



NOTICE TO CLUBS ON DECISION TO HOLD AN ELECTRONIC DISTRICT CONFERENCE District 15

Having 1) reviewed the continuing situation created by the COVID-19 declared pandemic; 2) conducted a thorough review of contracts, expenditures, financial obligations; 3) investigated into risks associated with an in-person event; and 4) heard the voices of the district members; the District 15 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 15 clubs on how we will proceed with an electronic district conference.

- The district conference will be held electronically using EventMobi
- The district conference will be held on Friday, October 22, 2021; 6p-9p and Saturday, October 23, 2021; 10a – 2pm EST.
- All attendees will need to register, registration link to be provided by August 23, 2021.
- All clubs will be notified of the credentialing process by August 23, 2021.
- Elections will be held in **advance of the business meeting**. District 15 Rules of Procedure allow for nominations from the floor, therefore nominations from the floor shall be allowed in the following format: 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 September 10, 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 15 Board.