

MEMBERSHIP

Importance of Members

Inner wheel is an organization based on the motto of friendship, service and international understanding. For effective functioning of the organization, it functions at 4 levels. The real work of the organization is done at club level and their other three levels are the administrative levels – District, Association and International. The members form the roots of the organization and every member of the organization is a part of the actual work that the organization does. Their active participation in clubs leads to strengthening of organization at District, Association and International level. To fulfill the mottos of Inner Wheel, what is required are clubs with large membership, as, then only one can think of district, Association and International levels being effective.

Inner wheel is one of the largest women's volunteer service organizations throughout the world mainly because of its membership. Thus, as a member of Inner Wheel organization we must realize that strength of Inner wheel lies in its membership. It should not dwindle and for this it is we who must care to share about Inner wheel with others.

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Why should there be increase in membership?

Do our Clubs in the District have difficulty in finding Presidents? Do our Clubs have 50% of the members who have been Past Presidents? Do we have less than 60% attendance at meeting? Do we have members who are just there on the roster and do not attend meetings? If we have any of these situations in our Clubs, yes! we need New Members.



Association of Inner Wheel Clubs in India

Save the Dates

17th TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE 2025

7th - 8th - 9th February, 2025

NEW DELHI

Sunita Jain
Association President & National Representative 2024-25

HOSTED BY DISTRICT 301

Dr. Manisha Kaushik
District Chairman 2024-25



How to induct new Members: New Members are very choosy. They join the Club only if they are comfortable with the group of Members i.e. Fellowship. Only then they can enjoy themselves and take part in the Club activities. Good and interesting Club Programmes, Picnics, Factory visits etc. help in keeping the new members interested in the activities of the club. The quality of the Programmes makes a great deal of difference.

Who can become a member: A Member may belong to 1 club only. Classes of Membership.

A female above 18 years can take up membership which is classified into three categories –

- I. Active Membership
- II. Honoured Active Membership and
- III. Honorary Membership

Active membership consists of members related to Rotary, Inner Wheel and those invited. They have the right to vote and take up posts in Inner Wheel.

Honoured Active Membership is bestowed upon Active Members who have proved their dedication as Active Members in Inner Wheel.

Honorary Members, are ones who have contributed to the society and the club would like to honour them as Inner Wheel members by paying their dues and they do not vote or take up any post in Inner Wheel.

I. Active Membership

Any female above 18 years of age who

1. is related to Rotarian or former Rotarian in following ways:
 - (a) Wife (widow of former Rtn. too)
 - (b) Female partner (this is only for present Rtn.)
2. is related to a Rotarian or former Rotarian or Inner Wheel member or former Inner Wheel member in following ways:

(a) Mother	(b) Sister	(c) Daughter
(d) Step Daughter	(e) Daughter-in-law	(f) Mother-in-law
(g) Sister-in-law	(h) Aunt	(i) Niece
(j) Cousin	(k) Granddaughter	
3. is a Rotarian of Former Rotarian
4. is Former Inner Wheel member



5. is related to Rotaract in following ways:
 - (a) Former Rotaractor
 - (b) Wife of a Rotaractor
 - (c) Mother of a Rotaractor
6. is invited to join; provided that a majority of the club members agree.
 - **Inner Wheel has simplified the membership categories in the 15th IYW Convention held in Istanbul vide proposal No.17. Women who believe in the importance of friendship, personal service and international understanding with no connection to Inner Wheel or Rotary can be invited to join.**
 - **The Constitution states that majority of the Club member must agree** but does not state how the vote should taken, therefore the **vote can be taken either: (a) at a Club meeting or (b) by a postal vote.** It is up to each Club to decide how they wish to conduct the vote but **must not be in the presence of the proposed member.**
 - **If the Club selects (a) vote at a Club meeting, then all the members should be informed,** prior to the meeting that a vote will be taken, and **if they cannot attend** that meeting they should **submit their vote by post, before** the date of the **meeting.** If their vote has not been received when the meeting takes place, those votes will be counted as absentions (abstaining/refraining/no vote).
 - A simple majority of all the votes cast is all that is required as per the Constitution. In many places too much dilution with any one becoming a member of the Inner Wheel is happening. Thus, **2/3rd majority of voting is recommended** to maintain the sanctity of the organization.

II. Honoured Active Membership

By paying a member's dues a club can confer such membership to an Active Member who has given outstanding service to Inner Wheel. Her dues are paid by the club only in the year she is conferred the status of Honoured Active. **From the following year she pays the dues but retains the title.** Such member shall retain all rights of Active Membership and shall be subject to nomination and election annually.

III. HONORARY MEMBERSHIP

If the Club wishes to honour someone, for example, a local dignitary, or a person who has helped the Club in some way, or some from



a Charity, they can invite them to join as an Honorary Member for an Inner wheel year. **Clubs can invite up to 4 persons** whom they wish to honour **to become Honorary Members in an Inner Wheel year**. Such members cannot hold office and cannot vote, and they must be elected annually. **Honorary Members' dues are paid by the Club.**

When considering inviting someone to be an Honorary Member, the Club President should propose that person's invitation to the members first at the Club Executive Committee Meeting and when it is passed then in the Club meeting. The members present at that meeting should then be asked to vote, and if a majority of those present agree, she be invited join.

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

Membership Development has been an ongoing process since that day in 1924 in Manchester, 96 long years ago, when the first Inner Wheel Club was born. Today the Inner Wheel movement is spread over 100 Countries with more than 109,922 members with 4000 clubs & is continuing to grow. But we still have a lot of scope to grow further. Here comes the need for Membership Development which means expansion of members through more members in clubs and more new clubs.

As every organization tries to keep expanding its membership, Inner Wheel too wants to expand, it has two parts – Internal Expansion and External Expansion:

1. Internal Expansion, i.e., in existing clubs
 - (a) Increasing members
 - (b) Retaining members
2. External Expansion, i.e., forming new clubs

1. INTERNAL EXPANSION

Internal Expansion means increasing members within a club. Though a difficult task, it is not an impossible one. It increases horizon of friendship and service. But increasing members does not mean just bringing in new members as it is only gross increase. What is strived for in Inner Wheel is net increase i.e., not only bringing in new members but also retaining the existing members. Net increase in a particular Inner Wheel year is calculated as under:



Net Increase = Existing Members in the beginning of the year
 + New Members added during the year
 - Members leaving during the year

1. Increasing Members - This means inducting new members in the club.

Need for New Members

We are all aware that to make this organization strong we do require experienced and long standing members but on the other hand we also need new members as they bring with them new ideas, new enthusiasm and thoughts. Here, each one can contribute their little bit by taking efforts to bring in new eligible members and also take efforts to retain them for their lifetime. Membership is essential to the future of our very organization for the following reasons:

- ✦ Continued growth
- ✦ Revitalization of Club - If there are no new members then problem of leadership arises. Past Presidents of the club in rotation take post of President and there is dearth of new zeal and ideas.
- ✦ More hands to serve
- ✦ New ideas and ways of serving mankind.

Reasons for anyone to join Inner Wheel

Motto of Inner Wheel is Friendship and Service but women are drawn to Inner Wheel for various other benefit it offers in addition to the above two. Key reasons why many women are drawn to membership in voluntary social organization like Inner Wheel are:

Identity	It helps in creating one's own identity.
Noble Cause	Working on meaningful service projects.
Networking	Make friends with like-minded people till International level. Due to Inner Wheel and development of personal relations professional opportunity to is received.
Empowerment	We simply learn, learn and learn leading to self-development through development of the skills like leadership, oratory, persuasive, elocution, administrative, letter writing, etc, learn finance, making new friends world over, social etiquettes and have exposure to meet members from all over the world.
Repay	Opportunity for repaying to the society what it has given them.



World Peace	Due to better understanding through cultural and friendship exchange programs.
Help from service	Provide help to others and gain satisfaction.
Enjoyment	Enjoying friendship and personal service. Inner Wheel provides a very pleasant and fun-filled environment.
Exposure	Through service to society. You are the elite of the society.
Leadership	Development of leadership qualities.

Reason for a Member to Join any particular Club

Why should any one become a member of a particular club? Why should she choose that particular Inner Wheel Club over other IW Clubs? Is there anything special in that club that she would like to be a part? A thought must given to the aspect of membership. Stress on that particular point and make it happen in the club.

For prospective members to join a club depends upon

- ✦ Number of members in any club over the years as it speaks for that club's integrity.
- ✦ Type of members - Members who are sensible and display wisdom.
- ✦ Individual and collective image of Inner Wheel.
- ✦ Club Image - types of projects undertaken is important.

Attracting New Members - Increasing Members in a Club

Every member is a potential extension officer, and should always be looking around to find women who fully agree with the objects of Inner Wheel, and share its values. It is not just the responsibility of the President to bring in new members. Thus, the **slogan should be, "Each One-Reach One-Induct-One"**. This involves every member bringing in at least one new member who is eligible to be a member. Just by wishing or sleeping over club's dream of making new members will not achieve the desired goal of making new members. Some solid action has to be taken. They are many who are eligible to join Inner Wheel, only we have to approach them. Every Inner Wheel Club needs a well-crafted membership development action plan to stay dynamic and effective.

Action plan to attract new members

i. Appoint Membership Development Committee

A club can appoint a Membership Development Committee where



senior, experienced, enthusiastic members, may be with good Rotary and Inner Wheel connections and with an exposure to other voluntary organization are included. The club can cash on their seniority and experience. This committee can work for a longer tenure for better results, may be say 3 to 5 years.

ii. **Communicate our Vision - Publicize**

Public image directly results in increasing membership. **By publicizing club's events and service projects one can let more people know the good work the club is doing and increase its appeal to prospective members.** The club should use electronic as well as print media to highlight their meaningful activities. Coverage in media - newspapers, on television, radio, or the Internet generates interest in Inner Wheel. Facebook, Twitter, Blogs, What's App, etc. are new means where one can upload photos with small write-up. News of clubs in that District is spread loud and wide. Invite guests of different sectors of the society to the club's seminars & public meetings.

iii. **Hunt for Members**

The **clubs should Tap on Resources** to hunt for new members.

- **Members** - Once a new member is made, instead of relaxing the club can tap on her resources. They in turn can get more members. Their acquaintances, friends qualified to become members are prospective member. Old members also are resourceful in getting prospective members. They should also be motivated.
- **Rotary Anns** - Make it a point to talk subtly at the Rotary meetings on Inner Wheel projects in Rotary meetings and motivate Rotary Anns to become Inner Wheel members. Many clubs in mofossil areas still depend on their counterpart Rotary for their membership and club growth. Speak to them and develop personal relation before inviting them to Inner Wheel.
- **Other places** like Kitties, women's organizations, office colleagues etc. are potential hunting ground for new members. One has to literally hunt for new potential members. Many women are good and enthusiastic members but due to their backgrounds or other circumstances they are shy. Encourage sisters, daughterin - laws and other female relations of members to join or form new clubs. New generation clubs for the younger crowd is gaining momentum. Many times the ideas to form a club or to become members have to be thrust on new generation as well as on more women, as they are not aware of their own skills.



iv. Spread the Word

Word has to be spread, information and importance of joining Inner Wheel needs to reach as many potential members as possible. It is seen time and again that if an existing Inner Wheel member conveys her pride in being an Inner Wheel member, talks about the people and activities that sparked her interest in Inner Wheel, how she got so involved in the activities of the club and projects, wonderful experiences of taking prestigious office at the Club, District or Association level, her love for the work she and others are doing in Inner Wheel, etc. sends a very positive and most important message to the prospective member that she has to join and that by joining this very important and prestigious organization she is entering a new phase in her life.

v. Developing Club to Fulfill Each Member's Needs

Members join Inner Wheel for either friendship or service or both. thus, a club should have balanced yet variety of programs to cater to fulfill each member's needs.

vi. Proper Invitation

A personal invitation, a phone call, mail, or sms inviting a potential member always gives a personal touch and the prospective member feels wanted. Of course one has to put warmth and good wishes in all these invitations. When club makes the invitation or when members of the club have a dialogue or when she visits the club then whoever talks to her must demonstrate her enthusiasm for her clubs projects and show pride in being the member or that club. The message should be simple and clear – “It is your privilege and honour to become a part of this prestigious club and this organization and if you don't join you are losing on something!”

vii. Follow up

If a prospective member is not ready to join immediately, don't be discouraged. We need to follow up and not give up. At some point of time they may become ready to join Inner Wheel. It is good to be persistent but give the prospective member space and time to make a decision on her own. We must invite them again and again and keep up our efforts.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

The following is a suggested form of procedure for welcoming the new members.

At the beginning of the meeting the introduction of new member should be given to all the members, the president should read the Inner Wheel Objectives; address each of the new members by name and say:

“There are no rights without corresponding obligations. Your right to become a member of this club is an exclusive one. You have been invited to become a member of this Inner Wheel Club because, We are sure that you will welcome the responsibilities of friendship and service that membership brings with it. We believe that you will enjoy being a member of our truly international organization and take a full and active part in all that this club offers. We do hope that you will find you are among friends and enjoy participating in all aspects of the Club and Inner Wheel.”

The President will then call upon all other members present to stand and addressing the new members say

On behalf of the Members of Inner Wheel Club of..... (Your club's name), I welcome you and (addressing the Club), I introduce this new member to you and ask that you extend your friendship to her.

नई सदस्या की स्वागत शपथ

नई सदस्या / सदस्याओं का क्लब में स्वागत करने के सम्बन्ध में निम्नलिखित सुझाव है। क्लब मीटिंग के प्रारंभ में क्लब अध्यक्ष को इनर व्हील के उद्देश्य पढ़कर सुनाने चाहिए।

१. सच्ची मित्रता को बढ़ाना।
२. व्यवितगत सेवा को प्रोत्साहित करना।
३. अंतराष्ट्र सामंजस्य बढ़ाना।

इसके पश्चात नई सदस्या को उनके नाम से संबोधित करते हुए बोलना चाहिए।

श्रीमती/कुमारी.....किसी भी अधिकार के लिए प्रतिज्ञा का अनुबंध अनिवार्य है। इनरव्हील की सदस्या बनने का आपका अधिकार-एक विशेष अधिकार है। मुझे विश्वास है कि आप इनरव्हील की सदस्यता के साथ आनेवाली मित्रता व समाज सेवा की जिम्मेदारियों का सहर्ष स्वागत करेंगी। सदस्य बनने पर आप समविचारी सहेलियों में उत्साहपूर्वक सहर्ष भाग लेंगी-ऐसी मुझे आशा है।

अब अध्यक्ष सभी उपस्थित जनों को अपने स्थान पर खड़े होने को कहेंगी और नई सदस्यार / सदस्याओं को संबोधित करते हुए कहेंगी कि.....इनरव्हील क्लब की ओर से मैं आपका स्वागत करती हूँ और (क्लब सदस्याओं को संबोधित करते हुए) मैं आपका इन नई सदस्यार /सदस्याओं का परिचय कराती हूँ और आपसे इनके साथ मित्रता व स्नेहभाव बढ़ाने का अनुरोध करती हूँ।