



June 1, 2015

District 4 Club Presidents and Board members

RE: Zonta International By-law Amendments – proposal

At the September 2015 District 4 Conference, the attached Zonta International By-Law amendments will be considered by the voting delegates. These are the same by-law amendments voted on and approved by delegates to the 2013 District 4 Conference, however an administrative issue prevented them from being accepted by Zonta International. After reviewing the Zonta International Governing Documents revised in 2014, we determined that these by-law proposals are still relevant.

If the District delegates accept these proposed by-law amendments at the 2015 District 4 Conference, then these will be sent to Zonta International to be considered at the 2016 International Convention.

Please share these with your members and voting delegates.

In you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

District 4 By-law Committee Co-Chairs,

Edna Silvernail & Rosemary Pell
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**ZI BYLAW CHANGE PROPOSALS - 2015 DISTRICT CONFERENCE
CONCERNING: QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE DISTRICT BOARD**

Article XIII Districts, Section 6a. Officers Qualifications.

Current Wording 2014 ZI By-laws	Proposed Wording
Each elected officer shall be a classified member of a club, shall have served at least two (2) years in an elected club office and/or have been a district committee chairman. The governor, lieutenant governor and area directors shall have served at least one (1) year as club president. An elected officer shall hold no other elective position at district level.	Each elected officer shall be a classified member of a club, shall have served at least two (2) years in an elected club office and/or have been a district committee chairman. The governor, lieutenant governor and area directors shall have served at least one (1) year as club president. The governor shall also have served in an elected or appointed capacity on the District Board. An elected officer shall hold no other elective position at district level.

Rationale:

The current 2014 qualifications for Governor allows for a member to be elected to this role, without having any experience at the District level. This appears to be insufficient for the duties of the governor role as stated in Article XIII, Section 7a, with the first task being to “administer the affairs of the district”. The current by-law allows for a Governor candidate who has had no exposure to the business and issues of the entire District. Such exposure could be gained by serving on the District board, in any capacity. The proposed by-law amendment addresses this by adding: **The governor shall also have served in an elected or appointed capacity on the District Board.**

Article XIII Districts, Section 13. Nominating Committee Qualifications.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording for new sub-section
None	Each elected member of the Nominating Committee shall be a classified member of a club, shall have served at least two (2) years in an elected club office and have served in an elected or appointed capacity on the District Board.

Rationale:

While the ZI By-laws state minimum qualifications for elected officers of the District Board, there is no explicit statement of the qualifications required to serve on the District Nominating Committee, beyond being a member of Zonta International. This means that a Zontian with no Zonta leadership experience or District experience could be elected to serve on the District nominating committee. As stated in the Zonta International District Manual, “The nominating committee plays a vital role in determining who will lead the district in the future.” Given the nature of this role, we suggest that those who serve on the District Nominating committee must have similar leadership qualifications as those they are nominating, whose minimum qualifications are described in Article XIII, section 6a. In addition, as the focus of this Committee is district-wide, these members should also have served in some capacity at their District level as a basis for understanding the District and its needs.