

Report Constitution and Bylaws – October 29, 2017

Lions... I know that a lot of Lions would far sooner not hear the dreaded words Constitution, Bylaws and Policy however they are very necessary to the effective continuous operation of any organization – our included. It is imperative that every Lion's Club have at least one designated Lion to read and question, if necessary, - hopefully it will be a Lion who actually attends Cabinet meetings so they have had the benefit of the discussion as well as to being able to confirm the written document is as it was intended.

I will freely admit I did not go back to prior years to check motions but the documents contained a couple of discrepancies to the motions that were moved, approved and seconded.

Cabinet February 2010 last item - Moved , seconded and carried DGE spouse expenses to LRP - \$500 which resulted in the following motion

Convention April 2010 Page 2 - Moved , seconded and carried DGE spouse expenses -\$1000. That covered June 2010 only.

In the next Lionistic year

Nov 2010 Page 3 - Moved , seconded and carried DGE spouse expenses –minimum of \$500 and maximum of \$1000. Also 2nd vice set at \$1000

Annual Convention 2011 - Pg 5 - Motion that our Policy Manual be amended to included \$500 to \$1000 in the budget for the DG Spouse for travel to the International Convention depending on the location. Moved by Lion Dale, seconded by Lion Susan Stennick. CARRIED

(The big discussion prior to the motion was the increase to 1k when outside North America, however that wording was not recorded but instead "depending on the location") (While many of us are aware of the intent, intent is not actionable in legal documents, only clear concise words – which in this case we do not have)

The next motion is marked as carried however the mover and seconded is not identified.

Motion (By who) to amend the Policy Manual so that the Incoming Second Vice DG has a budget of \$2000.00 for expenses. CARRIED (2)

I started with the documents as passed to me complete with information that is subjective and did not match the motions.

The next attempt to amend item # 1 simply took the figure to the \$1000USD and therefore had no effect on the documents as written. Policy reads on Page 4 – item 3

1. The District Governor Elect shall be eligible for expense reimbursement of up to \$1000.00 US (paid by USD bank draft) for his or her spouse or adult companion to travel to an International Convention with the District Governor Elect. The amount shall be budgeted and approved by District Cabinet and rules of audit shall apply.

Both amendments took the amount to \$1000 – the most recent in 2016 adding the USD component.

The intent was for the \$1000 to be available when outside of North America but that is not the way it was/is written. This needs to be clarified

For the maximum setting of the 2nd VDG approved expense, As the documents in all years indicate VDG payments are maximum per budget the correction to the \$2000 had no effect other than a lesser known authorization level. I have now made that correction before PCST Heather posted the document I will take direction from the Lions but I do feel this needs to be clarified as the mover and seconded are not recorded. Also there is not set maximum in the 1st VDG's approved expense. This too should be clarified.

Discussion at September Cabinet meeting

Constitution ...Page 7.....DISTRICT ORGANIZATION- CABINET & OFFICERS

Section 1: a) Officers. The District shall have a District Cabinet composed of the District Governor, the Immediate Past District Governor, the first Vice-District Governor, the second Vice-District Governor, the Region Chairs (if utilized by the District Governor), the Zone Chairs, the Cabinet Secretary, and the Cabinet Treasurer, who shall be the officers of the District. ¹

Section 2. DISTRICT CABINET. In addition, the Cabinet shall include, as members, the officers, Global Membership Team district coordinator, Global Leadership Team district coordinator, Global Service Team district coordinator, LCIF district coordinator the District Committee Chairs, President and Secretary of each club, or a designated club member, to represent either the club President or the club Secretary at District Cabinet meetings. All Cabinet officers and members shall be in good standing in a Lions Club in the District. ²

ByLaws Article V Sections 1 items c and d Page 26

(c) **Quorum.** The attendance of a majority of the members of Cabinet registered for a meeting shall constitute a quorum for any meeting.

(d) **Vote.** The voting privilege shall extend to all members of the district cabinet plus all Past District Governors.

These sections covers the members allowed to vote at a Cabinet meeting. However all members are allowed to speak on any matter under discussion or bring matter to the floor

The only thing that is prevented, and I'll pick on Fort Kent Club as the largest club in the District this club has many members - if all 100 plus members came to a Cabinet meeting – all 100 could have their say but the President and Secretary votes for the club as a whole.

I was also asked to change the term of the Treasurer to one year from the 3 years – the notice of motion below will do this and remove the necessity of the annual review - if the motion is carried it would begin with the 2018-19 Cabinet

Notice of Motion Constitution Article VI Section 3–

b) Cabinet Treasurer, shall be elected for a 1 year term, at the annual convention of the District from a pool of qualified candidates or appointed if no candidates come forward, (c) none of whom shall be from the same household or from the same club as the DG or each other, each with their separate duties.