



## WEEK 9 FOUNDATION MINUTE – WOMEN IN ROTARY

This month's centennial celebration of Women's suffrage in the United States coincides with the announcement of the nomination of Jennifer Jones as President of Rotary International for 2022-2023, the first female Rotarian to be so nominated. Jennifer's qualifications for the position are exemplary, and her dedication to Rotary's ideals will strengthen and expand our global reach during her tenure.

The journey of acceptance of women as equals in Rotary has taken over 35 years, mirroring the beginning of corporate acceptance of women in management in the workplace. Many of Rotary's current members started their careers in the 1970's when they were often the first woman allowed in management training programs. By the 1980's, these female corporate leaders sought to join their male colleagues in local Rotary clubs – which finally became possible following the decision in 1987 by the US Supreme Court. It took a while after that for women to be welcome in many Rotary clubs – and even longer for most clubs to elect their first female President. Eventually, Districts brought women into their leadership ranks as well, with our own Mimi Altman in 1995 becoming one of the first eight women District Governors.

Our District 6440 membership currently includes 630 women and 1339 men. Are we reflecting the demographics of our community leaders, volunteers, and businesses by gender, color and nationality? As we continue to assess our community needs and how best to meet them, isn't it time to broaden our membership so that everyone gets to take a seat with us at our Rotary table in support of Service Above Self and the work of The Rotary Foundation?