



NOTICE TO CLUBS ON DECISION TO HOLD AN ELECTRONIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE District 4

Having

- reviewed the continuing situation created by the COVID-19 declared pandemic;
- conducted a thorough review of contracts, expenditures, and financial obligations;
- investigated risks associated with an in-person event;
- observed that the border between Canada and the United States of America remains closed; and
- heard the voices of the district members;

the District 4 Board approved the cancellation of an in-person district conference.

While there is not a defined procedure for electronic district conferences in the Zonta International Bylaws or district governing documents, we will follow the precedence established in 2020 when the Zonta International Convention was cancelled. The Zonta International Bylaws provide for the International Board to operate under 'emergency powers' and as such, make decisions regarding what would be considered as 'the next best thing' or 'as near as possible' for conducting business under the "Cy pres" doctrine which provides for boards to apply common sense. It is our intent to ensure that our district clubs may still fully participate in the democratic process that underpins all that we value.

Today, this email serves as the official notice to District 4 clubs on how we will proceed with an electronic district conference.

- The district conference will be held electronically using Zoom.
- The district conference will be held on September 24 commencing at 4:00pm and September 25, 9:00 am to 4:00pm
- All attendees will need to register by September 13, 2021 – More information regarding registration will be sent with the Call to Conference
- All clubs will be notified of the credentialing process in the Call to Conference. The Call to Conference will be released on or before July 13, 2021.
- Elections will be held in advance of the meeting. Therefore no nominations from the floor shall be allowed at this conference. However since the District Rules of Procedure allow for additional nominations, the nomination period will be extended following the release of the call to conference for a period of 18 days. Further nominations must be forwarded to the Nominating Committee by



August 1, 2021 in order to be considered. Nominees must be qualified and have provided their consent to serve.

- Voting on district business will be held in the business meeting.

The District Board has adopted **Guidelines for Electronic Election and Voting Methods** which holds more details on procedures, and it is being provided to you today (see attached). This document does not require club member approval as it has been reviewed and adopted by your elected board members.

Additionally, the *Bylaws of Zonta International* require the governor to issue a *Call to Conference* at least 60 days before the conference. This *Call to Conference* will be issued separately and will include the agenda, the proposed district budget, slate of candidates and details on other district business matters.

We hope these accommodations will permit the district to smoothly move business forward while still engaging our delegates and club members.

Club leaders should direct any questions to their respective area director who will in turn bring those questions forward to the District 4 Board.