

MESSAGE REGARDING PROPOSED AMEMNDMENT TO MD 32 CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS  
LION RANDY THOMAS, COUNCIL SECRETARY-TREASURER 2014-2015

One of the most important matters that will be taken up at the state convention in Myrtle Beach this March is a vote on a proposed amendment to the Multiple District Constitution and Bylaws. This amendment deals primarily with dues and finances, and the Council and I thought a brief explanation of the nature of these proposed changes would be helpful to the delegates attending the convention and being asked to vote on the matter.

Several significant points we wish to emphasize are as follows:

- 1) The amendment does not include a proposed dues increase. A dues increase would likely have been needed if we had not changed the Palmetto Lion from a printed publication to an on-line newsletter, as we had been operating at a deficit over the last several years and the cost of printing and mailing the Palmetto Lion absorbed over one-half of our annual budget. It should be noted that International is also shortly planning to convert the Lions Magazine from print to digital.
- 2) The amendment does not redirect these Palmetto Lion cost savings to an increase in the budget for general and administrative expenses of the Council. The savings from changing the Palmetto Lion to a digital version have primarily been applied toward balancing our budget without increasing expenditures in most other areas.
- 3) The proposed amendment does include some provisions to provide future Councils with more flexibility for annual budget preparation and management. The current by-laws allocates \$.65 of each \$4.65 semiannual dues assessment for each state Lion to three restricted funds (International Campaign Fund, International Convention Fund, and State Convention Fund), with the remaining \$4.00 allocated to several administrative type funds in specific amounts, including a fund for the Palmetto Lion. The proposed amendment retains the same three restricted funds and in fact increases dues allocated to these funds from \$.65 to \$1.15 (Council budgets over last several years have of necessity been making transfers from unrestricted funds to restricted funds to cover expenses for conventions); the remaining \$3.50 of semi-annual dues now goes to a "General" fund that each Council can annually budget for administrative expenses as deemed needed. The amendment also provides the Council with the flexibility to reallocate the \$1.15 designated for restricted funds between the restricted funds each year as needed (for example when International Convention is held off-shore, they may allocate a larger portion of the restricted dues to that fund than in other years when the convention is held in the continental US).

We hope these comments clear up any confusion about the proposed amendment and MD 32 finances, and look forward to seeing a large group of Lions in March at the State Convention in Myrtle Beach.