

Michigan District, Optimist International

July 2020

Policy Proposals

Changes to current policies and new policies

[Proposal #1: C2. FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BUDGET](#) (Policy Change)

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Proposal #1:

C2. FINANCE COMMITTEE AND BUDGET

CURRENT:

There shall be a three member rotating committee, as provided for in the Optimist International bylaws, which states that the Governor shall appoint a person of

PROPOSED:

There shall be a three member rotating committee to which the Governor shall appoint a person of

(No such language is provided in the Optimist International bylaws.)

CURRENT:

The financial committee shall exercise advisory supervision over all financial transactions district financial records and shall: Oversee the preparation

PROPOSED:

The financial committee shall oversee the preparation

(Since the finance committee meets quarterly with the District Treasurer and Governor to review the financial transactions, the above phrase is not necessary. See the last paragraph in C2.)

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Proposal #2:

D5. DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTEST

CURRENT:

The District is divided into four areas composed of the following zones.

AREA I – North/Northeast

AREA II – Central/West/Southeast

AREA III – East

AREA IV – Southeast including the City of Detroit

Below are specified counties allocated to each area.

AREA III – consists of the following counties: Genesee; Huron; Lapeer; Lenawee; Livingston; Oakland; Sanilac; Shiawassee; Tuscola; Washtenaw

AREA V – consists of the following counties: Macomb, Monroe, St. Clair, Wayne

PROPOSED:

The District is divided into five areas composed of the following counties.

AREA I – NO CHANGE

AREA II – NO CHANGE

AREA III – consists of the following counties: Genesee; Huron; Lapeer; Lenawee; Livingston; Macomb; Sanilac; Shiawassee; St. Clair; Tuscola; Washtenaw

AREA IV – consists of the following counties: Oakland

AREA V – consists of the following counties: Monroe; Wayne

(If this change is adopted, there will be more balance in the district. The area contests would also be more manageable and give more student an opportunity to compete in a smaller setting. And, if adopted, there would be up to 10 speakers competing for the scholarship at the district conference in May every year, rather than the four of five we have had the past few years.)

CURRENT:

Should an area not have enough clubs participating (Minimum of 3 clubs) the club will send the participants to the closest area hosting a regional contest.

PROPOSED:

Delete this sentence.

(It is already covered in the Optimist International Oratorical Rules.)

Proposal #3:

C4. DISTRICT DUES

PROPOSED:

Add the following paragraph:

Michigan District clubs outside of the United States are excluded from payment of district dues.

(I want to have verbiage added so that members of the Michigan District for clubs outside of the United States are not charged district dues. These clubs do not receive any benefit from the Michigan District. They are unable to attend conferences. They do not attend any of our training sessions. The only benefit they do receive is an electronic copy of our district bulletin (aka OptiViews) since we do not want to pay for printing and international postage. The clubs can better use these monies towards benefitting youth within their local communities. This will have a negative impact on income for the Michigan District as we would no longer collect dues for these members. There are 58 members currently in the three Uganda clubs which is a total annual impact of \$870 which I believe the Michigan District can afford.)

C6. CONVENTION ALLOCATION FROM DISTRICT DUES

PROPOSED:

Add the following paragraph:

Michigan District clubs outside of the United States are excluded from allocation since they do not pay district dues.

(If the change for policy C4 is approved, it would also impact the language in Policy C6. Since district dues would not be charged for these clubs, there would be no allocation for the annual convention.)

PROPOSED:

(I would like to make the policy changes to C4 and C6 retroactive to the start of our current Optimist year (10/01/2019))

NOTE: The person making Proposal #3 also wanted to add paragraphs to C4 and C6 regarding Friends of Optimists. Friends of Optimists are not members of Michigan clubs and are not members of the Michigan District. They currently do not pay Michigan District dues.

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Proposal #4:

A20. LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Current:

The Long-Range Planning Committee shall formulate three-year and five-year goals and objectives for the District. The focus of the committee should be on: improving communications to the clubs and the public using modern technology; better use of leadership skills; more efficient meetings and operations of the District. This committee may consider any other topic that is deemed appropriate.

Proposed:

The Long-Range Planning Committee shall formulate five-year goals and objectives for the District. The focus of the committee is to provide vision and direction that moves the District forward. The committee shall consider ways to improve service to the local clubs as well as ways to establish and strengthen our brand throughout the Michigan District. The committee should maximize the technology available to bring out the best in our leadership, as well as drive efficiency in meetings and operations throughout the District. This committee may consider any other topic that is deemed appropriate.

Current:

The Committee will annually prepare a report to the Governor and the Board of Directors to be presented at the District convention at their first meeting as a planning tool.

Proposed:

The Committee will annually prepare a plan to the Governor and the Board of Directors to be presented and adopted at the District Convention.

The Committee will prepare a report to be presented and approved at each quarterly District conference and at convention, using a progress report format to show the progress toward reaching the goals of the committee and the District.

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Proposal #5

A20. LONG RANGE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Current:

The Committee will be made up of five members each with a three-year appointment. The District Governor shall appoint persons of leadership and ability to serve as vacancies occur.

The Committee will consist of a past governor, a past district secretary/treasurer, a present or past member of the finance committee, and two members at large who are members in good standing and possess the appropriate leadership skills. The District governor and District Governor-Elect shall act as advisory members to this committee. The chairperson shall be appointed by the District Governor from the committee members.

Proposed:

The Committee shall be made up of a maximum of 10 members:

- The actual committee shall be comprised of a past Governor, a past District secretary/treasurer or a secretary and/or a treasurer, a present or past member of the finance committee, two at large members. The actual committee shall be a three-year appointment (this is a rolling three-year commitment). The District Governor shall appoint the chairman and the chairman shall choose the remaining members.
- The advisory members shall be the current governor, the governor-elect, the current secretary/treasurer or secretary and/or treasurer, a current finance committee member, and the most recent past governor.

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Proposal #6:

C2.2 CONTRACT REVIEW & APPROVAL

Proposed:

All contracts committing the District must be approved by the District Finance committee. The District Governor has the authority to review contract policy with the District Finance Committee and the District Governor-Elect.

The District Finance Committee has the authority to give the District Governor-Elect signatory authorization if a contract is due to be signed within 7 calendar days of the contract confirmation/agreement date to be valid, if not signing might negatively affect a planned district conference or convention for the next Optimist year.

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Proposal #7:

F. MARKETING

F.1. MARKETING COMMITTEE

Proposed:

The marketing Committee shall formulate strategies that shall raise brand awareness as well as establish corporate relationships that result in sponsorships that fully fund all districts events.

The Committee will annually prepare a report that will lay out their strategy in order to complete their mission for the remaining year and that plan will be presented to the Governor and the Board of Directors at the first quarter meeting.

The committee shall be made up of no more than 10 members. The committee shall consist of a committee chair, and additional members can be from the following: a past secretary/treasurer or secretary and/or treasurer, a past finance committee member, a member at large. The advisory members can include the current governor, the governor-elect, the current secretary/treasurer or secretary and/or treasurer, a current finance committee member, and most recent past governor, at the committee chair's discretion.

The committee chair shall be a three-year appointment. The District Governor shall appoint the chairman and the chairman shall choose the remaining members.

Proposed:

Should all of the above proposals be approved, the District Policies Table of Contents will have to be revised to include Section C.2.2. and F. and F.1.

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