



Hello,

I am writing to you today with a mix of emotions to make a big announcement.

As of January 2020, I will be resigning as the President of The Walnut Club.

Let me begin by saying that, as an entrepreneur, I know the importance of identifying your intentions before starting any new endeavor. Equally, I learned having an exit strategy was also key.

You may already know my backstory. Just five years ago, as a new entrepreneur, I felt isolated and overwhelmed. I realized I needed a support system for my own mental health (not to mention I was driving my husband crazy with all my business talk). I was craving a network that was both supportive and fun, so I decided to take a leap of faith and create it myself. And that's how The Walnut Club (TWC) was born.

My intention in starting TWC was to create a thriving community of diverse, kind, and supportive women, who were interested in living their best lives while cultivating meaningful relationships with other kindred spirits. **Four years later, this club has become my whole heart and my salvation.** It fills me with so much gratitude to see it evolve into a modern-day village serving women on so many different levels. Not to mention, we have a ton of fun together! Sometimes, I feel I have to pinch myself.

Knowing I would not be able to run TWC forever, I established the club as a 501c6 nonprofit with the hope that other women (with a similar vision and drive) could step up as President and continue to take the club to new heights. I knew I would only be able to step down once I felt confident the club would thrive without me.

Today, I'm so thankful that our club is at the peak of its health and success. Membership is up to nearly 150 members, we have strong leadership in place, healthy finances, and a fantastic line up of programs scheduled almost all the way through 2020!

Therefore, it's bittersweet for me to announce that the time has come for me to start winding down my role as President of The Walnut Club as I prepare to launch my next big venture. **I am seeking out my replacement with the goal that she will take the reins by January 2020.** *(This opportunity is only available to current members.)*

As you can imagine, passing my "baby" to someone else to lead definitely has me feeling a bit vulnerable. However, I am confident the next President will be able to take the club much farther than what I was capable of and, rest assured, **I'm not going away!** I will still be involved with the club, as I am excited to transition into a Board of Directors advisory role and still assist with our programming and partnership efforts.



For months, our Board and I have been working behind the scenes to figure out our next steps. We came up with a succession plan that we are confident will set up the next wave of leadership for success. **We decided to amplify our leadership strength by adding new board positions, taking our board from five to eight people. We are also adding three new supporting roles: Membership Chair, Events Chair, and Sponsorship Chair.** The Women of Walnut can be confident that their membership experience will not be affected during this transition in leadership.

As for me, personally, I am brewing up some magic to take my life, and the impact I want to have with women, to the next level. Stay tuned for details on how I will be working full time as a speaker, manifestation teacher, and success coach.

Thank you again for the opportunity to serve you all, as it has been my privilege. My heart is overflowing with gratitude because of the connections I've made and the relationships I've cultivated with my WOWs. It's truly feels like a dream come true. I am very excited to see what the future holds for all of us.

With so much love,

Marla McDermott
Founder & President
The Walnut Club