

The Role of the District Merger Committee

Each District should have a strong merger committee. Respective District merger committees meet with, discuss and negotiate the details of how to combine districts. A merger transition plan should be discussed and considered and this transition plan should set goals of future effective dates and timelines for completion. Merger Committee Suggestion: IPDG, DG, 1VDG, 2VDG. Specialists will also provide key functions. For example, the Treasurer could help with the merging of finances, the Governance committee could assist with combining the Constitution and Bylaws and other key functionaries such as the District GMT, GLT and GST could be a great assistance in merging areas within their expertise.

Elections - District Officers

This is a key area of concern for Districts. Who will be the new DG going forward in 2023? Keep in mind that the only time the new district team may be elected is following the board meeting when the proposal was approved (Estimating this to take place in October, 2022) and just prior to the International convention when the redistricting takes place (June/July 2023). Summary: The election must take place during a properly called meeting of the delegates of the **new** district. It is suggested that the election take place during an existing district or multiple district convention for which the delegates would normally attend.

Election at Multiple District Convention – The delegates from clubs that are in the **new** sub-districts may gather in a separate meeting room for the purposes of holding an election for district governor as provided for in the International By-laws, Article 1X. When a meeting during the multiple district convention cannot be held, a meeting may also be called for the purpose of an election.

District Budget and Finance

- District checkbook account/savings
- Merging of Escrow and Operations Accounts.
- Districts may hold monetary assets such as income from dues and should be allocated in a way that is fair. Some areas have split the remaining funds by the number of members (or clubs) that will be in the new district or in a way that supports activities that will be used by the newly formed district. Identify a strategy that would best support your area. Consider any Legacy District Fundraising efforts.

Other District Assets to Consider

- Equipment that is owned by the district
- Space or leases that are contracted by the district
- District foundations
- Contracts that either the district is bound by or a party to Any other commitment or service provided by the district

District Constitution and Bylaws: Whose C&BL will be used?

It is recommended that the districts adopt a Standard Constitution and Bylaws (available in the Board Policy Manual and online at LCI) and then determine what special carveouts may be needed for each district. Keep in mind that the Standard District Constitution and By-Laws will be the governing document until the amended District Constitution and By-Laws is approved by the delegates of the new district.

District Leadership Programs GLT

- New Club Officer training
- Guiding Lion Training
- Recognition Programs
- Other legacy training programs from each district.

District Membership Programs GMT

- Recruiting and New Club forming programs
- Zone Chair Recruiting/Recognition
- Lions Journey Implementation for New members
- LEO Clubs
- Virtual Clubs

District Service Projects GST

- Childhood Cancer
- Vision and Eyeglass Recycling
- Hunger
- Diabetes
- Environment
- Other legacy service programs from each district.

District websites, newsletters and social media accounts

Combine these assets and plan phase-in, phase-out for websites and other social media

District or Multiple District Representation

- Position on foundations (NW Lions Leadership Institute, Northwest Lions Eyeglass Recycling Center, Camp Leo, Project New Hope, Camp Horizon, Camp Stix MD19 Lions foundation, Northwest Lions Foundation, CLERC, BC Society and other foundations.
- Positions on multiple district or area projects
- Other positions within the government or outside organization that would be held by a representative of the district

District Spring Convention

- Budgets
- Staffing
- Location

In summary, the District Merger Committees are key to blending the two districts. Each District Governor team should select a strong group to properly represent their District and every effort should be made to select individuals who are cooperative leaders and problem solvers.