

Multiple District 201
2022
Notices of Motion

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Dear Lions Secretary,

Please find enclosed the MD201 of Lions Clubs International Notices of Motion 2022 and Audited Financial Reports to 31 December 2021. Please forward a copy of this to all your members.

Notices of Motion

i) In accordance with Clause 58.1.2 and Clause 66.1.2 of the Multiple District Constitution please find attached 1 Project Notices of Motion that was received by the National Office by 31 December 2021 and

ii) In accordance with Clause 58.2.1 of the Multiple District Constitution, please also find included 5 Notices of Motion of a Constitutional or General nature that were received by the National Office by the due date.

Due to the late cancellation of the Perth Multiple District Convention, and the reduced availability of time at the Melbourne Mini-Convention, Council has resolved that voting will be conducted by electronic ballot.

The Cabinet Secretaries are currently compiling a list of authorised delegates within Multiple District 201. Each Club has a voting entitlement determined under the Constitution.

Lions Australia has contracted “Vero voting” to manage ballots via their digital platform. Vero has significant experience in conducting secure, online ballots. The process will be conducted as follows:

1. Notices of motion: - Within this document you will note the Notices of Motion to be considered by your club. Please take the opportunity to discuss the motions at your club meeting.
2. International Director candidate: In due course you will receive a special E-newsletter containing the candidate information. You will also receive a link to speeches by the candidate and their introducer. These will be located on the Lions Australia YouTube channel here. <https://tinyurl.com/MD201-ID2022>. Please take the time to view the materials as the elected candidate will represent Australia on the International Board for 2022-24.
3. Authorised delegates will receive a personal and secure e-mail link to enable them to vote online in the election. This link must not be shared and can only be used once. It is personal to the delegate. The e-mail will contain information about how to vote and provide a link to the appropriate website.
4. Voting will open from Friday 30 April 2022 and close at 5:00pm Australian Eastern Standard time on Monday 9 May 2022.
5. Notices of Motion: Delegates will be asked to indicate for each motion, “In favour”, “Against” or “Abstain”.
6. International Director Candidates: Delegates will be asked to select their preferred candidates, inserting the number 1 next to the most preferred candidate, 2 next to the second-preferred candidate, through to the number 6.
7. The outcome of all ballots will be announced at the Mini-Convention in Melbourne.

Please don't hesitate to contact me via info@lions.org.au if you have any questions.

Rob Oerlemans
Executive Officer

CC

Council Chairperson Delwyn Seebeck
District Governors
Constitution & By-Laws Chairpersons
Management Group
Cabinet Secretaries
Cabinet Treasurers

A note from the Legal Officer...

Regretfully, by reason of restrictions imposed in consequence of continuing health concerns, the proposed Convention in Perth was unable to be conducted. Fortunately, however, arrangements have been made to conduct a “mini Convention” in Melbourne. Each year, for the proper continued governance of our Multiple District consideration must be given to Notices of Motion and other relevant matters. This year it is the prerogative of Australian Lions to recommend to the International Board a nominee to serve as International Director for the term of two years expiring on the 30th June 2024. Six dedicated and well qualified Lions present themselves for the consideration of delegates.

The conduct of the Notices of Motion and voting procedure is again to take place electronically and each Lions Club is strongly encouraged to exercise the voting rights in accordance with the usual Club delegate formula. Participation ensures that your Club’s views are considered and respected.

Each Lions Club must be in “good standing” in order to exercise the right to vote.

A Club in good standing is one:

- (a) Which is not in Status Quo or Financial Suspension.
- (b) Which operates in accordance with the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws and International Board Policy.
- (c) Which has:
 - (i) District and Multiple District dues and fees paid in full
 - (ii) No unpaid balance of International dues and fees greater than U.S. \$10.00 and
 - (iii) No unpaid Lions Club International account balance greater than U.S. \$50.00 Outstanding ninety (90) days or more.

I commend the candidates for International Director and the Notices of Motion to your Club for consideration.

With best wishes.

PCC David Skinner OAM
Legal Officer

Notices of Motion (NM)

NM1 – Endorsement of the Finance Report

Submitted by: The Council of Governors.
Subject: Endorsement of the Financial Report
Motion: “That the Multiple District 201 of Lions Clubs International Inc. audited Financial Statements and the Annual Management Reports for the year ended 31 December 2021 be adopted.”

NM2 – Appointment of Auditors

Submitted by: The Council of Governors.
Subject: Appointment of Auditors
Motion: “That PKF (NS) Audit and Assurance Limited Partnership be appointed as Auditors for MD201 of Lions Clubs International Inc. for the 2022 Financial Year.

Constitutional Notices of Motion (CNM)

CNM3 - Deletion of Reference to Lioness Program

Submitted by: The Council of Governors.
Subject: Proposed Amendment to the Multiple District Constitution by the deletion of references to the former Lioness Program.
Motion: “That this Multiple District Convention approves the deletion of all references to the former Lioness Program where appearing in the Multiple District Constitution.”

Explanation:

1. Sadly, the former Lioness Program has been discontinued pursuant to the wishes of the International Board of Directors.
2. It is appropriate that references to the former Program be deleted from the Multiple District Constitution.

CNM4 - Provision for Future “Virtual” Conventions

Submitted by: The Council of Governors.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to the Multiple District Constitution
by the insertion of a Provision for Future “Virtual” Conventions.

Motion: “That this Multiple District Convention approves the insertion of the following provisions in the Multiple District Constitution –

Virtual Conventions

For the purposes of this Clause, the expression, “Virtual Convention” shall mean: -

- (i) a Convention to be conducted with the prior approval of the Council but in respect of which the delegates registered do not exceed 200 in number and/or in respect of which the delegates registered are not members of Clubs in at least 10 Districts within the Multiple District

and/or

- (ii) a Convention which has been declared by Council to constitute a Virtual Convention by reason of it being held in circumstances when physical attendance is prohibited, restricted or impractical in consequence of Government direction and/or other event deemed by Council to prohibit, restrict or make impractical physical attendance.

The following provisions shall apply in regard to the conduct of a Virtual Convention: -

1. Each Lions Club in good standing within the Multiple District shall have the right to vote in respect of any Notice of Motion and/or any election for an office or vacancy requiring the resolution of delegates as follows: -
 - (a) Ballot and Voting materials shall be distributed to all Clubs as soon as practical prior to the commencement of the Virtual Convention.
 - (b) Each Lions Club shall have the right to exercise the number of votes to which it is entitled having regard to the voting entitlement of the Club.
 - (c) Such Ballot and Voting materials shall be delivered by the Club to the Returning Officer nominated by Council no later than the date nominated by Council.
 - (d) All Ballots and Voting materials shall be completed in the manner directed by the Returning Officer and authorised by the President or Secretary of the Club or signed by the delegate(s) of the Club.
 - (e) All Ballot and Voting materials shall be securely retained by the Returning Officer and shall not be opened until the date nominated by Council and then at such time and place as the Returning Officer shall determine and in the presence, if required, of scrutineers of the Club or Election Candidates.
 - (f) In the event of Voting in respect of any Notice of Motion and/or Election, Council shall use its best endeavours to arrange for the relevant proceedings at a Virtual Convention to be electronically relayed by Zoom or other acceptable method to all Clubs if practical so to do for the benefit of Clubs prior to the close of voting.

2. Should Council resolve that digital/electronic voting may be conducted during a Convention by delegates both in person and absent then in such event digital/electronic voting shall be implemented in the manner determined by Council and the provisions of sub-clauses (c) to (f) in the preceding clause shall not apply.”

Explanation:

1. It could be unfortunately, that the Coronavirus will be around for some time and continue to trouble the conduct of future Multiple District Conventions. It seems appropriate that the Constitution should be amended to provide for that possibility.
2. The Motion is intended to formalise a procedure which, at the discretion of the Council of Governors, may be followed in the event that the number of registered delegates at a proposed Convention is such that it will not be fairly representative of the total membership or of the majority of Lions Clubs. The conduct of an approaching Convention would be affected by an unexpected restriction by State Legislation prohibiting or placing into doubt the attendance of Conventioneers. The closure of a State Border may effectively restrict the attendance of delegates of Clubs in that State. In such circumstances the attendance at the approaching Convention may be drastically reduced and those delegates present in person may not be fairly representative of the total membership or of the majority of Lions Clubs.

Sub-clause (i) envisages the continued conduct of the approaching Convention but permits the Council of Governors to guard the Convention as a “virtual Convention” for the purposes of voting meaning that all Clubs may exercise their voting rights in accordance with the procedure set out in the Motion.

3. The sub-clause (ii) relates to a Convention which has been abandoned and again permits all Clubs to exercise their voting rights in respect of matters which would otherwise have been considered at the abandoned Convention.
4. The proposed provisions also allow for the future conduct of digital/electronic voting during a Convention by delegates both in person and absent when such a procedure is available and can be put in place on a practical basis.
5. The proposed provisions permit all Clubs to exercise voting rights in the event of abandoned Conventions, cancelled Conventions and, if practically possible, by digital or electronic voting procedures in the future.

CNM5 - Provision for Conduct of Future Elections for Third International Vice President and International Director

Submitted by: The Council of Governors.

Subject: Proposed Amendment to the Multiple District Constitution
by the insertion of a Provision in relation to the future conduct of elections for
the Offices of International Third Vice President and International Director.

Motion: “That this Multiple District Convention approves the insertion of the following
provisions in the Multiple District Constitution –

“Notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution contained with
effect on and from the 1st July 2023, elections for the Office of International Third
Vice President and for the Office of International Director shall if determined by
Council be conducted prior to the commencement of Convention in the manner
set out for the conduct of voting at a Virtual Convention. In such event Council
shall ensure that any such Candidate shall participate in a live audio/visual
presentation to be electronically relayed by zoom or other acceptable method to
all Clubs if practical so to do for the benefit of Clubs prior to the close of voting.”

Explanation:

1. With effect from the 1st July 2023 nominations for the Offices of International Third Vice President and International Director are required to be notified to Lions Clubs International no later than sixty (60) days prior to the commencement of the International Convention.
2. The proposed dates for the Multiple District Convention this year were 6th – 9th May. The proposed dates for the International Convention this year were 1st – 5th July. In such circumstances it would not be possible to advise the outcome of an election 60 days prior to the commencement of the International Convention.
3. The adoption of the Notice of Motion will permit the election to be determined by Ballot supported by the conduct of a live audio/visual presentation.
4. Should the timing of both the Multiple District and International Conventions allow an election at a physical Convention attended by delegates, the alternative electronic voting procedure will not be adopted.

Project Notices of Motion (PNM)

PNM6 - Lions Junior Public Speaking Competition

Submitted by: District 201 V6 Convention

Subject: Lions Junior Public Speaking Competition

Motion: "That this Multiple District Convention approves the continuation of the Project entitled "The Junior Public Speaking Competition" as a Category "B" Project for a further term of three years expiring on the 30th June, 2025."

Explanation:

1. The Project was adopted at the 2010 District 201V6 Convention for a term of three years expiring on the 30th June, 2014. The term was again extended at the 2016 and 2019 District Conventions and expires on the 30th June 2023.
2. The Project was adopted at the 2016 Multiple District Convention and its term was extended at the 2019 Multiple District Convention until the 30th June 2022.
3. The Project has been well received and continues to gain support throughout the Multiple District. Public speaking builds self-confidence, increased ability to communicate to wider audiences, encourages young people to think more widely on a range of issues and prepares students for future speaking roles.
4. Young students have an abundance of enthusiasm and the program aims to build on that base before they reach their teenage years.

General Notices of Motion (GNM)

GNM7 - Club Building Service Initiative Program

Submitted by: The Council of Governors.

Subject: Proposed adoption of the Club Building Service Initiative Program.

Motion: "That this Multiple District Convention:

- (i) Adopts the Club Building Service Initiative Program and endorses the establishment by Council of the Club Building Service Initiative Program Committee.
- (ii) Directs the establishment of a Club Building Service Fund into which each District shall pay the sum of \$2.00 per annum for each Club in the District for a period of three years commencing on the 1st July 2022. Such funds shall be paid from the Administration Account of each Club and shall be allocated to Club Building processes in towns that do not currently have a Lions Club.
- (iii) Invites each Lions Club to consider voluntary donations during the period of three years commencing on the 1st July 2022 to the Club Building Service Fund for allocation to Club Building processes as abovementioned.
- (iv) Directs that the Club Building Service Initiative Program Committee be disbanded with effect on the 30th June 2025 unless otherwise determined by a resolution of the Multiple District Convention.

Explanation:

1. Membership Growth is vital to our Association. To enable us to continue to serve the community in our 75th year and beyond, it is important we have the resources to be able to do that. Across Multiple District 201 membership has been in decline for the past 11 years and we need every member, every Club and every District to place a focus on membership growth so that we can continue to serve our community with the current projects and services we are renowned for, as well as our future endeavours.
2. If adopted, the Program will be conducted as follows:
 - (a). A Club Building Service Initiative Program Committee will be established to deliver the Program independently of Council and shall include two representatives from each District.
 - (b). The Committee will meet by teleconference as required and may meet at Convention in person, however, no reimbursement of travel and accommodation expenses will be allocated in the budget for that purpose.
 - (c). The Committee will be disbanded on the 30th June 2025 unless otherwise determined by the Convention.
3. The Program is intended to focus a national commitment to achieving a greater outcome for membership, leadership and service delivery for all Districts and Clubs and to re-establish membership growth as a responsibility of every Lion.
4. The intended Performance Indicator is as follows:
 - (i). Annual Club growth will meet or exceed 20 Clubs per year.
 - (ii). Annual Club loss will not exceed 5 Clubs per year.

5. There is a lack of enthusiasm and dedication to Club building at the grass roots level. Where there was previously pride in growing new Clubs, as a mature organisation, we have fallen into complacency. The established Club building rebate program is designed to provide some incentive to growth.
6. There is a concern that established Clubs may actively oppose the development of new Lions Clubs in neighbouring towns that may compete for membership recruitment and fundraising opportunities.
7. The key objective of the Committee is to develop an independent team of motivated and qualified Lions at the local level to build new Clubs.
8. It is proposed that the Committee be independent of the GAT. This is philosophically and culturally important. The goal is to place responsibility for growth in the hands of every member, rather than “delegate” it to appointees. An independent Committee will be required to determine their strategy and to operate with some freedom from the constraints of Council but working in consultation with Districts.
9. The role of the Committee is to:
 - (i). identify towns and cities that need a service club;
 - (ii). Consult with the District Governor;
 - (iii). identify a sponsor club;
 - (iv). research the history, culture, and issues in the town to identify relevant matters connected to Lions International Global causes;
 - (v). send out letters or other communication to groups to attend a formation workshop;
 - (vi). conduct the information workshop for prospective members including identifying the cause to be pursued;
 - (vii). monitor progress within the District and
 - (viii). alert the Multiple District GAT to the need for support and resources to improve the Club building strategy.

The Program is intended to ensure that the present decline in our presence and our service to the community will be arrested and to assure the future of our Association as the leading Service Club in Australia.

Financial Implications:

The success of the Program can only be guaranteed if it is supported in a practical sense by our Members. For that reason, it is proposed that each District contributes a sum of \$2.00 for each Club within that District for a period of three years to resource the Committee. Each District will benefit by membership growth.

Clubs are invited to make voluntary donations. As Club building is an administrative activity, any such donations must be paid from the Administration Account.

The support of delegates is requested.

GNM8 - 2025 Multiple District Convention

Submitted by: The Council of Governors.

Subject: 2025 Multiple District Convention

Motion: “That this Multiple District Convention endorses the conduct of the 2025 Multiple District Convention in Traralgon, Victoria in District 201V3 and be hosted by the Lions Club of Traralgon. “

Explanation:

1. The nomination has been submitted by the Lions Club of Traralgon in accordance with the Constitution of the Multiple District.
2. The proposed Convention venue has the facilities and the capacity to meet the anticipated accommodation requirements of a Multiple District Convention. The proposed Host Club is a Club of 56 years standing and has the membership and resources to successfully promote and manage a National Convention in, and with the support of, a thriving community. Traralgon is well placed to facilitate travelling arrangements for all Conventioneers.
3. The nomination is supported by Council. The endorsement of delegates to the Notice of Motion is requested.

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