**NEW OPTIONS for
Rotary Clubs**

**Over the years, Rotary has found that when clubs have more freedom to determine how they hold their meetings, who they invite to membership, and what defines engagement, the club is more vibrant and more able to grow. Based on this assertion Rotary’s Council on Legislation has made a number of changes which give clubs greater flexibility in when, where, and how they meet, and the types of memberships they offer. The District wants all clubs to understand that the changes associated with attendance, club meetings and membership ARE NOT MANDATORY. Clubs that wish to continue to follow their customary requirements for meetings, attendance, structure, and categories of membership may do so. Listed below are some of the major changes initiated by the COL that affect Rotary clubs.**

* **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.**

**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.**

* **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.**

 **Canceling a meeting. Clubs can cancel a meeting if it falls during a week that includes a holiday.**

* **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 and around the world.**

 **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.**

* **Club Board**

 **Treasurer. A club treasurer is now a permanent member of the club board.**

 **Board meeting minutes. Written minutes should be prepared for all club board meetings and be made available to members within 60 days of that meeting.**

* **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.**

 **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.**

**Keep in mind that clubs that want to adopt certain of these changes must amend their bylaws.**

**The decision to adopt changes or to continue under the traditional requirements is strictly a *club* decision. The District just cautions clubs that any decision to change should not be taken lightly. The changes your club makes could completely transform the future of your club. The transformation could be for the better but could also lead to negative and unintended consequences. Consider your actions carefully. Think through the long term ramification of any actions your club makes. Analyze before you finalize.**

**If you have any questions or would like to discuss your clubs specific situation please contact your Assistant Governor or anyone in District Leadership, we are here to help!**

**Learn more details at**

[**http://rotarydistrict7500.org/Stories/essential-changes-for-clubs-and-districts**](http://rotarydistrict7500.org/Stories/essential-changes-for-clubs-and-districts)