

Rotary District 5730



May/June 2016

District Conference

The District Conference held in Big Spring was a big success. I think everyone really enjoyed the hotel and the conference. The All Club luncheon was a huge success with Greg Podd, Our Zone Director to Rotary International and the RI Vice President, giving behind the scene view of Rotary at the highest levels. He also was the keynote speaker at the Foundation Dinner. This was also a fabulous experience hearing about the latest activity in the Foundation and updates on Polio Plus and other major initiatives. We are truly this close to eradicating Polio. We still need lots of financial support to beat Polio because we have to continue giving the vaccine for three years after the last case to ensure all the virus is gone from the environment.

Greg touched on other areas of focus including the Water and Sanitation projects all over the world. More people worldwide die from unclean water than any other single cause. Something as simple as a water well can save hundreds of lives each year in an impoverished area. We need to continue developing new wells and new technology to bring clean water to third world countries.

All of these projects and many more types of projects are possible through your donation to the Rotary Foundation. I am not asking anyone to give until it hurts, but rather give a reasonable amount each year to keep the service flowing to the world. We need all Rotarians to step up and give a little each year. You the individual Rotarian are the most important part of Rotary. Without you and your support of Rotary service, we would just be another service organization that does a few things in the world, but doesn't do projects that literally change the world! Keep up the good work.

Outgoing Message from the Governor

Well the year is just about done. It has been a great year in many respects, but we have had some bumps along the way. I guess that is how life goes.

I would like to thank a few people who helped me get through this year. First I want to thank my wife and daughter for being so supportive and understanding this year. Cindy was sick most of the year, but was a real trooper this year! I need to thank Charles Starnes for taking on the role of Lieutenant this year. He coordinated the visitation schedule and everything else I needed! I want to thank Susan Brints for helping keep me out of the ditches. I need to thank Ken Patterson, David Norris, Cesar Caro and Dianne Anderson for helping to prepare me for the year and giving me

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Raffle Tickets

While we didn't sell as many raffle tickets as we would like to (I don't think we have ever sold out), we did raise a lot of money for the Foundation. We don't have the final numbers yet, but it was big! The winner of the voucher for travel was won by Gary Jones of Tahoka. Gary is not a Rotarian, but maybe we can persuade him to join now. Ken Patterson won the second place drawing for the 60" LG TV. They both said buying tickets regularly pays off! Unfortunately we did not get a donation to give a prize to the ticket sellers. Maybe next year!

Amendments to the District By-laws

We had a very good business session at the district conference with only one submission needing an amendment to stay in compliance with the RI By-laws. After that amendments were unanimously approved. We will have additional amendments next year, with much of the core group from last year working on the by-laws again this year. You will not see any significant changes at the club level because of the district by-laws changes, but you will see some significant options opened up because of the Rotary International Council on Legislation. Jim Cole was our representative to the COL this year and says many of the changes give clubs new freedoms and are not mandatory. Those changes are highlighted below:



Essential changes for clubs and districts

2016 Council on Legislation *(The numbers in parentheses identify the relevant legislative enactments).*

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 Board

Treasurer. A club treasurer is now a permanent member of the club board. (16-02)

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. (16-01)

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)

Council on Legislation

Proposed legislation. Only two types of proposals will be considered: enactments, which seek changes to RI's constitutional documents, and position statements from the RI Board. (16-113)

Council representatives. Representatives will serve for three years, starting on 1 July of the year following their selection. For example, the 2019 Council representative would take office on 1 July 2017 and serve until 30 June 2020. (16-114)

Council on Resolutions. A Council on Resolutions consisting of Council representatives will meet online annually to consider recommendations. Resolutions may be proposed by a club, district conference, the RIBI general council or conference. Those resolutions adopted by a majority vote of council representatives must be submitted to the general secretary by 30 June of the year prior to the Council on Legislation. (16-113)

District Changes

Moving clubs into adjacent districts. The Board can merge a district with fewer than 1,100 members, or divide districts with more than 100 clubs by moving clubs into adjacent districts. (16-84)

Two years for districting changes to take effect. Any decision by the Board to eliminate or change district boundaries won't become effective until at least 24 months after it is made. (16-86)

District Leadership

Vice governors. Having a vice governor is no longer mandatory. This role replaces the governor in case of that person's inability to perform their duties. If the district uses a nominating committee, the committee selects a past governor proposed by the governor-elect. If the nominating committee doesn't receive a nomination, or if a nominating committee was not used, the governor-elect may choose a past governor as vice governor. The vice governor serves in the year following his or her selection. (16-74, 16-76, 16-77)

Procedures for failing to adopt the annual statement and report of district finances. The statement and report of finances must be discussed and adopted within three months of the conclusion of the district conference or at the next district meeting to which all clubs are entitled to send a representative and for which 30 days' notice has been given. If no district meeting is held, the governor must conduct a ballot by mail within 60 days of the end of that three-month period. (16-88)

Mishandling of district finances. Anyone who fails to follow Rotary's financial requirements, including improperly administering the district fund, is prohibited from holding any Rotary or district office until the irregularities are resolved. (16-89)

E-clubs

E-clubs and Rotary clubs. The distinction between traditional clubs and e-clubs was eliminated. While references to e-clubs have been removed from Rotary's constitutional documents, e-clubs may continue to name and promote themselves as Rotary clubs that meet exclusively or primarily on-line. (16-82)

Elections

Concurring with a governor selection challenge. The number of clubs that must concur with a club's challenge to the nominated candidate has been increased to 10 other clubs, or 20 percent of the total number of clubs in the district, whichever number is higher. Only clubs that are at least one year old as of 1 July of that year are counted in the total and may concur with a challenge. (16-71)

Special elections nominating procedure streamlined. If a district restarts the governor selection process due to special circumstances, the governor does not need to repeat the request for suggestions from clubs if there were none made during the first nominating process. (16-72)

Magazines

Joint magazine subscriptions. Two Rotarians residing at the same address may choose to subscribe jointly to The Rotarian or to the regional magazine prescribed for their club. (16-96)

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. (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)

New Clubs

Charter member minimum. New clubs need at least 20 members to be chartered. (16-83)

Suspension

Suspension of membership. Clubs may now suspend a member for a maximum of 90 days. At the end of that time, they must either terminate or reinstate the member. A suspended member has the right to appeal the suspension or request mediation or arbitration. (16-49, 16-50)

Suspension or termination of clubs because of litigation. Clubs can be suspended or terminated if one of their members takes legal action against RI or The Rotary Foundation — including action against directors, trustees, officers, and employees — before exhausting all Rotary remedies. The Council also clarified the conditions under which the RI Board may take action against districts with repeated election complaints. (16-81)

RYLEA Camp

By Ken McIntosh

During the first week of June, seventy-four high school juniors sponsored by thirty-three clubs from District 5730 came together to discover, improve or refine their leadership skills at RYLEA 2016. The District owes a huge debt of gratitude to Glennette Goode from the Pampa Club who was this year's registrar. In addition to gathering all the forms and fees, Glennette arranged for all participants to have a custom designed T-shirt to take home.

RYLEA's theme was the Rotary Theme: *Be A Gift to the World*. The leadership qualities of communication, courage, initiative, listening, generosity, positive attitude, service, passion, and vision were emphasized in various ways throughout the week. The schedule strived for a balance of brainwork and physical activity, mixing together small group team building and leadership development indoor activities along with outdoor activities that nurtured confidence building, problem solving, team strategy, and individual fun challenges such as the zip line, ropes course, and the Blob!

Each day was modeled after a Rotary meeting: the day started with the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by prayer. Prayer was offered before lunch and dinner, and then the evening ended with a recitation of the 4-Way Pledge. All of these observances were student led, with the exception of a prayer offered by the Director and Friday morning's pledge/prayer offered by the counselors.

Our week's experience was highlighted by the attendance and full participation of District Governor John Scott, as well as Jerry Traylor, who has been a popular keynoter for years. Our counselor staff was a mixture of young and old, and was anchored by Rotarian John Early who has participated in RYLEA for eleven years! Finally, we are especially grateful to Rebecca Connell who attended on short-notice as our RYLEA nurse.

Students were introduced to various aspects of Rotary International throughout the week. Jim Cole was present Monday night to introduce the 4-Way Test and the concept of Service Above Self. He gave each student a 4-Way Test coin. On Wednesday night, students heard a presentation on Interact and afterwards, the Rotary Youth Exchange Committee was on hand to make an excellent presentation about the Youth Exchange Program. On Thursday morning, District Governor John Scott made a presentation about Rotary International, emphasizing the polio eradication goal and other service projects around the world.

The Speech Contest was a highlight of the week as the student speakers genuinely opened up to their peers. The goal was to make a succinct speech on one or more aspects of the 4-Way test as it applies to their lives. First place went to Emily Alexander sent by the Canadian Club, while second place went to Jasiel Andrade sponsored by Amarillo South. The Director's Award for Most Memorable Student went to Allysa Roper sponsored by the Pampa Club.

Seventy-one evaluations were tabulated and a profile of this year's RYLEA will be mailed to all the clubs in District 5730. Forty-six of the campers called the week either amazing, awesome or great. There were no overall negative opinions about the event. Some good suggestions were made that will make next year even better. In addition to the evaluation report, each club who sponsored students will receive certificates for them to hand out to the students. We hope the certificates will motivate clubs to follow up by bringing students to a meeting to hear a report about the week directly from the participants.

Finally, this year's venue for RYLEA was the Plains Baptist Camp south of Floydada, TX. It proved to be more than adequate for our needs, and at much less than the cost of our previous stints in New Mexico.

It has been my honor to serve as the RYLA director for five years. I hope our new District Governor will have me back for another year. The 2017 Rotary International theme: *Rotary Serving Humanity* will afford us the opportunity to stress Service Above Self while helping participants learn and develop Servant Leadership skills. Also, because the camp is located centrally in the District, I want to add a Rotary Day as part of the event. A dinner at the camp during RYLA when Rotarians from all the clubs in District 5730 will join us for a fun evening. Finally, because of the RI theme, I hope we can add some type of significant community service project into the week's program of activities. Best news of all to clubs: RYLA cost less if held again at Plains Baptist.

You can see what happened at RYLA for yourself by going to FACEBOOK and typing in RYLA2016DISTRICT5730.

PS: We need more Rotarians as counselors. Once the week is set (which I hope happens next month), please take a look to see if you can be part of the RYLA staff and let me know:

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Governor's Comments Continued

encouragement when times got a little tough. I also have to give a big thanks to my Governor Classmates for being there with ideas and advice when things got tough. I need to especially thank Melinda and Tim Osborn for all the calls of encouragement and jokes to lift my spirits when I needed it. I got virtually weekly calls from Tim checking on me throughout the year. I want to thank all the Committee Chairs who supported me and helped me look a little better than I deserve. I especially need to thank James Craig for heading up the By- Laws Committee, Katie Salter for heading up the Foundation Committee and SarahLee Morris for her double duty as visioning coordinator and Rotary Youth Exchange Officer. Last but not least is Jim Cole. I could not have made it through the year without him. He has been a truly great friend and mentor. He did everything for me. Many of the things he did without being asked! Now that is Service Above Self. Again, I want to thank the Governor's line for the Monday evening meetings and the great advice and encouragement I received from them all.

I would also like to apologize to all the district Rotarians because I could not do everything you deserved and I wanted to do for you. If I had known at the time of my application that Cindy was going to be so sick during the past several years, I would not have applied and you would have gotten a better governor as a result. Family must come first. Sorry! This district is a truly great district and deserves only the best. The line of governors behind me will be truly great governors and will take the district to the heights it deserves. Thank you for the chance to serve you this year and if you need any help in the future, don't hesitate to call or email me. I am just about finished with my PDG training and will assume that post Friday! Stay in touch and Thank You again!