

## **COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION**

The Council on Legislation (COL), Rotary's worldwide parliament, meets every three years and has the authority to amend the Rotary International constitutional documents. The district representative (delegate) must be a Past Governor and attends the COL meetings on behalf of the district. A COL representative can only attend no more than three meetings.

There are two kinds of proposal: an enactment, which will amend the constitution or by-laws of Rotary International or a club, and a resolution, which expresses an opinion or makes a recommendation to the Rotary International Board.

It is important to note that a club's proposed legislation needs district support and endorsement, and the best time and place to get this approval, is at our district conference.

### **Council on Legislation 2016**

#### Council on Legislation (COL)

Meet every three years. Legislation to be considered by the Council on Legislation shall be limited to proposed enactment and proposed position statements. Legislation seeking to amend the constitutional documents shall be known as proposed enactments.

#### Council on Resolutions (COR)

A Council on Resolutions consisting of Council representatives will meet online annually to consider recommendation. Resolutions may be proposed by a club or district conference.

### **Club Changes**

#### Attendance

Ability to change rules - Clubs may relax or tighten attendance requirements and termination policies for non-attendance. Any clubs that wishes to continue adhering to the traditional attendance requirements may do so.

Rotarians can be excused from attendance if the combined total of their year's membership in one or more clubs plus their age equals at least 85, with their years of membership totalling at least 20.

#### Club Finances

Club dues increased – to address both financial challenges and the need to improve service to clubs, Rotary International semi-annual dues were increased by \$4 for each of the next three years to US\$30.00 per half year in 2017-18, US\$32.00 per half year in 2018-19 and US\$34.00 per half year in 2019-20

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 fees or other fees to their Bylaws.

## 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 made available to members within 60 days of that meeting.

## Club Meetings

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

Cancelling a meeting – clubs can cancel a meeting if it falls during a week that includes a holiday.

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.

## Membership

Rotary will continue to recognise two kinds of membership – active and honorary. But clubs may now chose to offer additional membership categories – such as associate, corporate or family membership – creating alternative financial attendance and service expectations. However for these members to be recorded as members of RI with the full benefits of membership, clubs must report them as active members and pay per capita dues accordingly.

## **ACTION REQUIRED BY ALL NEW ZEALAND LOCATED CLUBS:**

### **Update Club Constitution:**

Following on from the 2016 Council on Legislation the Standard Rotary Club Constitution has been updated to incorporate the changes adopted at the Council.

New Zealand located Rotary Clubs are strongly encouraged to update their constitutions especially if clubs wish to adopt changes to the standard meeting and membership provisions. Rather than prepare a modifying document we have prepared a new standard constitution for New Zealand clubs which incorporates the new Council on Legislation updated constitution plus an updated version of the special clauses used in current New Zealand club constitutions to comply with the requirements of the Act.

Clubs in District 9910 which are not located in New Zealand and are not incorporated societies do not need to take any action as pursuant to Article 2.040.1 of the Bylaws of RI the amendments to the standard club constitution automatically become part of the constitution of each club.

Article 2 satellite club name should be completed in case the club subsequently establishes a satellite club. The satellite club provisions are now standard in the club constitution and should not be deleted.

**District Changes**

There are changes that need to be made to the District Constitution and Bylaws and they will be incorporated into the present documents and sent out to clubs prior to District Conference Annual Meeting 2017.

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