

Redistricting of MD9
From 7 districts to 4
February 26,2022
Redistricting Committee

At the October 2021 Council meeting, the Council of Governors unanimously passed a resolution to form a redistricting committee, with a representative from each of the current districts. The members include PCC Ken Reed 9NC, IPCC Judy Stone 9MC, PDG Dale Schoening 9NW, PCC Terry Durham 9EC, PCC Paul Hain 9SE, PDG Jack Schesselman 9NE, PCC Pat Parker 9SW, and PID Norm Dean EX-Officio. Council Chairperson Bryan Bross is serving as committee chair.

The necessity of this process is simple. We currently have 7 districts with 6 of the 7 districts under a total membership count of 1250. LCI considers districts with 1250 or less members to be “transitional”. Which means the district is in a downward spiral in terms of membership and begins to lose certain abilities like placing a member in the running for International Director. It is important that MD9 Iowa have international representation at the board level as our voice to the LCI world. Being transitional also reduces our ability to put forth solid district leaders.

Of our 7 districts, we have 3 districts that are under 900, 1 district that is under 650, 2 districts that are within 25 from being at 1250 and 1 district that is 65 away from 1250. Our current rate of loss members is at 250 per year with some years closer to 400. At the writing of the document, our numbers are:

9EC – 1240, 9MC – 887, 9NC – 865, 9NE – 1195, 9NW – 623, 9SE – 890, 9SW – 1278.

This should not be taken as a personal, club or district failure. Most of the United States has seen a decline in membership for the past 40+ years. But we need to embrace this concept and work together as a multiple district to have it succeed.

First Step: We began our process by researching LCI rules on redistricting, speaking with other multiple districts that have been through it or are going through it now. We have LCI representatives involved to ensure we are working the process and that what we present to LCI for approval will be accepted.

Second Step: the committee has moved into high gear creating a timeline, map, and presentations that will be used to help our clubs understand the why this is necessary, the timeline that is required, how the process will affect them and how we need every member’s help to make this work.

Third Step: We need our District Governors to volunteer to help walk our clubs through the process. We will provide with the training, presentations and plans as needed.

Our proposal is simple and is laid out in the attached document, “Redistricting Proposal for State Convention in May 2023.” We are asking for Council approval to develop the plans to put redistricting on the ballot at the State Convention in May 2023.

Sincerely,

Bryan C. Bross, MD9 Council Chairperson 21/22

Lions Clubs of Iowa – Redistricting Proposal for State Convention in May 2023.

- We recommend that we redistrict. Why?
 - Over the last 13 years, we have lost consistently over 250 members per year.
 - It has accelerated over the last several years but is a 40+ year decline.
 - We have lost a great number of clubs over the last several years.
 - We want this to be a decision WE make rather than something being forced upon us.
 - We are having a hard time finding leadership in our current situation
 - We have 6 districts that are transitional now (less than 1250 members or 35 clubs)
 - We have one district less than 650 and with only 30 clubs
 - Even if we could solve the membership bleed now, we would still be transitional
 - We are recommending that the Council endorse moving forward to putting this on the agenda at the May 2023 convention. It is not up to the Council what the Lions of Iowa vote to do.
- We recommend we redistrict to four new districts
 - If we go to 5 districts, we will be transitional again in less than 2 years.
 - While we realize that 4 districts will increase the geographic area of each district, this is not unheard of in North America.
 - With the current state of things (i.e. lack of leadership, lack of new service, lack of member engagement), we need to look at a complete reset statewide.
 - We are more likely to find more leaders to cultivate and encourage with a larger geographic area.
 - We are recommending that the Council endorse 4 districts, but not a specific map since the boundaries may shift slightly as clubs and members come and go.
- We recommend renaming the new districts I, O, W, & A
 - This is a simple anagram to represent who we are.
- We recommend adoption of the general district boundaries as shown in the attached map
 - The western district is necessarily larger because two thirds of the clubs are in the eastern side of the state.
 - Do we redistrict by geographical area or by population/membership? We've recommended by population/membership because LCI won't accept the geographical area as a basis.
 - The first map puts all the travel on the district that is currently failing the most
 - The second map distributes the pain of travel across all districts
- We recommend preparing the plan to put on the agenda at the 2023 State Convention
 - This will require a leadership team in each proposed district area. These folks will need to work with the GLT. Ideally, this would include identifying 4 "3rd Vice District Governors" that would assume their roles as DGs of the new districts.
 - The leadership team from each new district in consultation with the GMT will need to develop a plan based on best practices and recommendations from LCI and other successful districts.
- We recommend we focus on club support and leadership development rather than numbers
 - Are we presenting our new leaders with a positive attitude?
 - Are we creating a positive atmosphere that supports "I can do this"?
 - Are we presenting a positive image of Lions at the level greater than that of the local club?

What do other multiple districts wish they had done better when they redistricted?

- We wish we would have cut deeper the first time because now we are back at it again.
- We didn't market it well enough.
- Nobody is building their own castle. We are all in the same bucket.
- There aren't any good or bad districts. Each district has its own share of problems and successes.