



21<sup>st</sup> April 2020

Dear National Representative,

I hope that you, your families and your Inner Wheel members are keeping well and staying safe in these strange and troubling times for everyone.

Governments around the world have imposed different measures, often called 'lockdown', at different times and with different levels of severity. These have obviously had a dramatic impact upon Inner Wheel clubs, districts and National Governing body's ability to meet and to carry on Inner Wheel business.

The Executive Committee have been asked to provide guidance on how IW business can continue in these circumstances. As ever, the inventiveness of Inner Wheel members has enabled many to keep serving and working, but using different ways to meet. There seems to have been widespread use of conferencing technologies, e.g. Zoom, Microsoft Teams, BlueJeans, etc., with District 330 in Malaysia conducting their whole District committee meeting this way (<https://tinyurl.com/yc2lp5n5>).

But, the latest technology isn't right or available for everyone. So, for smaller meetings, WhatsApp, Skype, etc., can be useful for conference calls, if actual meetings aren't an option. Alternatively, any forms / nominations / voting, etc., could be sent out and returned by email, as in some countries the postal systems have been suspended or are deemed generally unreliable. And if all else fails, there is always the simple and reliable option of making a voice call and speaking to each other.

The conclusion of the Executive Committee meeting held earlier today, was that there can be no 'right answer' to be mandated for all scenarios. There have to be decisions taken, at the NGB, District and Club level, as to what is best for the members, complies with local / national guidance, and ensures inclusivity and the safety of each member. This may be a combination of many different methods of carrying on IW's work, as extraordinary times have called for extraordinary measures.

Best wishes and stay safe,

Regards

Alan Phillips

