

## **Proposed Redistricting Amendment**

### **2009 International Convention Minneapolis, Minnesota, USA**

Delegates at the Minneapolis Convention will be asked to vote on an amendment designed to make the current redistricting policy more flexible to provide an opportunity for very small sub-districts to redistrict and strengthen their membership.

#### **Background on Proposed Amendment:**

Redistricting can revitalize smaller sub-districts by providing the financial support of additional membership and expanding the pool of quality leaders who have the knowledge and experience to fill key roles on the district cabinet. Additional membership can help the sub-district carry out effective district-level projects as well as fully staff chairperson positions so that clubs receive the support needed to thrive and expand.

However, currently, in order to redistrict, each resulting new sub-district in the redistricting proposal is required to have a minimum of 35 clubs and 1,250 members. This policy limits redistricting because there are many sub-districts that either do not have enough members when they combine to meet the 35 club /1,250 member requirement, or the geographical area would be too large for the sub-district to effectively manage.

With this in mind, the association is proposing an amendment to allow a multiple district to put forth a redistricting proposal that would not require each sub-district to meet the 35 club/1,250 member requirement when the redistricting policy reduces the number of sub-districts. This amendment would help strengthen each sub-district, increase the leadership pool and help the area get closer to full district status.

#### **Proposed Amendment:**

The proposed resolution, if approved, will amend the International By-Law Article VIII, Section 3. Redistricting, by revising the second paragraph to read:

Redistricting proposals shall be considered by the International Board of Directors provided that each proposed sub-district shall contain at least thirty-five (35) Lions clubs with a total membership of no less than one thousand two hundred fifty (1,250) members in good standing *unless a proposal reduces the number of sub-districts within the multiple district.*

\*\* The changes are in italics and are underlined.

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

1. *What is the benefit of a redistricting proposal that results in one or more sub-districts not meeting the 35 clubs/1,250 member minimum?*

ANSWER: The policy would allow a redistricting proposal, which combines sub-districts, to take into consideration geographical boundaries and other constraints while allowing the new sub-district the ability to increase its membership.

2. *Can a multiple district submit a redistricting proposal that results in one or more sub-district not meeting the 35 club/1,250 member minimum?*

ANSWER: Yes, it allows flexibility so that the multiple district's proposal can be submitted without the requirement that all the resulting new sub-districts within the proposal meet the minimum requirement as long as the number of sub-districts within the multiple district decreases.

3. *Should a sub-district try to increase membership before submitting a redistricting proposal?*

ANSWER: Yes, while the new policy was designed to provide flexibility for very small sub-districts, the new policy also requires the multiple district to first implement significant membership initiatives to increase membership in the sub-districts before the International Board of Directors will consider the proposal. Multiple districts should always try their best to increase membership through recruiting and new club development before considering a redistricting plan.

4. *Would the new sub-district that does not meet the 35 clubs/1,250 members be able to endorse a candidate for international director or second vice president?*

ANSWER: No, only sub-districts that meet the minimum of 35 clubs/1,250 members would be able to endorse a candidate.

5. *Would the new sub-district that does not meet the 35 clubs/1,250 members be able to receive payment for the travel expenses of the district governor-elect's spouse to the District Governor-elect Seminar?*

ANSWER: Not initially, but current policy states that if the sub-district has a net gain at the close of the district governor's term, the travel expenses of the district governor's spouse would be reimbursed up to the maximum amount allowed.

6. *Can a redistricting proposal be submitted that divides a current sub-district and that results in a sub-district with less than 35 clubs/1,250 members?*

ANSWER: No, the policy is only for small sub-districts that combine. Sub-districts that divide will be required to have a minimum of 35 clubs/1,250 members as well as additional requirements as determined by the International Board of Directors

7. *Who must approve the redistricting proposal?*

ANSWER: Current policy states that delegates at the multiple district convention and the delegates at the convention of the redistricting sub-district(s) must approve the proposal. However, approval by the convention of the redistricting sub-district(s) is not required if the membership of the sub-district(s) is below 35 clubs/1,250 members. Once approved by the multiple district and the sub-districts that have 35 clubs/1,250 members, the proposal will need to be approved by the International Board of Directors.

8. *How long does it take to redistrict?*

ANSWER: Most redistricting takes two years. The first year the multiple district develops the proposal and obtains the necessary approvals for the proposal. The second year, the International Board of Directors reviews the proposal and, if approved, it may take effect the first day of the next fiscal year.

9. *How does a redistricting sub-district disburse its administrative funds?*

ANSWER: Current policy states that the district cabinet decides how the funds will be distributed. Options to consider are: 1) give the money back to the clubs in the sub-district, 2) designate the funds to the new sub-district and according to the placement of the clubs in the new sub-district 3) designate the funds to a sub-district project.

10. *What other requirements are needed for redistricting?*

ANSWER: If the amendment is approved, the new policy will be as follows as of the first day of the 2009-2010 fiscal year:

1. All redistricting proposals must be submitted and filed with the international office 60 days prior to the board meeting. No redistricting proposal shall be approved at the June/July board meeting.
2. The single or multiple district seeking approval shall submit the following:
  - a. A certified copy of the minutes of the respective convention of the redistricting single district or sub-district(s) as well as multiple district at which the proposal was approved when the minutes become available.

- b. A list of names of the clubs, which shall comprise each proposed sub-district with each club's total membership. Each proposed sub-district shall have the minimum of 35 clubs with 1,250 members in good standing as shown in the most recent official cumulative report available.
  - c. A map clearly defining the proposed boundary lines or changes in boundary lines.
  - d. Payment of US\$500 as a redistricting fee, which will be waived if the result of redistricting reduces the number of districts.
  - e. Explanation of how the multiple/sub-district(s) will be better served through redistricting.
  - f. An explanation about the programs recently implemented by the sub-district(s) to increase membership and why redistricting is still needed, if redistricting reduces the number of sub-districts.
3. The accounts of all the clubs in the redistricting single or sub-district(s) shall have no outstanding balance of more than US\$100 over 90 days when the redistricting proposal is submitted.
  4. All accounts of any single or sub-district shall be paid in full by June 30 of the fiscal year in which the proposal is submitted.
  5. When a proposal divides an existing sub-district, the name of one of the new sub-districts shall be the same as that of the original sub-district, if circumstances so permit.
  6. All approved redistricting proposals shall take effect at the adjournment of the next international convention. New sub-districts are allowed to elect their governor, first vice governor and second vice governor for the following fiscal year.
  7. Areas that are redistricting by reducing the number of sub-districts to raise the average number of members per sub-district that result in sub-districts that still do not meet the 35/1,250 minimum, may be considered and approved by a 2/3 vote of the International Board of Directors, if it helps strengthen or improve the management of a sub-district and support of clubs.

11. *Who can I contact for more information?*

ANSWER: Contact the English Language Department  
 Email: [englishlanguage@lionsclubs.org](mailto:englishlanguage@lionsclubs.org)  
 Phone: 630-468-6889  
 Fax: 630-706-9244