

# DISTRICT 27-A1 BALLOT REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL & BYLAW AMENDMENTS

On this 7<sup>th</sup> Day of January, 2024, by Resolution of the District 27-A1 Constitution and Bylaws Committee, and as recommended by the District Cabinet of 27-A1, it is hereby put to a vote to adopt the following Amendments to the District 27-A1's Constitution & Bylaws as provided below.

As there are 25 amendments for the Delegates to vote upon, which were the subject of a seminar during the 2024 District 27-A1 Convention, the District 27-A1 Constitution and Bylaws Committees and the 27-A1 District Cabinet, have agreed to submit a fast-track option to vote upon the Amendments with the first 5 Ballot Questions or to allow Delegates to answer all 25 Ballot Questions.

**Ballot Question 1(a&b):** Do you agree to an amendment to Article IX of the Constitution and Article X of the Bylaws controlling the timeline for providing each club with notice for amendments to the District Constitution and/or Bylaws as follows :

Section 3. **NOTICE.** No amendment shall be so reported or voted upon unless the same shall have been published by regular postage or electronic means to each club no less than seventy-five (75) days prior to the convening date of the annual convention with notice that the same will be voted upon at said convention.

Current language: 27-A1's Constitution and Bylaws are silent on this matter.

Reason: The proposed (non-mandatory) language of International's Constitution & Bylaws provides for a 30 day Notice. 27-A1's District Cabinet agreed to adopt a Notice Requirement; however, the District Election Chair has requested that the 30 day deadline be extended to 75 days to allow the Election Chair with sufficient opportunity to review the same given the Holidays and limited time to review the Amendments.

Your Vote:

(a) As to the above Constitutional Amendment:

Yes: No:

(b) As to the above Bylaw Amendment:

Yes: No:

**Ballot Question 2:** Do you agree to an amendment to the Bylaws, Art. II, §2 regarding Election Procedures for District Governor to require written intentions to

run and evidence of his/her compliance with qualifications for said office to be filed with the Nomination Committee 75 days before the election at the District Convention? Said amended language would provide:

**Section 2. DISTRICT GOVERNOR ELECTION PROCEDURES.** Any qualified member of a club in the district seeking the office of district governor shall file his/her intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee seventy-five (75) days before the election, and furnish evidence of his/her compliance with the qualifications for said office set out in the International Constitution and By-Laws. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the district convention the name(s) of all candidate(s) so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the office may be made from the floor. A candidate shall be allowed one nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration.

Current language: 27-A1's Bylaws require said paperwork to be filed "prior to (the Nominating Committee's) report to the convention."

Reason: The District Cabinet and the District Election chair has requested additional time for filing the same so that he/she may comply with requirements of his/her post and preparation of ballots.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 3:** Do you agree to an amendment to the Bylaws, Art. II, §3 regarding Election Procedures for 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governors to include WFL Director and to require written intentions to run and evidence of his/her compliance with qualifications for said offices to be filed with the Nomination's Committee 75 days before the election at the District Convention? The amended language would provide:

**Section 3. 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> VICE DISTRICT GOVERNOR AND WLF DIRECTOR ELECTION PROCEDURES.** Any member of a club in the district seeking the office of first vice district governor, second vice district governor or WLF Director shall file his/her intention to so run in writing with the Nominating Committee at least seventy-five (75) days prior to the election, and furnish evidence of his/her compliance with the qualifications for said office set out in the International Constitution and By-Laws. The Nominating Committee shall place in nomination at the district convention the names of all candidates so qualified. If none are so received and/or so qualified, then, but then only, nominations for the office may be made from the floor. Each candidate shall be allowed one nominating speech of no more than five (5) minutes duration, and one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes duration.

Current language: 27-A1's Bylaws require the same do be performed 30 days prior to the election of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice District Governor. There is no language applicable to election of a WLF Director and adoption of the same will result in

changing the name of the section from “First and Second Vice District Governor Election Procedures” to “1<sup>st</sup> & 2nd Vice District Governor & WLF Director Election Procedures”.

Reason The District Cabinet and the District Cabinet Chair has requested additional time for filing the same so that he/she may comply with requirements of his/her post in preparing ballots.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 4:** Do you agree to an amendment to the Bylaws, Art. II, to add §10 to the Election Procedures to require Clubs who wish to host District Bowling and/or District Golf to provide written intention(s) to so run by including the following language:

Section 10: DISTRICT BOWLING AND DISTRICT GOLF: Each Club within the District who seeks to be placed on a Ballott at the Convention to host District Bowling and/or District Golf in the second year after the annual convention shall file a written intention with the District Election Chair seventy-five (75) days before the Convention at which the vote is to take place.

Current language: 27-A1’s Bylaws are silent as to the matter.

Reason The District Cabinet and the Election Chair has requested adequate time for filing the same so that he/she may comply with requirements of his/her post to prepare the ballots.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 5:** Do you agree to the adoption of all Amendments contained in Ballot Questions 6 to 25 regarding Amendments to both the District 27-A1 Constitution and Bylaws as provided below:

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**If you answered “Yes” to Ballot Question 5, your voting is complete and you may turn in your ballot. If you answered “No” to Ballot Question 5, please answer each Ballot Question below.**

**Ballot Question 6:** Do you agree that the 27-A1 Constitution and Bylaws should be combined into one document consistent with the formatting of International’s combined proposed Constitution and Bylaws.

Current language: 27-A1's Constitution and Bylaws are separate documents with their own table of contents. There is no page numbering but the table of contents does reference page numbers.

Reason: The International's Constitution & Bylaws are combined with one table of contents for both and consistent page numbering throughout. It is much easier to navigate and review specific provisions. When International makes future amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, it will be more efficient to make the amendments to the combined documents because they will be similar to International's mandatory and proposed language.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Proposed Amendments to Constitution:**

**Ballot Question 7:** Do you agree to the amendment of the Mission Statement, as proposed by International Lions, which provides:

TO EMPOWER Lions clubs, volunteers and partners to improve health and well-being, strengthen communities, and support those in need through humanitarian service and grants that impact lives globally, and encourage peace and international understanding to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding.

Current Language TO EMPOWER volunteers to serve their communities, meet humanitarian needs, encourage peace and promote international understanding through Lions clubs.

Reason: Adoption of International's Mission Statement will provide for consistency across International, National, State and other District Mission Statements.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 8:** Do you agree with the adoption of Article VII District Convention, § 3 Quorum, as proposed by International which provides:

Section 3. QUORUM. The attendance in person of a majority of the delegates registered at a convention shall constitute a quorum at any session of the convention.

Current Language: 27-A1's Constitution is silent on the subject.

Reason: Given that 27-A1 does not have a definition of Quorum at a district convention, it is recommended to adopt the definition as proposed by International.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 9:** Do you agree with the adoption of Article VII District Convention, § 4 Special Convention, which provides:

SPECIAL CONVENTION. A Special Convention of the clubs of the District may be called by two-thirds vote of the District Cabinet at such time and place as they shall determine; provided that such Special Convention shall conclude no less than 30 days prior to the convening date of the International Convention and that such Special Convention shall not be convened for the election of the district governor, first vice district governor or second vice district governor. Written notice of the Special Convention setting forth the time, place and purpose thereof, shall be provided to each club in the District by the District Cabinet Secretary, no less than 30 days prior to the convening date of the Special Convention.

Current Language: District 27-A1 is silent on the subject.

Reason: International has included the above Article in its proposed Constitutional language which the District Cabinet considers to be a good provision in case there is an urgent matter which needs to be addressed through a convention.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 10:** Do you agree with the adoption of Article X Amendments, § 4 Effective Date as proposed by International Lions, which provides:

EFFECTIVE DATE: each Amendment shall take effect at the close of the convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

Current Language: District 27-A1 Constitution is silent on the subject.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

### **Proposed Amendments to Bylaws:**

**Ballot Question 11:** Do you agree to the adoption of Art. I, Nomination and Endorsement Third Vice President and International Director Nominees, §§ 1-4 Endorsement Procedure, Nominating, Seconding Speech and Voting, which provide:

Section 1. ENDORSEMENT PROCEDURE. Subject to the provisions of the International Constitution and By-Laws, any member of a Lions club in the district seeking endorsements of a district convention as a candidate for the office of

international director or third vice-president shall: (a) Deliver (by mail or in person) written notice of intention to seek such endorsement to the district governor and if this is a sub-district of a multiple district to the multiple district council secretary treasurer no less than 30 days prior to the convening date of the district convention at which such question of endorsement is to be voted upon; (b) Deliver with said notice of intention evidence of fulfillment of the qualifications for such office set forth in the International Constitution and By-Laws.

Section 2. NOMINATION. Each notice of intention so delivered shall be transmitted forthwith by the district governor to the Nominating Committee of the respective convention, which shall review and perfect the same by obtaining from each prospective candidate any additional evidence of such intention and qualifications as may be necessary under the International Constitution and By-Laws, and shall place in nomination at the respective convention the name of each such prospective candidate who has fulfilled said procedural and constitutional requirements.

Section 3. SECONDING SPEECH. Each such nominee for endorsement shall be entitled to one seconding speech of no more than three (3) minutes in duration.

Section 4. VOTE. The vote on the question of endorsement shall be by secret written ballot, unless there shall be only one nominee seeking the same, in which event a voice vote may be taken. The nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast shall be declared endorsed (elected) as the candidate of the convention and district. In the event of a tie vote, or failure of one nominee to receive the required majority, on any ballot, balloting shall continue until one receives the required majority of the votes cast.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws are silent on the above paragraphs and only have a Certification of Endorsement and Validity sections which are consistent with International's mandatory language

Reason: 27-A1 is required to include §§ 5 & 6 of the Article related to Certificate of Endorsement and Validity, but the Bylaws do not contain any of the above procedures. Therefore, the District Cabinet recommends inclusion of said provisions for the future endorsement of candidates for said International positions.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 12:** Do you agree to the adoption of additional language into Art. II, § 4 regarding Ballots for District Nominations of the District Governor, First and Second Vice District Governor setting forth the procedure in case there is a tie between the nominees, providing:

Section 4. If, on the first ballot, and subsequent ballots, no candidate received a majority, the candidate or tied candidates receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and balloting shall continue until one candidate receives a majority. In case of a tie on any ballot, balloting shall continue on the tied candidates until one is elected.

Current language: 27-A1's Bylaws are silent as to this matter.

Reason: As 27-A1 does not have any procedures in place if a tie were to take place, it is appropriate to adopt a procedure which is consistent with that proposed by International.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 13:** Do you agree to the adoption of additional language to Art. III, Duties of District Officers/Cabinet, §5(g) Global Service Team District Coordinator (GST), which includes one additional responsibility for said position providing:

(g) Act as the advocacy champion for the district to implement activities including but not limited to community awareness/education, legislative/public policy, events and partnerships.

Current language: While the current Bylaws contain a list of responsibilities, it does not contain the above additional language as proposed by International.

Reason: As the language is consistent with 27-A1's responsibilities for said position and International has proposed said responsibility, the District Cabinet recommends adoption of said language and re-lettering of the other paragraphs to accommodate said provision.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 14:** Do you agree to the adoption of Art. III, Duties of District Officers/Cabinet, §9 Leo/Leo Lion Cabinet Liaison, to provide the District Governor with the option to appoint a non-voting Leo to the District Cabinet by including the following language:

Section 9. LEO/LEO-LION CABINET LIAISON (OPTIONAL). The district governor, in consultation with the district Leo chair, may choose to appoint a Leo or a Leo-Lion to serve a one-year term in an official non-voting capacity. The Leo/Leo-Lion cabinet liaison shall represent the interests and perspectives of Leos and Leo-Lions and facilitate communication and connection between Leos and Lions. In areas with a

Leo district president, vice-president, secretary, or treasurer. In areas where no Leo district has been formed, the role shall be filled by a Leo or a Leo-Lion who is a current or former Leo club president.

The district governor shall assign the Leo/Leo-Lion cabinet Liaison to the standing cabinet committee(s) that would most benefit from a young adult voice. The cabinet liaison may remain on the same committee for the duration of the year or transition among committees as determined by the district governor.

The responsibilities of the Leo/Leo/Lion cabinet liaison include:

- (a) Facilitate communication between Leos and Lions within the district.
- (b) Serve as a resource to district cabinet officers and assigned committee(s).
- (c) Coordinate with the district Leo chairperson in the promotion of the Leo club, Leo-Lion programs, and engagement opportunities for young people within the Lion's district.
- (d) Support district Leo chairperson in conducting training for Leo district officers.
- (e) Advocate for leadership and leadership training for Leos and Leo-Lions within Lions district activities.
- (f) Serve as support and point of contact for district Leos to explore Lions membership program opportunities.
- (g) Communicate with Leo district president, Leo/Leo-Lion council liaison (if appointed), and the constitutional area representative of the Leo Club Program Advisory Panel to collaborate on initiatives related to young people.
- (h) Assist in planning and integration of Leos and Leo-Lions in Lions district convention, forum events and trainings.
- (i) Attend Leo district meetings as necessary.
- (j) Chair one district collaboration project between Leos and Lions.

Current language: 27-A1 Bylaws are silent on the subject.

Reason: The addition of a Leo into as a District Cabinet member position will further the effort to incorporate youth into Lions International.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 15:** Do you agree to the adoption of the additional language contained in Art. V, Meetings, §1(e) District Cabinet Meetings, which allows all members of the District Cabinet to vote at District Cabinet meetings by including the bolded language into the existing language of the provision:

(d) Vote. The voting privilege shall extend to all members of the district cabinet **as defined in Article VI, Section 2 of this district constitution.**

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain the bolded language.



Reason: All members of the district cabinet already vote at Cabinet meetings. To be certain that it remains that way, the adoption of International's language is recommended.

Your Vote:

Yes: No:

**Ballot Question 16:** Do you agree to the adoption of footnote 13 of Art. VI, District Convention, §1 Convention Site Selection, to provide that there is no restriction to holding the district convention outside the geographical location of the district by including the following footnote:

fn13 There is no restriction to holding the location of the district convention outside the geographic location of the district unless otherwise restricted by amendment of the district constitution and by-laws.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: The last two conventions were held outside the geographical location and were a great success. Such language is recommended to be included in the Bylaws so that there is no misunderstanding in this respect.

Your Vote:

Yes: No:

**Ballot Question 17:** Do you agree to the adoption of Art. VI District Convention, §9 District Convention Committees, as proposed by International, to provide that the District Governor can fill any vacancies in the district convention committees during the district convention by including the following language:

DISTRICT CONVENTION COMMITTEES. The district governor shall appoint the chairperson of, and fill any vacancies occurring in the following district convention committees: Resolutions, Elections, Constitution and By-Laws, Rules of Procedure and International Convention. Each region, if any, shall have at least one representative on each such committee. These committees shall perform such duties as the district governor shall delegate.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: The District Governor of 27-A1 does currently make such appointments and inclusion of the language in the Bylaws shall ensure that practice will continue.

Your Vote:

Yes: No:

**Ballot Question 18:** Do you agree to the adoption of Art. VIII District Administrative Fund, § 1 Remaining Funds, as proposed by International Lions, provide as follows:

Section 1. REMAINING FUNDS. In any fiscal year, any balance remaining in the district administrative fund after payment of all district administrative expenses in that year shall remain in said district administrative fund and become available for future district administrative expenses and be treated as income in any fiscal year in which expended or otherwise budgeted for payment of such expenses.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: This is the unwritten policy already followed by 27-A1 and codification of said policy is appropriate.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 19:** Do you agree to the adoption of Article IX Miscellaneous, §1 Financial Obligations, as proposed by International, providing:

Section 1. FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS. The district governor and his/her cabinet shall not incur obligations in any fiscal year which will effect an unbalanced budget or deficit in said fiscal year.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: It is fiscally responsible to adopt such a provision.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 20:** Do you agree to the adoption of Article IX Miscellaneous, §2 Cabinet Secretary-Treasurer Bond, as proposed by International Lions, providing:

Section 2. CABINET SECRETARY-TREASURER BOND. The cabinet secretary-treasurer and authorized signatories shall be bonded in such amount and with such surety company as shall be approved by the district governor's cabinet and the cost of same shall be an administrative expense.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: It is fiscally appropriate to adopt such a provision and is a practice currently followed by 27-A1.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 21:** Do you agree to adoption of the language under Article IX Miscellaneous, §3 Audit or Review of Books, as proposed by International Lions, providing:

Section 3. AUDIT OR REVIEW OF BOOKS. The district governor's cabinet shall provide for an annual or more frequent audit or review of the books and accounts of the cabinet secretary and cabinet treasurer (or secretary or treasurer).

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: It is fiscally responsible to adopt such a provision and is a practice currently followed by 27-A1.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 22:** Do you agree to the adoption of the language under Article IX Miscellaneous, §4 Compensation, as recommended by the District Cabinet, providing that:

Section 4. COMPENSATION. No officer shall receive any compensation for any service rendered to this district in his/her official capacity including cabinet members.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: It is fiscally responsible to adopt such a provision and is a practice currently followed by 27-A1.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 23:** Do you agree to the adoption of Article IX Miscellaneous, §5 Fiscal Year, as proposed by International Lions, providing:

Section 5. FISCAL YEAR. The fiscal year of this district shall be from July 1st to June 30th.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: It is fiscally responsible to adopt such a provision and is a practice currently followed by 27-A1.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 24:** Do you agree to the adoption of Article IX Miscellaneous, §6 Rules of Procedure, as proposed by International Lions, providing:

Section 6. RULES OF PROCEDURE. Except as otherwise specifically provided in this constitution and by-laws, or in the rules of procedure adopted for a meeting, all questions of order and procedure adopted for a meeting, all questions of order and procedure in any district meeting or convention, any meeting of the district cabinet, region, zone or member club or of any group or committee of any one of them shall be determined by ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER, NEWLY REVISED.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: It is appropriate to establish procedures for the conduct of meetings.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No:

**Ballot Question 25:** Do you agree to the adoption of Article X Amendment, § 3 Effective Date, as proposed by International Lions, providing the date upon which amendments become effective as follows:

Section 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. Each amendment shall take effect at the close of the convention at which adopted unless otherwise specified in the amendment.

Current language: The 27-A1 Bylaws do not contain such language.

Reason: It is appropriate to establish the effective dates for amendments which are consistent with the effective dates for amendments to the Constitution.

Your Vote:

Yes:

No: