



Review of 2016 COL

2016 COL was held April 10-15, 2016 in Chicago. Of the 534 districts, 523 representatives were certified. There were 117 proposed enactments and 64 proposed resolutions. 23 items were withdrawn before the Council began leaving 158 items to consider. Enactments change constitutional documents (RI Constitution, RI bylaws, standard club Constitution). Resolutions request the RI Board of Directors or RI Foundation Trustees look into a matter.

Please note that the RI Constitution and Bylaws Committee will be working through the enactments, taking care of any duplications or inconsistencies.

Important Enactments

16-99 Dues Increase Amended Passed 317 to 197

RI dues currently are \$55 per year and will be \$56 in 2016-17 (COL 2013)

This enactment establishes 2017-18 -\$60; 2018-19 -\$64; 2019-20 - \$68.

RI revenue is approximately \$103 million per year, 67% of which are dues. Investment returns are down. At current dues level, the forecast is for deficits to increase by approximately \$2 million per year for the next four years.

The \$4 per year dues increase was based on a five-year financial forecast that predicted that if Rotary didn't either raise dues or make drastic cuts, its reserves would dip below mandated levels by 2020.

RI cuts costs by outsourcing printing and mailing; outsourcing process and development to India; changing to digital publications; and suggestion to combine DG visits.

16-21 Flexibility in Meetings/Attendance – Amended. Passed 392 to 82

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 member doesn't attend or make up fifty 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 (there is no definition of "meeting"); the club may set attendance requirements; and the club may modify or eliminate termination policies for non-attendance.

16-36 Kinds of Membership –Amended. **Passed 386 to 75**

Currently there are 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 with the constitutional documents. That is, clubs may have alternative memberships such as corporate, associate, family, etc. They may amend or eliminate rules for transferring Rotarians, Honorary members, holders of public office, dual membership.

16-38 Revise Qualifications for Membership in a Club –Amended. **Passed 426 to 85**

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 the 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 business, profession and/or community; and are willing to serve in their community and/or around the world.”

16-01 Requires written minutes of club Board of Director meetings; minutes to be available to club members within 60 days **Passed 318 to 136**

16-02 Club Treasurer is added as an officer and board member in addition to IPP, P, PE, and Secretary and one or more vice- presidents. **Passed 379 to 72**

16-05 Club Committees –Amended. **Passed 238 to 213**

The standing club committees are: club administration, membership, public image, foundation, and service projects; additional committees appointed as needed. Matches language recommended RI Club Bylaws. Some clubs still structure club administration around the avenues of service.

16-06 Added Purpose of a Rotary Club **Passed 236 to 217**

The purpose of this club is to pursue the Object of Rotary, carry out successful service projects based on the Five Avenues of Service, contribute to the advancement of Rotary by strengthening membership, support The Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders beyond the club level.

16-07 Admission Fees **Passed 232 to 228**

The standard club constitution calls for every new member to pay an admission fee and dues as prescribed in club bylaws. This enactment deletes the requirement of an admission fee. Clubs can still have an admission fee.

16-35 Excused Absences – Rule of 85 – added the italicized phrase. **Passed 334 to 170**

The aggregate of the member's years of age and years of membership in one or more clubs is 85 years or more, *the member has been a member of one or more clubs for at least 20 years*, and the member has notified the club secretary in writing of the member's desire to be excused from attendance and the board has approved.

16-40 Rotaractors can simultaneously be Rotarians. Proponents argued that too few Rotaractors (around 5 percent) join Rotary. Sometimes it's because they don't want to leave their Rotaract clubs before they have to, upon reaching age 30. It's hoped that giving them more options will boost the numbers of qualified young leaders in Rotary. **Passed 413 to 97**

16-51 Transferring or former Rotarians are ineligible for membership in a club if they have debts to another club. Amended. **Passed 452 to 53**

16-74, 76, 77 Vice Governor - Amended **Passed 358 to 156; 304 to 201; 348 to 169**

The nominating committee for governor may select one available past governor, proposed by the DGE, to be named vice-governor who shall serve during the year following selection. If no nomination is received, the governor-elect will select a past governor as vice-governor.

16-81 The RI board can suspend a club for litigating issues before exhausting administrative remedies provided in bylaws. The Board can also take several actions with districts that have repeated election complaints. **Passed 463 to 52**

16-82 E-Clubs **Passed 355 to 145**

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. E-Clubs can retain 'E-Club' in their club name.

16-83 Amends RI bylaws to require twenty (20) members to charter a new club. Currently the number (25) is set only in the code of policies not in the bylaws. **Passed**

16-84 and 86 District Boundaries **Passed 444 to 56; Passed**

The board may eliminate or change the boundaries of any district with more than 100 clubs or fewer than 1,100 Rotarians, and in conjunction with any such change; the board may move the clubs from such districts into adjacent districts. The board also may merge such districts with other districts or divide the districts.

Otherwise, no change shall be made to the boundaries of any district over the objection of a majority of the total number of clubs in the district. Any decision by the board to eliminate or change district boundaries shall not be effective for at least two years.

16-90 Establish RI Membership Committee as a standing committee. **Passed 368 to 147**

- 16-113** Provides for a Council on Resolutions to meet annually online to consider and vote on proposed resolutions. Only enactments would come before the in person COL held every 3 years. **Passed 443 to 67**

A Selection of Approved Resolutions

- 16-118** Eradication of polio is of the highest priority – **Passed Unanimously**
- Endorse and affirm eradication of polio is goal of highest order of RI
 - No other corporate project should be adopted until the certification of the eradication of all polioviruses
 - No other corporate program will be adopted until approved by a subsequent Council
- 16-126** Request the RI Board to consider supporting the prevention of female genital mutilation. **Passed 377 to 128**
- 16-132** Request the RI Board to consider revising age limits for Interact. **Passed 428 to 65**
- Membership termination to occur in both school and community based Interact clubs upon graduation, not upon reaching the age of 18.
- 16-136** Request the RI Board to consider promoting Rotary Cards, the only official credit card supporting TRF. **Passed 335 to 170**
- 16-141** Request Trustees to consider allowing the purchase of pre-or post surgical care units (hospital structures) **Passed 329 to 175**
- 16-144** Request Trustees to consider reinstating funding for graduate scholarships not related to areas of focus. **Passed 267 to 223**
- 16-160** Request RI Board to consider retaining an outside professional consulting firm to review the current corporate governance structure of RI and TRF and report on its findings and recommendations, including specific legislative proposals, to the 2019 Council. **Passed**
- Suggested topics:
- Terms of office for Directors and Trustees
 - Exec and Admin functions of RI President and General Secretary
 - Should RI President be a paid position?
 - Qualifications for Directors and Trustees

For Questions, more information or a Club / Area Program, please contact:

Wyn Spiller
D5190 Council on Legislation 2016 Representative
530.913.6470
wyn.spiller@gmail.com

Special *Thank You* to COL Rep Michael Drake who created the original summary!