Capital District, Kiwanis International

May 2023 Board of Trustees Meeting

Agenda Point – Active Campaigning Policy Code Clarification

Background

Executive Director Wolff requested that the committee review Section 7C (d) of the District Policy Code for some inconsistent references defining what constitutes active campaigning. The Bylaws and Policy Committee reviewed the request and upon examination of the Policy Code discovered that this is an area where the rules potentially contradict themselves when looking at the time prior to active campaigning. Current policy states that "Active Campaigning" is not permitted until after a candidacy for District Office is officially announced in January.

From our policy statements, Section 7C(d)(ii) states:

Active campaigning consists of the following:
1. Distribution of campaign materials, including but not limited to brochures, posters, signs, electronic communication, tangible objects, or documents with the candidate's name, picture, qualifications, campaign logo, and/or theme;
2. Solicitation of votes, commitments, support, and/or endorsement of individuals (other than from the candidate's own club or division and other than those serving on the campaign committee); and
3. Speaking at club, divisional, or regional functions (other than the candidate's own club, division, or region) to gain exposure as a candidate.

However, under "Campaign Activities Prior to Active Campaigning", Section 7C(d)(iii)(2) allows for:

Appear at regional or District meetings, by invitation from the regional Trustee and/or Lieutenant Governors for the purpose of introducing and announcing their candidacy and to become acquainted with the region or division*.*

"Regional or District Meetings" is typically a reference in our policies to the old Midyear events (which used to take place as early as January or February).

This could potentially be interpreted as active campaigning prior to the official announcement of candidacy as there has been confusion in the past on this topic.

RECOMMENDATION

The committee recommends that the Board of Trustees remove Section 7C(d)(iii)(2) and renumber the remaining subsections as needed. This would remove any potential confusion in campaigning prior to the official announcement of candidacy. This has no impact on a candidate obtaining support from their home club or division prior to their official announcement of candidacy, which is an allowed exception under Section 7C(d)(ii).

Operational Impact
If approved by the Board, the Executive Director will modify and publish a revised policy code.

Financial Impact
N/A

Respectfully submitted,

David Lurie
Chair, Bylaws and Policy Committee
Capital District Kiwanis