, provide valuable life skills to youth, respond to major catastrophes, and build programs to address the needs of at-risk and vulnerable populations. Many LCIF grants focus on reducing the prevalence of diabetes and improving the quality of life for those living with the disease. The Foundation also provides grant opportunities to support new global causes of childhood cancer, hunger, and the environment.

For more than 50 years, LCIF has remained steadfast in its commitment to empowering Lions globally through their service. With every grant awarded, beneficiaries have opportunities to enjoy safer, healthier, and more productive lives.

Contact us: [lcif@lionsclubs.org](mailto:lcif@lionsclubs.org)

### **Campaign 100: LCIF Empowering Service**

[Campaign 100](#) was launched to raise donations to support cause areas important to Lions. Globally, LCIF's campaign goal is to raise US\$300 million to fund the service of Lions. Unique recognition opportunities are available to thank donors for supporting the campaign.

## Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF)

- [Melvin Jones Fellowship](#) - The Melvin Jones Fellowship (MJF) recognizes donations of US\$1,000. Contributions can be made by individuals (including non-Lions), clubs or districts.
- [Melvin Jones Fellowship Application](#) - This form should only be used if sufficient funds have been previously donated to Lions Clubs International Foundation and the confirmed credits are available before submitting this application.

## LCIF Grants

LCIF offers a wide variety of grants to support Lions' service to their local communities and the world. For decades, LCIF has contributed to Lions' efforts in the focus areas of vision, disaster relief, youth and humanitarian causes. Visit the [LCIF Grants Toolkit](#) for more information.

- [Childhood Cancer Grants](#) help support and improve quality of life for children with cancer and their families.
- [Diabetes Grants](#) help reduce prevalence of diabetes and improve quality of life for those diagnosed.
- [Disaster Grants](#) offer a variety of funding options designed to support Lions-led relief efforts during the various stages of disaster relief operations, including:
  - Emergency Grants help Lions provide immediate emergency assistance to victims of natural disasters.
  - Preparedness Grants support partnering with local authorities and organizations to prepare for future relief efforts.
  - Community Recovery Grants help support short-term clean-up and repair where immediate needs are already addressed by other organizations.
  - Major Catastrophe Grants provide support for relief efforts following natural disasters or civil calamities with significant international impact.
- [District and Club Community Impact Grants](#) fund local humanitarian projects on a club and/or district level.
- [Hunger Grants](#) support Lions' service projects focused on alleviating hunger including school-based feeding programs, food banks, feeding centers, and similar facilities that provide food to people when they need it most.

- [Leo Service Grants](#) support Leos in assessing, planning, and implementing their own service projects.
- [Lions Quest Grants](#) support school and community based Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs for youth in grades Pre-K through 12. Program Grants are implemented where Lions have detailed plans and commitments from local schools, or where programs are ready for expansion.
  - Promotional Grants assist districts in improving understanding of Lions Quest programming and communicating program value.
  - Community Partnership Grants start Lions Quest programs in new areas or reactivate dormant programs.
- [Matching Grants](#) help establish or expand Lion-initiated projects addressing critical human and social needs. Typically, these grants fund capital construction and equipment, such as mobile health units, centers for people who are disabled or blind, major medical equipment, nursing homes and schools in developing countries.
- [SightFirst Grants](#) support the development of comprehensive eye care systems through projects that focus on infrastructure development, human resource training, eye care service delivery and eye health education.

For a printable version of these descriptions, download [Supporting your Service: A Guide to LCIF Grant Opportunities](#).

## **Policies and Processes for Clubs**

### **Club Changes**

[Club Merger](#) - This process allows two clubs to merge together, resulting in a single charter.

[Club Name Change](#) - A Lions club may change its name according to board policy by completing and submitting this form.

### **Governing Documents and Policies**

[International Constitution and By-Laws](#) - The International Constitution and By-Laws contain sections that pertain specifically to the membership structure and operations of the club.

[Standard Club Constitution and By-Laws](#) - This is the standard template for a club that it may use to draft its own governing document.

[Board Policy Manual](#) - This document contains the policies of the International Board of Directors of the Association.

### **Keeping Your Club in Good Standing**

It is important for every club leader to understand the obligations of a club chartered with the association.

Good Standing Definition – This may be found in [The Board Policy Manual - Chapter V., Clubs](#) which fully explains the obligations of a club.

[Financial Suspension Policy](#) - It is important for a club to promptly pay its dues at all levels (district/multiple district/international). The Financial Suspension Policy applies specifically to non-payment of international dues.

[Club Reactivation Report](#) - Complete this form when reactivating your club from Status Quo with the approval of the District Governor, First vice District Governor and Zone Chairperson.

[Best Practices for Financial Transparency](#) – This brief guide covers the best practices of club accounting and reporting to club members.

### **Legalities and Technicalities**

[Use of Funds Guidelines](#) - This provides guidance on the appropriate use of public funds or administrative funds for clubs and districts.

[General Liability Insurance Program](#) - Association of Lions Clubs has a program of commercial general liability insurance that covers Lions on a worldwide basis. All Clubs and Districts are automatically insured.

[Certificates of Insurance](#) - In order to expedite the certificate issuance process, you now have the ability to create certificates of insurance on your own.

[Supplemental Insurance](#) - In addition to the automatic coverage mentioned above, Lions Clubs International now offers Supplemental Insurance Coverage for Clubs and Districts in the United States including Directors & Officers Liability, Crime / Fidelity, Additional Liability Insurance and Accident Insurance.

[Lions Trademark Overview](#) - This guideline is to help you understand the appropriate use of the Lions emblem and trademarks, and when approval is required.

[Lions Clubs International and Lions Clubs International Foundation Privacy Policy](#) - Lions Clubs International (LCI) and LCIF recognize the importance of protecting the private information of our members.

## **Amendments to Your Constitution and By-Laws**

From time to time, your club may choose to make amendments to your club constitution and by-laws. As club president, you will lead and manage this process. Check your own constitution and by-laws for the provisions regarding amendments to ensure that the process is completed according to policy. Your club secretary will assist you in making necessary draft amendments, communicating with the club members regarding the proposed changes and implementing the required processes to complete the amendments.

## **Promoting Harmony Among Lions**

### **Preventing and Resolving Disputes**

The purpose of Lions Dispute Resolution Procedures (DRP) is to provide a mechanism for resolving disputes within the Lions organization without the need for a formal evidentiary hearing. To achieve this goal, the International Board of Directors have adopted the rules of procedure for hearing complaints, disputes or claims arising from the International Constitution and By-Laws, International Board Policy or matters arising at the club or district (single, sub- and multiple) level. It is an obligation of membership to pursue all complaints, disputes or claims in accordance with the International Constitution and By-Laws and policies and procedures adopted by the International Board of Directors. Accordingly, the International Board of Directors have adopted the Club Dispute Resolution Procedure, District Dispute Resolution Procedure and the Multiple District Dispute Resolution Procedure as the acceptable DRP policies to resolve Lions issues at the club, district and multiple district levels.

[Dispute Resolution Guidelines](#) - The guidelines are intended to assist Lions members, clubs and districts (single, sub- and multiple) in following the Club, District and Multiple District Dispute Resolution Procedures when conflicts cannot be resolved through informal processes. These guides are a supplement to the policies adopted by the International Board of Directors and are not intended to replace the policies adopted by the International Board of Directors.

[Club Dispute Resolution Procedure](#) - This procedure is designed for use to resolve issues within a club.

[District Dispute Resolution Procedure](#) - This procedure is designed for issues between clubs or between club(s) and the district administration in relation to the district's constitution, by-laws and policies.

- [Multiple District Resolution Process](#) - This procedure is designed for disputes relative to issues between any clubs or sub-districts in the multiple district, or any club(s) or sub-district(s) and the multiple district administration.
- [Constitutional Complaints Procedures](#) - This procedure is used to resolve issues concerning the interpretation, breach of, or application of The International Association of Lions Clubs' Constitution and By-Laws or any International Board Policy.



## Lions Clubs International

District and Club Administration Division  
300 W. 22<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Oak Brook, IL 60523-8842, USA  
[www.lionsclubs.org](http://www.lionsclubs.org)  
Email: [clubofficers@lionsclubs.org](mailto:clubofficers@lionsclubs.org)  
Fax: (630) 468-7804

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