

Constitution and By-Laws and Policy



After the sweeping reform of Lions Clubs International Standard District Constitution and By-Laws, much of which is mandatory and non-discretionary, our District N-1 Constitution and By-Laws was either silent or in contradiction with several of the mandatory sections. We had adopted the Lions Clubs International Standard District Constitution and By-Laws as our supreme document in April 2016 as our supreme document. Therefore the best course of action was to incorporate the four documents into two – re-numbering and re-sectioning where necessary.

As the system we implemented in 2007 with redistricting has not proved to provide clarity, efficiency and timely information, change is needed. Research of other Districts revealed that of the 29 Canadian Districts, District N-1 is the 4th largest in membership and is one of only 6 Districts to use the Secretary – Treasurer combination. In fact, 4 of the 6 are in MD N. Most other Districts are structured as is the recommended change for the better operation of District N-1 – that of 2 positions – Cabinet Secretary and Cabinet Treasurer, each with their collective and respective duties. We are recommending the Cabinet Secretary be appointed by the District Governor Elect for a period of 1 year and Cabinet Treasurer be elected for a period of 3 years with mandatory annual reviews.

Another recommended change is the separation of duties – allowing for no one club or family to perceive to have District control, to protect District integrity. This is accomplished by not allowing the District Governor, Cabinet Secretary or Cabinet Treasurer or the Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer to serve from the same club. This recommended action has approval from Chief legal Counsel of Lions Clubs International, Amy Pena, as best practices to be implemented by any District.

We have included a Bank Resolution to establish authorized signatories, Electronic access and effective term of authority as approved at the Annual Meeting. This also incorporates separation of duties and best practices.

We have recommended the addition of a process to account for 2 fiscal years with the District governor Awards and the criteria and prize structure for the LCI Essay contest for visually impaired youth; the voting for Zone Chairs in their Zones and removed the requirement to appoint at the annual convention

All recommended actions have been described in detail, offering the impact, the reason and the action in the Notices of Motions. The Ballots have been prepared to allow for the question to be answered with a yes if you agree and a no if you do not agree.

This year has been challenging, taking counsel from many members, expressing dissatisfaction with what we have. Voting yes to the recommended actions will begin the correction process for a number of issues that have developed over the years.

Chair PCC Susan Sangster. Co-chairs Lion Dale Carter and Lion Desmond Nantes