

REPORT ON COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION

BY- CLARENCE PARKINS

The 2016 Council on Legislation (COL) was held April 10-15, 2016 in Chicago. Of the 534 Rotary Districts, 530 representatives 530 were certified. There were 117 proposed enactments and 63 proposed resolutions. Enactments change constitutional documents (RI Constitution, RI bylaws, standard club Constitution). Resolutions request the RI Board of Directors or RI Foundation Trustees look into the matter.

16-21 Flexibility in Meetings/Attendance

Current club constitution Article 6 provides clubs meet once a week. Article 9 regarding attendance provides members must attend unless they make up fourteen days before or after, attend a service project or a board meeting. Article 9 provides for termination if a member doesn't attend or make up 50 percent of meetings or attend thirty percent of meetings at their own club or misses four consecutive meetings.

The above requirements will remain in the standard club constitution and can be followed by clubs if desired. The new enactment provides that club bylaws may alter these provisions. For example, to determine when and how often a club meets, except it must meet two times per month. The club may set attendance requirements, and the club may modify or eliminate termination policies for non-attendance.

16-36 Kinds of Membership

The standard club constitution provides for two kinds of membership: active and honorary. That will remain in the standard club constitution and can be

followed by clubs. Alternatively, this enactment provides that club bylaws may have provisions not in accord. That is, clubs may have alternative memberships such as corporate, associate, family, etc.

16-36 Revise Qualifications for Membership in a Club

Current RI Constitution requires "Adult person of good character and good business, professional and/or community reputation" In addition, it requires the member have position as proprietor, partner, etc. of business or profession, be retired from such position, or be a community leader.

The new enactment eliminates these business and professional criteria and provides only that a club be composed of "Adult persons who demonstrate good character, integrity and leadership, possess good reputation within their community and/or around the world.

16-99 Dues Increase

RI dues currently are \$55 per year. In 2016-17 it goes to \$56, in 2017-18 to \$60, in 2018-19 \$64 and 2019-20 \$68. This dues level is required to keep RI within the mandated reserve level while still maintaining the services to Rotary Clubs.

16-07 Admission Fees

This enactment deletes the requirement of admission fees called for in the standard club constitution

16-35 Rule of 85

In addition to "Rule of 85" requirements for excused absences, the Rotarian must have been a member of one or more clubs for a total of at least 20 years.

16-40 Rotaractors can simultaneously be Rotarian's.

16-61 The RI Board can suspend a club for litigating issues before exhausting administrative remedies provided for in the bylaws. The board can also deal with districts which have repeated election complaints.

16-82 E Clubs

This enactment removes the distinction between regular clubs and e-clubs. Regular clubs can have digital meetings and e-clubs can have in-person meetings.

These are some of the enactments that will effect Rotary Clubs July 1, 2016 . All of the work of the COL and the enactments passed and failed will be made available at rotary.org during June.

It was an unforgettable experience, and I am very grateful and honored to have been selected to represent D-5180 at the 2016 Council on Legislation. Contact me at c.parkins@comcast.net, or 916-208-3909 if you have questions or comments.