

DISTRICT 4 & COPYRIGHT INFRINGEMENT

A second club within District 4 has been identified as using unauthorized images retrieved from the Internet. At this time, the club name is being withheld until the issue has been formally resolved. It appears our clubs are a target for the company *PicRights* who seek out non-profit organizations, including the e-Club of Canada 1, that unintentionally violate copyright law. Copyright law is not new, but companies such as *PicRights* are now using the law to their advantage.

The District board and D4 Communications team are strongly advising all clubs to review ALL images, music, videos, including PowerPoint presentations: to ensure your club & potentially Z & Golden Z club are not in violation of the copyright laws of your country.

Infringement Scenario

A Zonta club committee assigned two members to revise a long-standing fundraising event brochure. The members secured an image from the Internet gave it to a printing company to design the brochure. The club was not aware of the image source, and it is unknown why the print company did not secure an approved image nor required the source of the image provided. Since the brochure was developed and purchased from a prominent local company, the brochure was used in various promotional forms, including placement on the club's website.

The club received a mailed letter from the PicRights company in October 2019 with a 2019 Internet screenshot of the brochure with the unauthorized image residing on the club's website. The image was immediately removed from the site, and reduced compensation for the violation was negotiated. With payment, PicRights will offer a Release & Agreement form to conclude the matter.

Actions

District 4 now requires all promotional and awareness material, and PowerPoint presentations to be free of content retrieved by an unauthorized means or source.

Images can be purchased from companies for little cost, downloaded from recommended sites, or obtained from club members, subject to their approval. Zonta International has developed the [Zonta Image Copyright Guide](#) warning of the issue, their position on a violation, and suggestions and sites to avoid copyright infringement.

District 4 is requesting ALL members be made aware of this document and asked to review it not only for Zonta business but for their own personal and community knowledge and protection.

Copyright guide is located online [Zonta International](#) website -> [My Zonta](#) -> PR Tools & Logos -> [Zonta Image Copyright Guide](#)

Please Review this document [Zonta Image Copyright Guide](#)

Zonta International Recommended Online Resources:

Where to find free image resources?

Zonta

Zonta's photo gallery at <https://www.zonta.org/Media-News/Photo-Gallery>. *ZI will be working to expand the gallery for club and district use.*

Public Sites

[PublicDomainPictures.net](https://www.PublicDomainPictures.net) has hundreds of thousands of free stock photos. Though no account is required, you must have an account to download certain premium photos.

[Picjumbo](https://www.picjumbo.com) has thousands of free stock photos and also offers a premium subscription that gives you access to even more photos.

[Pexels](https://www.pexels.com) provides hundreds of thousands of high-quality free stock photos and adds new photos every day.

[Pixabay](https://www.pixabay.com) offers more than 1.6 million royalty free stock photos and videos. There is an option to download images at different sizes. ***Beware that the first row of photos are sponsored images and will take you to Shutterstock. These are not free.***

[Stocksnap.io](https://www.stocksnap.io) offers more than 5,000 high-quality free images. ***Please note: The first rows of photos are sponsored images and will take you to Shutterstock. Sponsored images also appear next to a photo when you click on it. These are not free.***

[Unsplash](https://www.unsplash.com) has a library of more than 550,000 free high-resolution photos submitted by photographers.

Where to find paid for image resources?

You can of course purchase stock photos for a minimal fee. You just need to be sure that you retain proof of purchase. Some resources are listed below.

[Adobe Stock](https://www.adobe.com/stock)

[iStock by Getty Images](https://www.gettyimages.com) [Shutterstock](https://www.shutterstock.com)

[Cutcaster](https://www.cutcaster.com)