

# Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club News

## Rotary Club Calendar

May 6 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

May 11 - 7pm - Manna Food Center

Need Volunteers

May 13 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm  
Christina Myers, Peace Corps Volunteer

May 20 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

May 27 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 3 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 8 - 7pm - Manna Food Center

June 10 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 17 - 6:30pm - Meeting - Normandie Farm

June 28 - 6pm - District Governor Installation

## RI Council on Legislation Passes Potomac-Bethesda Rotary's Proposal Allowing Electronic Rotarian Magazine

In a battle reminiscent of David versus Goliath, the arguments of the Potomac-Bethesda Rotary Club overpowered the opposition of the RI Board of Directors and made Rotary history on April 30, 2010. Now for the first time the current issue of the *Rotarian* magazine will be available in either electronic or print formats, potentially saving RI millions of dollars per year and averting the environmental impact of millions of copies of paper magazines. Addressing 530 representatives from around the world, our own district's representative Pat Kasuda, PDG, described an experience similar to Daniel being thrown into the lions' den. But she successfully advocated our proposal and her photo and featured article on this one proposal appeared on the front page of the RI website. The article is reproduced on page 2. Thanks so much for supporting the proposals that I presented to the club in February 2008, three of which were endorsed at the District Conference in May 2008.



## April 29 Meeting Report

Bringing us a timely update on real estate, Tom Leuchtenburg presented the latest statistics. While the more reasonably priced homes received a boost in sales with the \$6500 stimulus (\$8000 for first home buyers), the upper brackets are continuing to lag in sales. Foreclosures are up 60% in Maryland year to year. Thanks so much, Tom, for your excellent report.



We welcomed back Jerry Gross from his "tax season sabbatical."



Neil Cohen received a little seed funding for his U.S. Senate campaign.



[Above] Club photos provided by Nabil Bedewi.

[Left] PDG Pat Kasuda was one of 531 Rotary district representatives who convened in Chicago the last week in April for the Council on Legislation, a triennial assembly to propose and debate changes to the policies governing Rotary International and its member clubs. Photo by Rotary International.

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## Council Takes Action On Magazine Subscriptions

By Donna Polydoros and Ryan Hyland  
RI News – 30 April 2010

*The Council voted to give Rotarians in the United States and Canada the option of receiving either a print copy or an electronic copy of The Rotarian.*

Rotarians in the United States and Canada will be allowed to choose between receiving a print or an electronic copy of *The Rotarian* magazine following an action taken by the Council on Legislation 29 April in Chicago.

But representatives voted against giving a similar option to Rotarians outside the United States and Canada, who receive either *The Rotarian* or one of 31 regional magazines published by the Rotary World Magazine Press.

The Council rejected a proposal to do away with the subscription requirement altogether.

RI Director José Alfredo Sepúlveda explained that supporting print magazines is essential to Rotary's communications strategy. "Having an official magazine and regional magazines is a necessity. The members of all important organizations receive a magazine that keeps them updated."

Others pointed out that print magazines are a powerful tool for marketing to non-Rotarians and serve as Rotary's primary way of reaching members who live in remote areas or lack Internet access.

Proponents of the choice argued that RI already has used online technology with great success, pointing to the recent transition of the print publication *Rotary World* to the electronic newsletter *Rotary Leader*. They said their aim was not to eliminate the print magazine.

"The magazine should be available at all times," said Patricia M. Kasuda, of District 7620 (Washington, D.C.; parts of Maryland). "With today's technology and RI's partnership with Google Books, readers will

get the same full-color articles the print magazine offers."

But opponents noted that advertising revenues could decline and worried that the action could eventually lead to the demise of the print magazine.

"I'm addicted to the Internet, but I cannot agree with this measure because I love to hold the magazine in my hands and be able to pass it on to other people," said Júlio J. D'Albuquerque Lóssio, of District 4490 (Brazil).

About 450,000 Rotarians in North America and 50,000 outside North America receive *The Rotarian*. The remaining 700,000 Rotarians subscribe to a regional magazine.

The Council also narrowly approved allowing joint subscriptions to the official magazine. Two Rotarians residing at the same address will have

the option of sharing a subscription instead of paying for two subscriptions.

This enactment could result in a decrease in subscription revenues. The financial impact would be contingent upon the number of Rotarians who are living at the same address.

*[Note: Regarding the comments below, it was not our intention to limit the availability of the electronic copy only to those Rotarians in North America.]*

### 7 Comments:

On 4 May 2010, Nils Ottervik wrote: What a disgrace! Next Year we are supposed to bring home the message Bridging Continents. And yet the COL divides Rotary into North America that can use internet and the rest of the world that cannot. A possibility to save on international Rotary's already too large expenses (money better spent on helping people) and reduce the environmental impact of the organization is turned down. How many North American council members voted for their own right to use internet and against the right of the rest of the world to do the same. A disgrace for the COL in particular and Rotary as a modern, international organization in general.



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On 3 May 2010, Ian Sayers wrote: Surely this is a joke? To disallow the internet option is an insult to the rest of the Rotary world. We in the ANZO region have an excellent regional magazine, "Rotary Down Under", that is available on line. I can't understand why we can't have that option to read it.

On 3 May 2010, James A Dunn wrote: I am a member of the Rotary Club of Appin Park Wangaratta (district 9790) and I am almost blind. I am unable to read our regional rotary Down Under and feel that the magazine should be made available to Rotarians like myself online. I have no problem paying the normal fees for it as I do get the magazine. The only difference is I get it in a format I can read. At present I get a magazine I cannot read and is a waste.

On 3 May 2010, Per Olav Stenseth wrote: This is not a too wise decision. It seems partly to be based on the belief that the US has a wider/deeper distribution of internet than other parts of the world. Check up on your data - this is not the case. It also gives an impression of thinking of the Rotary world as the US and the rest of the world. This is not contributing to a more united Rotary world either.

On 3 May 2010, PDG Joe Mulkerrin (D-7600) wrote: Recommend never doing away with printing The Rotarian. Electronic only. Runs counterproductive to Public Affairs thrust. Do not want to eliminate members leaving copies at reception areas (doctor/ lawyer/etc offices) such that the general public can not be exposed to Rotary. What would happen to advertising revenue?

On 3 May 2010, SN Agrawal wrote: Both good & bad news - good because at last, RI is giving option of a online magazine. Bad because members out side North America will be deprived! The move could have saved millions of trees & funds of RI.

On 3 May 2010, Dr Lim Eng Lee wrote: Hard copies should be minimized. Rotary should lead the way by going soft. If clubs think that hard copies are powerful PR tool, then print it at club level. I know there are revenue and costs involved. If we can control 'carbon emission' in a physical way. Let us go on soft copy for 'The Rotarian' at least.

## **2010 Council on Legislation**

By PDG Pat Kasuda, 3 May 2010

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Thank you for the honor and privilege of representing you at the 2010 Council on Legislation. I will consider this as one of my top ten most exciting opportunities as a Rotarian.

While being a delegate requires a lot of time in preparing and participation, having the ability to interact with 531 international delegates, and debating issues that would affect Rotarians around the world was indeed a daunting experience.

Preparation begins upon receipt of the proposed legislation at least six months prior to the Council, which is held in late April. Delegates are required to review all resolutions, which are suggestions sent the RI Board for actions to be considered for their approval and enactments, which are changes/additions or new items for the RI By Laws and Constitution. Upon reviewing the proposals, I determined at least 35 worthy of consideration and possible approval. Of those, 30 were indeed approved. With an 87% success rate and being a first time delegate, I think I represented our District in an informed manner.

For five days, the Council met from 8:30 am until 6:30 pm hearing all 219 resolutions and enactments proposed from all over the world. It was very obvious in listening to the debates the many cultural differences we face with an international organization. We were constantly reminded of the economic issues, membership issues and administrative issues that would make Rotary strong now and into the future.

Some of the more outstanding issues were our passing an enactment that would increase dues for \$1 annually through 2013. While the RI Board requested a \$2 annual dues increase with permission to have a 2% increase cap thereafter, the delegates voted unanimously for the lesser amount. In addition, we passed a very controversial enactment that would cease discrimination related to an individual's sexual preference. Other enactments included restrictions on how the RI Board could determine future redistricting, establishment of satellite Rotary clubs, officially designating E Clubs, rules that would make it more difficult for members to transfer from one club to

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another, regulations that would permit the RI Board to revoke the charter of a club that did not act in a fiscally responsible manner, and created a fifth avenue of service: New Generations. For detailed information about these and other actions of the Council, you can visit the Rotary International Web site at [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org) Enactments that will change the RI Constitution and By Laws will be published in the next edition of the Rotary Manual of Procedures.

I am available for any additional information and would be happy to share with you how, as your delegate, I worked as our founder, Paul Harris, advised keeping in mind, "That men do not think alike is no more remarkable than that they do not look alike." This was obvious throughout my entire week at the Council on Legislation. Please know that our Council is a strong legislative body that works diligently to keep Rotary International a first class service organization. Again, I thank you for the honor to serve.

Yours in Rotary Service, PDG Pat Kasuda

## **Daily Council Highlights**

By Arnold R. Grahl RI News - 27 April 2010

A roundup of action taken by the council on 27 April.

Council on Legislation representatives Tuesday endorsed the concept of a new type of Rotary club, a satellite club, that would allow prospective members to become Rotarians through a host club while they wait for the satellite to gain enough members for its own charter.

Representatives voted in favor of asking the RI Board of Directors to propose legislation for the next Council on creating satellite clubs. Satellite clubs would differ from provisional clubs because there would be no limit to how long they could exist before gaining enough members for a charter. Also, prospective members would be considered full-fledged members of the host club until the satellite club gained its charter.

"Provisional clubs often fail to achieve the number of members they need to get their charter. Years of work by the host club go to waste and the provisional members often lose interest in Rotary, never to return," said John C. Williams of District 1150 (Wales), which proposed the legislation. "If satellite clubs fail, the

members are far more likely to remain Rotarians because they are members of the host club."

Representatives were in a far less charitable mood, however, toward other proposals designed to create new membership categories. The Council

\* Rejected a measure to create a category of corporate membership that would allow corporate members to designate up to three other people from their business or profession to attend meetings in their place for purposes of meeting attendance requirements. The corporate member would pay dues for the additional people, but they would not be considered members. Proponents said the measure would attract executives of large industries or big businesses who do not have time to attend regular meetings. But opponents felt the new category would change the nature of Rotary membership. "Rotarians are human beings. I have never yet seen a corporation walk through my club's door to be a member," said Kari Tallberg of District 1420 (Estonia and Finland).

\* Rejected proposals to ask the Board to draft legislation for the next Council that would create associate memberships. Associate members would pay reduced dues of 50 percent, but would not have voting rights. The associates would have to become full members after two years. Opponents felt the measure would create two classes of members. Supporters felt the new category would allow prospective members, deterred by cost, to join for up to two years and learn more about the organization.

\* Approved a measure that would preclude clubs from limiting membership based on sexual orientation. Enactment 10-40 amends the RI Bylaws, which already provide that clubs cannot limit membership on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, or national origin.

\* Approved two measures that would make it harder for a member to transfer to a new club for reasons other than relocation. The first measure would preclude admission of a Rotarian who has terminated membership in one club to another until the former club provides the new club with a certificate confirming previous membership. The second measure would establish a 90-day waiting period, during which the new club could confirm that the prospective member has no outstanding dues or liabilities to the former club.

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## **Daily Council Highlights – 28 April**

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 28 April 2010

A roundup of action taken by the Council on 28 April. Council on Legislation representatives requested Wednesday that the RI Board create a committee to develop a worldwide resource that would provide rapid, short-term relief to areas affected by natural disasters.

Recent earthquakes in Chile and Haiti are reminders of how important and urgent it is for Rotary to help victims rebuild their lives, said Raymond T. Martin, of District 9820 (Australia), as he introduced the proposal to the Council.

"The world has experienced many major and devastating disasters in recent years. Rotary must be proactive in investigating guidelines on how to speed up response," Martin said. "The future of Rotary is in your hands. Disaster victims' futures are in your hands as well. A quick response is the only solution."

The measure, which received loud applause, was approved 361-148.

Proponents said ShelterBox, a Rotarian-supported disaster relief organization, has demonstrated the value and viability of an immediate response resource, and may provide a useful model for development on a wider and more comprehensive scale by RI.

Luis Ortiz Sepúlveda, a representative from Chile, told the Council that he was overwhelmed by ShelterBox's responses to disasters. "Rotary doesn't need to replace ShelterBox but supplement their efforts," he added.

In other actions, the Council

\* Rejected a measure to raise the Rotaract age limit from 30 to 35. Proponents argued that many young professionals have neither the time nor financial means to join a Rotary club, and that raising the age limit would give Rotaractors more time to connect with a club they could later join. Opponents said passing the resolution could result in a decrease in Rotary club membership and revenues. One objector said that by age 30, people should be self-sufficient and mature enough to join a Rotary club and pay dues if they desire.

\* Adopted a resolution asking the RI Board to consider officially recognizing EarlyAct clubs. This could lead to making EarlyAct a structured program of

RI, with policies and requirements set by the RI Board for clubs and districts to follow. Opponents said that during this economic climate, any additional expenses to RI are unnecessary. Proponents said elementary school students would benefit from learning about Rotary's high ethical standards.

\* Supported two similar resolutions requesting that the Board consider including land mine relief efforts in RI and Rotary Foundation humanitarian programs. Advocates said the resolutions would send a strong message to Rotarians already helping victims or striving to ban land mines. "Thousands of new land mines are produced daily. Those working to ban land mines need the support of RI at the level of the United Nations to raise awareness and lend a hand of solidarity," said Hans Pfarr, representative from District 1830 (Germany).

\* Rejected a measure to request that the Rotary Foundation Trustees consider making descendants and spouses of Rotarians eligible for Rotary Peace Fellowships. Proponents argued that the program has established worldwide credibility and must maintain stability by showing fairness to all qualified candidates. Opponents argued that revising the Foundation's current policy could result in actual or perceived conflict of interest.

## **Daily Council Highlights – 29 April**

By Ryan Hyland RI News – 29 April 2010

A roundup of action taken by the Council on 29 April. Representatives at the Council on Legislation rejected a proposal Thursday to establish additional per capita dues of US\$3 to support the annual RI Convention.

Carl L. Chinnery, representative from District 6040 (Missouri, USA), who introduced the proposed enactment, said the additional annual dues would make it possible to reduce registration fees from \$300 to \$100 and increase the convention's appeal to Rotarians.

"Our convention is a valuable event for Rotarians. It encourages them to do more, donate more, and they come back with a renewed energy," said Chinnery. "We aspire for full attendance, but the conventions have been cost prohibitive. It is fair for all Rotarians to support the conventions for the cost of a cup of coffee."

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Proponents argued that reduced convention registration fees would increase attendance by 2,000 to 3,000 Rotarians and guests.

RI President-elect Ray Klinginsmith, who supported the measure, said the RI Board is concerned about recent convention attendance. He noted that since 2005, attendance at RI conventions has not exceeded 20,000.

Opponents argued that it wouldn't be fair for more than 98 percent of Rotarians to subsidize the cost for the less than 2 percent who go to the convention. They also were against another dues increase, given the Council's vote Tuesday to approve a \$1 increase in the per capita dues clubs pay to RI.

"Rotary is already very costly," said Kasemchai Nitiwanakun, of District 3350 (Thailand; Cambodia). "Rotarians shouldn't pay more dues that will only benefit 10,000 to 20,000 people."

In other actions, the Council

- \* Agreed to decrease the number of members on the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International from 34 to 17. Proponents cited cost and logistical problems. "Having 34 zones on the committee [lessens] efficiency and is not cost effective," said John Örtengren, of District 2350 (Sweden).

- \* Rejected a proposed enactment to reduce per capita dues for members under the age of 40. Proponents said the measure might help attract younger members, but opponents suggested that clubs find more creative ways to recruit young Rotarians.

- \* Rejected an enactment to extend the term of district governors from one year to two years. While the measure's backers argued that one year isn't enough time to visit each club in the district and complete projects, those against it said extending the term by a year would pose familial and professional challenges for governors.

- \* Approved a proposal to give the Board authority to take steps to limit the number of election complaints from a district. The measure, which representatives debated for almost an hour, would allow the Board to take any or all of the following actions if two or more district governor complaints were filed in a district within a five year period, and if the Board believed the RI Bylaws or election complaint procedures had been violated: 1) disqualify a nominee for district governor

and select a past governor instead, 2) remove from office any governor interfering with the election process, and 3) strip past governors interfering with an election of their titles. The measure also would give the Board power to dissolve a district and assign clubs to surrounding districts, if the district incurs three or more election complaints in a five-year period. The Board argued that the measure is necessary to cut down on the number of election complaints, which cost RI money to address. Opponents said the measure would penalize clubs for exercising their right to submit election complaints as they feel necessary.

## **Daily Council Highlights – 30 April**

By Donna Polydoros and Ryan Hyland RI News – 30 April 2010

A roundup of action taken by the council on 30 April. During five days of deliberation, the Council on Legislation discussed more than 200 proposed enactments and resolutions, voting to increase dues, make e-clubs a permanent part of Rotary International, and create a fifth Avenue of Service. On 30 April, the Council

- \* Approved an enactment to revise the Board's authority to change district boundaries. The enactment would amend the RI Bylaws by changing the minimum number of clubs per district from 30 to 33 and Rotarians per district from 1,000 to 1,200 by 1 July 2012. The Board would be able to eliminate or change the boundaries of a district that falls below the new minimums, but only after consulting with and providing a reasonable opportunity for the governor and clubs involved to provide another recommended change. Opponents argued that merging districts could lead to a decline in membership. Proponents argued that it could save RI money and encourage clubs to be proactive in recruiting new members.

- \* Approved the creation of a standing committee of RI for Interact. The committee would consist of six members, each of whom would serve a term of three years, with two members appointed each year. David L. Gallagher, of District 5220 (California, USA), said there was no better time to create a permanent Interact committee in light of the Council's recent decision to add New Generations as a fifth Avenue of Service.

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\* Approved the addition of a travel reimbursement policy to the RI Bylaws. The policy would require that anyone traveling at the expense of RI or The Rotary Foundation, except certain senior Rotary leaders, be ticketed or reimbursed according to the lowest available economy fare. Proponents stated that the measure would reduce costs for RI and the Foundation.

\* Rejected a measure to eliminate the requirement that Council representatives be past RI officers. Proponents said that allowing Rotarians who have not been officers to be eligible would bring fresh viewpoints to the Council and ensure that the best qualified representative attends. Opponents said that the level of knowledge necessary to attend the Council makes serving as an RI officer essential.

\* Approved a resolution to encourage the RI Board to support the use of Comely Bank, the Chicago home of Rotary founder Paul P. Harris, as an archive for past RI presidents' documents and memorabilia. Proponents said the Comely Bank archive would educate future generations about the history of Rotary and serve as an attraction for Rotarians visiting Chicago. The resolution notes that the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation, a nonprofit corporation, has not been receiving enough donations to make necessary repairs. RI would incur costs to restore and maintain the building.

## **Full Report on Three Potomac-Bethesda Proposals Voted on at Council on Legislation**

By Pat Kasuda, PDG

Now for what happened to our legislation. As you know, the RI Board had written opposition to all three pieces of legislation. I spoke to several RI Directors, who wanted me to withdraw. I let each of them know that I felt I had a duty to our District to present them as they were voted on with approval from our membership. So with one oar in the water, I developed a plan for my presentation to be factual and assertive on my delivery with a real hook at the rebuttal. Well, it did not work for all. Here goes.

**10-174 To provide for a standing committee for RI.** Failed 133 for and 367 against. We had only one member of the 531 in support verbally. He was a member of the task force and explained why it was

important. But, the RI Board stood in opposition and by the time this enactment was presented, the overall COL had decided pretty much to not approve any measures that would create any need for additional funding. They did not go for my hook "Let's make our first class organization even better by assuring the best resources are in place to continue to move it forward." Without disappointment, Peter Markos, CIO from RI met with me after session and thanked me for the excellent presentation and reminded me that RI moves very slowly and gave me support to continue the forward press on this issue.

**10-179 To provide a membership information policy in RI bylaws.** This one failed 171-322. Do you see the improvement in support? I guess I was over my case of the nerves at this point and was ready for the RI Board. This one had no one standing in favor or in opposition except for the Board that reminded the group that they were in negotiations with Bank of America for a five year extension of their contract and that voting in favor would hinder the negotiations that could have a major financial impact. With this legislation being presented after a grueling session on dues increase needs, anything that had financial burden attached was opposed. So even though I thought in the need for us to protect our identity due to identity theft, I had no luck. Although, I will say several delegates approached me and said they had developed some concern for this.

**10-183 To allow Rotarians to receive the official magazine via the Internet.** This one passed 266-238. You can see it was a very close vote. Don't know they were supportive or just were tired of seeing and listening to me. Nonetheless, this legislation created quite a bit of controversy from the other countries. I was glad that it was clear that it applied to only the US and Canada and did not create any changes for the regional *Rotarian Magazine* editions. RI Board was only mildly opposed. They did indicate that they did not want to see the Magazine off the shelves as they felt it had good recruitment qualities. I think I clinched this one with my closing statement. "Keep in mind this does not eliminate the paper *Rotarian*, it merely give each Rotarian the option of having their individual magazine via mail or email."