

NEW BY-LAW PROPOSAL

Article XIX, Amendment to Bylaws SECTION 1. Amendment. New Section (e) or: NEW SECTION 6: Amendments to Amendments

Current Wording	Proposed Wording (DRAFT)
NONE	Once a by-law is amended by the membership through due process at an International convention, no changes to amend that by-law may be brought forward for at least 3 bienniums (6 years), unless significant evidence of harm to the objects and future of Zonta International can be objectively proven. In such cases, it will be the responsibility of the Zonta International By-laws and Nominations Committee to assess the provided evidence and to decide whether or not to present the change amendment to the Convention.

(this says “no changes” but outlines a process for the ZI Committee to assess whether or not the submitted evidence warrants putting the change forward earlier than the 3rd biennium)

Rationale (draft):

As by-law changes are not undertaken lightly, changing them within a short time frame should be avoided where feasible. This by-law proposal would require an amended or new by-law to be in place for at least 3 bienniums before any changes could be considered. Clubs need to be encouraged to invest in the effort to implement by-law changes without uncertainty as to the longevity of a by-law change. Once the membership decides to amend a proposal, it may take a matter of a few months for the change to be fully communicated and up to a number of years for the change to be implemented fully and its impact understood and measured.

However, we must also recognize that unforeseen negative consequences of a by-law change could develop. If these should create a serious risk or significant harm to ZI, a change could be proposed sooner than the 3 biennium limit. It would be up to the proposing District or International Board to gather and present the evidence of this harm. Such evidence would be assessed by the ZI By-Laws and Resolution Committee, to determine whether or not the amendment should be brought forward sooner than the 3 biennium time frame.

VARIATIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Current Wording	Proposed Wording (DRAFT variation 1)
NONE	Once a by-law is amended by the membership through due process at an International convention, no changes to amend that by-law may be brought forward for at least 3 bienniums (6 years), unless significant evidence of harm to the objects and future of Zonta International can be objectively proven.

(this removes the process for deciding if there is “significant harm”

Current Wording	Proposed Wording (DRAFT variation 2)
NONE	Once a by-law is amended by the membership through due process at an International convention, no proposal to reverse that amended by-law to its previous form may be brought forward for at least 3 bienniums (6 years), unless significant evidence of harm to the objects and future of Zonta International can be objectively proven. In such cases, it will be the responsibility of the Zonta International By-laws and Nominations Committee to assess the provided evidence and to decide whether or not to present the reversal amendment to the Convention.

(this is a narrower version that only prevents proposals to **reverse** a change to its original form, plus allows the ZI Committee to assess whether or not the submitted evidence warrants putting the change forward earlier than the 3rd biennium. This would , then, leave it open for a proposal to amend a by-law that had been change.)

Current Wording	Proposed Wording (DRAFT variation 3)
NONE	Once a by-law is amended by the membership through due process at an International convention, no proposal to amend that by-law to its previous form may be brought forward for at least 3 bienniums (6 years), unless significant evidence of harm to the objects and future of Zonta International can be objectively proven.

(this is only prevents proposals to **reverse** a change to its original form, plus does not have a process for deciding whether or not "significant evidence of harm" exists)

REVISED BYLAWS (to align with the membership definition change)

Article IV Members, Section 2. Clubs (b) Diversity of Classifications

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
(1) Each club shall have members actively engaged in a variety of classifications. The minimum number of classifications shall equal one-fourth (1/4) the total number of members in the club. No club shall be required to have members actively engaged in more than twenty-five (25) classifications.	(1) Each club shall have members actively engaged in or <u>with experience in</u> a variety of classifications. The minimum number of classifications shall equal one-fourth (1/4) the total number of members in the club. No club shall be required to have members actively engaged in or <u>have experience in</u> more than twenty-five (25) classifications.

Rationale:

In 2008, the membership voted to change the experience requirement for Classified members in **Article XIV, Clubs, Section 2. Members. (b) Classified Member** from "shall be actively engaged in" to "shall be actively engaged in or have experience in".

Article IV Members, Section 2. Clubs (b) Diversity of Classifications refers to the experience requirement but was not up-dated in 2008 to be consistent with the experience requirement as defined in Article XIV, Section 2. This by-law change will correct this discrepancy.

Glossary Change

Have experience in

Current Wording	Proposed Wording
none	Member was Actively Engaged in a Classification, by working at least 50 percent of a normal work week in the business or profession represented by that classification, but is currently not working at the "at least 50 percent" level.

Rationale:

In 2008, the membership voted to change the experience requirement for Classified members in **Article XIV, Clubs, Section 2. Members. (b) Classified Member** from "shall be actively engaged in" to "shall be actively engaged in or have experience in". The Glossary did not define "have experience in". As noted at the 2008 convention, the intent was to allow membership to individuals who at one time were actively engaged as per the Zonta International definition, but are currently not working that amount of time per week, for one of many reasons. Specifying this intent in the Glossary will formalize the interpretation and retain flexibility for Clubs to apply this definition to best reflect the circumstances in their geographic area.