



Zonta Club of Kitchener Waterloo  
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Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

Carma Horner  
Chair, By-laws and Resolutions Committee  
District 4

Sent via email [bylaws@zontadistrict4.org](mailto:bylaws@zontadistrict4.org)

April 25, 2019

Dear Carma

Re: Proposed changes to the Zonta International By-laws for the District 4 Conference

The attached proposal was approved at the general meeting of the Zonta Club of Kitchener Waterloo on April 17, 2019. The general intent of the proposed amendments is outline below and in the rational attached to this letter.

The general intent of the proposed amendments is to deal with Article XIII – Districts, elections. The current sections of the by-laws require that a ballot election must be held even if there is only 1 nominee for a position. The required ballot process:

- Utilizes resources at conference that could be used more productively elsewhere e.g. volunteer tellers, setting up polling locations;
- Takes time out of the business sessions that could be spent differently – e.g. guest speakers, updates of various programs;
- Does not make any difference in candidate outcome. e.g. there has never been a time in recent memory when a single nominee was not successful in achieving office at District 4;
- Is not meaningful as voting members generally don't understand why it is necessary to vote for a single nominee;
- is redundant and unnecessary. e.g. just because the by-laws say so.

Robert's Rules of Order does allow for acclamations if there is only 1 nominee. These provisions of Robert's Rules are recognized by the ZI By-laws under Article XIV Clubs, Section 4 b)

“(b) Election. At the election meeting, officers and directors shall be elected by ballot vote unless there is but one nominee for the office, in which case a voice vote may be taken.”.....

Again according to Robert’s Rules of Order, it is unnecessary to even take a voice vote. Acclamation means unanimous consent. If the Zonta membership does not bring forward an additional qualified nominee, there is consent. The presiding officer needs to announce this but no further voting is required.

The proposal attachment also recommends that Article XIV Clubs be amended to align with the acclamation process proposed for Districts.

The proposal by the Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo will allow officers and directors to be acclaimed at the District and Club level.

Thank you for your consideration. Please don’t hesitate to contact me if you have any questions. We look forward to seeing our proposal brought forward to the D4 conference.

Kris Fletcher  
Secretary, Zonta Club of Kitchener-Waterloo  
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