

ERA Resolution for District 11
Sponsored by Jean Bryant, District 11, LAA Chair

Whereas; Zonta International is dedicated to improving the legal, political, economic, educational, health, and professional status of women and to eradicating violence against women and children, and ensuring the equality of women in all areas of life through community and international service; and

Whereas; Zonta International has endorsed CEDAW, the international Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and Girls (2003); and

Whereas; American women were not included as full and equal citizens in the original United States Constitution, and today the right to vote (granted by the 19th Amendment in 1920) is the only right that the Constitution specifically affirms as equal for women and men; and

Whereas; the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause has never been consistently interpreted to grant equal rights on the basis of sex; and

Whereas; despite the passage of numerous anti-discrimination laws and their extension to address discrimination based on sex, differing state laws and court decisions have created an inconsistent and confusing pattern of women's rights across the nation so that women as a class are not assured of fair legal treatment; and

Whereas; state and federal laws do not have the same moral or legal force as a federal constitutional guarantee; and

Whereas; the constitutions of many other nations specifically affirm the legal equality of men and women; and

Whereas; the United States government has insisted that such nations as Afghanistan and Iraq include provisions affirming women's legal equality in their new constitutions; and

Whereas; ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by three more states would ensure American women of full and equal rights; and

Whereas; only one of the states (Tennessee) in the *geographical* area of District 11 of Zonta International has ratified the Equal Rights Amendment; and

Whereas; Members of Zonta have dedicated themselves to local and international projects and public advocacy to ensure the equality of women in all areas of life;

BE IT RESOLVED, therefore, that:

1. District 11 encourages members to educate themselves about the need for an Equal Rights Amendment to ensure that women enjoy full equality under the Constitution of the United States.
2. District 11 encourages members to draw upon their diverse expertise and resources to develop strategies and seek partners to educate the public about the need for an Equal Rights Amendment.
3. District 11 encourages members to work with others in their respective states to lobby their state legislators for state ratification of the ERA.
4. The District 11 Board encourages local clubs and areas to combine their efforts and encourage communication and cooperation among the clubs to make their individual efforts more effective.
5. District 11 encourages members and clubs to engage in public advocacy for ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the legislatures of those states that are within District 11.