

## Policy revisions adopted by the Kiwanis International Board October 2, 2020

The revised text in final form is shown in blue.

At its meeting held October 2, 2020, the Kiwanis International Board revised policies on social media guidelines, depraved and unacceptable behavior in relation to children and youth, and endorsement of candidates for Kiwanis International office, and added a new policy about declaring emergency conditions.

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### POLICY B. INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION

#### Current wording:

#### 23. Official Endorsement of Candidates for Kiwanis International Offices

- a. Per the Kiwanis International Bylaws, all candidates to be elected at the Kiwanis International convention. including those for President-Elect and President. must be officially endorsed by their district house of delegates. (10/17) (7/20)
- b. District endorsement does not apply to persons appointed to fill vacancies in Board offices. (10/17)
- c. All candidates are requested to advise the Executive Director in writing of their intentions to run on or before October 1 of the administrative year during which the election will be held. However, as provided in the bylaws, qualified candidates have the right to announce later. (10/18)
- d. Governors who wish to be candidates for Kiwanis International Trustee in their first year of eligibility should secure district endorsement while they are Immediate Past Governor. (Per the Kiwanis International Bylaws, they may not secure endorsement while Governor.) (10/18)
- e. District house endorsement shall take place at an annual or special district convention held within 12 months preceding a candidate's announcement to Kiwanis International, provided the candidate is qualified to secure endorsement at that time. Districts are encouraged to use the endorsement resolution template provided by Kiwanis International. (10/18)
- f. District endorsement shall be considered effective only for the office and election year stated in the endorsement. Endorsements may not be made for future years and shall not be considered valid after the administrative year of the stated election. (10/17)
- g. If necessary due to timing constraints and if pre-approved by Kiwanis International, districts may endorse candidates for more than one election. (10/17)
- h. If a district board believes the district has circumstances which make it impossible for its house to endorse a candidate, the Kiwanis International bylaws allow that the district board

may petition the Kiwanis International Board to allow the district board to make the endorsement. In such cases, endorsement may only be given by the district board in authority during the administrative year during which the election will be held. *(Note that the word “petition” refers to a formal written request, but not one with multiple signatures.)* (10/18)

The Kiwanis International Board shall determine whether a circumstance is considered “impossible.” Such circumstances are extremely rare. The following examples probably would not qualify. (10/18)

- Emergency conditions that require cancellation of the district’s scheduled annual convention. Instead, the district should follow its district bylaws to hold a make-up convention or district council where proper endorsement may and should take place.
- A candidate doesn’t decide to run until after the district convention takes place.
- The candidate or the district believes it is easier, for any reason, to secure district board endorsement.
- Any assumptions related to the timing of endorsement and announcement that have not been verified in advance with Kiwanis International.

(10/17)

- i. Districts may not endorse more than one candidate for the same office at the same election. (10/17)
- j. Candidates shall be endorsed only by their home district: that is, the district of the member’s primary club. Formal endorsement from other districts may not be sought. (7/20)
- k. Candidates may not campaign outside their own districts until the beginning of the administrative year during which the election will be held. (10/17)
- l. The Executive Director is charged with determining all questions related to candidates, in accordance with the spirit of existing provisions in the bylaws and policies, and may consult the International President and/or Campaign Ethics Committee as he/she deems advisable. However, in all cases, the Kiwanis International Board has the final authority to decide any questions related to candidates. (10/17)

#### Revised wording:

- k. *[New paragraph]* Campaigning for endorsement within a district must be limited to in-person interaction at Kiwanis meetings or events within the district, or via campaign materials distributed either in-person, via postal mail, or via email to club members within the district. Campaigning for endorsement within a district by other means by either the candidate or campaign staff including social media and online platforms is not allowed. (10/20)
- l. *[Revised wording and renumbered paragraph]* Endorsed candidates may not campaign outside the district of their primary club until October 1 of the administrative year during which the Kiwanis International election will be held. (10/20)
- m. *[Renumbered paragraph only.]* The Executive Director is charged with determining all questions related to candidates, in accordance with the spirit of existing provisions in the bylaws and policies, and may consult the International President and/or Campaign Ethics Committee as he/she deems advisable. However, in all cases, the Kiwanis International Board has the final authority to decide any questions related to candidates. (10/17)

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## **POLICY B. INTERNATIONAL ADMINISTRATION**

### **Current wording:**

#### **19. Social Media Guidelines**

All Kiwanis International Board members, District Governors, Governors-Elect and Lieutenant Governors shall adhere to the following guidelines when posting to a Blog, making comments online, or using Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, LinkedIn, Flickr or any other tools that fall within the social media realm. (10/10)

Recognizing that the individual actions of each Kiwanis club member reflect upon the entire organization, the Board urges all districts and clubs to adopt a similar policy and for all Kiwanis members to abide by these guidelines. (10/10)

- a. Be aware that you are responsible, legally and morally, for what you say and post online.
  - b. Remember that your audience may include Kiwanis family members and nonmembers, both adults and youth, from many cultures throughout the world.
  - c. Talk about your Kiwanis experience in positive terms.
  - d. Make it clear that you are speaking only for yourself and any views posted are yours alone.
  - e. Online conversations should be open, honest, and honorable.
  - f. Do not post any items, make any comments, or share any material that would be inappropriate for children to read, view or share.
  - g. Add value to the conversation.
  - h. Know when to respond. You may disagree with a post, but never fight or air grievances online, and don't get caught up in someone else's rant or rage.
  - i. Do not use foul language.
  - j. Don't speak of others in derogatory or degrading terms.
  - k. Prior to posting any media online, obtain permission from any individuals who appear in that media. It could be illegal to do otherwise.
  - l. Adhere to copyright and fair use.
  - m. Use factual information and cite sources.
- (10/10)

### **Revised wording:**

#### **19. Social Media Guidelines**

All Kiwanis International Board members, District Governors, Governors-Elect and Lieutenant Governors shall adhere to the following guidelines when posting to a Blog, making comments online, or using Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, LinkedIn, Flickr or any other tools that fall within the social media realm. (10/20)

Recognizing that the individual actions of each Kiwanis club member reflect upon the entire organization, the Board urges all districts and clubs to adopt a similar policy and for all Kiwanis members to abide by these guidelines. (10/10)

- a. Be aware that you are responsible, legally and morally, for what you say and post online. (10/10)
- b. Do not post any items that promote, endorse, or condone violence. (10/10) (10/20)

- c. Do not post any items that promote, endorse, or condone discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, age or sex, including sexual orientation and gender identity. (10/10) (10/20)
- d. Remember that your audience may include Kiwanis family members and nonmembers, both adults and youth, from many cultures throughout the world. (10/10)
- e. Talk about your Kiwanis experience in positive terms. (10/10)
- f. Make it clear that you are speaking only for yourself and any views posted are yours alone. (10/10)
- g. Online conversations should be open, honest, and honorable. (10/10)
- h. Do not post any items, make any comments, or share any material that would be inappropriate for children to read, view or share. (10/10)
- i. Add value to the conversation. (10/10)
- j. Know when to respond. You may disagree with a post, but never fight or air grievances online, and don't get caught up in someone else's rant or rage. (10/10)
- k. Do not use foul language. (10/10)
- l. Don't speak of others in derogatory or degrading terms. (10/10)
- m. Prior to posting any media online, obtain permission from any individuals who appear in that media. (10/10)
- n. Adhere to copyright and fair use. (10/10)
- o. Use factual information and cite sources. (10/10)

All Kiwanis International Board members, District Governors, Governors-Elect, and Lieutenant Governors agree that if Kiwanis International staff, led by the Executive Director, in its sole discretion, requests that an individual remove a post for violating the social media policies set forth above, the individual shall promptly remove the post. If the individual disagrees with Kiwanis International staff's decision to remove a post, the individual may appeal the decision to the Risk Management Committee of the Kiwanis International Board, which Committee will then make a recommendation to the Kiwanis International Board. The individual must remove the post while the appeal is pending. Failure to remove the post when requested by Kiwanis International staff subjects the individual to discipline, including but not limited to immediate removal from office by the Kiwanis International Board. (10/20)

Kiwanis International staff will review posts that come to their attention but have no duty to affirmatively review posts by any Kiwanis International Board member, District Governor, Governors-Elect, or Lieutenant Governors or other members. (10/20)

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## **POLICY C. GENERAL**

### **Current wording:**

#### **11. Depraved or Unacceptable Behavior in Relation to Children or Youth**

Kiwanis defines depraved or unacceptable behavior in relation to children or youth as including but not limited to:

- Documented and confirmed inappropriate touching
- Documented and confirmed inappropriate sexual or bullying conversations
- Documented and confirmed behavior that would be considered contributing to the delinquency of a minor (such as alcohol or drugs)
- A felony conviction involving children or youth.

(03/14)

**Revised wording:**

**11. Depraved or Unacceptable Behavior in Relation to Children or Youth**

Kiwanis defines depraved or unacceptable behavior in relation to children or youth as including but not limited to: (03/14)

- A formal criminal charge filed against a member of a club of inappropriate touching of someone under the age of 18; (03/14) (10/20)
- A formal criminal charge filed against a member of a club involving the production, distribution, importation, reception, or possession of child pornography; (03/14) (10/20)
- Documented and confirmed inappropriate touching; (03/14)
- Documented and confirmed inappropriate sexual or bullying conversations; (03/14)
- Documented and confirmed behavior that would be considered contributing to the delinquency of a minor (such as alcohol or drugs); (03/14)
- A felony conviction involving children or youth. (03/14)

If one of the above two formal criminal charges is filed against a member, a club shall immediately suspend such member until resolution of the criminal charges. If the accused member is found guilty of the criminal charges, whether by trial or plea, the club shall immediately remove the member. If a club fails to immediately suspend or remove the member as required by this policy, Kiwanis International may suspend or revoke the club's charter as provided in the Kiwanis International Bylaws. (10/20)

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**NEW POLICY**

**POLICY C. GENERAL**

**13. Determination of Emergency Conditions**

The Kiwanis International shall use the following criteria to determine whether emergency conditions exist or continue at any given time. Additional criteria may be considered, as deemed relevant. (10/20)

- a) The ability of clubs and districts to meet, serve their communities, and raise funds.
  - b) Travel restrictions, domestic and international.
  - c) Health and safety risks, requirements, and precautions.
  - d) Schools and universities in session with regular attendance.
  - e) Financial impact on businesses and the economy, organizations, clubs, and members.
- (10/20)

The Kiwanis International shall review these factors at each regular Board meeting until such time as the Board considers that the emergency conditions no longer exist. (10/20)