



Multiple District 410
Council Chairperson 2019 - 2020
Jacqui Hocking

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#410WeServe



Service Knows No Boundaries

19 March 2020

To: MD410 Council / MD410 Incoming Council / Past District Governors / District Cabinet Officers / Presidents & Secretaries of ALL Clubs

Dear Fellow Lions,

THE TOUGHEST DECISIONS ARE MADE IN THE MOST CRUCIAL TIMES

The MD410 Council of Governors hereby confirms that in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic that has hit our world, that **the MD410 Convention scheduled for 1 to 3 May 2020 has been postponed to June 2020.**

This decision was certainly not an easy one and was taken following numerous consultations with all the various role players within the Lions Organisation, RSA Department of Health, Multi-National and National Companies, Riverside Hotel and the Convention Committee in terms of "best practice". At all times our focus has been on ensuring the wellbeing, health and safety of our Lions.

At this juncture, the MD410 Council wishes to record their thanks to all who have provided input and put countless hours into investigating possible solutions, in particular from a Lionistic point of view, the MD410 Constitutions, By-Laws, Resolutions and Protocol Committee under the Chairmanship of PCC Cliff Hocking, the MD410 Convention Committee under the Chairmanship of Lion Trevor Hobbs, the MD410 GAT Team (PCC Cliff Hocking, PDG Paula Lang, PDG Ian King) and MDC Alert, Lion Neville van Rensburg.

THE WAY FORWARD:

By way of clarity and how we have arrived at looking at a possible postponement, I include a summary of the extract regarding the Constitutional requirements.

Constitutional Requirements in terms of MD Conventions:

Article 9 - Multiple District Convention, Section 1 – Frequency of the **MD 410 Constitution** states: "A convention of the Multiple District shall be held each year not later than thirty (30) days prior to the date set for the International Convention".

Article IX - District Conventions and Elections, Section 1 District (Single, Sub and Multiple)

Conventions of the **International Constitution** states:

"Each multiple district shall hold an annual convention which shall conclude no less than 15 days prior to the convening date of the international convention.

Postponement and Rescheduling of the Convention:

In terms of Article 5 – Supremacy of the Multiple District 410 Constitution, the MD Constitution shall govern the Multiple District so as not to conflict with the International Constitution & By-Laws, and should a conflict or contradiction exist, then the International Constitution and By-Laws shall govern. As per the postponement recommended above, a revised MD 410 Convention will have to be concluded no later than 12 June 2020.

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MD410 Convention Committee:

It is appreciated that this will place a huge burden on the Convention Committee and I appeal to all Lions who are currently registered to please refrain from sending emails to the Convention Committee, as each of you will be contacted in regard to the process to follow in terms of your registrations, hotel bookings, etc.

However, please ensure that you cancel or postpone any of your travel plans with particular reference to flight bookings. It should please be noted, that whilst we have empathy that in some cases, airlines may well charge a cancellation fee, the MD410 Council cannot compensate any Lion, as this postponement is due to circumstances way beyond anyone's control.

The MD410 Convention Convener, Lion Trevor Hobbs and his Committee will be advising the MD410 Council as to the final "cut off" date, which we anticipate to be end April 2020 in terms of the venues, etc. in order that if the current situation is still prevalent, the convention, in its current format, can be cancelled to enable alternative plans to be put in place.

In the event of further postponement and/or cancellation:

Should the revised MD410 Convention arrangements not be allowed to materialise, there will be no alternative other than to convene a physical meeting of the MD410 Council of Governors, followed by "virtual" convention whereby Club delegates would be required to vote on Constitutional and Ordinary Resolutions, Christmas Cake pricing and other essential items only.

Plans for the accreditation of voting delegates and the like will be put in place and the MD410 Constitutions and Credentials Committees are geared up for implementation thereof as well as other aspects they will need to be taken into account.

RLLI:

Following discussion with LCI, they have agreed to us postponing the RLLI and MD410 GLT Co-ordinator, PDG Paula Lang will communicate on a new date and venue once this has been decided – however in all probability this will only take place in the new fiscal year.

RC/ZC Training:

This will take place in-District. Once again dates and venues will be advised via the District GLT Co-ordinators.

Unfortunately, none of us has a "crystal ball" and the main focus for the country and Multiple District 410 is to act in a responsible manner. Only once this awful pandemic has been brought under control will we be able to put plans in place to continue our "business" as normal and there is no predicted time frame for this.

We sincerely thank you for your understanding in this time of crisis and please take care and be safe.

Yours in Lionism,

Jacqui

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Multiple District 410

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