

Proposed Policy Changes:

Optimist International introduced a billing option for Districts in 2015-2016 where they included District billing as a unique line item on the International bill. Atlantic Central District requested an exception to policy to participate in this offering for 2015-2016. By utilizing this option it allowed a cleaner billing process for both the district and clubs. Therefore, the Policy Committee recommends changing District billing from semi-annual to quarterly with the following changes to section 20:

20. DISTRICT DUES

Subject to approval at the Convention, each member Club shall submit to the District Secretary/Treasurer, through Optimist International billing, annual dues in the amount of twelve dollars (\$12.00) for each Member; except for full time college students for whom the annual dues will be six dollars (\$6.00), payable ~~semi-annually~~ quarterly as of October 1st, January 1st, and April 1st, and July 1st based on the International official starting membership on October 1st, January 1st, April 1st, and membership on record as of July 1st, ~~March 31st~~. When a dues increase has been approved by Convention Delegates, such increase must also be approved by Optimist International.

In recent years that have been occurrences when expense reports have not been submitted in a timely manner as stated in the District Policy. Since the policy allows for the Finance Committee to approve exceptions, the Policy Committee believes that strengthening the verbiage within the policy will eliminate what may be a misunderstanding by our members. Therefore the Policy Committee recommends the following change to section 22(A):

22. AUTHORIZED EXPENSES AND FEES

A. Authorized individuals shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred on District business upon receipt by the District Treasurer of a properly completed and signed voucher. Reimbursement shall be at the rate of thirty cents (\$.30) per mile except that no reimbursements shall be made for visitations to the individual's home club. All reimbursements shall be made within the limits of budget and available funds. All expense reports are to be submitted monthly. In the event any individual fails to submit his/her expense report within ten (10) days following the end of each of the first three fiscal quarters, an amount not to exceed twenty-five (25) percent of his/her total mileage budget ~~may~~ **WILL** be, ~~at the discretion of the Finance Committee,~~ forfeited, and reallocated

Members may belong to multiple clubs within the Atlantic Central District. While participation in each club is encouraged voting for district at district meetings if done by the Board of Directors as defined within the policy. Section 32 speaks to methods of voting and that this is conducted by accredited delegates. While the district policy speaks to accredited delegates it does not define the requirements for them, therefore the Policy Committee recommends that following addition to section 32:

32. VOTING

D. No Member shall be deemed to be an accredited delegate unless he/she has registered at the district meeting and/or convention and paid the required registration fee. Delegates wishing to vote on behalf of multiple clubs must have a paid registration for each club.

Proposed Policy Changes:

While District Contest participation in the Oratorical, Essay and Communication Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing (CCDHH) are not required, if they are run by the District they must be conducted in accordance with Optimist International (OI) rules. To better reflect the optional participation in these contests and to insure the timing of these contests align with OI rules the Policy Committee recommends the following changes sections 44(A), 45(A), and 46(A):

44. DISTRICT ORATORICAL CONTESTS

A. The District ~~shall~~may conduct an Oratorical Contest each year. The District Contest Finals will be held ~~by May 31~~in accordance with OI rules.

45. DISTRICT ESSAY CONTEST

A. The District ~~shall~~may conduct an Essay Contest each year. The required information regarding the District Winner shall be forwarded to the International Office ~~no later than February 15~~in accordance with OI rules/.

46. DISTRICT COMMUNICATIONS CONTEST FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING [CCDHH]

A. The District ~~shall~~may conduct a District Communications Contest for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing [CCDHH] Oratorical Contest each year. The District Contest Finals will be held ~~by May 31~~in accordance with OI rules.

During a review of our policies it was noted that section 50 speaks to payment to District Officers for attendance at the International Convention. Section 50 identifies the Governor and Governor Designate, since the Governor Elect does not transition to the Governor Designate until after the District Convention held between August 1 and September 30th the Policy Committee recommends updating this section to Governor Elect.

50. INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

A. The District shall pay \$1,000.00 for the Governor and the Governor ~~Designate~~Elect for attendance and training at the annual Optimist International Convention.

While attendance at International Conventions has decreased, in recent years, the value of a Hospitality Room remains a viable way for members to develop and renew valuable connections with Optimist throughout the organization. The cost for these rooms has also increased. Rather than take on any added expense and to share the work in hosting a Hospitality Room Districts within a Region may join resources and hold a joint Hospitality Room, therefore the Policy Committee recommends the following change to Section 51:

51. HOSPITALITY ROOM AT INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION

The District administration may maintain a District headquarters or hospitality room, independently or in conjunction with other districts, at International Conventions, the ~~rental~~cost of which is not to exceed \$500.00, and shall be budgeted. The Hospitality room number and its availability shall be made known to all District members attending the convention. If the Convention is in the District, the finance committee shall budget a higher amount.

Proposed Policy Changes:

During a review of the Nominating Procedure it was noted that this is to be completed by May 15th. Since this time period coincides with our 3rd quarter district meeting, which may be held after May 15th the Policy Committee recommends changing the completion to the scheduled meeting:

55. NOMINATING PROCEDURE - LT. GOVERNORS (if any)

The District Candidate Qualifications Committee, prior to 1 April, shall seek and receive the names and qualifications of prospective candidates from the Clubs within the Zone for each office of Lt. Governor, and shall publish such names prior to the date of the election. In the event a candidate cannot be obtained from within the Zone, the Committee shall consider candidates outside the Zone. The Committee may nominate at least one candidate for the office of Lt. Governor for each Zone in the District by ~~May 15~~ the scheduled 3rd quarter. The Committee may consider prospective candidates on its own motion.