

## Memo

**To** Club Presidents and Secretaries  
**Copy** District 23 Board  
**From** District 23 Bylaws and Resolutions Committee  
**Subject** Proposals for changes to governing documents  
**Date** 16 May 2021

Any individual or club may submit proposals for change to the governing documents. It may be proposals for:

- changes to the Zonta International Bylaws or Rules of Procedure, or
- changes to the District 23 Rules of Procedure, or
- a resolution for the 2022-2024 biennium.

If planning to do so, please read the following carefully and refer to the current versions of the relevant documents.

The current version (2020) of the Zonta International Governing Documents (including Bylaws, Resolutions and Rules of Procedure) is published in the member resources section of the ZI website under the tabs 'Governance' and 'Governing Documents'. District 23 Rules of Procedure can be found on the district website under 'Admin Documents' and then 'District 23 Governance documents'.

## Requirements

The Bylaws of Zonta International provide that any member or club can propose changes to International Bylaws and Rules of Procedure and to District Rules of Procedure. If the club votes in favour of the proposal it is submitted to the District for consideration by the District Board to determine whether further study is required.

If the District Board determines that the proposal does not require further study, it is published to all clubs in the district at least 60 days before district conference.

If submitted to the district conference and approved by a majority of voting members, it will be submitted to the International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee.

Proposals should be sent to the District Secretary and the Bylaws and Resolutions Committee by **Tuesday 22 June 2021**. They are then considered by the District Bylaws and Resolutions Committee and the District Board prior to pre-conference publication to all District 23 clubs.

**Proposals for change to the Bylaws or the International or Rules of Procedure** should specify the Article, Section and wording of the current version followed by the proposed wording.

**Proposals for change to the District 23 Rules of Procedure** should specify the Number and Heading of the item, with wording of the current version followed by the proposed wording.

**Proposals for a Resolution** should be worded precisely. Resolutions apply only for the biennium following their adoption at convention.

**For all proposals**, the inclusion of a rationale is expected.

## **Work of Zonta International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee this biennium**

Following the cancellation of the 2020 Convention in Chicago, delegates voted online in support of a revision and restatement of the Bylaws of Zonta International in a manner that:

- retains the democratic structure of the organisation
- recognises the importance of the members in determining the shape and direction of ZI
- preserves our current mission and objectives while creating a simplified, sustainable and understandable framework for operating.

The International Bylaws and Resolutions Committee, chaired by PIP Sonja Hónig Schough and with PIP Mary Ellen Bittner and Denise Conroy, has conducted the first of a number of focus groups with the Governor and Bylaws and Resolutions Committee Chair from each district. It is their hope that their specific proposals will be published to districts and clubs further in advance of convention than is normal.

The first focus group was informed of their work to date:

- It is anticipated that some bylaws may be moved to Rules of Procedure or policy.
- A language review is being undertaken to make some wording simpler and to increase understanding.
- The classification system is being reviewed.
- Consideration is being given to membership and terms of office of the Zonta International Board.
- Addition of a definition of 'force majeure' to apply to convention
- Consideration of terms of office for district and club roles and inter-club transfers

Clubs and members will be informed of the outcomes of future focus group meetings.

If you have any questions please contact me at [berylmcm@outlook.com](mailto:berylmcm@outlook.com) or 0418 388 738.

Please send **proposals to:**

District Secretary Kimberley Robbins [kimberley@kkelectrical.com.au](mailto:kimberley@kkelectrical.com.au)

and

Beryl McMillan at [berylmcm@outlook.com](mailto:berylmcm@outlook.com)

by **Tuesday 22 June 2021**

**Beryl McMillan**

Chair, District 23 Bylaws & Resolutions Committee 2020-2022

On behalf of the District 23 Bylaws and Resolutions Committee:

Pru Blackwell

Dee Saunders

Debbie Schmidt

Beryl McMillan