

## CHAPTER XXIII AREA FORUMS

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### A. AREA FORUMS

1. Area forums shall be recognized by Lions Clubs International for the purposes of:
  - a. promoting the principles and objectives of Lions Clubs International;
  - b. training, educating and motivating district and club officers;
  - c. providing for exchange of information and discussion of service activities, including opportunities for cooperative service projects;
  - d. advancing the interests of the Lions Clubs International Foundation.
2. Forums dates shall be coordinated with the Travel Department prior to confirming the forum date and location to avoid conflict with international board meetings for future years.

Requested area forum time preference shall be:

- a. USA/Canada – Second or third full week in September
  - b. EUROPA – Last full week in October through first full week in November
  - c. OSEAL – Second or third full week in November
  - d. ISAME – Second or third full week in December
  - e. FOLAC – Second or third full week in January
  - f. ANZI-pacific – Last full week in August or the first full week in September
  - g. Africa – Last full week of November or first full week of December
3. Forum conduct and operation, including, but not restricted to, planning, agenda, and program content, is the responsibility of the elected members of the board of directors from the constitutional area in which the forum is to be held. These board members may delegate the forum operation to such committee(s) as are necessary but shall be responsible to see that the purpose of the board policy are carried out. The international president shall appoint a first-year international director to serve on the succeeding forum planning committee. In the event there is no first-year international director from the constitutional area in which the forum is to be held, the international president may appoint any past international director from the constitutional area in which the forum is to be held. Any irregularities should be reported to the Executive Committee of Lions Clubs International so that action may be taken to carry out the intent of this policy. The appointee shall perform the liaison duties listed below:
  - a. The appointee shall be the liaison between the headquarters staff and the forum chairperson. Headquarters requests for meeting space or time to make a presentation should be sent to the liaison for approval by the forum committee.
  - b. The appointee shall be the liaison between the directors from their constitutional area and the forum committee. The appointee shall keep the directors informed in writing on the details of the forum, including any requests for their participation.

- c. The appointee shall provide to the Forum Planning Committee the Lions Clubs International Protocol as outlined in Chapter XIX Board Policy Manual to ensure all items are addressed.
  - d. Each forum should have a mission statement and the appointee should work with the forum chairperson to update as necessary.
  - e. The appointee will work with the staff in the Travel Department of Lions Clubs International to ensure all available information is received for the visit of the officers, directors and board appointees. The appointee also should ensure the staff has the dates for all future forums when available to allow the officers to plan their travel for future years as well.
  - f. The appointee shall submit a written report to the board during the board meeting immediately following the forum. The report should be a synopsis of the events of the forum and what role the officers and directors from that area had in the forum. A copy of the report should be submitted to the executive administrator's office as soon as possible after the forum to allow time for the report to be translated for the board members.
4. All forums shall be financially self-supporting and any deficiency shall be the sole responsibility of said forum. Each forum shall have the authority to collect registration fees in an appropriate amount.
  5. All Lions in the constitutional area in which the forum is to be held shall be invited to participate.
  6. The forums shall be held in a place where all members of Lions clubs in the constitutional area may freely register and have their districts and countries recognized.
  7. The president of Lions Clubs International shall be invited. The respective forum shall provide for the following for the international president or their designee:
    - a. address all Lions in attendance;
    - b. address all current district governors in attendance, in a separate meeting.
  8. A Lion of the president's choice shall present the program and goals of the international president at each forum.
  9. The forum shall provide a one-bedroom suite and meals for the international president or their designee. Meals and accommodations will be reimbursed by the association and charged to the international president's travel budget.
  10. The immediate past international president and first vice president may attend all area forums. The second and third vice president may attend their own area forum or any forum they may be overseeing as part of their Global Action Team responsibilities. Meals and accommodations will be reimbursed by the association and charged to the officer's travel budget.

11. Forums may be organized to include Lions from an adjacent constitutional area.
12. Where multiple districts exist with clubs in two constitutional areas, and one of the constitutional areas does not have a forum, then all Lions from those multiple districts shall be entitled to attend the adjacent forum as full participants.
13. Area forums shall not:
  - a. in operation, contravene the International Constitution and By-Laws;
  - b. collect dues. However, each forum shall have the authority to collect registration fees in an appropriate amount;
  - c. involve participation on other than a voluntary basis;
  - d. superimpose or create any governing structure over and above the regular district and multiple district organizations;
  - e. involve themselves in any non-Lionistic activities.
14. Area forums shall involve no expense to Lions Clubs International, except travel related expenses will be provided for international directors, past international presidents, board appointees and presidential appointee (and accompanying adult companion) from the constitutional area in which the forum is held in accordance with the General Reimbursement Policy.

The presidential appointee to the respective forum planning committee shall be reimbursed for travel, hotel and meal expenses for up to two forum-planning meetings in accordance with the General Reimbursement Policy.