



Membership District 7090

Rotary 

October 2016

RESOURCES TO HELP OUR CLUBS GROW AND PROSPER

2016 COL Enactments Give Clubs Greater Flexibility

By PDGs Karen Oakes & Kevin Crosby



The 2016 Council on Legislation (COL) approved enactments that will give Rotary clubs the flexibility to set policies regarding meeting frequency, attendance requirements, and membership types in order to better meet the needs of their existing members as well as prospective members. Each club may decide how they take advantage of these changes or maintain their existing policies.

Our District has a responsibility to ensure that clubs understand these

COL decisions and then undertake the necessary steps to modify their bylaws, if desired, based on the preferences of their members. Since the purpose of these COL enactments is to support membership retention and growth, the discussion of COL decisions should be connected to broader membership development strategies.

Here is a summary of the recent COL enactments that may impact club policies and practices (the number in parentheses refers to the enactment number):

ATTENDANCE

Ability to change rules. Clubs may relax or tighten attendance requirements and termination policies for non-attendance.

However, clubs are still expected to forward attendance reports to the governor. Any club that wishes to continue adhering to the traditional attendance requirements may do so. (16-21)

Rule of 85. Rotarians can be excused from attendance if the combined total of their years of membership in one or more clubs plus their age equals at least 85, with their years of membership totaling at least 20. (16-35)

CLUB FINANCES

Admission fees. New members can be admitted without paying admission fees. However, clubs may also choose to retain these fees, and they have the flexibility to add admission or other fees to their bylaws. (16-07)

Club dues increased. To address both financial challenges and the need to improve service to clubs, RI

semiannual dues were increased by \$4 for each of the next three years — to US\$30.00 per half year in 2017-2018, US\$32.00 per half year in 2018-2019, and US\$34.00 per half year in 2019-2020. (16-99)



CLUB MEETINGS

Ability to change meeting schedules. Clubs can now vary their meeting days and times, and can cancel meetings, as long as they meet at least twice a month.

However, any club that wishes to adhere to the traditional requirements regarding meetings and cancellations may do so. (16-21)

Canceling a meeting. Clubs can cancel a meeting if it falls during a week that includes a holiday. (16-26)

In-person and online meeting participation. Clubs can have in-person meetings, online meetings, allow online participation for an in-person meeting, or switch between any of these formats. (16-30)

MEMBERSHIP

Rules and qualifications. Clubs may determine their own rules or requirements for transferring members, dual membership, and honorary members. They're also free to continue following the traditional provisions for these members. The only mandatory qualifications for membership are that Rotarians must be adults who have demonstrated good character, integrity and leadership; have a good reputation in their business, profession and community; and are willing to serve in their community

2016 COL Enactments, continued

and around the world. (16-36, 16-38)

New membership types. Clubs may offer associate, corporate, family, or other membership types. Clubs offering these additional types would report these members to Rotary as "active" for purposes of inclusion on the club invoice. Other financial obligations (club dues, meal costs, etc.), attendance requirements, and service expectations for these members are determined by the club. However, only active members may be considered for office and count in determining a club's voting strength. (16-36)

Dual membership in Rotary and Rotaract clubs. Rotaractors can simultaneously hold separate membership in a Rotaract club and a Rotary club. (16-40)

Transferring member statement. Potential members who owe money to another club are ineligible for membership. Clubs must seek confirmation that a former Rotarian does not have any outstanding debt to their previous club. When a club requests a statement from the club of a member who wishes to transfer, or who was previously a member, as to whether that person owes money, the request must be responded to within 30 days. If no response is provided, it is assumed that the member doesn't owe anything. These changes are in the RI Bylaws but are no longer repeated in the *Standard Rotary Club Constitution*. (16-51)

Great Resources for Membership

There are many great resources available from RI and other sources to assist clubs with their recruitment and retention strategies. In each of these newsletters, we'll feature a few of these.

Impact Begins with You - 001-EN – (316) 5/\$1.25US available for purchase from <https://shop.rotary.org/>

This new brochure has a great message that is sure to appeal to virtually any prospective member. It focuses on the impact you can have, internationally and locally, by becoming part of Rotary. A key message is "our actions make a difference." Every member of a club should have a few of these to give to potential members.

Strengthening Your Membership – Creating Your Membership Development Plan 417-EN -- (114) available for purchase (\$2.50 US) from <https://shop.rotary.org/>

This is an excellent, comprehensive guide for clubs on how to develop an effective membership development plan. Every club Membership Chair should have a copy.

Questions? Contact IPDG Kevin Crosby, 2016-17 Membership Director, at kevin@d7090.org.