

District Consolidation

Solution or No Solution

Pro: District consolidating will increase our pool of leaders.

Con: Consolidating districts will not increase the pool of leaders. Why! Because we would only be using the current four districts to make two districts using the same pool of possible leadership.

Pro: Increase district membership to 1250 and 35 club.

Con: This would only be so for a short period of time.

Pro: Expand district's finances in order to provide the appropriate services needed by our clubs.

Con: Consolidating will not solve our loss of membership problem; therefore, the only way to expand a district's finances is to raise the district's dues.

Pro: So we will not have to recycle District Governors.

Con: Only District O is recycling District Governors and District N has a Lion that was a DG in Illinois has their 2nd Vice DG. It has been proven in Iowa and Missouri that consolidating districts does not increase the pool of Lions wanting to be District Governors.

Average membership loss per year for the past six years		Number of Clubs in each Combined						
Combined L & I		-71	69					
Combined O & N		-65	63					
Combined I & O		-73	69					
Combined L & N		-63	63					
2016 memberships - Average six years membership loss								
		2016 Membership	one year	Two years	Three Years	Four Years	Five Years	Six Years
Combine L & I		1716	1645	1574	1503	1432	1361	1290
Combine O & N		1449	1384	1319	1254	1189	1124	1059
Combine I & O		1578	1505	1432	1359	1286	1213	1140
Combine L & N		1587	1524	1461	1398	1335	1272	1209

Multiple District 9		Iowa			
2006 Redistricted with each districted having 1600 members					
Districts	District Membership June 30, 2010	District Membership June 30, 2016	Members Lost in 6 Years		
9 EC	1481	1371	-110		
9 MC	1415	1172	-243		
9 NC	1445	1191	-254		
9 NE	1507	1397	-110		
9 NW	1237	967	-270		
9 SE	1376	1153	-223		
9 SW	1543	1425	-118		

Missouri Multiple District 26

Redistricted 2007

Districts	Membership as of June 30, 2010	Membership as of June 30, 2016	Member Lost in 6 years
26 M1	1494	1188	-306
26 M2	1656	1448	-208
26 M3	1549	1376	-173
26 M4	1498	1329	-169
26 M5	1522	1172	-350
26 M6	1569	1121	-448
26 M7	1594	1413	-181

The main reason for not consolidating districts is the size of the districts. Currently the districts are $\frac{1}{4}$ of the state to be covered by the available leadership.

The new districts would be $\frac{1}{2}$ of the state to be covered by the same available leadership. **CONSOLIDATING DISTRICTS WILL NOT INCREASE THE AVAILABLE LEADERSHIP TO COVER THE INCREASED AREA.**

Lions Clubs International will not force us to consolidate districts.

Consolidating districts will not solve the membership problem. It could make the problem worse. Both Iowa and Missouri lost a significant number of members the first year they consolidated districts.

My main concern is this:

That a resolution will be put forth at the state convention that reads only: **THIS RESOLUTION IS TO CONSOLIDATE DISTRICTS IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.**

This would essentially hand the Lions proposing consolidating districts a **BLANK CHECK TO WRITE THE PLAN FOR THE LCI BOARD WITHOUT THE REQUIREMENT TO INCLUDE ANY OTHER LIONS IN THE PROCESS OR TO COMMUNICATE THE PLAN TO THE LIONS OF ARKANSAS!!!**

THE CORRECT WAY TO DO DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION

Year One: District Leaders meet to discuss district consolidation and conduct the analysis.

- Develop a plan to identify the services and resources that are provided by each district to support club success.**
- Look at the geographic distribution of the clubs. Determine district lines that would best support each club.**

Considering the following:

Club Management

Leadership

Membership Growth

Service

Events

THE CORRECT WAY TO DO DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION (continued)

Write a plan and pulling together all of the information required by Board Policy.

Communicate and promote the plan to clubs in the state.

If there is a District name change it will require a 2/3 vote of the district cabinet members from 2/3 of the districts prior to the multiple district putting forth the resolution.

The full published resolution must be communicated **effectively no later than 60 days before the multiple district convention.**

THE CORRECT WAY TO DO DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION (continued)

The Multiple District approves or disapproves the resolution during the state convention.

Second Year: If approved at the state convention the proposal is placed before the International Board of Directors during the October meeting for approval, if approved the district consolidation takes place following the next International Convention unless otherwise specified.

Third Year: District consolidation is put in place according to the plan.

The correct resolution might read: **THIS RESOLUTION IS PUT FORTH 1) TO FORM A COMMITTEE TO STUDY DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION. 2) TO WRITE A PLAN FOR DISTRICT CONSOLIDATION AND TO COMMUNICATE THE PLAN TO THE LIONS OF ARKANSAS. 3) PRESENT A RESOLUTION TO CONSOLIDATE DISTRICTS ACCORDING TO THE WRITEN PLAN PUT FORTH TO THE LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS.**

This would better ensure that all the past, present and future leadership would be involve in any planning and writing of the plan and that the plan would be communicated to Lions of Arkansas. **THEN AND ONLY THEN SHOULD A RESOLUTION BE PUT FORTH TO CONSOLIDATE DISTRICT.**

WHAT OTHER REASON IS THERE FOR CONSOLIDATING DISTRICTS?

TO HAVE 1250 MEMBERS AND 35 CLUB IN A DISTRICT SO SOMEBODY CAN RUN FOR AN INTERNATIONAL OFFICE.

If Arkansas should have a International Officer Campaign according to Article XV, Section 2 of The Arkansas Lions MD 7 Constitution & By Laws “there shall be a semi-annual per capita dues of \$1.00 levied upon all member categories semi annually, to be distributed exclusively to the International Officer Campaign Fund.”

This could last as long as three years.