



# **Kiwanis<sup>®</sup>**

## **Proposed amendments and resolutions**

**for consideration at the  
104th Annual Kiwanis International Convention  
June 28, 2019**

**Kiwanis<sup>™</sup> convention<sup>2019</sup>**  
*Walt Disney World<sup>®</sup> Resort, Florida*

# Contents

<b>Notification letter.....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Parliamentary Procedure at a Glance .....</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Standing Rules for the House of Delegates .....</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Proposed Resolution</b>	
<b>Safe Kids .....</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Proposed Amendment 1</b>	
<b>Nondiscrimination Clause.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Proposed Amendment 2</b>	
<b>Abstention on Trustee Votes .....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Proposed Amendment 3</b>	
<b>New Requirement for Vice President.....</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Proposed Amendment 4</b>	
<b>New Trustee Seat for a Member Under Age 50 ..</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Proposed Amendment 5</b>	
<b>Family Membership Status .....</b>	<b>15</b>



# Kiwaniis®

To all Kiwanis clubs:

March 2019

Proposed amendments to the Kiwanis International Bylaws and proposed resolutions will be presented for action at the 104th Annual Kiwanis International Convention at Walt Disney World Resort®, Florida, USA. Several important issues will be considered and voted on at the House of Delegates on Friday, June 28, 2019. Complete information is included in this booklet.

In accordance with the provisions of the Kiwanis International Bylaws, these proposals are being sent to the secretary of each chartered club 90 days prior to the convention. The reasons for each proposal are stated, along with the Kiwanis International Board’s position on those from clubs and districts. The current provisions of each Bylaws article and section are shown. Text that would be added by the proposed amendment is underlined (underlined), and text that would be deleted is lined out (~~lined out~~).

*Example:*

Original wording .....Each club may hold a program.

Proposed changes shown.....Each club ~~may~~ shall hold ~~a~~ an annual program.

New wording would be .....Each club shall hold an annual program.

We hope each club will send two delegates to this convention, ensuring that important decisions on the organization’s future are made by a wide array of Kiwanians. We look forward to seeing you in Florida.

Sincerely,

Stan D. Soderstrom  
Executive Director

# PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE AT A GLANCE

*(Per Robert's Rules of Order—Newly Revised)*

**Please note:** As stated in Standing Rule 5, anyone wishing to make a change to a proposed amendment (making an amendment to a motion) is required to submit the change in writing, in English, to the executive director (or designee) before going to the microphone. This ensures your change will be reflected accurately.

**Putting a motion on the floor:** To make a motion or an amendment to a motion, the maker should go to the microphone, be recognized by the presiding officer (the Kiwanis International president), state their name and club, and then state the motion (or amendment to the motion). The motion (or amendment) must be seconded from the floor. The presiding officer then places the motion (or amendment) before the House for discussion. The club delegate may speak to the motion (or amendment) first. *Note:* Once a motion is placed before the House by the presiding officer, it is under the control of the House and does not belong to the delegate making the motion. For example, it cannot be withdrawn later without permission of the House.

**Seconds to motions:** It is not necessary to agree with a motion to second it. A second only implies that more than one person wishes to *discuss* the motion. Therefore, if a motion is coming from the Kiwanis International Board or a committee, it does not need a second from the floor.

**Amendments to motions:** Bylaw amendments are main motions. A main motion that is on the floor may have two amendments pending at one time. However, the first amendment must relate to the main motion, and the second amendment must relate to the first amendment to the motion.

**Referring:** A motion to refer to a committee can be made while a main motion or an amendment to a main motion is pending. A motion to refer should only be used if problems are identified with the content of the motion that indicate more study or adjustments are needed. A referral should not be made without instructions regarding what aspects are to be addressed before the motion is brought back to the House. Referral should not be used to kill the motion on the floor or to put off a difficult decision. If a delegate does not like a motion, they should simply vote against it. (*Note:* It takes a majority vote either to refer or defeat a motion.)

**Closing debate or calling the question (same motion):** A delegate must go to a microphone and wait for recognition to move to close debate or call the question. To proceed, the motion must receive a second. There is no discussion, and it takes a two-thirds (2/3) vote. If the motion to close debate or call the question is approved, there will be an immediate vote on the pending motion.

**Postponing or tabling a motion:** A motion to postpone can be made while a main motion or an amendment to a main motion is pending. A motion to table (or to “lay on the table”) is used only in an emergency; it should not be used to kill the motion on the floor or to postpone consideration of the motion. If a delegate does not like the motion,

they should simply vote against it. If a delegate believes there is good reason to discuss the motion later, they can move to postpone. There is no such motion as “table until xxxx time.” Instead, the correct motion would be “postpone until xxxx time.” A motion cannot be postponed until the next annual convention.

**Point of order:** If a delegate believes there was a breach of parliamentary procedure, they may call for a point of order. If the point of order refers to an action made by someone other than the presiding officer, the delegate should give the presiding officer time to address the problem before interrupting with the point of order. If a delegate cannot reach a microphone in a timely manner, they may shout “point of order” from their place while approaching a microphone.

**Point of information:** A delegate should call for a point of information if they wish to *request* information. To ask for a point of information, go to a microphone and let the sergeant know you wish to do so. If the delegate wants to *provide* information, they may only do so by being recognized for debate.

**Questions:** If a delegate wishes to make a motion and is not sure how to proceed, the delegate should ask the presiding officer. Any questions or concerns about the process used during the House of Delegates must be made known and addressed *during* the session. Questions or concerns cannot be addressed *after* the session.

## STANDING RULES FOR THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES

**Rule 1:** The official language of this Convention shall be English. Simultaneous interpretations may be made available, as designated in the official program.

**Rule 2:** Only delegates with official delegate badges may present or speak on motions and vote.

**Rule 3:** Only delegates may be seated in the area designated for delegates.

**Rule 4:** The House of Delegates shall allow delegates to leave and re-enter; however, individual electronic voting units shall not leave the House. Delegates leaving the House early must surrender voting units to an Elections Committee volunteer at the pass-out door; voting units will be returned to delegates upon re-entry to the House. In no case will a delegate be allowed to cast a ballot for any votes conducted in their absence.

**Rule 5:** Any main motion or amendment shall be written in English, signed by the maker and seconder, and presented to the executive director or designee before it is moved.

**Rule 6:** No delegate may speak in debate more than three (3) minutes at a time unless allowed to do so by a majority vote of the delegates.

**Rule 7:** No delegate may address the assembly a second time on the same question until all other delegates who desire to speak on the topic have spoken.

**Rule 8:** The maker of a motion shall be entitled to speak first in support of such motion or may immediately yield the floor to another delegate.

**Rule 9:** Microphones shall be designated by number. Speakers for the main motion shall use the odd-numbered microphones, and speakers against the main motion shall use the even-numbered microphones. The chair will recognize microphones in rotating order. Debate on each issue will begin at Microphone One and alternate between those speaking for and those speaking against a motion.

**Rule 10:** A delegate shall not speak for or against a motion and move to close debate on the same recognition.

**Rule 11:** An assistant Sergeant at Arms shall be positioned at each microphone to relay to the chair priority motions, such as a point of order, a point of information, etc. Any microphone may be used to make priority or secondary motions.

**Rule 12:** Debate on main motions (i.e., any resolution or proposed amendment to the Bylaws) shall be limited to 15 minutes, at which time the vote shall be taken on the resolution or amendment, unless the House, by a majority vote, orders debate to be extended. Debate on debatable secondary motions from the floor, such as amendments or motions to refer, shall be limited to five (5) minutes, which shall not apply to the 15-minute limit on debate on the main motion. Debate may be closed by a two-thirds (2/3) vote on any immediately pending motion or series of motions at any time.

**Rule 13:** If the submitting body wishes to withdraw a motion after it has been moved and seconded, the House, by a majority vote, may grant permission for withdrawal.

**Rule 14:** Subject to the discretion of the chair, no proposed amendment to the Bylaws shall be introduced later than 15 minutes before the scheduled adjournment of any morning or afternoon session.

**Rule 15:** Candidates for the offices of Kiwanis International President and President-Elect may have one (1) nominating speech not to exceed three (3) minutes.

**Rule 16:** Candidates for the office of International Vice-President shall have a nomination not to exceed one (1) minute, and each candidate shall have up to five (5) minutes to personally address the House of Delegates. In the event of a run-off election, each of the candidates involved shall return to the stage before the second ballot to present remarks not to exceed two (2) minutes.

**Rule 17:** Candidates for the office of International Trustee shall have a nomination, the content of which shall include only: (a) the nominator's name and club; and (b) the name of the candidate and the office the candidate is seeking. Each candidate shall have up to three (3) minutes to personally address the House of Delegates.

**Rule 18:** Candidates whose remarks require interpretation shall be allowed no more than twice the normal time limit for the presentation of their remarks and interpretation combined. Candidates must provide their own interpreters.

**Rule 19:** Any candidate who is unopposed for office may be elected by a voice vote.

**Rule 20:** Any of the above rules may be suspended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote.

**Rule 21:** *Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the Bylaws of Kiwanis International and these standing rules.

**Rule 22:** The Kiwanis International Board and Staff are authorized to make nonsubstantive corrections that may be necessary as a result of adopting Bylaw amendments that cause unintentional conflicts or inconsistencies in terminology, grammar, numbering, cross-references, etc.

## Proposed Resolution Safe Kids

---

**Submitted by:** Kiwanis International Board

**Purpose:** This resolution puts into writing something all Kiwanians believe: All children deserve to be safe. This resolution requires no action by Kiwanis International, clubs, or districts, but exemplifies to the world Kiwanis' unwavering mission of serving the children of the world.

**Effective date:** October 1, 2019

**Vote required to adopt:** Majority

---

**Financial Impact:** None

### RESOLUTION

**WHEREAS,** The Kiwanis motto is Serving the Children of the World; and

**WHEREAS,** The Kiwanis defining statement includes the phrase, "improving the world one child and one community at a time"; and

**WHEREAS,** The Fifth Object of Kiwanis is: "To provide, through Kiwanis clubs a practical means...to build better communities"; and

**WHEREAS,** The Sixth Object of Kiwanis is: "To cooperate in creating and maintaining that sound public opinion and high idealism which make possible the increase of righteousness, justice, patriotism, and goodwill";

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that Kiwanis International stands against violence, neglect, and abuse directed towards children.



# Proposed Amendment 1

## Nondiscrimination Clause

**Submitted by:** Kiwanis Club of East Geauga, Ohio, USA

**Purpose:** To add a nondiscrimination clause to the Kiwanis International bylaws.

**Effective date:** Immediately

**Vote required to adopt:** Two-thirds

**Proposer's position:** The club advocates this amendment for the following reasons:

- This amendment will help ensure that all people are treated equally and given the opportunity to be welcomed into our Kiwanis family.
- Ensuring that clubs are open and inviting to all individuals will increase the number of potential members. Clubs with diverse members develop deeper connections with each other and with those served, keeping members engaged and willing to continue membership.
- An inclusive environment where all members feel welcomed and respected encourages the use of each member's talents, ideas, perspectives and backgrounds. This will lead to more positive community interactions as clubs better reflect the communities they serve.
- These goals and outcomes align with Kiwanis International's strategic plan.

**Board's position:** The Kiwanis International Board supports this amendment for the following reasons:

- In the past, Kiwanis International has maintained that lack of any specific criteria or restrictions regarding membership (e.g., members may only be X persons or members may not be Y persons) means that Kiwanis is nondiscriminatory. The Board believes it is now time for Kiwanis to have a statement on nondiscrimination. Having a stated nondiscrimination provision can help raise consciousness among clubs of the importance of diversity and inclusion.
- Rotary and Lions both have nondiscrimination provisions, as do Key Club International and Circle K International, though each are approached in different ways.

**Financial impact:** None.

**Amend** Kiwanis International bylaw provisions as follows:

### ARTICLE VIII. CLUB MEMBERS

**Section 10.** Kiwanis clubs shall not discriminate based upon race, color, creed, national origin, gender, age or sexual orientation when considering membership or during any of their activities or operations and shall conduct business in compliance with local nondiscrimination laws.

## Proposed Amendment 2 Abstention on Trustee Votes

**Submitted by:** Michigan District Board

**Purpose:** To allow delegates to abstain from voting for the complete number of Trustee offices to be filled.

**Effective date:** October 1, 2019. (This would first apply to elections held at the 2020 Kiwanis International convention.)

**Vote required to adopt:** Majority

**Proposer's position:** The district board advocates this amendment for the following reasons:

- It allows the elector to vote for only those nominees that they have deemed qualified for their vote.
- There may be times where the elector believes that there are too many nominees that don't fulfill their expectations to fill all of the available vacancies.
- It doesn't force the elector to select a nominee that they may not think is appropriate for the office just to fulfill the mandatory number of votes required for the ballot to count.

**Board's position:** The Kiwanis International Board does not support this amendment for the following reasons:

- Multiple Trustee offices must be filled each year (usually three or four). It is the right and responsibility of delegates to elect persons to fill *all* open offices, not just one or two.
- This amendment would encourage bullet voting: that is, where a voter is entitled to vote for more than one candidate but instead votes for only one. This unintentionally encourages clubs and delegates not to evaluate *all* the candidates. It can also be used as a tactic to maximize the chance that the voter's favorite candidate will be elected while increasing the risk that other favored candidates will lose.
- The existing rule encourages clubs and delegates to consider which are the best candidates for *all* open Trustee positions rather than vote only for the candidate from their district or candidates they have been requested to vote for. This encourages both more informed delegates and more participation by delegates.

**Financial impact:** None.

**Amend** Kiwanis International bylaw provisions as follows:

### ARTICLE XVIII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS

#### Section 3.

- d. No ballot shall be counted whereon it appears that the elector has voted for a greater ~~or lesser~~ number of nominees for an office than there are vacancies to be filled. (6/1997)

## Proposed Amendment 3 New Requirement for Vice President

**Submitted by:** Kiwanis Club of Venice, Florida, USA

**Purpose:** To require that Kiwanis International Trustees must have at least a one year absence from the Board before subsequently serving in the offices of Vice President, President-elect, or President.

**Effective date:** October 1, 2019. (This would first apply to elections held at the 2020 Kiwanis International convention.)

**Vote required to adopt:** Two-thirds

**Proposer's position:** The club advocates this amendment for the following reasons:

- To remove the politics from the Kiwanis International Board so that decisions are not made on the basis of being a candidate for election the year leaving the Board.
- To give potential candidates the opportunity to run when they are ready, not at the end of their Board term.
- To increase the candidate field.

**Board's position:** The Kiwanis International Board does not support this amendment for the following reasons:

- A Trustee can lose valuable momentum and connectivity by being off the Board a year, and it can then take more time to become reacquainted with the issues facing the organization.
- This adds an extra year to the cycle a person must complete in order to reach the office of Kiwanis International President. This is not in the best interests of Board members, potential candidates or the organization.
- Adding more criteria and restrictions to qualify for an office may lead to a reduction in the number of willing and qualified candidates, which is also not in Kiwanis' best interests.
- The proposed language could be open to various interpretations and therefore confusion.
- This amendment would preclude a third-year Trustee from running for Vice President (or President-elect or President), which is currently permitted.
- When filling a vacancy in the office of Vice President (should the need ever arise), the Board may currently choose someone from *on* or *off* the Board. This amendment would preclude a current Board member from being chosen. That also may not be in Kiwanis' best interests, because someone from off the Board would then have to reorient themselves immediately in order to function in the office.

**Financial impact:** None.

**Amend** Kiwanis International bylaw provisions as follows:

**ARTICLE XI. OFFICERS**

**Section 6.** The President, President-Elect and Vice President shall be elected at the annual International convention for a period of one (1) administrative year. In order to occupy any such office, the member must have served two (2) years as trustee and must be off the Board of Trustees at least one (1) administrative year. (6/2015)

**Proviso:** *This amendment would affect only the office of Vice President as of October 1, 2020. The Vice President, President-elect and President elected prior to the effective date of the amendment would continue the progression as set forth in the Bylaws. After the date of the amendment, each candidate for Vice President would have to be qualified as set forth above.*

**Section 11.** ~~In the event that a Trustee with a remaining term in office of one (1) year seeks to be elected to an office above the level of Trustee, the term of office of said Trustee shall end on September 30 following the annual International convention at which the Trustee seeks higher office. (7/1998)~~

## Proposed Amendment 4 New Trustee Seat for a Member Under Age 50

**Submitted by:** Kiwanis Club of Springfield-Downtown, Illinois, USA

**Purpose:** To establish a new seat on the Kiwanis International Board guaranteed to be held by a person who is age 50 or under at the time of election.

**Effective date:** October 1, 2019. (This would first apply to elections held at the 2020 Kiwanis International convention, with the first term beginning October 1, 2020.)

**Vote required to adopt:** Two-thirds

**Proposer's position:** The club advocates this amendment for the following reasons:

- This amendment would allow the opportunity for more youthful demographic leadership and representation on the Kiwanis International Board.
- Our organization must build its future by providing opportunities for young leaders to have a consistent voice and perspective at the international level.
- A consistent presence of a member under age 50 on the Kiwanis International Board sends an important message and example that young people can find time to be active at all levels of the organization.

**Board's position:** The Kiwanis International Board does not support this amendment for the following reasons:

- This proposal goes beyond the club's main stated purpose "to allow the opportunity for more youthful demographic leadership and representation on the Kiwanis International Board." It does more than just add a new seat for a younger member. It also allows a district holding that seat to have more than one member on the Board and to skip the "dark year" provision. These are not considered to be good changes for two reasons:
  - Because larger districts have a larger membership base from which to draw potential candidates, these changes may favor larger districts.
  - These changes would reduce the potential number of districts that would serve on the Board, thereby reducing diversity at the top leadership level of the organization.
- Members under age 50 may already serve on the Board. A special seat is not necessary to allow those persons to serve on the Board.
- This proposal attempts to address one demographic group within Kiwanis without regard for any others.
- There are other ways to accomplish the goal of including the voices of young members on the Board.
- The Board may be challenged to find willing and qualified candidates each time this term is available.

**Financial impact:** Approximately US\$7,000 annually if the Trustee is from North America or US\$12,000 if from outside North America, mainly for paid expenses to attend Board meetings.

**Amend** Kiwanis International bylaw provisions as follows:

## **ARTICLE XI. OFFICERS**

**Section 1.** The officers of Kiwanis International shall be a President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Executive Director, ~~fifteen (15)~~ sixteen (16) Trustees, and a District Governor for each district. The authority and duty of each officer shall be such as are defined in these Bylaws. (6/2010)

**Section 3.** Each elected officer shall be an active member in good standing of a club, ~~and~~ The members of the Board of Trustees shall have served as a district governor at least two (2) years prior to assuming a Kiwanis International office. Each officer also shall have and maintain a clear criminal history background check conducted and verified by Kiwanis International. The Under-50 seat shall be held by a qualified member who is under fifty (50) years of age at the time of election. No offices shall be held by the same member, nor shall any officer simultaneously hold more than one (1) International office. (6/2018)

### **Section 7. Trustees**

- a. The term of office of Trustees shall be three (3) years, except for those elected to fill vacancies as provided in these Bylaws.
- b. No member shall serve for more than four (4) years in the office of Trustee. However, the time served by any member appointed by the International Board to fill an unexpired portion of a vacant term shall not count in determining the number of years served in the office of Trustee for the purpose of this provision. (6/2015)
- c. Five (5) Trustees shall be elected each administrative year: three (3) from the United States and Pacific Canada Region and two (2) from all other regions and at-large as provided in these Bylaws. (6/2010)
- d. One (1) Under-50 Trustee shall be elected every third year as provided elsewhere in these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE XIII. BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

### **Section 1.**

- a. The Board of Trustees shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, and ~~fifteen (15)~~ sixteen (16) Trustees. (7/2006)
- b. For the purpose of providing Trustee representation on the Board of Trustees, Kiwanis International shall be divided into seven (7) electoral regions as follows, each to include areas as defined by the International Board: (6/2010)
  - Africa
  - Asia-Pacific
  - Canada and Caribbean
  - Europe
  - Latin America

- Middle East
  - United States and Pacific Canada
- (6/2010)

- c. The Trustees of the Board of Trustees shall be elected so as to provide that: (6/1997)
- (1) The Asia-Pacific Region is guaranteed two (2) Trustees, to be selected by that region by a procedure it recommends and which is approved by the Board of Trustees. (6/2010)
  - (2) The Canada and Caribbean Region is guaranteed one (1) Trustee, to be selected by that region by a procedure it recommends and which is approved by the Board of Trustees. (6/2010)
  - (3) The Europe Region is guaranteed two (2) Trustees, to be selected by that region by a procedure it recommends and which is approved by the Board of Trustees. (6/2010)
  - (4) The United States and Pacific Canada Region is guaranteed nine (9) Trustees to be elected at-large by delegates from that Region at the annual International convention until such time that an alternate plan is presented by the Region and approved by the Board of Trustees. (6/2010)
  - (5) Other Regions. When another region has a minimum of two districts, it will be considered by the Kiwanis International Board for a guaranteed seat, subject to the appropriate amendment of this Article. (6/2010)
  - (6) At-Large Seat. Until such time that all defined regions have at least one (1) guaranteed seat on the Kiwanis International Board, there shall be one at-large seat, which shall be filled by a nominee from any region other than the United States and Pacific Canada Region and shall be elected at-large at an annual International convention by delegates and delegates-at-large from all regions. (6/2010)
  - (7) Under-50 Seat. There shall be one Under-50 seat on the Kiwanis International Board each year, which shall be filled by a nominee from any region and which shall be elected at an annual International convention by delegates and delegates-at-large from all regions.
- d. No district may have more than one (1) member on the Board of Trustees; however, this provision shall not apply to the Under-50 Trustee seat.
- e. A district shall not have a club member on the Board of Trustees for one (1) administrative year after another member from that district has completed service on the Board of Trustees, except where necessary to fill a guaranteed seat as provided in these Bylaws; however, this provision shall not apply to the Under-50 Trustee seat. (6/2015)

## **ARTICLE XVIII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Section 6.** A majority of all valid votes cast shall be necessary for the election of the Under-50 Seat, and the entire house of delegates shall vote for one (1) nominee. If no candidate receives a majority of the valid votes cast on the first ballot, then the candidate receiving the least number of votes shall be dropped from the ballot and a new vote shall be taken among the remaining candidates. This process shall be followed until one candidate receives a majority of the valid votes cast. Such candidate shall be declared

elected.

*(Existing Sections 6-9 will be renumbered.)*

## **ARTICLE XIX. DISCIPLINE OF OFFICERS AND VACANCIES IN OFFICE**

**Section 7.** In the event the vacancy is for the Under-50 seat, the Board of Trustees shall elect a qualified member who shall serve only until the end of the administrative year. If the vacant term extends beyond the current administrative year, an election to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term shall be conducted at the next annual International convention, and the member elected shall take office on October 1 after election,

*(Existing Sections 7-17 will be renumbered.)*



## Proposed Amendment 5 Family Membership Status

**Submitted by:** Pacific Northwest District. Cosponsored by the New England and Bermuda District Board, Ohio District Board, Southwest District Board, and Texas-Oklahoma District Board, and the Kiwanis Club of North Brunswick, North Carolina, USA

**Purpose:** To permanently adopt a new family membership status that provides a 50 percent discount on Kiwanis International dues and fees for qualifying members. Clubs may utilize this new status, provided the club's district also first adopts a family membership status (50 percent discount) regarding district dues and fees.

**Effective date:** September 30, 2019. (This would then be effective for dues paid for the 2019-20 administrative year.)

**Vote required to adopt:** Two-thirds

**Proposer's position:** The district advocates this amendment for the following reasons:

- This change will provide one more tool for attracting new members.
- This change will provide financial incentive for family members to join Kiwanis clubs.
- Kiwanis clubs will benefit by strengthening membership and providing more service.
- It will also benefit Kiwanis by strengthening the promotion of the Kiwanis family.
- This change will also provide one more path to membership for graduating Key Club and Circle K members who live at home beyond the two years free that they already have.
- Kiwanis International already has done some of the work needed for family membership due to the earlier pilot program. Districts that want to adopt it will have to make some adjustments.

**Board's position:** The Kiwanis International Board does not support this amendment for the following reasons:

- From 2010-2015, Kiwanis International piloted family membership in three districts that requested to participate: New England and Bermuda, Ohio, and Pacific Northwest. The goal of these pilots was to determine whether family membership would increase membership enough to warrant the 50 percent discounts in dues and fees. In January 2016, the Kiwanis International Board analyzed the results based on figures submitted by the piloting districts. Two of the pilot districts lost more members annually during the pilot than they had lost before the pilot, while the third district lost slightly fewer than they had lost before. Based on these results, Kiwanis International determined not to continue family membership.
- The proposer asserts that the bulk of family members will be new members and former Key Club and Circle K members. However, the majority of new family members in all three pilot districts were simply existing club members who changed their designation

to receive the dues discount, while only a minority were unique new members. It is unknown how many were former Key Club or Circle K members. Former members of Key Club and Circle K may already join Kiwanis clubs, and they qualify immediately, without documentation, for a two-year waiver of Kiwanis International dues.

- Historically, discounted membership programs have not increased membership in clubs. Rather, a positive club membership experience is the key factor in adding and retaining club members. Discounted memberships do, however, provide a greater level of confusion for club secretaries entering new members.
- The pilot program defined family members as a spouse, partner, adult offspring or adoptee, sibling or equivalent of a regular member who paid full dues. This proposal does not require any actual familial relationship.
- Under this proposal, a club may not offer family membership status unless the district also provides a 50 percent reduction in the new member add fee and annual dues. This essentially places control of the status with the district, not the club, which is unprecedented in Kiwanis.
- As mentioned above, the pilot programs primarily shifted existing members paying full dues to family members paying reduced dues. The resulting revenue loss if this amendment is adopted may force Kiwanis International and/or participating districts to request a dues increase sooner than they would otherwise need to. That would affect all clubs, not just those utilizing family membership status. This proposal essentially asks members who pay full dues to subsidize family members. Individual clubs may already do this, if they wish.
- The amendment states: "Clubs shall pass all discounted fees and dues on to the family members." This is contrary to the intention of club autonomy. Club are responsible for paying dues to Kiwanis International and the district per each club member. However, clubs may charge members any amount they wish. Some clubs already charge lower dues for younger members or others.
- This proposal contradicts Kiwanis International's continual efforts to simplify dues and fees for clubs and members. In January 2019, the Kiwanis International Board adopted a proposal to simplify the complicated dues and fees structure for new members joining clubs. Today, membership software utilized by Kiwanis must accommodate more than 900 product codes for different membership and dues classifications, waivers, tiered dues, and more. The action by the Board in January is to reduce the cost and complexity of the billing infrastructure. This amendment is contrary to those efforts.

**Financial impact:** When average figures from the three pilot districts are applied to all districts worldwide, family membership would result in a revenue loss of up to US\$250,000 annually. It is impossible to know or measure how many family members would have otherwise left clubs without this option or how many persons who joined clubs would not have joined without it.

**Amend** Kiwanis International bylaw provisions as follows:

## **ARTICLE VIII. CLUB MEMBERS**

### **Section 7. Family Membership Status**

- a. Family membership status may be granted by a club to members who have the same shared residence as an active member and who are members of the same

club. Each shared residence must include at least one active member who pays full Kiwanis International and district dues (known as the primary member) and may include up to three members with family membership status. The club will be responsible for verifying the legitimacy of the residency requirement.

b. Before clubs may grant family membership status, their district must first amend its bylaws to also provide a 50 percent discount of district dues and new member enrollment fees for family members.

*Proviso: During the 2019-20 administrative year, districts may give a 25 percent discount if the district board so chooses. Thereafter, districts shall give the full 50 percent discount.*

c. Family members shall pay 50 percent of the Kiwanis International and district new member enrollment fees at the time of joining an existing club and 50 percent of the annual Kiwanis International and district membership dues thereafter. All other applicable fees remain payable, including insurance, as well as the financial obligations to the member's club. Family membership status shall not apply to any members forming new clubs. After the club is formally organized, members may apply for family membership status.

d. Clubs shall pass all discounted fees and dues on to the family members.

e. Family members shall have all the rights and privileges of club membership.

f. Family membership status is not transferable to other clubs.

*(Existing Sections 7-9 will be renumbered.)*

## **ARTICLE XXI. OFFICIAL PUBLICATIONS**

**Section 4.** Each club in the United States and Canada, excluding the French-speaking clubs in Canada, shall make it a condition of membership that each member, except those with family membership status, shall be a subscriber to the official publications of Kiwanis International and shall continue as such while a member. However, if spouses are both members of a club, one spouse may choose not to subscribe. (6/2012)

**Section 6.** Each club in the United States and Canada, excluding the French-speaking clubs in Canada, shall collect from each of its members, except those with family membership status, the subscription price of the official publications together with the regular club membership dues. Such subscription shall be duly entered upon the books of the club in a special subscription account, and the subscriptions for official publications shall be forwarded to the Executive Director of Kiwanis International. However, clubs shall not collect the subscription price from both spouses who are members of a club if one spouse has chosen not to subscribe. (6/2012)

## **ARTICLE XXII. REVENUE**

**Section 1.** Subject to Sections 2 and 3 of this Article, each club shall pay to Kiwanis International for each member, with the exception of those holding life member status, the sum of fifty-two dollars (US \$52) per annum. However, members holding family membership status shall pay dues as provided in Article VIII. Such sum shall be based on each club's annual membership report as of September 30 of each year and shall be due annually on October 1 and payable by November 30. (6/2015)



**Kiwanis®**

3636 Woodview Trace, Indianapolis, IN 46268 USA

USA and Canada: 1-800-KIWANIS

Worldwide: +1-317-875-8755

**[kiwanis.org](http://kiwanis.org)**