

## Zonta International District 4 Rules of Procedure

Adopted: April 29, 2006

Revised: Adopted by District Conference, September 27, 2013

Revised: Adopted by District Conference, September 26, 2015

Revised: Adopted by District Conference, September 23, 2017

Revised: Adopted by District Conference, September 28, 2019

District 4, Zonta International shall be established and governed in accord with Article XIII of the Zonta International Bylaws, the International Rules of Procedure and the Zonta International District Manual. The rules contained in the current edition of *Roberts Rules of Order – Newly Revised* shall govern Zonta International District 4 in cases in which they are not inconsistent with the bylaws of Zonta International or with these Rules of Procedure adopted by the Zonta International District 4 Board. To the extent consistent with Zonta International Rules and Procedures, the following Rules will constitute standard operating procedure.

### A) Financial

#### 1. Finances:

- a. District dues and fees shall be determined by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the voting members at a District Conference. On June 1<sup>st</sup> of each year each club shall pay to Zonta District 4 \$23.00 per capita dues based upon the number of members in the club as of June 1<sup>st</sup>. (June – May: \$20 District Dues; \$3.00 Assessment for Conference for full year).
  - b. Members who join in the second six months of the fiscal year pay one-half the district dues for that year and 100% of assessment for conference. December-May: \$10.00 District Dues; \$3.00 assessment for a total of \$13.00 for 6 months).
  - c. Provided funds are available, the District budget may allocate funds for the use of committees. Committee Chair shall apply to the Governor for funds to carry out the work of their committees, and shall submit expense vouchers for reimbursement and/or requests for advances to the Governor for approval as outlined in the District 4 Reimbursement Guidelines and District 4 budget.
  - d. The District Treasurer shall use fund accounting to keep the general operating funds and the conference funds. The Treasurer shall use money market checking, savings accounts, certificates of deposits, or other appropriate money management techniques to maximize earnings on district funds and with the approval of the Finance Committee and Governor.
  - e. The district board shall take action annually to determine the use and disposition of interest from district operating and conference funds, even if the decision is to allow the interest to accrue in those respective funds.
2. The District will maintain a reserve fund of US \$5,000.
  3. The Governor shall approve the expenses of other District Board members and District Committee members as outlined in the District 4 reimbursement guidelines. All such members shall work within the District 4 budget. Such a budget shall be prepared by the District Finance Committee in consultation with the Governor, discussed and recommended by the District Board at their May board meeting of the odd year and approved by the members at the District conference.
  4. No Officer is allowed to sign their own check/cheque. The Governor's expenses will be approved by the Chair of the Finance Committee.
  5. The Treasurer shall begin transferring responsibilities to the incoming Treasurer by June 1 of the first year of the incoming Treasurer's term and must complete the transfer within forty-five (45) days after the end of the Treasurer's term.

6. Expenses to be paid from the District's general operating funds are defined in the District 4 Reimbursement Guidelines. The Reimbursement Guidelines may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the District Board.
7. The District will pay for
  - a. Name tags for District 4 board members, Committee Chairs, and members of committees at their option.
  - b. 100 business cards will be provided by the District per biennium for elected members and Committee Chairs at their option.
  - c. Governor and Area Director's pins will also be purchased by the District.
8. The district financial records will, at the end of the biennium be compiled by a certified/chartered public accountant or by a qualified individual independent of the district board. This examined financial statement will be presented at the district conference.

**B - District Conference:**

1. The District shall hold one District Conference per biennium.
2. The District Conference is held in the fall (of odd year) with approval of dates by Zonta International Board.
3. The District Board will decide location of the District Conference on a rotating geographical and Area basis depending on the offer by/or request to clubs that agree to host it.
4. The financial goal for the Conference is to break even. Any profits that the Conference realizes will be forwarded to the District; any losses will be underwritten by the hosting club.
5. The biennial District budget shall be presented to the District Conference preceding the next biennium.
6. Conference registration for delegates for any newly chartered District club, since last District Conference will be paid by District.
7. District Conference motion cards and election ballots shall be retained by the secretary for at least three (3) months, or until the minutes of the conference have been approved, whichever is sooner. A list shall be kept that indicates the descending order of votes received for the Nominating Committee candidates, to facilitate the filling of a Nominating Committee vacancy if one arises during the 2 year term.
8. The Governor shall appoint a Parliamentarian and Secretary to serve at Conference and as needed during the biennium.
9. The Conference Chair shall provide the District Treasurer with the financial statement for the Conference and all fiduciary data relating to the Conference within forty-five (45) days following the Conference and will provide the governor with a written report within forty-five (45) days of the end of the conference.
10. The district secretary, with the approval of the governor, shall prepare a summary of proceedings of the district conference, to be sent to each club president and to the district board members within sixty (60) days following the conference. Minutes of the Conference proceedings will be prepared by the District

Secretary and approved by the District Board and adopted by the voting delegates at the next Conference). After approval, a copy will be issued to each club.

11. All previously adopted resolutions automatically expire at the end of each conference. If a subject is to be continued, it must be reaffirmed or newly adopted at the end of each conference.
12. A club represented by proxy at District Conference shall be represented by all of its entitled proxy votes. No club can be represented by proxy at more than two (2) consecutive conferences. Proxies should not be instructed how to vote, but be trusted to vote in the best interests of the club.

**C - Area Meetings/Spring Work Shops:**

1. The District shall hold a minimum of two Area Workshops per year located in Area 1/2/3 and 4/5/6 with clubs from each Area rotating hosting responsibilities. If more than two Area workshops are held in one year, they may be located in Area 1/2, 3/4 and 5/6 with clubs from each Area alternating hosting responsibilities. The hosting club would be notified no less than 12 months in advance.
2. The financial goal for the Workshop is to break even. Any profits that the Workshop realizes will be forwarded to the District; any losses will be underwritten by the hosting club.
3. The topic and format to be featured at Spring Workshops will be discussed and recommended at the District Board meeting no later than November of the preceding year.

**D - Nominating Committee:**

1. The Chair of the District Nominating Committee shall request, prior to January 31<sup>st</sup> of each odd-numbered year, suggestions from each club for nominees for each position to be filled by election at the succeeding Conference. Personal data forms shall be submitted for each name suggested. The deadline for suggestions from clubs shall be March 15<sup>th</sup> of the odd year. The committee shall screen the suggested nominees based on the recorded qualifications, and on the committee's own knowledge and judgment. The individual suggested nominee must not be approached directly and asked to serve on an elected position until the nominating committee has had the opportunity to review and recommend the individual to stand for election. Once the individual has been approved by the nominating committee they will then be approached and asked to serve either by the nominating committee or the nominating club.
2. The Nominating Committee shall prepare a slate of one or more candidates for each District office that is to be filled at that election, and a minimum of five (5) nominees for the District Nominating Committee. No name shall be listed without the member's consent to serve, if elected. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible for nomination at any club or district level of Zonta International while serving on the committee.
3. At least sixty (60) days before the Conference at which the election is to be held, the Nominating Committee shall send its report to each district officer and to each club in the District.
4. At the Conference, as long as notification has been made to the District Nominating Committee 4 days prior to the District Conference, additional nominations may be made from the floor immediately after the report from the Nominating Committee provided the consent to serve has been obtained from the nominee and the nominee is qualified.
5. The Area Directors shall be elected at the District Conference by the clubs in the area

6. The Nominating Committee is elected by plurality vote; all other offices are by majority vote. For offices requiring a majority vote, if there is a tie vote or one where no candidate receives a clear majority of votes cast, only the two (2) candidates receiving the largest number of votes will remain on the second ballot for a run-off vote. Run-off voting would continue until a candidate achieves a clear majority.

**E - Campaigning Policy:** Campaigning will align with the Zonta International Rules of Procedure on Circularization and the Zonta International campaigning Policy.

1. No campaigning of any sort, other than the wearing of the official candidate's identifier by the candidate at conference, shall be allowed.
2. Allowed activities:
  - a. Following issuance of the official slate by the District Nominating Committee, Zontians attending Zonta functions may be introduced as candidates, with no other information being provided about the candidates. At no time may either the candidate or any other Zontian publicly request votes for the candidate.
  - b. Candidates may attend any Zonta function. At the request of the presiding officer, the candidate may participate as a speaker or presenter.
  - c. If asked, only oral endorsements, based on personal knowledge and experience, may be made by other Zontians.
3. Disallowed activities:
  - a. Speeches requesting votes will not be allowed, except during an official candidate's speech made as part of the business session at the Conference.
  - b. No current or past officer or director of Zonta International or current or past officer of the District shall seek to influence members to vote for or against a particular candidate through either verbal or written means.
  - c. No gifts, trinkets, buttons or other promotional material (such as flyers, brochures or resumes including social media) shall be distributed on behalf of any candidate for campaign purposes either before or during the Conference, other than material provided by the District Nominating Committee.
4. Consequences of the Policy Violation
  - a. If a perceived policy violation is observed by a District Board member, or if a written complaint is sent to the Governor within 3 months of a perceived violation by a District member, then a formal investigation will be carried out by the Board, led by the Governor.
  - b. If a violation is identified and proven through the investigation, consequences could include, but might not be limited to, a private letter of concern or reprimand; or a cancellation of the candidate's nomination (if the violation is before the election); or a calling for a new vote for the position affected (if the violation is noted after the election)
  - c. In addition, if further disciplinary action is required, the District Board will follow the Zonta International By-laws, policies and procedures.

**F - Awards:**

1. Z Club and Golden Z Club awards will be determined by the District Board (monetary value only).

**G - Standing Committees:**

1. The Governor shall appoint the Chair and such other members of all committees as the Governor deems appropriate.
2. There shall be at least the following standing committees, and such other standing and special committees as the District Board shall authorize to achieve biennial goals.

Committees required by Zonta International:

- Bylaws and Resolutions Committee
- Membership Committee
- Service Committee
- Advocacy Committee
- Nominating Committee (as elected at District Conference)

Other Committees will include:

- Awards: Amelia Earhart Fellowship, Jane M Klausman Scholarship, Young Women in Public Affairs Award
- Z Club/Golden Z
- United Nations
- Finance
- Archives
- District Foundation Ambassadors
- Public Relations and Communications

**H - Newly Chartered Zonta Clubs:**

1. The sponsoring club for newly chartered clubs will receive up to \$300.00 from District 4 for reimbursable expenses as deemed necessary by the District Board.
2. The newly chartered club's district dues and conference assessment will be waived in the year the club was chartered.
3. The District will provide a gavel to newly chartered clubs within the District.
4. Newly chartered Z and Golden Z Clubs will receive a gavel from District 4.

**I - Communications:**

1. The District 4 Board shall meet at least two (2) times each year.
2. Four (4) Governor newsletters per year are recommended; means of distribution to be determined by the Governor. At least two Area Director newsletters are recommended to be sent to Area clubs.
3. The District 4 website must be kept current, be content-appropriate, and have links to Zonta International and the District 4 clubs. It shall adhere to the Zonta International guidelines for websites.
4. Clubs shall submit the names of their officers (with addresses, phone and fax numbers, and email addresses) to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, District Treasurer, and appropriate Area Director by May 1<sup>st</sup>.
5. Clubs shall submit the names of Committee Chairpersons with all other contact data (i.e. addresses, phone and fax numbers, and email addresses) to the Area Director promptly.

6. Individual clubs in the District are asked to confer with the Board before scheduling charter anniversary events. An individual club shall not hold anniversary events more often than once every five years.
7. Outgoing District officers and Committee Chairs shall deliver to their successors all properties belonging to their respective official positions within thirty (30) days after their successors have been installed.
8. All Zonta International guidelines and policies are to be adhered to where they are in compliance with laws in Canada and the U.S.

**J - Zonta International Convention:**

1. It is recommended that each club within the District, represented by a proxy vote at Convention financially recognize, through a modest subsidy, the *INDIVIDUAL* proxy bearer. The amount would be agreed upon at the Club level and along with a copy of the *Convention Delegate Proxy Certificate* sent to the proxy bearer by the club, a check/cheque to indicate good faith would be included.
2. The international convention expenses of the incoming and outgoing governors will be paid by the district according to the District 4 reimbursement guidelines.

**K - Rules of Procedure Adoption/Amendments:**

1. Notice of proposed District Rules of Procedures changes shall be sent to club presidents at least sixty (60) days before the conference.
2. Rules of Procedure can be adopted or amended by a vote at a conference with a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the district conference voting members present at the conference.
3. Rules of Procedure may also be adopted or amended by a mail ballot with two-thirds (2/3) vote of the district voting members, provided that fifty percent (50%) of the district clubs respond within forty-five (45) days.