

Extension – forming new Clubs and finding new members in existing Clubs

Joining an Existing Club

With an established Club, if they wish to invite women with no connection to Inner Wheel or Rotary, a simple majority of all the existing Club members should agree.

The new rule is as follows:-

Active membership may be retained or taken up by the following, provided they are over 18 years:

- a. Women related to Rotarians/former Rotarians**
- b. Women related to Inner Wheel members/former Inner Wheel members**
- c. Women who have been invited to join – provided that a majority of the Club members agree.**

Starting a new Club

When starting a **new Club**, as there are no existing Club members, then a Club can be started from any one or a combination of all three of the categories a. b. c., and the slight restriction on C., that the majority of the Club members agree, does **not** apply.

Therefore a **new** Club can be started from **any** of the following:-

- a. Women related to Rotarians/former Rotarians**
- b. Women related to Inner Wheel members/former Inner Wheel members**
- c. Women who have been invited to join**

each category is of equal importance.

Procedure when a possible new member is from Category C.

If anyone hears (Club members or District Officers) that someone is interested in joining Inner Wheel, then the Club President/Secretary or District Extension Organiser should be informed, and they should arrange to meet that person to discuss the possibility of them either joining an existing Club or starting a new Inner Wheel Club.

Joining an existing Club.

A majority of the Club members must agree.

The Constitution does not state how the vote should be taken, therefore the vote can be taken **either**:-

- a) at a Club meeting or**
- b) by a postal vote.**

It is up to each Club to decide how they wish to conduct the vote.

If the Club selects **a) to vote at a Club meeting**, then all the members should be informed, prior to the meeting, that a vote will be taken, and if they cannot attend that meeting they should submit their vote by post, before the date of the meeting. If their vote has not been received when the meeting takes place, those votes will be counted as abstentions.

A simple majority of all the votes cast is all that is required.

If the Club selects **b) a postal vote**, then all the members should be asked to submit their vote by post. If some members do not submit their votes, they will be counted as abstentions.

A simple majority of all the votes cast is all that is required.

(When it states that a vote requires a majority of the Club members to agree, that means 50% + 1 = 51% of the Club members.

*For example if a Club has 30 members a majority would be 16 members (half the members plus 1)
If a Club only has 12 members a majority would be 7 members.*

If a Club has an odd number of members, it is a little more difficult. For example, if a Club has 31 members 51% would be $15.5 + 1 = 16.5$: that would need to be rounded up to 17, because you cannot have half a member.

'A majority' is the same as 'a simple majority'.

The word 'simple' is sometimes added just to stress that the requirement is 51%, and not a greater majority of say 60% or 75%)

Starting a new Club

A new Club can be formed from any of the three categories, and it is permissible to form a new Club totally from Category C.

Because there are no existing members, then a majority vote of approval does not apply.

As soon as those new members join, they become full active members, and can vote and hold office, and participate in all aspects of the Club. It would therefore be advisable to have a small welcoming committee, who could explain the objects of Inner Wheel and how the Club functions. (A leaflet is available to give to new members briefly giving information about Inner Wheel).

A new Club can be formed and sponsored by a Rotary Club, by an Inner Wheel Club or by the District Executive. The District Extension Organiser should be involved to explain the objects of Inner Wheel and how Clubs and Districts function. If no District exists, then the sponsoring Inner Wheel Club should take on that responsibility, and they should keep IIW informed of the possible formation.

Every member is a potential extension officer, and should always be looking around to find women who fully agree with the objects of Inner Wheel, and share our values. We now have a wonderful opportunity to increase membership and inject new life into those Clubs, which have been struggling to attract new members under the present rules. The possibilities for encouraging new members, from category C to join are immense, and it is up to all Clubs to look for those potential members.

Posters etc could be placed in surgeries, libraries and public places about Inner Wheel, displaying our new slug 'Happier Futures' Inner Wheel helping children around the world, and asking the question 'Would you be interested in becoming a member?'

Honorary Membership

The rule about Honorary Membership has changed and is simpler now.

If the Club wishes to honour someone, for example, a local dignitary, or a person who has helped the Club in some way, or someone from a Charity, they can invite them to join as an Honorary Member for a limited time.

Clubs can invite up to 4 persons whom they wish to Honour to become Honorary Members. Such members cannot hold office and cannot vote, and they must be elected annually.

When considering inviting someone to be an Honorary Member, the Club President should propose that person's invitation to the members at a Club meeting. The members present at that meeting should then be asked to vote, and if **a majority of those present** agree, she can be invited to join.