

CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS FOR CONFERENCE 2007

Amendment 1. Title

That the New Zealand federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. amends Clause 1 of the Constitution by the inclusion of the words "BPW New Zealand".

Present

The name of this organisation shall be the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as "the Federation" or "BPW NZ").

Proposed

The name of the organisation shall be the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Incorporated (hereinafter referred to as "the Federation", BPW New Zealand or BPW NZ").

Rationale:

This amendment would formalise a title that is in common use.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment 2. Outgoing Officers and Convenors

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. amends Clause 16.4 of the Constitution.

Present

Within thirty (30) days of the expiration of her term of office, each Convenor shall deliver to the Office of the Federation the books and records belonging to her office.

Proposed

At conference, each outgoing Officer and Convenor shall deliver to the Executive Secretary all records belonging to her office.

Rationale:

New officers and convenors must have access to their records as soon as possible after conference to start planning and be prepared for the training weekend that is usually held in late May.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment 3. Change of Deadline for Remits to Conference

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. amends Section 1.1 of the Standing Orders:

Present

All motions for the Conference, including Resolutions and changes to the Constitution, Finance Policy, or Standing Orders, but excluding emergency motions, shall be sent in writing to reach the Immediate Past President not later than fourteen (14) weeks before the Conference.

Proposed

All motions for the Conference including resolutions and changes to the Constitution or Finance Policy but excluding emergency motions, shall be sent in writing to reach the Federation not later than the first (1st) of December of the year preceding that Conference.

Rationale:

Clubs should have their resolutions and constitutional amendments ready by then as most will have closed activities for the year and the resolutions committee must be able to establish where key people can be contacted over the holiday period in case amendments are required.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment 4. Convenors obligations:

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. amends the Constitution by the inclusion of a new Clause 16.3 (f) to read: "Any Convenor not submitting reports to three consecutive Executive Meetings shall be deemed to have vacated her position."

Rationale:

The executive must be able to seek replacement ad hoc appointees for convenors roles that are not being fulfilled.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment 5. Delegates to Congress - amendment to Finance Policy

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. delete Clause 3.2.3 (Young BPW Fund.) and amends Clause 3.2.2 (c) of the Finance Policy:

Present

Reimbursement of costs to the second delegate (who shall be deputy leader and second Board member) shall be as determined by Conference.

Proposed

Reimbursements of costs to the second delegate (who shall be Deputy Leader and second Board member) and other delegates including the Young BPW shall be as determined by Conference.

Rationale:

With our lower membership and consequent lesser funds, Members at conference should decide the expenditure of sending a Young BPW and other delegates to congress based on the current financial situation.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment No 6 "a new ARTICLE" not Section. The remaining Articles to be renumbered.

Amendment 6. Change to Standing Orders and Constitution (1)

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc.:
Remove Section G and Section 1 from Standing Orders, which is to be inserted into the Constitution following Article 10 as a new Article 11 titled "*Motions and Amendments*", the remaining Articles to be renumbered accordingly.

"11. Motions and Amendments

- 11.1 *Motions and amendments may be submitted by the Executive Committee, Individual Officers of the Federation, a Convenor, or a member Club.*
- 11.2 *All such motions and amendments shall be in writing, dated, and signed by the proposer. In the case of a Club the President or Secretary of that Club shall sign. An explanatory note must be appended.*
- 11.3 *Motions recommending changes in Federation per capita levies and affiliation fees must be accompanied by a memorandum stating in figures the effect the motion would have on:*
 - (a) *the Federation income; and*
 - (b) *the Federation budget.*
- 11.4 *All motions for the Conference, including Resolutions and changes to the Constitution or Finance Policy, but excluding emergency motions, shall be sent in writing to reach the Immediate Past President not later than fourteen (14) weeks before the Conference.*

- 11.5 *The Immediate Past President shall consider, edit, and co-ordinate, ensuring that the:*
 (a) *Proposers have made sufficient research to avoid errors of fact or timing*
 (b) *Motions do not overlap in subject matter*
 (c) *Motions conform to the aims of the Federation.*
- 11.6 *These motions shall then be circulated to Clubs to reach them not later than ten (10 weeks before Conference.*
- 11.7 *Any proposed amendments to these motions shall be sent in writing to reach the Immediate Past President not later than six (6) weeks before the Conference, who shall consider, advise on, and co-ordinate if necessary.*
- 11.8 *Amendments shall be circulated to all Clubs to reach them not later than four (4) weeks before the Conference.*
- 11.9 *No further motions or amendments designed to alter the per capita levy or budget will be accepted before or during Conference.*
- 11.10 *Any further proposed amendments to motions not designed to alter the per capita levy or budget shall be handed in writing to the Immediate Past President on the prescribed form (available at Conference) before being formally moved and seconded. These amendments shall be circulated to members at Conference before the sessions considering the motions, where practicable.*
- 11.11 *Emergency motions must be lodged with the Immediate Past President not later than 0830 hours on the first day of Conference and accepted for discussion by two thirds (2/3rds) of the votes cast. The proposer may speak for up to two (2) minutes to justify the need for the acceptance of the Emergency Motion prior to the vote. There will be no further discussion.*

The amended Standing Orders to read:

"1 Conduct of Meetings

- 1.1. a) *When a motion is formulated, proposed, and seconded, any further discussion must proceed on that proposition and be governed by Standing Orders.*
- b) *Only voting members may propose and second motions.*
- c) *Parts of a proposed motion may be voted on separately at the request of any voting member unless the mover of the motion objects.*
- d) *When an amendment revises, adds to, or deletes from a proposal, the amendment shall be put to the vote first, and if it is adopted, the amended proposal shall then become the substantive motion and be put to the vote.*
- e) *Emergency Motions must be lodged according to 11.11 of the Constitution. They will be accepted for discussion by a two thirds (2/3rds) majority of the votes cast. The Proposer may speak for up to two (2) minutes to justify the need for acceptance of the Emergency Motion prior to the vote. There will be no further discussion.*
- 1.2. *Observers shall speak only on the Conference Chairperson's stating that the meeting is open for discussion after she has ascertained that no more voting members with speaking rights at Conference wish to speak.*
- 1.3. *The proposer of the motion may speak for three (3) minutes, the seconder for two (2) minutes, and each subsequent speaker and the right of reply be for two (2) minutes.*
- 1.4. *The mover of the motion, but not the mover of an amendment thereto, shall have the right of reply to the discussion, but may introduce no new matter.*
 (a) *If an amendment is moved she may exercise this right either before the amendment is put, or before the vote on the original motion.*
 (b) *In all other cases no one may speak more than once to any motion or amendment except to*

raise a point of order or to ask a question.

1.5. (a) *During discussion of any matter a voting member may raise a point of order. In this case the Conference Chairperson shall immediately state her ruling. If it is challenged, the Conference Chairperson shall forthwith submit her ruling to the Conference for decision, and it shall stand unless overruled.*

(b) *At the conclusion of any speech it may be moved by any voting member who has not previously spoken in the debate that the question be now put; on this being seconded it shall immediately be put to the vote and, if carried, the motion or amendment under discussion shall be voted upon at once.*

(c) *At the conclusion of any speech it may be moved by any voting member who has not previously spoken in the debate that the next business be now proceeded with; on this being seconded, it shall be immediately be put to the vote and, if carried, the next business shall be taken forthwith.*

(d) *The decision of the Conference Chairperson shall be final on all points except as provided in Article 1.5 (a) above.*

1.6 (a) *Voting shall be in accordance with Article 10 of the Constitution. Each motion shall be voted upon by a show of voting cards. No count shall be taken unless the Conference Chairperson considers it to be desirable or the decision is challenged.*

(b) *A simple majority shall be a majority of those voting. Where a two thirds (2/3rds) majority is required it shall be two thirds (2/3rds) of the votes cast.*

i. *A two thirds (2/3rds) majority of the votes cast at Conference or a Special General Meeting called for the purpose is required to change the Constitution.*

ii. *A two thirds (2/3rds) majority of votes cast at Conference is required to change the Finance Policy.*

(c) *Such number of stewards as may be required shall be appointed by Conference at the first business session.*

2. Open discussion

2.1 *After reports have been presented and seconded, discussion is open to voting members and members with speaking rights.*

2.2 *Observers shall speak only on the Conference Chairperson's stating that the meeting is open after she has ascertained that no more voting members or members with speaking rights wish to speak.*

2.3 *No speaker may speak to the same discussion more than twice.*

2.4 *No one may speak for more than three (3) minutes.*

3. Suspension of Standing Orders

In matter of urgency the Conference Chairperson may accept notice in writing of a motion for suspension of one (1) or more Standing Orders, provided that:

(a) *The voting member at the Conference states her reason for requesting suspension.*

(b) *No fewer than two thirds (2/3rds) of the eligible members present at Conference vote for such suspension."*

Rationale:

The first two sections of the current Standing Orders have nothing to do with the conduct of the Meeting but merely set down the rules of presenting Motions and Amendments and therefore should be in the Constitution not Standing Orders which are adopted at the beginning of each conference.

Note that if Amendment 3 is carried, this will become Clause 11.4.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment 7. Change to Standing Orders (2)

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. include a new Clause 4. in the amended Standing Orders to read:

"4. Adoption of Standing Orders
Standing Orders shall be adopted at the beginning of each Conference".

Rationale:

This important rule has previously been omitted from Standing Orders.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment 8. Alterations to the Constitution

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. amend Clause 26.2 of the Constitution to read:

Present

All motions and amendments to the Constitution shall be submitted in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Federation.

Proposed

All Motions and amendments to the Constitution and Finance Policy shall be submitted in accordance with Article 11 of the Constitution.

Rationale:

If Amendment 6 is carried, this clause will require to be amended.

Moved by the Executive

Amendment 9. Alterations to the Finance Policy

That the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. amend Article 4.1 of the Finance policy to read:

Present

Motions and Amendments to the Finance Policy shall be submitted to Conference in accordance with the Standing Orders of the Federation.

Proposed

All Motions and amendments to the Finance Policy shall be submitted in accordance with Article 11 of the Constitution.

Rationale:

If Amendment 6 is carried, this clause will require to be amended.

Moved by the Executive

GENERAL RESOLUTIONS

Resolution 1. Methamphetamine education

THAT the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. encourage all BPW clubs over the coming year to initiate and support public education programmes about the dangers of methamphetamine "P".

Moved by BPW Kapiti

Rationale:

Methamphetamine "P" is a growing concern in the community and BPW can provide leadership and direction in the dissemination of specific information.

Police have information kits and are willing to provide information sessions to public groups. BPW clubs can provide support by organising and publicising public meetings in their communities.

Resolution 2. Country of Origin Labelling of Food

THAT the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. urge the Minister of Food Safety to introduce mandatory country of origin labelling on all food products.

Moved by BPW Auckland

Rationale:

Discoveries of illegal and toxic pesticides in food imported from China have shown up in recent tests by Green Peace China. 85 Chinese product samples between November 2005 and April 2006 showed 86% illegal residues [chemicals] and 25% had legal residues.

Last year the Government pulled out of a joint food standard with Australia that would have required introducing mandatory country of origin labelling. The Minister of Food Safety at the time told the cabinet Business Committee that in making its decision, consultation was not required with the Government Caucus or other Party's represented in Parliament. It seems the decision was made with the claim that there was no demand amongst New Zealanders and no consumer benefit from country of origin labelling. In fact, 21 organisations ranging from SPCA, Parents Centre, Green Peace, Breast Cancer Network, GE Fee NZ and major producer boards such as Horticulture NZ and the Pork Industry Board wrote in support of the country of origin labelling provisions of the bill.

The consumer right to know [food labelling] bill was defeated in June 2005 yet Europe and many other countries already have the labelling provisions and most of our trading countries have country of origin labelling.

The discovery of illegal pesticides in food from China highlights the importance of people knowing where food is coming from. Consumers want to make choices that will protect their families' health. An independent poll carried out by Consumer Link showed that 81% of respondents want food labels to tell them whether the product is imported or not.

Resolution 3. Needs Assessment for Disabled Women

UNDERSTANDING that women with disabilities are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled women, and over a longer period of time; and

UNDERSTANDING that the main abuser is the primary care giver; and

KNOWING that the key issues which give rise to abuse are;

Exhaustion and frustration

Lack of support for both disabled person and care giver

Lack of time out for the care giver – little /no time to himself/herself (this depends on "hours" allocated by an assessor for a second care giver; and the relationship between the disabled person and primary care giver)

Lack of confidence and control of situations, the feeling of having no power

Lack of information sharing between the Needs Assessor, the disabled person and carer givers;

Lack of monitoring by the Needs Assessment Agency to follow up on recommendations made by the Assessor

BPW NZ urge the Minister for Disability Issues and the Minister of Health to provide adequate resources to:

1. Review the role of the Needs Assessment Agencies to ensure that all needs are met for people with disabilities to improve contact and monitoring services to satisfy the physical and emotional needs of both the person with disabilities and the care giver(s), and that assessments are implemented in a timely manner with more regular checking.
2. Increase the actual frequency of visits of a Needs Assessor to a minimum of once per annum.
3. Increase the rate paid to those who provide Respite Care for disabled people from \$64 per day to a more equitable rate comparable with that received by other carer givers.

Moved by BPW Franklin

Rationale:

Abuse frequently occurs when the primary care giver (who has mobility and power) gets angry, frustrated and cannot cope for the reasons above. Respite Care must be available to diffuse and hopefully prevent, this situation.

Generally 28 days per year are available for Respite Care (more or less as deemed by the Assessor) to give the primary care giver of a disabled person a rest and a "break" from each other. For people with

mild disabilities this may mean a time in a Rest Home, but few are suitable for those with severe or multiple disabilities. Central Government contributes \$75 per day to a rest home but the main car giver must pay the remainder of the charge for accommodation in the rest home. It is more desirable to have the care provided in the home, where all facilities suit the disabled person, but the low daily rate attracts very few carer givers, and this could be for 24 hours per day if there is no secondary care giver.

Resolution 4. Services for Disabled People

UNDERSTANDING that women with disabilities, who receive personal and intimate support, are very vulnerable to family based violence; and

UNDERSTANDING that disabled women are twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled women, and over a longer period of time; and

BEING AWARE that the Government is redesigning services so that disabled people have more control over who comes into their homes, more right to end relationships with people with whom they are not comfortable, including partners and carer givers (primary or secondary); and

KNOWING that there is a need for more services specifically designed to include disabled women so that they can continue to live in their own home;

BPW NZ urges the Minister for Disability Issues and the Minister of Health to increase the resources to accelerate the rate at which services are being redesigned to provide improved services and support for people with disabilities but particularly for women who are more vulnerable to abuse and domestic violence.

Moved by BPW Franklin

Resolution 5. Disabled Support at Refuges.

THAT the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. urges the Minister of Justice, Minister of Women's Affairs, Minister of Health and Minister for Disability Issues (and any other Minister with responsibility for this issue) to unite to provide adequate resources to fund appropriate access, facilities and care (when required) at Women's Refuge Centres, and other community agencies working in the area of Domestic Violence, to provide for women with disabilities, who are experiencing abuse and require a supportive network and/or a safe house in which to stay.

Moved by BPW Franklin

Rationale

CEO of CCS, Viv Maidaborn has recently released ("Without Limits" December 2006) the results of a British Crime Survey that found that disabled women were twice as likely to experience domestic violence as non-disabled women, and they were likely to experience that violence over a longer period of time.

Ms Maidaborn confirms that "women with disabilities are subject to the same risks as all women, and like all women require strong, extended networks. However disabled women who are victims of violence often find the support services are limited, as the already stretched refuges and counselling services are rarely able to specifically accommodate their needs. We need to plan for more accessible services for disabled women and their children".

Resolution 6. Conference Raffle

THAT proceeds from conference raffles, unless designated for a specific purpose, become part of the Conference Funds and that once all accounts are paid, one third of any surplus be allocated to the Conference Planning Committee and two thirds be returned to the Federation.

Moved by the Executive

Rationale:

This is to clarify confusion that has arisen in the past regarding the conference raffle proceeds.

Resolution 7. Friends of BPW NZ

THAT Members and Clubs that make a donation to the general funds of BPW NZ be made 'Friends of BPW New Zealand' and receive certain benefits as decided by the Executive.

Moved by the Immediate Past President

Rationale:

Members and Clubs that wish to financially support the work of BPW NZ will be recognised.

Resolution 8. Levy Increase

THAT the annual per capita levy to BPW NZ be \$50.00 + GST.

Moved by the Treasurer

Rationale:

1. The increase in the levy that was approved last year and that will be paid by members this year, was mainly to cover the increase in the BPW International levy. There was little additional money for our Federation operating funds, which are increasingly dependent on support from Executive pockets and the surplus brought in by Conference.

2. The next BPW International Congress will be held in Mexico in 2008. BPW NZ will have the right to send 5 delegates. Without a levy increase, the overseas travel fund will not hold sufficient funds to maintain our presence at international level

3. The operating surplus for the 2006 year is not due to an increase in income. It was achieved with the surplus from Conference 2006, and by severely reducing BPW NZ activities. The levy increase in 2008 was signaled in the 2008 budget projections presented at Conference 2006 and is essential to maintain the activities of the Federation at an effective level.

Resolution 9. Increase in Legal Aid:

THAT the New Zealand Federation of Business and Professional Women Inc. URGE the Ministry of Justice and Department of Courts to increase the hourly rate currently paid to fund legal aid in any court of New Zealand where the legal aid covers legal costs pertaining to the protection of women and their families from violence and abuse.

Moved by BPW Upper Hutt

Rationale:

Many of the women who need the services of the Women's Refuges of New Zealand, and other 'safe' houses and agencies, either have little money or no access to the family's money. This means they are forced to use legal aid to cover legal costs in applying for such simple things as a protection order.

Due to the low amounts of legal aid paid to lawyers, barristers and solicitors for these services, legal firms tend to use clerks and junior lawyers to carry out this work. Even so, some law firms have ceased to do legal aid work as they find the recompense too low to cover the cost.

Women and their families should be able to have experienced lawyers act for them at this critical time.

IMPORTANT NOTE:

If any club wishes to make any amendments to these Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions, you must advise the Chair of the Resolutions Committee, Anita Devcich in writing (email: ipp@bpwnz.org.nz) six weeks before the conference. This year that deadline is 28th February. No amendments will be received after that date but amendments may be received at conference according to the rules of Standing Orders.