

**Resolution in support of**  
**Women advancing to positions of leadership in Rotary International**

Whereas, consideration of legislation to delete the word “male” from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution dates to 1950;

Whereas, in 1977 three separate proposals to admit women into membership were submitted to the Council on Legislation and all were defeated;

Whereas, on May 4<sup>th</sup> 1987, the US Supreme court ruled that USA Rotary Clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender and RI then issued a policy statement allowing any USA Club to admit women;

Whereas, in 1989 the Council on Legislation voted to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership be limited to men;

Whereas, in July 1995, the first eight women were elected to become District Governors;

Whereas, in 2005 Carolyn E. Jones began her term as the first woman appointed as Trustee of the Rotary Foundation;

Whereas, in 2008, Catherine Noyer-Riveau began her term as the first woman elected to the RI Board of Directors;

Whereas in 2012 Elizabeth S. Demaray began her term as Treasurer, the first woman to serve in that position;

Whereas, in 2013 Anne L. Mathews began her term as the first woman to serve as RI Vice President;

Whereas, in early 2017 Immediate Past RI President Ian H.S. Riseley urged clubs to improve their gender balance because, “Three decades is far too long to wait to achieve a Rotary that reflects the world in which we live. We need to make it a priority now”;

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Whereas, in August, 2018, yet another man was nominated to be RI President for the Rotary year 2020 – 2021;

Whereas, no woman has ever been nominated to serve as RI President;

Whereas, no woman has ever been nominated to serve as Chair of the Rotary Foundation;

Whereas, in 2018 Rotary membership worldwide consists of 21% women (up from 13% ten years ago) or more than 252,000;

And Whereas, in 2018-2019 there are no (0) women serving on the RI Board of Directors and only three (3) woman Trustees serving on the Rotary Foundation.

Therefore be it Resolved, that the **Rotary Club of Ithaca** in District #7170, Zone 32, hereby calls upon the entire 19 member RI Board of Directors to publicly declare by December 31, 2018 a date certain when a woman will serve as RI President;

Be it further Resolved, that the current RI President Elect publicly declare by December 31, 2018 a date certain when a woman will serve as Chair of the Rotary Foundation;

Be it further Resolved, that composition of the RI Board of Directors will immediately and henceforth accurately reflect the same percentage of women Directors as in the general Rotary worldwide membership;

Be it further Resolved, that composition of the Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees will immediately and henceforth accurately reflect the same percentage of women Trustees as in the general Rotary worldwide membership;

Be it further Resolved, that a woman will be nominated as RI President, at a minimum, once in every three (3) years;

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Be it further Resolved, that a woman will be nominated as Rotary Foundation Chairman, at a minimum, once in every three (3) years;

Be it further Resolved, that RI leadership will actively and forcefully promote women to Zone and District Governor positions of responsibility;

Be it further Resolved, that RI leadership will publicly renounce the 'old boy network' in favor of a true diverse gender culture that allows all qualified members – both female and male – to advance to positions of leadership within all levels of Rotary;

Be it further Resolved, that these changes be instituted immediately by the power invested in the RI Board of Directors and not wait for Council on Legislation approvals.

The time has long since passed to recognize that Rotary International needs women in the highest of leadership positions – now and every year in the future. Without such a public commitment today, Rotary can never fulfill its own Four Way Test.

This Resolution is hereby unanimously endorsed by the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Ithaca, Ithaca, NY, USA on August 28, 2018 and after due consideration, confirmed by a vote of the members present at a Club meeting held on September 19, 2018.

We look forward to your thoughtful response.

Respectfully submitted by,

Mary Berens ([mfb1@cornell.edu](mailto:mfb1@cornell.edu))

2018-2019 President

Rotary Club of Ithaca

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