

MEMORANDUM

TO: Council of Governors, Multiple District 21

FROM: Richard H. Stevenson, District Governor, 21-S

DATE: November 5, 2025

SUBJECT: Recommendation for Equitable Allocation of MD and District Dues

Council Members,

I would like to address two items regarding our finances, the first involves the **ALLOCATION OF EXPENSES** by the Constitution and By-Laws and the second involves the **ALLOCATION OF REVENUES**.

FUNDING OF EXPENSES UPDATE:

There has been a long-held belief that MD funds are restricted to specific purposes based on the language in the MD Constitution and By-Laws. This has limited the Council's flexibility to adjust expenditures as circumstances change. The Constitution and By-Laws Committee has since clarified that the CBL does not require fixed allocations—it provides guidance only. Therefore, the Council already possesses the authority to allocate funds as it deems appropriate. It may be of value to clarify this wording the next time we update the Constitution.

“EXHIBIT “B” ARTICLE VII Multiple District Funding

Funds collected for any of the following funds **may be used for any purpose other than outlined in said section and in such manner as specified in the Constitution and Bylaws.** The Council may reallocate monies to different Funds as approved by two-thirds (2/3rds) vote of its voting members and the advice and consent of the MD21 Finance Committee. This is a breakdown of the \$14.00 administrative assessment (dues) as authorized in the Bylaws, Article VII, Section 1, and serves as a **budgetary guideline.**”

ALLOCATION OF REVENUES:

Currently, Lions of MD-21 pay a total of twenty-one dollars in annual dues, of which fourteen dollars go to the Multiple District and seven dollars go to the individual districts. For District 21-S, this translates to approximately \$6,500 annually to cover all district expenses. This amount is insufficient to support the increased travel, administrative, and program costs associated with the new growth targets established by Lions International.

After basic overhead costs, the remaining funds would only cover the expense of roughly the distance of a single round trip from Phoenix to Safford. While additional funding is clearly needed, we do not wish to raise dues for our members, particularly as Lions Clubs International will implement a \$10 dues increase in Hong Kong.

To provide greater balance and operational support, we recommend that the current dues be split evenly between the Multiple District and the Districts—\$10.50 each. This adjustment would increase District revenues by 50% and reduce MD revenues by only 25%. The reduction amounts to about \$8,000 annually—less than 10% of the MD's existing Growth Fund balance, which currently holds approximately \$80,000, or about two and a half times the MD's annual revenue.

The 21-S Cabinet has unanimously passed a resolution recommending that the Council approve this equitable 50/50 dues split. We further request that the Constitution and By-Laws Committee prepare the necessary wording changes to both the MD and District Constitutions for presentation and vote at the upcoming MD Convention, with an effective implementation date of July 1, 2026.

This adjustment will enable the Districts to function more effectively, preserve the MD's financial strength, and ensure that Lions' funds are used wisely and where they are most needed.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully,
Richard H. Stevenson
District Governor, 21-S