



## **Zonta members have a voice – also in times of COVID-19**

The Board was forced to cancel the 2020 Convention due to COVID-19.

Canceling a convention is unprecedented in Zonta's history. In this unlikely event, our Bylaws provide the Board with Emergency Powers to do its work and to let clubs decide on business items by other means. The guideline for this emergency situation is to do "the next best thing" under the condition that this is also reasonable.

Zonta has always been a profoundly democratic organization. Clubs, as the members of Zonta International, have not only the right to elect the Board, they decide on goals, projects, resolutions and amendments to our constitution, the Bylaws.

Therefore, although under Emergency Powers the Board could have decided otherwise, after careful consideration and consultation with our attorneys, the clubs will have the opportunity to exercise their full voting rights also in this year of crisis.

The Board is convinced that, under these exceptional circumstances, it becomes even more important to give all clubs a voice. Therefore, the Board has determined to use available electronic means to a maximum extent that is still practical and manageable for our organization in times of extended lockdowns and increased workload.

1. **Elections and all voting will be conducted online.** Dates for elections and voting will be shared as soon as a voting platform is selected and the timeline is finalized. The installation of the 2020-2022 Board, the 2020-2022 International Nominating Committee and the Governors will take place on 17 July.
2. The **candidate speeches will be video recorded** and available shortly before elections are open and until the election process ends.
3. Voting members will not only have the opportunity to say YES or NO to proposed Bylaws amendments and resolutions, they will also be given the **opportunity to put PRO or CON viewpoints forward**. The viewpoints will be made accessible to the voting members shortly before voting is open and until the end of the voting process. By doing so, the possibility to make educated decisions will be preserved in a situation that, given the tight timeframe, will not allow for debates in the way we have them at a convention.



4. Information on the proposed projects for the 2020-2022 Biennium has been provided in the Club Mailing that was sent to the club presidents in late March. Additional information will be given online in either Zonta Talks or pre-recorded presentations.

In times of heightened unpredictability and daily stress, this process will give voting members throughout the world flexibility to exercise their rights, especially as electing and voting will take some time.

We firmly believe that these decisions are in the best interest of all members and allow Zonta to continue its successful path into a future of gender equality.

