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Kiwanis International Bylaws Modernization Revision Summary of Key Changes

The purpose of the Kiwanis International Bylaws Modernization Revision is to adopt a comprehensive update of the bylaws. (This was last conducted 30 years ago.) Most of the changes are not significant. They do not change the way Kiwanis operates. Rather, they update the text to be clearer or to reflect current practice or they move the text to a new location or place it in a new order. Those types of changes are not mentioned in this document. Shown below are revisions that reflect an actual change of practice in some way.

The complete Modernization Revision document can be found at: <https://www.kiwanis.org/docs/default-source/training/governance/kiwanis-international/bylaws-modernization>

**Club Appeal of Disciplinary Action (Article VII, Section 2)**

An appeal process from a club that has had its charter suspended or revoked will be submitted to the Kiwanis International Board rather than the Kiwanis International convention.

**Elimination of Interim Status (Article VIII, Section 5)**

Interim status for members will be eliminated. (This is an at-large type membership that allows members who leave one club but plan to join another club within a year to maintain association with Kiwanis International by payment of a fee. It has legal challenges associated with it and has not been used since its creation in 2000.)

**District Governor’s Duties (Article IX, Section 8)**

The governor’s duties have been reworded, with no change of meaning or implementation.

**Kiwanis International Officers’ Duties (Article XII)**

The stated duties of Kiwanis International officers have been clarified. The executive director will now be specifically responsible for ensuring that the organization complies with all governmental reporting requirements for finances, taxation, employment and any other areas of operation (as the position currently does).

**Kiwanis International Board Voting Details (Article XIII, Section 4)**

The process used by the Kiwanis International Board to conduct business without meeting in person has been simplified and is still in compliance with applicable law.

**Kiwanis International Board Responsibilities (Article XIII, Section 6 and new Section 8)**

Wording has been added to state specifically that the Kiwanis International Board has fiduciary responsibility for the organization and is accountable to the membership for the organization’s performance. The Board has already been fulfilling these roles, even though they were not stated.

**K.I. Council (Article XIV)**

* Council meetings may only be called by the Kiwanis International Board, not by the Executive Committee.
* The way Council may conduct business has been adjusted for occasions on which a physical meeting is not held.
* Council may amend the Kiwanis International Bylaws in nonsubstantive ways under particular conditions, subject to later rescission by the Kiwanis International House of Delegates. This corresponds with Council’s existing power regarding the bylaws.

**K.I. Convention (Article XV and Article XVII, new Section 3)**

* The determination process for the time and place of conventions has been clarified.
* A provision was added about setting and changing the agenda for special conventions.
* The wording regarding registration fees has been clarified to reflect long-standing practice.
* An option has been added for resolutions presented fewer than 90 days in advance to be considered under specific conditions. This agrees with a similar provision for district conventions.

**Announcement of Candidacy for Kiwanis International Offices (Article XVIII, new Section 2a)**

Candidates for Kiwanis International Board offices must announce their candidacies no later than the Kiwanis International convention’s opening session, rather than the “the first business session.”

**Vacancy or Incapacity of International President (Art. XIX, Sec. 1 and new Sec. 8)**

* The options for filling a vacancy in the Kiwanis International presidency was expanded to include the option of selecting a past Kiwanis International president.
* Until the vacancy is filled, the immediate past president would automatically serve as acting president.
* If the immediate past president is unable or unwilling to serve as acting president, the Kiwanis International Board would select a past president to fill that role.
* If the Kiwanis International president is incapacitated and unable to discharge the duties of office, a two-thirds confirmation vote by the board would be required before the office can be declared vacant.

**Kiwanis International Board’s Authority Regarding an Incomplete Election (Art. XIX, new Sec. 7)**

If the election of a Kiwanis International Board office cannot be completed for any reason, the board may fill the office as a vacancy. This agrees with a similar provision for district boards regarding district officers.

**Kiwanis International Committees (Article XX, new Section 1)**

* Standing committees on Membership and Governance will be required. (These committees are already appointed every year.)
* The mandatory composition of some committees was adjusted.
* The Past Presidents Committee may hold additional meetings at the expense of its members.

**Kiwanis Administrative Year (Article XXIII, new Section 1)**

The definition of the administrative year (vs. fiscal year) will now be clearly stated, rather than implied.

**Best Practices for Accounting and Finances (Article XXIII, new Section 3)**

A provision now states that the organization will adhere to professional practices related to finance and accounting (as it has been doing).

**Vote Requirement to Amend the Kiwanis International Bylaws (Article XXVII, *new* Sections 1, 6, and 7)**

Currently, parts of the Kiwanis International bylaws require a majority vote to amend, while other parts require a two-thirds vote. A two-thirds vote would now be required to amend *any* portion of the Kiwanis International Bylaws. (This is the same vote required to amend the district bylaws or club bylaws.)

*(Rev. 2023)*