

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION 2004
REPRESENTATIVE'S SUMMARY REPORT

Rotary's Council on Legislation [COL], the constitutional body having power to amend existing enactments or to enact new legislation every three years, met in Chicago from 13th to 18th June 2004. This is a preliminary report is based on the notes and papers of the COL Representative and organized by action taken as well as topic area. RI will produce its formal report in the next several months that will contain all items considered, adopted, rejected or withdrawn and submit to each of the Rotary Clubs throughout the world. After the report of the Council is published and club challenge period elapses the actions taken shall take effect retroactively to July 1, 2004 unless otherwise specified and be included in a newly revised Manual of Procedure [MOP].

The items presented herein are only those items I considered significant or of special interest. If you have any questions please feel free to call me directly. Also, I will be glad to give a Club Program on the COL and the role we can play in the future of Rotary through the Council.

The COL in Chicago considered 476 items, both resolutions [referred to the RI Board of Directors for consideration] and enactments [changes made to the RI constitutional documents and governing documents]. 527 of the 529 voting delegates selected [one from each Rotary district in the world] were present and participated in the COL-04.

PRIP Bill Huntley chaired the Council and PDG Mark Daniel Maloney served as Vice Chairman. The RI constitutional committee members and three designated members at large gave their opinions and analysis as non-voting members. The President of RI Jonathan Majiyagbe along with the President Elect Glenn Estess, President Nominee Karl W. Stenhammer and General Secretary Ed Futa were present throughout the council proceedings as well. Eleven Past R I Presidents, the entire R I Board of Directors and the Chairman and trustees of Rotary Foundation were also present as non-voting members and actively participated in the discussions.

The proceeding began with an interfaith service in the evening of June 13th followed by a welcome speech by President Jonathan. The Chairman Bill Huntley outlined the procedures of the Council and presented the order of consideration for items to be reviewed.

On June 14th at 8-30 a.m. legislative items were taken up according to the approved order of consideration. The Council was finished the last item by 6:00 p.m. on June 18th. Each day ran from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. with short breaks in the morning and afternoon and a lunch period as well. The order of consideration and the rules of procedure were amended from time to time to facilitate the process.

All participants had ample opportunity to express their opinions, albeit within strict time frames. Each item was presented, discussed by those wishing to address it and voted on pursuant to a relatively strict timeline. All presentations were simultaneously translated in English, French, Spanish, Italian Japanese and Korean.

Selected Enactments Passed by the Council

Clubs

1. To increase the per capita dues as follows. \$19.50 per half year in 2004-05, \$21.50 per half year in 2005-06 and \$23.50 per half year in 2006-07 and thereafter¹
2. To require that clubs pay per capita dues for a minimum of 10 members regardless of their size
3. To allow Rotarians attendance credit for participation in a 30-minute interactive club Website of an Internet web based club and the filing of a report on the session
4. To allow Rotarians attendance credit for attending a meeting of a Rotary Fellowship
5. To exclude from Club attendance records any member whose absence is excused
6. To allow clubs to elect into active membership a transferring or a former member, even if the transferring or former member's classification is filled and to exempt clubs from paying the prorated per capita dues for these members.
7. To amend the standard club constitution providing for the position of Incoming-President, who shall be designated as president-elect until the immediate predecessor takes office at which time the president-elect shall become the Incoming-President until taking office.
8. To prohibit club Presidents-elect [or incoming presidents] from beginning their term of office if they have not attended both PETS and the District Assembly

Districts

9. To allow the District Conferences to be held outside the District without the authorization of the R I board.
10. To revise district financial reporting requirements by deleting the requirement of an audited report, but requiring the District Governor to provide an annual statement and report of the district finances to each club in the district, within three months of the completion of the District Governor's term of office. This report shall be independently

¹ Clubs should pay only the dues as presently required on the July payment and plan to pay the additional dues with the January payment.

reviewed by a qualified accountant before distribution, and shall include all funds received from RI, TRF, Governor's fund and all other sources of income

11. To amend the provisions for the selection of Governor by vote at the District conference when a challenge occurs. Additionally, the selection of the District Governor nominee shall occur no more than 30 months and no less than 24 months before that person would take office as District Governor

12. To revise the qualifications for a District Governor nominee to include a person who has served as a charter president for a minimum of six months

13. To require that Council on legislation representative and the member of the nominating committee for Director are elected by a majority vote

14. To allow a candidate for COL representative be nominated by any club in the District rather than solely by the candidates own club

Rotary International – Zones & Foundation

15. Amend the purpose of RI to include: "To support the clubs and districts of RI in their pursuit of programs and activities that promote the Object of Rotary."

16. To remove gender specific terminology from the RI secondary theme, making it THEY PROFIT MOST WHO SERVE BEST

17. To increase the number of TRF trustees from 13 to 15

18. To provide that any vacancy occurring on the RI board shall be filled by the alternate selected by that Zone for the remainder of the term provided the alternate is available to serve.

19. To require RI to review Zone boundaries at least every eight years.

20. To extend the time limit for RI pilot projects to Six years

21. To provide a Strategic planning process for RI and a standing committee to support it

22. To require District endorsement of any club legislation submitted to the COL

23. Provide that only the General Secretary shall receive compensation – thus eliminating the practice of providing honorariums to the President, President-elect and President-nominee of RI.

24. Require that the RI Annual report show all reimbursed expenses paid to or on behalf of the President, President-elect, President nominee and the office of the President

25. Require that The Rotary Foundation annual report show all reimbursed expenses paid to or on behalf of the chairman and incoming chairman of the Trustees

26. To require the presentation of a five-year financial forecast by RI at every Zone Institute

Endorsements by the COL

1. To endorse the Strategic plan's goals and objectives. The stated goals being: Eradicate Polio, Sharpen program focus, Select new corporate program focus, Refine governance/leadership structure, Improve training and Education at all levels, Expand and Integrate membership globally and Enhance Rotary's public image.

2. To endorse the Rotary Foundation's marketing plan of EVERY ROTARIAN, EVERY YEAR.

Selected Resolutions Referred to the RI Board²

1. To request the RI board to consider adopting the Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA) as an official R I program

2. To request the RI board to consider encouraging Rotary Clubs to adopt "Rotary Educating for Life" as an educational paradigm

3. To request the RI board to consider encouraging clubs to offer professional support to youth who start their own businesses and to support the Youth Employment Network (YEN)

4. To request the RI board to consider encouraging clubs to work to enhance the professional character of Rotary.

5. To request the RI board to consider only those requests for disaster relief aid as reported by the governor of the affected district

6. To request the RI board to consider permitting the incorporation of the Districts

7. To request the RI board to consider having each district decide if a visit at its conference of a personal representative for the president is needed. If a district requests a presidential representative at a conference, it will assume all costs for this visit including traveling.

8. To request the RI board to consider modifying the requirements of a District Conference [e.g. not less the one day, not less the 6 hours of Rotary content, one address by the RI representative]

² These items are recommendations only to the RI Board, to consider taking action as stated. The Board may or may not choose to act on an items based on its review.

9. To request the RI board to consider realigning the zones in 2004, to be effective from the first of July 2005
10. Request the RI board to propose legislation simplifying constitutional documents and revising the COL process at the next COL.
11. To request the RI board to consider investigating whether to conduct the COL by video conferencing
12. To request the RI board to consider changing the minimum number of members for a sponsoring club to 20
13. To request the RI board to consider allowing two members per classification in the formation of new clubs
14. To request the RI board to consider creating a permanent Rotary Foundation support committee at club level
15. To request the RI board to consider allowing two members per classification in the formation of a new club
16. To request RI board to consider recognizing Rotakid clubs/Youth clubs for children aged 8-12
17. To request RL board to consider recommending that trustees relax the building restrictions for Matching grants to care for the AIDS orphans
18. To request the RI board to consider sending District Governors all RI mailings to Rotary clubs and individual Rotarians.
19. To request the RI board to consider adopting Rotary Leadership Institutes [RLI] as a pilot program of RI
20. To request the RI board consider including Mandarin as an official language of RI
21. To request the RI board to consider continuing to publicize successful club projects.

Significant Items Rejected by the COL

1. All legislation asking RI to take up a major world wide program like eradication of TB, Malaria, AIDS, Safe drinking water etc were rejected with a view to focus on the present commitment of eradication of Polio and which will continue until 2008. The Council felt that no other program should be taken up till we fulfill the commitment of polio eradication.

2. All legislation asking for Inner Wheel to be made a partner in service, recognizing women' groups, etc. were rejected. The Council also rejected a number of proposals to merge or adopt programs of other institutions as Rotary programs [e.g. UN Declaration of Man]

3. The establishment of a standing Committee for Population Concerns was referred to the RI board after lengthy discussion -- in lieu of rejection. The Council rejected a request to consider making Youth Service a fifth avenue of Service. In general, the Council rejected a significant number of proposals seeking to amend the Object of Rotary and the Avenues of Service as presently constituted.

4. All the resolutions asking for preference to developing countries, rural and small community based clubs in considering for the various programs of TRF were rejected. It was noted that the Board of Trustees is already taking adequate steps to protect the interests of these clubs. The chairmen and trustees gave an assurance to that effect. Additionally, the Council rejected a number of proposals seeking to tie dues to the currency of individual countries or areas of the world as opposed to the use of the \$US dollar.

Closing Remarks

It was a pleasure to serve as your Council representative this year. The process was interesting, educational and inspiring. The international flavor of Rotary dominates the COL. The various representatives come speaking different languages, harboring their own viewpoints, cultures and national characteristics; some with passion for their own proposals, others with open minds ready to debate and consider every proposal. In the end, much is accomplished and Rotary grows stronger. Thanks for giving me this opportunity of participating in Rotary's legislative process.

Best regards,

Michael P. Merrill
COL-04 Representative
District 5130