

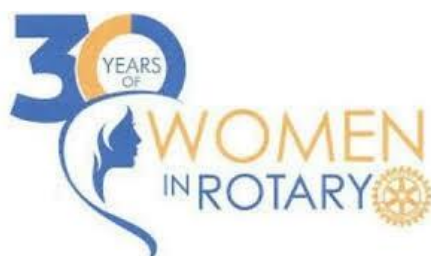
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婦女參加扶輪社的前因後果 30 年

The First 30 Years of Women in Rotary

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July 2019 marks the 100th year of Rotary in Shanghai, as well as in Greater China. In these 100 years, Madam Terri Lau (劉麗賢), a Hong Kong native Chinese, is the third woman to serve president of Shanghai Rotary Club (上海扶輪社) in 2019-2020.

However, Rotary clubs were all-male only associations since its inception in 1905. A woman Rotarian --- was a contradiction in terms as short a time ago as June 1987. That was the date of a Rotary International (R.I.) Board policy statement, in response to a United States Supreme Court decision, to the effect that any Rotary Club in any U.S. state could admit qualified women into membership.

The change was long overdue in the opinion of many male U.S. Rotarians, but it stirred feelings ranging from sadness to rage for others, who viewed it as a death knell to the masculine camaraderie they had enjoyed for more than eight decades.

In November 1988, the R.I. Board recognized that Canadian Law has a similar effect on membership. The membership rule was changed and clubs in Canada were allowed to admit women. Then, in January 1989, the Rotary International Council on Legislation voted to permit Rotary Club membership to women world-wide --- at the opinion of the individual Club.

In 1986, prior to the United States Supreme Court decision, R.I. Central Office asked Rotary Club presidents their opinion of the "possible impact" of women members. Most were either opposed or neutral, fearing that women would have an adverse effect on Club fellowship (North American Club presidents tended to be less opposed than the others). The second survey by R.I. Central Office, in 1988, showed no negative response by U.S. Club presidents, and the greatest positive response among those whose clubs had two or more women members.

The third survey, also in 1988, asked new members of U.S. clubs, both male and female, about their current degree of Club activities: in service on committees, sponsoring of new members, donations, hours of service, and status as Paul Harris Fellows. The women members scored higher in all categories.

Pockets of resistance to the membership of women still exist until today, and there are clubs choose to continue Rotary as all-male associations. That is their right. But the overall membership is open to women. Be fair, there are also all-female clubs formed since 1989.

Now that women members are a fact of Rotary Club life --- What has been the effect? Have women destroyed the old clubby atmosphere? Have they turned Club meetings into baby showers and Tupperware parties? Have they trivialized programs and interfered with tradition? Have they upstaged the time-honored role of wives of Rotarians?

Or --- have women refreshed the atmosphere, letting in the sunlight of fresh ideas? Have they brought new warmth and kindness and a gentler tone to Club meetings? Have they introduced new programs and projects and added vivacity to ongoing ones? Have they worked harmoniously with Club members and spouses in Club endeavors?

Whatever their influences may be, and whatever changes they may bring about, women Rotarians are here to stay. Their reasons for being Rotarians are the same as those of their male counterparts: Rotary gives them prestige. It permits association with community leaders and achievers like themselves. It allows them to share their ideas about --- and help to build --- good communities, thriving nations, and a peaceful world. Most telling of all, it demonstrates that for Rotarians everywhere --- women and men --- Rotary's bottom line is still ***Service Above Self***.

As we look back at the evolution of Rotary over these years, it is evident that change is not just inevitable. Change is essential. The story of women in Rotary serves as a testament to the resilience and adaptability of an organization that continues to grow and diversify. The spirit of Rotary lies not only in its rich history. The spirit exists in its ability to embrace change, guided by the belief that a Rotary Club should reflect the communities it serves. In the words of Frank Devlyn at the 1989 Council on Legislation: "Rotary has to adapt itself to a changing world."

Women in Rotary as Rotarians --- a chronology

1950

An enactment to delete the word "male" from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution was proposed by a Rotary Club in India for the Council on Legislation meeting at the 1950 Rotary Convention.

1964

The agenda of the Council meeting at the 1964 R.I. Convention contained an enactment proposed by the Rotary Club of Mount Lavinia, Ceylon (now Sri Lanka), for the admission of women to Rotary clubs. Convention delegates voted that it be withdrawn. Two other proposals to allow women to be eligible for honorary membership were also withdrawn.

1972

As more women began reaching higher positions in their professions, more clubs began lobbying for female members. An U.S. Rotary Club proposed admitting women into Rotary at the 1972 Council on Legislation.

1977

Three separate proposals, made by clubs in India, Sweden, and the United States, to admit women into membership were submitted to the Council on Legislation for consideration at the 1977 Rotary Convention. A Brazilian Club made a different proposal to admit women as honorary members.

The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, U.S.A., admitted women as members in violation of the R.I. Constitution and Standard Rotary Club Constitution. Because of this violation, the Club's membership in Rotary International was terminated in March 1978. (The Club was later reinstated in September 1986.)

1978

The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, U.S.A., filed suit against Rotary International.

1980

The R.I. Board of Directors and 11 Rotary clubs in India, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States jointly proposed an enactment to remove from the R.I. and Club constitutions and bylaws all references to members as "male persons."

The proposal was defeated by a 60-40 percent margin.

1983-1986

In a lawsuit filed by the Duarte Club, the California Superior Court in 1983 ruled in favor of Rotary International, upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Rotary clubs. In 1986, the California Court of Appeals reversed the Lower Court's decision, preventing the enforcement of the provision in California. The California Supreme Court refused to hear the case, and it was appealed by R.I. to the United States Supreme Court.

1987

On 4 May 1987, the United States Supreme Court handed down a decision supporting California law holding that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender.

- The R.I. Board issued a policy statement that any Rotary Club in the United States could admit qualified women to membership.
- The Rotary Club of Duarte was reinstated with 10 women members, one as vice-president and one as secretary.

That same year, Sylvia Whitlock of the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, became the first ever female Club President.

1988

In November, on the basis of a legal showing, the R.I. Board issued a similar policy statement recognizing the right of Rotary clubs in Canada to admit women members.

January 1989

At its first meeting after the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the R.I. Council on Legislation votes 328 to 117 --- well over the two-thirds majority --- to eliminate the requirement that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to males and permits any Club in any country to admit into membership qualified persons without regard to gender.

As we reflect on the journey of Rotary International, it is remarkable to think that, representatives from across the Rotary world gathered in Singapore for a pivotal meeting at the Council on Legislation. This meeting marked a significant moment in Rotary's history, as it came on the heels of the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision declaring that women could no longer be excluded from membership. The winds of change were blowing, and the Rotary landscape was about to transform.

The Council on Legislation delegates convened on 23 January 1989, and a historic decision was made. They voted to eliminate the R.I. Constitution requirement limiting Rotary Club membership to men. By 26 January 1989, the doors were allowed to swing open. Women would be welcomed into Rotary clubs around the world. The echo of this decision would resonate for decades, shaping the trajectory of Rotary in ways unimaginable at the time.

One individual who foresaw the importance of adapting to a changing world was Past Rotary International President Frank J. Devlyn. In addressing his fellow delegates, he emphasized the vast differences between the world of 1989 and the world of Rotary's inception in 1905. His words laid the foundation for a new era in Rotary that embraced inclusivity and recognized the need to evolve with the times.

The decision to admit women into Rotary clubs worldwide was not a spontaneous event but the result of decades-long efforts by dedicated men and women from every corner of the Rotary world. Previous Council meetings had seen close votes on the matter, highlighting the ongoing struggle for change.

Rotary's commitment to creating an environment where everyone is included and allowed to have a sense of belonging has become a top priority. The organization recognizes that its capacity to make a lasting impact and expand its reach is magnified when diverse voices unite. Rotary celebrates and welcomes the contributions of individuals from all backgrounds, irrespective of age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

The journey of women in Rotary is not just about membership numbers. It is about active participation and leadership. Women have increasingly taken on roles that contribute to their communities and assumed leadership positions within Rotary. The 1989 Council on Legislation vote remains a watershed moment, symbolizing Rotary's commitment to progress and inclusivity.

November 1989

An all-female Rotary Club of San Chung South (三重南區扶輪社) in Taipei County, Taiwan, Republic of China (中華民國臺灣臺北縣), was admitted to Rotary International on 29 November 1989, with 35 Active Members.

June 1990

Approximately 20,200 women were members of 5,027 Rotary clubs in 31 countries and territories. There were 4 women Rotarians in Hong Kong.

November 1992

An all-female Rotary Club of Queensway (君域扶輪社) in the British Crown Colony Hong Kong was admitted to Rotary International on 19 November 1992.

July 1995

On 1 July 1995, 8 women from the United States joined 507 male colleagues as district governors. In doing so, they became the first women in the history of Rotary International to hold that key post. These women were already trail-blazers. All had been the first women presidents of their Rotary clubs, and some had broken barriers within their professions. Most were married to Rotarians, and several had Rotarian fathers who introduced them to Rotary values at an early years. Just good example, Janet W. Holland has been attending Rotary meetings since her age of four.

(1) Mimi Altman (District 6440); (2) Gilda Chirafisi (District 7230); (3) Janet W. Holland (District 5790); (4) Reba F. Lovrien (District 5520); (5) Virginia B. Nordby (District 6380); (6) Donna J. Rapp (District 6310); (7) Anne Robertson (District 6710); (8) Olive P. Scott (District 7190).

1997-1998

The first Chinese woman District Governor (District 3490, Taipei), and also the first woman district governor in Northeast Asia:

Amanda Wen-Lin Ko (柯玟伶), Rotary Club of San Chung South, Taiwan, Republic of China (中華民國臺灣臺北縣三重南區扶輪社), the first woman Club President 1989-1990-1991 in Rotary China History.



July 2005

The first woman appointed as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation:

Carolyn E. Jones (*Club: Anchorage East*) (*U.S.A.*) (*Assistant Attorney General for the State of Alaska*)



July 2008

It then took another 13 years, since 1995, for the first woman to be elected to the Rotary International Board of Directors. The first woman served R.I. as Director:

Catherine Noyer-Riveau (*Club: Paris*) (*France*) (*Gynaecology*) (*The first woman served District Governor in France.*)



2010

There were more than 199,000 woman members in Rotary clubs around the world.

July 2012

The first woman served R.I. as Treasurer:

Elizabeth S. Demaray (*Club: Sault Ste. Marie*) (*U.S.A.*) (*Commercial Real Estate*)



July 2013

The first woman served R.I. as Vice President:

Anne L. Matthews (*Club: Columbia East*) (*U.S.A.*) (*Education Management*)



July 2014

The second woman served R.I. as Vice President:

Celia Elena Cruz de Giay (*Club: Arrecifes*) (*Argentina*) (*Journalism - Education*)



July 2016

The third woman served R.I. as Vice President:

Jennifer E. Jones (*Club: Windsor-Roseland*) (*Canada*) (*Television Production*)



July 2017

The fourth woman served R.I. as Vice President:

Dean Rohrs (*Club: Langley Central*) (*Canada*)



July 2018

Brenda Marie Cressey (*Club: Paso Robles*) (*U.S.A.*)

Brenda began her term as the first woman to serve as vice-chair of The Rotary Foundation. In April-June 2019 she served as chair of the Foundation, the first woman appointed to this role.



July 2019

There were totally 11 all-female clubs formed in New Taipei City, Republic of China: San Chung South (三重南區扶輪社); Panchiao Central (板橋中區扶輪社); Sanchung Nan-Shin (三重南欣扶輪社); Shulin Fang-Yuang (樹林芳園扶輪社); Sinchuang South (新莊南區扶輪社); Sanchung Chianshi (三重千禧扶輪社); Tucheng Sanyin (土城山櫻扶輪社); New Taipei City Lily (新北市百合扶輪社); Luchou Yonglian (蘆洲湧蓮扶輪社); New Taipei City Beautiful (新北市豐彩扶輪社); New Taipei City Gold Plus (新北市金荷扶輪社). More all-female clubs were also formed in other cities of Taiwan. Certainly, there were individual woman-members in many clubs.

婦女在扶輪歷史

以 1987 年法院判決為分水嶺起，婦女即成為扶輪重要的一部分。

1989 年立法會議投票表決允許婦女加入全世界扶輪社，

這件事是扶輪歷史上的一個分水嶺。

當時即將成為在 2000-01 年度國際扶輪社長法蘭克·戴甫靈說「各位立法會議代表同仁，請注意，1989 年的世界迥異於 1905 年的世界。我由衷相信扶輪必須與時俱進，以適應日益變遷的世界」。

經過扶輪世界各地男女社員長達數十年的努力爭取允許婦女加入扶輪社，

以及前幾次立法會議數次票數接近的表決之後，才產生這個表決結果。

此一表決受到熱烈迴響：到 1990 年 6 月，女扶輪社員的人數已飆升到超過 20,000 人。

至 2010 年為止，女社員的人數已接近 200,000。

婦女在扶輪年表

■ 1950 年

在 1950 年國際扶輪年會的立法會議，有一個印度扶輪社提出制定案，要將模範扶輪社章程的「男性」一詞刪除。

■ 1964 年

立法會議議程包含一個由錫蘭（現在的斯里蘭卡）扶輪社提議允許婦女加入扶輪社的制定案。代表們投票表決，將該案撤銷。另外二個要讓婦女有資格成為名譽社員的建議案也被撤銷。

■ 1972 年

越來越多的婦女在專業上居高位，因此越來越多的扶輪社開始為開放婦女入社遊說。有一個美國扶輪社在 1972 年立法會議提議讓婦女進入扶輪。

■ 1977 年

在 1977 年國際扶輪年會，有三個建議允許婦女入社的建議案提交立法會議。有一個巴西扶輪社也提出另外一個建議案，建議允許婦女成為榮譽社員。

美國加州杜阿泰 (Duarte) 扶輪社違反國際扶輪章程及模範扶輪社章程，讓婦女入社。由於這項違規，該社在國際扶輪的會員資格在 1978 年 3 月遭到終止。（該扶輪社在 1986 年

9 月恢復會籍。）

■ 1980 年

國際扶輪理事會和印度、瑞典、瑞士、及美國的扶輪社提議一個制定案，要將扶輪社章程及細則所有提到社員時明定為「男士」者，將「男士」一詞予以刪除。

■ 1983-86 年

在杜阿泰 Duarte 扶輪社所提出的訴訟中，加州高等法院在 1983 年裁定國際扶輪勝訴，維持了加州扶輪社以男性為社員資格的規定。1986 年，加州上訴法院推翻下級法院之判決，禁止在加州實施該規定。加州最高法院拒絕審理該案，於是該案便上訴到美國最高法院。

■ 1987 年

5 月 4 日，美國最高法院裁定扶輪社不得依據性別而禁止婦女加入成為社員。扶輪發出一項政策聲明，表示美國任何扶輪社皆能允許合格的婦女入社。

加州馬林日出 (Marin Sunrise) 扶輪社（原先為 Larkspur Landing 扶輪社）在 5 月 28 日授證。它成為美國最高法院裁定之後第一個有女性創社社員的扶輪社。

加州杜阿泰扶輪社的希薇雅·懷特洛克 Sylvia Whitlock 成為第一位女扶輪社社長。

■ 1988 年

11 月，國際扶輪理事會發出一項政策聲明，表示承認加拿大的扶輪社有權根據類似美國最高法院支持之法律的加拿大法律，允許婦女入社。

■ 1989 年

在1987 年美國最高法院判決之後的第一次立法會議，投票表決廢除國際扶輪章程中扶輪社社員必須為男性之規定。全世界各地的扶輪社都歡迎婦女加入。

■ 1990 年

至6 月為止，全世界大約有20,200 名女扶輪社員。國際扶輪英文月刊(THE ROTARIAN)刊登婦女在扶輪為題的專文。

■ 1995 年度

7 月，8 位女士成為地區總監，是首批擔任此一角色的婦女：艾特曼Mimi Altman、齊拉斐雪Gilda Chirafisi、侯蘭Janet W. Holland、樂芙鸞Reba F. Lovrien、娜比Virginia B. Nordby、雷菩Donna J. Rapp、羅伯笙Anne Robertson、及史高特Olive P. Scott。

■ 2005 年

扶輪基金會第一位女性保管委員卡洛琳•瓊斯Carolyn E. Jones 就任。

■ 2008 年

國際扶輪理事會理事第一位女性理事凱薩琳•諾耶瑞沃Catherine Noyer-Riveau 展開任期。

■ 2010 年

全世界各地扶輪社有199,000 多個女社員，而且擔任地區總監的女社員人數越來越多。

■ 2012 年

伊莉莎白．狄瑪瑞Elizabeth S. Demaray 開始擔任財務長，為第一位擔任此職位之婦女。

■ 2013 年

安•馬修絲Anne L. Matthews 開始擔任國際扶輪副社長，為第一位女副社長。探索扶輪豐富的歷史，請上網探索扶輪史料庫 (Rotary archives)