

# **Bylaws of the Rotary Club of Beloit, Wisconsin**

## **Article I Definitions**

1. Board: The Board of Directors of this club.
2. Director: A member of this club's Board of Directors.
3. Member: A member, other than an honorary member, of this club.
4. RI: Rotary International.
5. Year: The twelve-month period that begins on 1 July.

## **Article 2 Board**

The governing body of this club shall be the board consisting of no more than 13 members of this club, namely, 8 directors elected in accordance with article 3, section 1, of these bylaws, and the president, president-elect (or president-nominee, if no successor has been elected), secretary, treasurer and the immediate past president.

## **Article 3 Election of Directors and Officers**

**Section 1** – At the regular meeting of the Board of Directors held in the month of October each year, the President shall appoint a nominating committee consisting of three members. The nominating committee shall prepare a list of nominations for officer and director positions which will be coming vacant in the upcoming Rotary year beginning on July 1. This list of nominations shall be presented to the membership at a Club day scheduled by the President during the month of November. Additional nominations for officers and directors may be made by members from the floor during that Club day meeting. The nominations shall be placed on a ballot and voted on during the Club day meeting. The candidates securing the highest number of votes for the positions for which they are nominated shall be declared elected. Rotary International will be notified of the new slate of officers and directors for the coming Rotary year as required. The new officers and directors shall take the Oath of Office at the annual meeting as provided for in Article 5, Section 1 of these bylaws.

**Section 2** – A vacancy on the Board of any office shall be filled by action of the remaining members of the board.

**Section 3** – A vacancy in the position of any officer-elect or director-elect shall be filled by action of the remaining members of the board.

**Section 4** – The terms of office for all officers shall be one (1) year and the term of office for directors shall be three (3) years.

## **Article 4 Duties of Officers**

**Section 1 – *President.*** It shall be the duty of the president to preside at meetings of the club and the board and to perform other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of president, including coordinating club assignments for recurring duties, including weekly program assignments, serving as welcoming Rotarian, conducting the invocation, coordinating the weekly raffle, as well as other duty assignments from time to time as may be required to facilitate club operations. .

**Section 2 – *President-elect.*** It shall be the duty of the president-elect to preside at meetings of the club and the board in the absence of the president and to perform other duties as ordinarily pertain to the office of president-elect and/or as prescribed from time to time by the president or the Board of Directors.

**Section 3 – *Secretary.*** It shall be the duty of the secretary to keep membership records; record attendance at meetings; send out notices of club, board and committee meetings; record and preserve the minutes of such meetings; report as required to RI, including the semiannual reports of membership on 1 January and 1 July of each year, and prorated reports on 1 October and 1 April of each active member who has been elected to membership in the club since the start of the July or January semiannual reporting period, report changes in membership; provide the monthly attendance report, which shall be made to the district governor within 15 days of the last meeting of the month; collect and remit RI official magazine subscriptions; and perform other duties as usually pertain to the office of secretary.

**Section 4 – *Treasurer.*** It shall be the duty of the treasurer to have custody of all funds, accounting for it to the club annually and at any other time upon demand by the board, and to perform other duties as pertains to the office of treasurer. Upon retirement from office, the treasurer shall turn over to the incoming treasurer or to the president all funds, books of accounts, or any other club property.

## **Article 5 Meetings**

**Section 1 – *Annual Meeting.*** An annual meeting of this club shall be held on a Tuesday in June in each year. Officers and directors to serve for the ensuing Rotary year shall take the Oath of Office. The outgoing President shall provide a report to the membership on key club activities and accomplishments during the preceding club year.

**Section 2 –** The regular weekly meetings of this club shall be held on Tuesday beginning at 12:15 p.m. in the Rotary River Center located at 1160 Riverside Drive, Beloit, Wisconsin.

Due notice of any changes in or canceling of the regular meeting shall be given to all members of the club. All members excepting an honorary member (or member excused pursuant to article 8, sections 3 and 4 of the standard Rotary club constitution) in good standing in this club, on the day of the regular meeting, must be counted as present or absent, and attendance must be evidenced by the member's being present for at least sixty (60) percent of the time devoted to the regular meeting, either at this club or at any other Rotary club, or as otherwise provided in the standard Rotary club constitution, article 8, sections 1 and 2.

**Section 3** – One-third of the membership shall constitute a quorum at the annual and regular meetings of this club.

**Section 4** – Regular meetings of the board shall be held on the third Wednesday of each month. Special meetings of the board shall be called by the president, whenever deemed necessary, or upon the request of two (2) directors, due notice having been given.

**Section 5** – A majority of the directors shall constitute a quorum of the board.

## **Article 6 Fees and Dues**

**Section 1** – The admission fee shall be \$50.00 to be paid before the applicant can qualify as a member.

**Section 2** – The membership dues shall be \$196.00 per year, payable quarterly with the understanding that a portion of each quarterly payment shall be applied to each member's subscription to the RI official magazine.

## **Article 7 Method of Voting**

The business of this club shall be transacted by *viva voce*\* vote except the election of officers and directors, which shall be by ballot. The board may determine that a specific resolution be considered by ballot rather than by *viva voce* vote.

*(Note: Viva voce vote is defined as when club voting is conducted by vocal assent.)*

## **Article 8 Four Avenues of Service**

The four Avenues of Service are the philosophical and practical framework for the work of this Rotary club. They are Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service. This club will be active in each of the four Avenues of Service.

## **Article 9 Committees**

Club committees are charged with carrying out the annual and long-range goals of the club based on the four Avenues of Service. The president-elect, president and immediate past president should work together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning. When feasible, committee members should be appointed to the same committee for three years to ensure consistency. The president-elect is responsible for appointing committee members to fill vacancies, appointing committee chairs and conducting planning meetings prior to the start of the year in office. All appointments are subject to Board approval. It is recommended that the chair have previous experience as a member of the committee. Standing committees should be appointed as follows:

- **Membership**  
This committee should develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the recruitment and retention of members.
- **Club Public Relations**  
This committee should develop and implement plans to provide the public with

information about Rotary and to promote the club's service projects and activities.

- **The Rotary Foundation**  
This committee should develop and implement plans to support The Rotary Foundation through both financial contributions and program participation.
  
- **Four Avenues of Service**
  - **Community Service Committee**  
This committee shall develop and oversee fund raising activities and service projects focused on community service.
  
  - **International Service Committee**  
This committee shall oversee projects and activities related to the club's international avenue of service.
  
  - **Vocational Service Committee**  
This committee shall oversee programs and initiatives related to vocational service, including the club's scholarship program.
  
  - **Club Service Committee**  
This committee shall oversee all club related activities, including matters pertaining to attendance, and shall coordinate with Membership Services regarding new member acceptance and orientation. It may also be responsible for reviewing requests for resignation, leaves of absence, or other member oriented service activities.

Additional ad hoc committees may be appointed as needed.

The president shall be an ex officio member of all committees and, as such, shall have all the privileges of membership thereon.

Each committee shall transact its business as is delegated to it in these bylaws and such additional business as may be referred to it by the president or the board. Except where special authority is given by the board, such committees shall not take action until a report has been made and approved by the board.

Each chair shall be responsible for regular meetings and activities of the committee, shall supervise and coordinate the work of the committee and shall report to the board on all committee activities.

## **Article 10 Duties of Committees**

The duties of all committees shall be established and reviewed by the president for his or her year. In declaring the duties of each, the president shall make reference to appropriate RI materials. The service project committee will consider vocational service, community service and international service avenues when developing plans for the year.

Each committee shall have a specific mandate, clearly defined goals, and action plans established by the beginning of each year for implementation during the course of the year. It shall be the

primary responsibility of the president-elect to provide the necessary leadership to prepare a recommendation for club committees, mandates, goals and plans for presentation to the board in advance of the commencement of the year as noted above.

## **Article 11 Leave of Absence**

Upon written application to the board, setting forth good and sufficient cause, leave of absence may be granted excusing a member from attending the meetings of the club for a specified length of time.

*(Note: Such leave of absence does operate to prevent a forfeiture of membership; it does not operate to give the club credit for the member's attendance. Unless the member attends a regular meeting of some other club, the excused member must be recorded as absent except that absence authorized under the provisions of article 8, sections 3 and 4 of the standard Rotary club constitution is not computed in the attendance record of the club.)*

## **Article 12 Finances**

**Section 1** – Prior to the beginning of each fiscal year, the board shall prepare a budget of estimated income and expenditures for the year, which shall stand as the limit of expenditures for these purposes, unless otherwise ordered by action of the board. The budget shall be broken into two separate parts: one in respect of club operations and one in respect of charitable/service operations.

**Section 2** – The treasurer shall deposit all club funds in bank(s), named by the board. The club funds shall be separated in the budget and financial statements for club operations and service projects.

**Section 3** – All bills shall be paid by the treasurer or other authorized officer only when approved by two other officers or directors.

**Section 4** – A thorough review of all financial transactions by a Certified Public Accountant or other qualified person shall be made once each year.

**Section 5** – Officers having charge or control of club funds shall give bond as required by the board for the safe custody of the funds of the club, cost of bond to be borne by the club.

**Section 6** – The fiscal year of this club shall extend from July 1 to June 30, and for the collection of members' dues shall be divided into four (4) quarterly periods extending from July 1 to September 30, October 1 to December 31, January 1 to March 31 and April 1 to June 30. The payment of per capita dues and RI official magazine subscriptions shall be made on July 1 and 1 January of each year on the basis of the membership of the club on those dates.

## **Article 13 Method of Electing Members**

**Section 1** – The name of a prospective member, proposed by an active member of the club, shall be submitted to the board in writing, through the club secretary. A transferring or former member of another club may be proposed to active membership by the former club. The proposal shall be kept confidential except as otherwise provided in this procedure.

**Section 2** – The board shall ensure that the proposal meets all the classification and membership requirements of the standard Rotary club constitution.

**Section 3** – The board shall approve or disapprove the proposal within 30 days of its submission, and shall notify the proposer, through the club secretary, of its decision.

**Section 4** – If the decision of the board is favorable, the prospective member shall be informed of the purposes of Rotary and of the privileges and responsibilities of membership, following which the prospective member shall be requested to sign the membership proposal form and to permit his or her name and proposed classification to be published to the club.

**Section 5** – If no written objection to the proposal, stating reasons, is received by the board from any member (other than honorary) of the club within seven (7) days following publication of information about the prospective member, that person, upon payment of the admission fee (if not honorary membership), as prescribed in these bylaws, shall be considered to be elected to membership.

If any such objection has been filed with the board, it shall vote on this matter at its next meeting. If approved despite the objection, the proposed member, upon payment of the admission fee (if not honorary membership), shall be considered to be elected to membership.

**Section 6** – Following the election, the president shall arrange for the new member's induction, membership card, and new member Rotary literature. In addition, the president or secretary will report the new member information to RI and the president will assign a member to assist with the new member's assimilation to the club as well as assign the new member to a club project or function.

**Section 7** – The club may elect, in accordance with the standard Rotary club constitution, honorary members proposed by the board.

**Section 8** – Honorary members may be approved using the same procedure as for regular members but shall not be required to pay the admission fee or other costs normally associated with membership.

## **Article 14 Resolutions**

The club shall not consider any resolution or motion to commit the club on any matter until the board has considered it. Such resolutions or motions, if offered at a club meeting, shall be referred to the board without discussion

## **Article 15 Order of Business**

Meeting called to order.  
Introduction of visitors.  
Correspondence, announcements and Rotary Information.  
Committee reports if any.  
Any unfinished business.  
Any new business.  
Address or other program features.  
Adjournment.

## **Article 16 Amendments**

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting, a quorum being present, by a two-thirds vote of all members present, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been mailed to each member at least ten (10) days before such meeting. No amendment or addition to these bylaws can be made which is not in harmony with the standard Rotary club constitution and with the constitution and bylaws of RI. For purposes of distributing the mailed notice, e-mail or other routinely available means of electronic communication shall be considered appropriate for purposes of satisfying the pre-notification requirement.

Approved by vote of the membership: February 5, 2008  
Revised by vote of the membership: January 11, 2011