

# 2013 COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION Updates



Many changes have been made in Rotary since your training manuals were written, including policy changes from the Council on Legislation, decisions by the RI Board of Directors and Foundation Trustees, and the debut of new Rotary services. These updates are summarized below. The most recent club constitution and bylaws can be found at [rotary.org](http://rotary.org).

## General Information

The following apply to all Rotarians:

- The fifth Avenue of Service has been renamed Youth Service from New Generations Service. This is a name change only; policies and programs remain unchanged.
- District assembly will now be called district training assembly. This is a name change only; policies remain unchanged.
- Satellite clubs are now officially approved, aimed at increasing club membership.
  - Its members are also members of the sponsor club, though the satellite club meets at different times and places.
  - A satellite club is located in the same general area as the sponsor club and can potentially become a Rotary club.
  - Attendance at a satellite club meeting counts as a make-up for a missed club meeting.
  - Officers of the sponsor club regularly attend satellite club meetings.
- All clubs (not only those in the United States and Canada) now have the option to receive the Rotary magazine either in print or online.
- There is no longer a limit on the number of e-clubs in each district.
- People who have not worked or who have interrupted their work in order to care for their children or assist their spouse are now eligible to be active members.
- The *Planning Guide for Effective Rotary Clubs* form has been replaced by Rotary Club Central, an online goal-setting tool for clubs that is accessed by signing in at [rotary.org](http://rotary.org).

## Club-level

The following changes, which were made after the 2012 edition of the *Club Officers' Kit* was revised, override policy as stated in your manual.

The following items affect chapter 3 of the *Club President's Manual*, chapter 2 of the *Club Secretary's Manual*, and chapter 1 of the *Club Treasurer's Manual*.

- Semiannual club dues will increase from \$25.50 in 2013-14 to \$27.00 in 2014-15, \$27.50 in 2015-16, and \$28.00 in 2016-17.
- A club with fewer than 10 members will no longer have to pay dues to RI as if it has 10 members. It will have to pay only for its actual number of members.
- The Board can reduce and postpone dues payment in areas seriously affected by natural disaster.
- Transferring members and former members rejoining a club are now exempt from paying a second admissions fee.
- Clubs with 25 to 37 members have one elector for the district conference, those with 38 to 62 members have two electors, those with 63 to 87 have three, and so on. Each elector is entitled to one vote. Now, electors from the same club must cast their votes for the same candidate or proposition, or none of their votes will count.

The item below affects chapter 4 of the *Club President's Manual* and chapter 1 of the *Club Secretary's Manual*.

- The club secretary is now considered an official member of the club board. Vice president and sergeant-at-arms can also be included as members of the board.

The items below regarding attendance and participation affect chapter 2 of the *Club Secretary's Manual*.

- Regarding attendance percentages, a member must
  - Attend or make up at least 50 percent of club regular meetings or — now — engage in club projects, other events and activities for at least 12 hours in each half of the year, or a proportionate combination of both
  - Attend at least 30 percent of club regular meetings or engage in club projects, other events and activities in each half of the year (assistant governors are excused from this requirement)
- A leave of absence for medical reasons can now be extended by a club's board for more than 12 months. These absences will not count on attendance records.
- A member whose combined age and years of Rotary membership total 85 is excused from attendance policies.
- The absence of a spouse of a current officer of Rotary International is now excused.
- A club board now may approve other circumstances for excusing absences, and these absences will not be factored into the attendance record or included in club reporting.
- If the former club of a transferring member does not provide a statement within 30 days to the new club verifying that all debts are paid, it is to be assumed that the concerned member does not owe any money to this club.

## District-level

The following changes, made after the *District Governor's Manual* for the 2014-15 class of governors was revised, override policy as stated in the manual.

### General

- The minimum number of Rotarians in a district has been changed from 1,200 to 1,100.

### Chapter 4: Running Your District

- District governors have been given the following additional responsibilities (also in appendix 10):
  - To ensure that the constitution and bylaws of their clubs comply with RI constitutional documents, especially following Councils on Legislation
  - To prepare a ballot-by-mail for each club, rather than mirroring the form provided by the RI Board
- A district resolutions meeting is a new alternative for clubs to officially endorse legislation, if it isn't feasible for them to do so at a district conference or RIBI district council. (Also in Chapter 5)

### Appendix 10: Suggested Timetables for Selection of District Governor-nominee

- Governor-designate will now be the title for those selected to be district governor three years prior to their taking office. They will then become governor-nominee on 1 July two years prior to assuming office.
- District conference voting procedures have been revised as follows:
  - When voting for governor-nominee at a district conference, each club designates one elector to cast all its votes.
  - A club can now concur with only one challenging candidate for governor-nominee during the nominating procedure.
  - The nominating committee for governor will now select one of the five last governors, or, if none is available, a qualified Rotarian who is still a member of a club in the district, to be named vice governor, who will replace the governor in the event of temporary or permanent inability.