

MD19 Strategic Planning Committee

PCC John Kirry, Chairperson

In early October, we received the good news that the MD19 Redistricting Plan had been approved by the full Lions International Board of Directors. The Strategic Planning Committee began working on the redistrict plan in July 2020. After three years of careful planning and coordination by the SPC, MD19 will officially change from our nine current districts to five newly consolidated districts.

Because our Redistricting Plan will take effect at the close of the July 2023 International Convention, our first and most important step for MD19 was to conduct an online election of officers for the newly formed five Districts, named L-I-O-N-S. That online election was conducted by ElectionBuddy at a Special MD19 Convention called to take place over a three-day period December 1-3.

Congratulations to each of the candidates who were elected in our five new Districts:

For District 19–L — DGE Elaine Luk, and 1st VDGE Michael Stanford.

For District 19–I — DGE Michael Livingstone, 1st VDGE Jennifer Edgar and 2nd VDGE Charles Robinson.

For District 19–O — DGE Joel Haggan, 1st VDGE Beth James and 2nd VDGE Jack Peebles.

For District 19–N — DGE Lisa Ikeda, 1st VDGE Leslie Chasse and 2nd VDGE Robert Johnson.

For District 19–S — DGE Kenneth Cook, and 1st VDGE Tammy Alan.

These District Governors Elect have been scheduled to attend the Lions International DGE school in Saint Charles Illinois held February 6 -10, 2023.

The further work of merging our districts will now be borne by the District merger teams from each pair of adjacent districts. Merger committees from those districts are now engaged in the collaborative work of consolidating such functions as district budgets, finances and assets, Constitution and Bylaws, District GMT -GLT -GST, district Cabinet make-up, consolidation of websites, newsletters, and social media accounts, district/multiple District representation issues and combining district conventions.

The Strategic Planning Committee will continue to assist these merging districts. We stand ready to host redistricting workshops via Zoom for the new district merger committees at their request and convenience. Each session will be dedicated to a specific merging district. The format will be an open, round-table discussion of the redistricting issues unique to that individual district. We will explore the many challenges and opportunities that lie ahead as we transition to a five district MD-19 in July 2023. Contact the MD19 office or the SPC Chair, PCC John Kirry, to schedule your District's merger committee meetings.

One final note. As the Districts take on the larger role in making redistricting a success, I wish to offer my heartfelt thanks to the members of the Strategic Planning Committee for their unselfish and dedicated service these past three years. Without their vision, leadership, energy and enthusiasm, this most significant and forward-looking change in the recent history of our Multiple District would not have been possible.