



KIWANIS INTERNATIONAL

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July 15, 1987

**TO: International Council
KI-Europe Board
District Boards
Club Presidents**

**FROM: Frank J. DiNoto
International President**

RE: Women's Membership Amendment

The amendment to permit women's membership in Kiwanis clubs was adopted by the delegates at the 72nd International Convention. The following points will clarify questions your club may have.

1. As with any amendment that does not specify an effective date, this delegate action became effective immediately. Actions of the International House of Delegates automatically become part of all district and club bylaws.
2. The amendment eliminates gender as a membership requirement. Article V, Section 4a, of the International Constitution will now read: "The active membership of any club shall consist of persons of good character and community standing residing or having other community interests within the area of this club."
3. No other membership requirement or procedure was changed. Each person proposed for club membership must be sponsored by at least two current members, approved by the club board or membership committee, and then extended an invitation to join.
4. The elimination of gender as a membership requirement has worldwide effect. The delegates chose to adopt a uniform policy for Kiwanis clubs throughout the world, rather than limit the change to the United States.
5. If a person is properly sponsored for membership, and the club board considers disapproving the membership proposal on the basis of gender, the club should first seek the advice of qualified counsel to determine whether such action would be contrary to state, provincial, or national law. Kiwanis International does not participate in club membership decisions and cannot defend or indemnify a club that excludes persons from membership for unlawful reasons.