

## REPORT OF 2016 COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION

The Council on Legislation (COL) is the forum for Rotary Clubs to propose changes to the governing documents of OUR association, Rotary International. Held every 3 years, the results are published in the latest version of the Manual of Procedure and in the amended Rotary International Constitutional Documents: Constitution of Rotary International, Bylaws of Rotary International, and Standard Rotary Club Constitution and Rotary Code of Policy. The updated documents are typically available by or about October of the same year following the Council.

The 2016 Council was held in Chicago in 10-15 April 2016. This Council 1 representative each of the 537 districts, but there were 522 in the COL. Voting for each Enactment was mostly done using electronic voting devices, except for the end of the day on Thursday when the device batteries ran too low to continue using them, at which time we reverted to using colored ballots.

2016/04/15 12:53 One final council profile



RI Director Jennifer Jones took a moment to assess this year's council, moments after the closing bell. "I think this has been a historic council, probably one of the most progressive, evolutionary councils that we ever have seen. I think there was a sense of collegiality and a sense of doing what is right for the future of the organization"

Of 181 proposed enactments and resolutions initially published, 23 were withdrawn before the opening session and 35 more were withdrawn during the proceedings. Of the remaining 123 proposals considered by the Council 62 were passed, including the following items:

### Items

(#16-01)  
 (#16-02)  
 (#16-05)  
 (#16-06)  
 (#16-07)  
 (#16-21)

### Council on Legislation Enactments

1. To provide for written board meeting minutes.
2. To provide that the club treasurer shall be a member of the board.
3. To provide for standard committees in clubs.
4. To define the purpose of Rotary clubs.
5. To remove admission fees for club members.
6. To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance. (\*\*See explanation

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below.)

- (#16-26) 7. To amend the provisions for canceling a meeting.
- (#16-30) 8. To revise attendance provisions to allow for both in person and online meeting participation.
- (#16-34) 9. To amend the provisions for excused absences.
- (#16-35) 10. To amend the provisions for excused absences. (Rule of 85: Must have been a member of 1 or more clubs for at least 20 years.)
- (#16-36) 11. To allow for flexibility in membership and classification. (Club may adopt rules or requirements not in accord with the RI Bylaws and the Standard Club Constitution which will supersede those governing documents of RI.)
- (#16-38) 12. To revise the provisions for membership. (\*\*See explanation below.)
- (#16-40) 13. To allow Rotaractors to be active members of Rotary clubs.
- (#16-47) 14. To amend the provisions for honorary membership. (Removes “permanent” before “support” as a basis for recognition.)
- (#16-48, 49 & 50) 15. To amend the provisions for suspension of membership. (Provides for appeal. Temporary suspension not to exceed 90 days.)
- (#16-51) 16. To amend the provisions for transferring and former Rotarians.
- (#16-54) 17. To amend the duties of the president of Rotary International.
- (#16-61) 18. To revise the procedures for selecting directors-nominee.
- (#16-71) 19. To amend the provisions regarding concurrences to challenges. (To DG election: 10 Clubs or 20% of Clubs in District, whichever is greater.)
- (#16-72) 20. To amend the provisions regarding special elections for DG’s.
- (#16-74, 76 & 77) 21. To amend the provisions for selecting the vice-governor. (DGE may propose a name to Nominating Committee.)
- (#16-79) 22. To amend the procedures for selecting Council representatives and members of the nominating committee for director. (All Club votes to be cast for same candidate.)
- (#16-81) 23. To authorize the RI Board to suspend or terminate a club for litigation-related actions and to amend the provisions for repeated election complaints from a district.
- (#16-82) 24. To remove the distinction between traditional clubs and e-clubs.
- (#16-84 & 86) 25. Board’s authority to change district boundaries. (More than 100 Clubs or fewer than 1100 Rotarians. Changes effective 2 years or more in future.)
- (#16-88) 26. To revise the provisions for a district to adopt its annual statement.
- (#16-89) 27. To sanction those who improperly administer the district fund.
- (#16-99) 28. Increases per capita dues:
  - 2016-17 - \$28.00 per half year.
  - 2017-18 - \$30.00 per half year.
  - 2018-19 - \$32.00 per half year.
  - 2019-20 - \$34.00 per half year. (\*\*See explanation below.)
- (#16-105) 29. To sanction those who improperly administer the district fund.
- (#16-106) 30. To revise the publication requirement for legislation. (Print copies to clubs on request.)
- (#16-113) 31. To provide for a Council on Resolutions. (New Article 8 in the RI Bylaws. Details of operation to be determined but expect it will meet electronically and



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Three items require a bit more elaboration due to their impact on Club membership, attendance and meetings, and dues structure:

**16-21** Is a small, but substantial change. It inserts a new Article 6 in the Standard Rotary Club Constitution which reads:

### ***Article 6 Exceptions to Provisions on Meetings and Attendance***

*The bylaws may include rules or requirements not in accordance with article 7, section 1; article 10, sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5; and article 13, section 4, of this constitution. Such rules or requirements shall supersede the rules or requirements of these sections of this constitution. A club must meet at least twice per month.*

The impact is to give Clubs a great deal of leeway in how they structure themselves to fill the purpose of a Rotary Club which is newly stated (#16-06) as:

*The purpose of this club is to pursue the Object of Rotary, carry out successful service projects based on the Five Avenues of Service, contribute to the advancement of Rotary by strengthening membership, support The Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders beyond the club level.*

**16-38** Carries a short title but has another large impact. It significantly simplifies the definition of the composition of clubs:

*A club shall be composed of adult persons who demonstrate good character, integrity, and leadership; possess good reputation within their business, profession, and/or community; and are willing to serve in their community and/or around the world.*

*And*

*having their place of business or residence located in the locality of the club or the surrounding area. A member moving from the locality of the club or the surrounding area may retain membership in the club where the member's board grants such permission and said member continues to meet all conditions of club membership.*

**16-99** To increase per capita dues. During our Opening General Session on Sunday 10 April, RI Vice President Greg Podd (CPA & PFS) presented the Preliminary Five-year Financial Forecast. The PowerPoint of this presentation is available on the RI Website on the Council on Legislation page under COL "Resources". RI VP & Director Podd advised that if we are to keep our organization in accord with our governing documents it is imperative that we increase our per capita dues as well as look at all other expenditure areas for possible reductions and adjustments.

After lengthy discussions and amendments over a two day period the increase in per capita dues was approved as amended and outlined below by a Vote Total of : 297 Yes 197 No

2016-17 - \$28.00 per half year.

2017-18 - \$30.00 per half year.

2018-19 - \$32.00 per half year.

2019-20 - \$34.00 per half year.

In addition to proposed enactments to change governing documents, 62 proposed resolutions requesting some action by the RI Board were considered and 15 were passed.

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2016/04/15 12:39 Closing remarks



"The effects of your decisions will ripple to every corner of the world for years, decades, even centuries to come,"  
RI President Ravi Ravindran.

A complete listing of all the proposals and voting results is available on the Rotary website at <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/exchange-ideas/events/council-legislation#dailyrecaps> and on our District Website: [www.Rotary7690.org](http://www.Rotary7690.org)

Participation in the Council on Legislation (COL) has been an enlightening learning experience in seeing Rotary from an international view as the 551 District Representatives shared their prospective of what Rotary looks like from their districts' point of view.

If there are any questions on a specific proposal please feel free to contact District 7690 Representative to the 2016 Council, PDG Charles L. Allen, at [charlesallen@rotary7690.org](mailto:charlesallen@rotary7690.org) or 336-963-2428.

5/7/16