

Note: The first release of this document was written soon after the conclusion of the 2016 COL Assembly. After integration of approved legislature was completed by the COL staff and the final documents were released several changes occurred which are documented in this revised report. The final constitutions and bylaws may be downloaded from rotary.org (Login, select *Learning & Reference* then *Governance Documents*.)

Major Decisions

Composition of Clubs

All of the qualifications for membership in a Rotary club have been removed and replaced with a simple statement: 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. This removes long standing barriers to membership by stay-at-home parents, retirees, people working in less than top corporate jobs, etc. etc.

- Clubs may now set their own meeting frequency but must meet at least twice per month. Attendance requirements (now 50%) may be changed by bylaw action to any level.
- Clubs may now have subcategories of membership under active, including corporate members, associate members, and dual Rotaract/Rotary members, among others
- Clubs may elect to dispense with the classification system
- Clubs may allow holders of public office to join as that (they need not have another profession)
- Rotarians may not belong to more than one Rotary club but members of Rotaract clubs may simultaneously belong to a Rotary Club

Note, a club may elect to continue under the same traditional rules as set out in the Standard Club Constitution and Bylaws. To take advantage of any of these provisions, a club must change its bylaws.

Dues

To avert continued administrative losses (not including Rotary Foundation costs), the RI Board sought and got approval for annual increases in dues of \$4.00 US per year for 3 years starting with the 2017-18 Rotary year. 2016-17 half-year dues are \$28.00 as approved by the 2013 council. Half year dues (US) will go to \$30.00 in 17-18, \$32.00 in 18-19 and \$36.00 in 19-20.

Admission Fees

Admission fees for new members must no longer be charged.

Five Avenues of Service

The COL decided to keep the 5th Avenue of Service, "Youth Service" and to retain that name. The suggested name "New Generations" was not approved.

E-Clubs

E-Clubs are now considered to be regular clubs and no special rules apply to them. All references to e-clubs will be removed from Standard Club Constitution & Bylaws. In addition, non e-clubs may elect to stream their meetings online and online viewing by a member is considered attendance just as if the member had been there in person.

Interactive online clubs (formerly e-clubs) are considered worldwide, not associated with any one district, unless the online club's board decides to affiliate with a district.

Vice Governor

It is no longer mandatory that a district select a Vice Governor. If the district chooses to do so, the selected PDG will serve, if needed, the year immediately following his/her selection. The governor-elect must name a PDG to the District Governor Selection Committee which may accept that selection or appoint a different PDG at its discretion. If the Selection Committee does not act, the governor-elect is free to appoint his/her own Vice Governor. Again, the district may avoid all of this by choosing to not make a Vice Governor selection.

Of Lesser Importance

- Club boards must take written minutes and provide them to all members within 60 days
- The "Rule of 85" has been amended to state that a Rotarian wishing to be excused from attendance requirements must have a combined age and years in Rotary of 85 or more (no change) *and* the member must have been a Rotarian for 20 years or more (new). This stops the rare 85 year old from joining Rotary and being exempt from membership on his/her first day. And they wonder why COL members get tired...
- A "Purpose of Rotary " statement has been added to the Standard Club Constitution since currently, no Rotary document really spells out the purpose of a Rotary club.