

**RULES  
FOR  
TEXAS WOMEN'S MEETING  
JUNE 24-26, 1977  
AUSTIN, TEXAS**



Adopted by the Texas IWY Coordinating Committee on April 30 and May 15, 1977, in Compliance with Public Law 94-167 and the Published Rules and Regulations of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year.

## GENERAL

1. Texas Women's Meeting is an open meeting, subject only to the limitations herein. Full news coverage is encouraged, provided, however, that the Presiding Officer may prohibit illuminated photography and news interviews on the floor during a General Session if in her judgment such coverage has become unreasonably obtrusive.
2. Headquarters of the Meeting is the Thompson Conference Center on the University of Texas campus in Austin.
3. The Rules may not be amended by the Coordinating Committee later than June 10, 1977.
4. A copy of the Rules as amended is available to anyone on request made to the Office of the Texas IWY Coordinating Committee, Federal Bldg. G 161, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, Texas 78701, (512) 476-9098.
5. A copy of the Rules as amended shall be furnished to each person admitted to the Meeting, and copies shall be prominently displayed at the Registration Desk and near the main entrances to the General Sessions Hall continuously during the Meeting.
6. Words herein importing the feminine gender include both genders.
- \* 7. Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, are the parliamentary authority in matters not covered by these Rules, unless in conflict with applicable law.
8. Meeting officials are

Presiding Officer-Owanah P. Anderson	Arrangements Chair-Carol Hatfield
Vice Chair-Wilhelmina Delco	Personnel Chair-Irma Rangel
Vice Chair-Diana Camacho	and Doorkeepers, Floor Tellers and Timekeepers
Recorder-Claudia Stravato	Program Chair-Judith K. Guthrie
Parliamentarian-Marcia Romberg	Resolutions Chair-Nikki Van Hightower
Finance Officer-Barbara B. Reagan	Nominations Chair-Ann Richards
Registrar-Dorothy Shandera	Election Chair-Nancy Bene
Credentials Officer-Ruth Forbis Kirby	and Election Tellers
Outreach Chair-Hermila Anzaldúa	Public Relations Chair-Sarah Weddington
9. The Presiding Officer has the duty, the right, and the power to control the Meeting from the podium, in accordance with and consistently with Public Law 94-167, the Rules and Regulations of the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year, as published in the Federal Register, and these Rules. All other Meeting officials shall assist her in maintaining order and decorum, to the end that the Meeting may achieve its lawful purpose through procedures fair to all.

If a person violates a Rule, the Presiding Officer shall, on her or the Parliamentarian's initiative or upon a point of order raised by a voting registrant, call the offender to order. If the case requires it, the Presiding Officer shall direct the Doorkeepers to eject any and all offenders from the Meeting.

## ADMISSION

- \* 1. No person is entitled to enter until she has registered and is wearing her registration badge, [provided, however, that employees and Volunteer Aides of the Coordinating Committee, wearing identifying badges, may enter to perform their official duties without registering.]
- \* 2. Doorkeepers shall bar all others.

## REGISTRATION

2. Preregistration by mail and in person in the Office of the Texas IWY Coordinating Committee shall terminate at 5:00 p.m., June 3.
2. Registration at the Registration Desk in Meeting Headquarters shall be from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., Friday, June 24; and 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., Saturday, June 25.
3. One may register as a
  - a. Voting registrant,
  - b. Observer without vote,
  - c. Newsperson, or
  - d. Special guest.
4. Category definitions and requirements
  - \*a. A **voting registrant** must be
    - 1) aged 16 or over, **and**
    - 2) either
      - a) a bona fide resident of Texas, **or**
      - b) an enrollee in a Texas educational institution.
  - \*b. An **observer** may register without meeting age or resident requirements.
  - c. A **newsperson** is a reporter or photographer regularly employed by and accredited by a newspaper or other publication, a press or news service association, or a licensed radio or television station or network.
  - d. A **special guest** is one so designated by the Presiding Officer or the Program Chair.
5. Registration fee is \$5 for categories **a.** and **b.**, payable in currency or by check to "Texas IWY Committee". The Finance Officer is empowered to waive the fee in the event an applicant signs a statement that she is financially unable to pay it.
- \*6. Distinctively colored badges shall denote registration category and voting status.
  7. The Registrar shall terminate all registration at 7:00 p.m., Saturday, June 25, and shall terminate registration for any or all categories when the allocated seating spaces have been filled.
- \*8. An applicant has the burden of proof on registration eligibility questions.
- \*9. The Credentials Officer shall immediately determine all registration questions and challenges, [including questions of residence, age, enrollment qualifications, and newspersons' accreditation. Her determination is final.]
10. Texas residence is rebuttably presumed from an applicant's oral or written statement that she resides in Texas. In case of doubt, or challenge from any identified source, the Credentials Officer will apply the test whether the applicant intends that Texas be her true home and principal place of establishment and whether such mental state is satisfactorily evidenced by external facts.
11. If questioned, age shall be evidenced by a birth certificate or driver's license. Enrollment in an educational institution shall be evidenced by a student identification card or school fee receipt.

## SEATING

- \* In the General Sessions Hall seating areas shall be designated for members of the Coordinating Committee, Committee Chairs, special guests, voting registrants, non-voting registered observers, and newspersons.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ACTION

- \* 1. A resolution germane to the Meeting's prescribed purpose may be proposed in either of 3 ways:
  - \* a. The Coordinating Committee through its Resolutions Committee may recommend action.
  - \* b. Each Workshop Chair and Reaction Session Moderator may, immediately after the end of her workshop or reaction session, present her group's recommendation to the Resolutions Committee for processing.
  - \* c. Any member of the voting body may file a [written] proposed resolution [with the Resolutions Committee at Meeting headquarters before 8:00 p.m., Saturday, June 25.]
- 2. The Resolutions Committee shall make a bona fide determination whether each proposed resolution is germane to the Meeting's purpose, may combine similar proposed resolutions, and may re-word for clarity or brevity without substantially affecting meaning or intent. The Committee shall report to the General Session the proposed resolutions consideration of which it recommends.
- 3. The Resolutions Committee shall as soon as reasonably possible post at the Registration Desk and in the General Sessions Hall the text of proposed resolutions which may be considered in the Sunday General Session.
- \* 4. A proposed resolution submitted by a member of the voting body under 1.c., above, may not be considered unless a majority of the voting body present and voting vote to consider it. [Such resolutions will be presented to the voting body only as long as time permits.]
- \* 5. A consensus or a majority vote of the voting body present and voting signifies the Meeting's action on a substantive question.

## MOTIONS

- \* 1. Only a member of the voting body may make a motion.
- \* 2. Every motion except a purely procedural one shall be written and signed by the proponent. The Presiding Officer may require that it be delivered to the podium in written form before consideration.
- 3. When a question is under discussion, only the following motions are in order:
  - a. To amend.
  - \* b. To postpone indefinitely. This motion is not debatable, and it requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to carry.
  - c. For the previous question. This motion is not debatable, and it requires a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to carry.

## DISCUSSION

- \* 1. A member of the voting body may address a General Session by addressing the Presiding Officer, awaiting recognition, then giving her name and stating whether she is speaking in the affirmative or the negative.
- \* 2. Except by unanimous consent no person may, on a given motion, speak more than 2 minutes, nor speak a second time until all others have had an opportunity to speak, nor speak more than twice. [Timekeepers shall signal the expiration of time allowed.]
- 3. The Presiding Officer's decision in matters of recognition is final.

## VOTING

- \* 1. Those entitled to vote are:
  - \*a. Voting registrants,
  - \*b. Members of the Coordinating Committee, and
  - \*c. Members of the National Commission on the Observance of IWY who are Texas residents.
- \* 2. Each person entitled to vote shall receive a non-transferable voting badge at the Registration Desk, which must be shown when a vote is cast.
- \* 3. Proxy voting is prohibited.
- 4. Voting method on Recommendations for Action and other motions may be by voice vote or by standing division of the voting body, at the discretion of the Presiding Officer; provided, however, that she shall call for a standing division vote upon recognizing a request made by a person entitled to vote. In the event the result of a standing division is not clear, as judged by the Presiding Officer in consultation with the Parliamentarian and the Recorder, she shall direct the Floor Tellers to count the voters standing in the division, and the Tellers' counts shall be tallied by the Election Committee and the result announced immediately, before further proceeding.

## SCHEDULED WORKSHOPS AND REACTION SESSIONS

- \* 1. These groups are subject to the same rules as the General Sessions, to the extent applicable; provided, however, that the Chair or Moderator of each may, in her discretion, permit informality of discussion, dispense with time limitations, entertain verbal motions, and postpone a motion indefinitely upon a simple majority vote.
- \* 2. Each Workshop shall have a Chair and a Recorder, and each Reaction Session shall have a Moderator and a Recorder, designated by the Program Committee.

## SELECTION OF REPRESENTATIVES TO THE NATIONAL WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

- \* The Meeting shall select 58 representatives and 5 alternate representatives to the National Women's Conference, on the following principle of balanced representation mandated by Congress:

The Conference shall be composed of—

- (1) representatives of local, State, regional, and national institutions, agencies, organizations, unions, associations, publications, and other groups which work to advance the rights of women; and
- (2) members of the general public, with special emphasis on the representation of low-income women, members of diverse racial, ethnic, and religious groups, and women of all ages.

Public Law 94-167, Section 3(a).

## Nominations

- \* 1. In the General Session at 1:30 p.m., Saturday, June 25, the Nominating Committee, elected, constituted, and proceeding as required by law, shall present its balanced list of nominees and their addresses.

This list shall have been available for inspection by any person at the Office of the Texas IWY Coordinating Committee, Federal Bldg. G 161, 300 E. 8th St., Austin, beginning June 14, 1977; and at the Registration Desk beginning Friday, June 24, 1977. It shall also be posted near the main entrances to the General Sessions Hall no later than 7:00 a.m., Saturday, June 25.
- \* 2. The Meeting shall then be opened for nominations from the floor.
- \* 3. To be nominated, a person must have given prior written consent to be a candidate, must have furnished in writing the same data required of Nominating Committee candidates on background and affiliations, and must have the qualifications to have voted in the Meeting. [A minor shall, in addition, have submitted signed parental consent on a form available in advance from the Texas IWY Coordinating Committee office. The nominator shall hand to a floor teller the floor-nominee's consent and information for delivery to the Nominations Chair.]
- 4. A nomination from the floor is limited to stating the nominee's name and address; a speech is prohibited.
- 5. Nominations shall cease when (a) no further nominations are forthcoming, or (b) a motion to close nominations has carried by a majority vote, such motion not being in order until a reasonable time has elapsed.
- \* 6. The Nominations Chair shall immediately post at the Registration Desk and near the main entrances to the General Sessions Hall a list showing all nominees' names, addresses, and briefly their background and affiliations. The list shall remain so posted continuously until election results have been announced to the Meeting.

## The Ballot

- \* The Nominating Committee shall prepare the ballot, listing the names of all candidates nominated by the Nominating Committee and from the floor.

## Voting

- \* 1. The Election Committee shall conduct the election.
- \* 2. Voting shall begin at 8:00 a.m. Sunday, June 26, and the polls shall close at 9:30 a.m.
- \* 3. Voting for representatives shall be by indicating candidate preference on written ballots.
- \* 4. One ballot will be issued to each person entitled to vote, and her voting badge will be marked when she casts her ballot.
- 5. A voter shall not vote for more than 58 candidates.

## Election

- \* 1. A plurality vote elects. The 58 candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be Texas' representatives.
- \* 2. In the event of a tie for the 58th position, another election by written ballot shall resolve the tie, the loser to be designated first alternate representative.
- \* 3. The five candidates ranking immediately below the 58 elected representatives, in number of votes received, shall be Texas' alternate representatives.
- \* 4. Tellers supervised by the Election Committee shall count the ballots.
  - \* a. Every ballot shall be counted if the voter's intent is clear.
  - \* b. Four persons shall constitute a set of Tellers, one to read each ballot, one to look over the ballot during the reading, and two to mark separate tally sheets.
- \* 5. The Election Committee shall combine the tally sheet results into a final election report, which shall be announced to the Meeting and posted in the General Sessions Hall.
- \* 6. All shall observe strict secrecy about the outcome until the report is announced to the Meeting.
- \* 7. The Election Committee has complete authority to decide every challenge to a ballot's validity or to compliance with the Rules pertaining to the selection of representatives.
- \* 8. The Election Chair shall take custody of the ballots and the tally sheets, and she shall be responsible for delivering them to the Presiding Officer, who shall hold them for at least 24 hours.

\* Cannot be changed. National rule, uniform for all states.

Words in , within a National rule, indicate a variance for Texas, which is subject to change.

## ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS

The resolutions passed at the Texas Women's Meeting will become part of the agenda for the National Women's Conference in Houston and could possibly end up in the final report presented to the President and Congress. Therefore, it is imperative that everyone understand the procedure for adopting resolutions.

A resolution must be germane to the Meeting, as prescribed by Congress in Public Law 94-167:

- 1) recognize the contributions of women to the development of our country;
- 2) assess the progress that has been made to date by both the private and public sectors in promoting equality between men and women in all aspects of life in the United States;
- 3) assess the role of women in economic, social, cultural, and political development;
- 4) assess the participation of women in efforts aimed at the development of friendly relations and cooperation among nations and to the strengthening of world peace;
- 5) identify the barriers that prevent women from participating fully and equally in all aspects of national life, and develop recommendations for means by which such barriers can be removed.

A resolution may be proposed in the following ways:

- A. Resolutions may be presented at the workshops and reaction sessions for consideration. If adopted, they will then be presented to the Resolutions Committee for review and presentation to the plenary session on Sunday morning.
- B. Individual participants may present resolutions by submitting them to the Resolutions Committee for review and presentation to the plenary session on Sunday morning. Such resolutions will be presented only after workshop and reaction session resolutions and only as long as time permits.
- C. All resolutions presented to the Resolutions Committee must be in writing. Forms will be provided. The initiator of the resolution should sign the resolution, give place of contact, retain one copy and submit remaining copies to the Resolutions Committee.
- D. The Resolutions Committee will review all resolutions, edit for brevity and combine any duplicate or similar resolutions prior to presentation at the plenary session.
- E. All resolutions must be in the hands of the Resolutions Committee by 8:00 P.M., Saturday, June 25th. Absolutely no resolutions will be accepted after the deadline.
- F. A majority vote of the voting body present and voting at the plenary session Sunday morning signifies the meeting's action on the resolution.