

Council on Legislation

Every three years, the Council on Legislation meet to consider changes to the constitutional documents that govern Rotary International. Representatives from 530 Rotary Districts around the world met April 14-18, 2019 in Chicago, Illinois. 117 pieces of proposed legislation were considered by the Council of which 47 enactments were adopted, 55 were rejected and 15 proposals were withdrawn.

Among the most important,

- The Council elevated the status of Rotaract clubs. The change broadens the definition of membership in Rotary International to include Rotaract clubs. The change is intended to increase the support that Rotaract clubs receive from RI and to enhance their ability to serve. In many ways, the Rotaract experience will not change. Rotary clubs will still charter and sponsor Rotaract clubs. Rotaract clubs will still have their own standard constitution and their own unique club experience. Members of a Rotaract club will not be called Rotarians. And Rotaract clubs will not immediately pay dues or receive other benefits, such as the official magazine that Rotary members receive. The Board will determine a dues structure over time. The measure simply expands the definition of membership in Rotary International to include both Rotary and Rotaract clubs.
- Representatives authorized the Board to pursue changing RI's charitable status to a section 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization under the U.S. Internal Revenue Code. It is presently a 501(c)(4). A task force has been studying the possible change for 18 months and says it will offer benefits that include tax reductions and vendor discounts that will reduce expenses.
- As for dues, the Council approved an increase of \$1 a year for each of three years, beginning in 2020-21. The previous Council set dues for 2019-20 at \$34 per half year. With the increase, the dues that clubs pay to RI per member will increase to \$34.50 per half year in 2020-21, \$35 per half year in 2021-22, and \$35.50 per half year in 2022-23. The dues will not be raised again until a future Council votes to change it.

For more information on the 2019 Council on Legislation click on the link <https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/councils#>

The next Council on Legislation will be in 2022 and the deadline for submitting proposed legislation will be December 31, 2020.

Council on Resolutions

The Council on Resolutions meets online every year to vote on proposed resolutions. Resolutions are requests to the Board or the Trustees to take an action that is outside the purview of the constitutional documents. Representatives from all Rotary districts

vote on resolutions proposed by clubs, districts, the RI Board, and the general council or conference of RIBI. Adopted resolutions are then considered by the RI Board or The Rotary Foundation Trustees.

The deadline for submitting resolutions to the 2019 Council on Resolutions will be June 30, 2019.

For further information about the Council click on the link <https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/about-rotary/councils>

PDG Elsa Gillham
District 5280 Council Representative 2018-2020