

2017 AVP World Gathering  
Item of business 4  
**Annual Meeting**  
Accompanying document  
See [Business at the 2017 AVP World Gathering](#)

## Annual Meeting of AVP International

The World Gathering is both an event and a decision making body. The AVP International organisation has certain obligations to itself, to its bylaws, and to the AVP International community. The AVP International bylaws reserve some decisions to the World Gathering, including changes in bylaws, approvals of officer nominations and the dissolution of the organisation. Also, terms of service in the AVP International organisation are set according to the in-person world gathering event. By moving the decision making away from the World Gathering, there is greater flexibility in setting the dates for the in-person world gatherings.

The AVP International bylaws make no reference to the world gathering as being required to be an in-person meeting of the AVP International community.

The proposed annual meeting would be held electronically on a fixed date each year (for example, the first Sunday in June) at a fixed time. The time will be a challenge for some parts of the world and that is understood. In a year when there will be an in-person world gathering, the annual meeting will be held at the in-person world gathering.

The AVP International community would be invited to attend by public announcement on the AVP International email lists and social media presence. There would be an expectation of attendance by representatives from the member countries/groups and the members of the Coordinating Committee.

See <http://avp.international/who-we-are/> *Membership for details about what member countries/groups means.*

AVP International makes decisions by consensus. However, to ensure major decisions are not made by only a few people, a quorum will be established based on the number of member countries/groups and members of Coordinating Committee.

The agenda for the annual business meeting could include the following items, among others:

- receive and accept annual reports from the standing committees of AVP International to build an AVP International Annual Report
- nominations for officer and other positions on the Coordinating Committee
- financial decisions, as determined by Finance Committee with Coordinating Committee
- bylaws changes, as these may arise
- other items of sufficient weight to require the consideration of this body, as defined in the bylaws or other organisation documents, or as determined by the Coordinating Committee

### What does this mean to the AVP International community?

Holding an annual meeting means the AVP International community has the opportunity to be more involved in the AVP International organisation. It also would mean more stability for the organisation regarding terms of service, which may encourage more people to participate actively in officer and other positions on the Coordinating Committee.

### What is being asked at the World Gathering?

The World Gathering will be asked to approve that AVP International hold an annual meeting to address the business of the AVP International organisation reserved to the World Gathering and other items not addressed by the Coordinating Committee.

Approval of this business item would require minor modifications of the AVP International bylaws.

If the World Gathering approves an annual meeting of AVP International, what happens next?

The World Gathering will be asked to approve minor modifications of the AVP International bylaws.

See [AVP International Bylaws 2017](#)

If this business item is approved, the Coordinating Committee will work out the logistics, date and agenda for the first annual meeting and will inform the AVP International community at least 30 days in advance of the meeting date.

Questions to think about to prepare for this item of business

- How do I and my AVP group feel about major decisions being made outside the in-person world gathering?
- Would I or another representative from my AVP group be willing to attend an annual meeting held electronically?
- Do I or my AVP group have any concerns about the proposed modifications of the AVP International bylaws?

*Please send any concerns or questions to Bronwen at [president@avp.international](mailto:president@avp.international)*