



2022 COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS OF  
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

# REPORT OF ACTION

17 October-1 November 2022



December 2022

Dear Rotarians:

The Council on Resolutions of Rotary International met online from 17 October to 1 November 2022. In accordance with subsection 9.150.1. of the RI Bylaws, I am issuing this report on the actions taken by the Council.

16 resolutions were transmitted to the Council. The Council adopted 8 resolutions, all of which were recommendations to the RI Board. The Board will consider these items at its upcoming meetings.

Should you have any questions about the Council on Resolutions or the adopted items, please contact Council Services at [council\\_services@rotary.org](mailto:council_services@rotary.org). The deadline for submitting resolutions to the next Council on Resolutions is 30 June 2023.

Sincerely,

Sarah Christensen  
Supervisor, Council Services  
Rotary International

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# RESOLUTION 22R-01

To request the RI Board to consider encouraging senior members to increase their level of engagement with new members

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Kakogawa-Heisei, District 2680, Japan

1 WHEREAS, senior members (e.g., those who have served as president) tend to be  
2 relatively disinterested in club operations and may become less cooperative with  
3 other club members over time, and

4  
5 WHEREAS, for new and recently joined members (hereinafter referred to as ‘new  
6 members’), Rotary is an unknown world. It is the responsibility of senior members  
7 to provide these new members with an introduction to the fundamental practices  
8 and principles of Rotary, and

9  
10 WHEREAS, many new members may initially feel some discomfort with the age  
11 difference between themselves and more established club members, as well as for  
12 other reasons. If they are made to feel welcome, however, and receive  
13 encouragement from senior members, then meetings will be more enjoyable for  
14 them and they are more likely to remain with the club for more than a few years,  
15 and

16  
17 WHEREAS, these new members will serve as the driving force behind any future  
18 efforts to expand Rotary’s membership

19  
20 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
21 International consider encouraging senior members, through the district governor,  
22 to increase their level of engagement with new members, both at club meetings and  
23 in service activities.

(End of Text)

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

24 If senior members can follow up with new members at meetings and in service  
25 activities, and make them feel genuinely welcome, then this will help the club to  
26 expand its membership base.

27  
28 Senior members will also enjoy meetings more if their interactions within the  
29 club can be expanded to include younger members, and are not focused  
30 exclusively upon those of their own generation. When meetings are more  
31 enjoyable, attendance generally improves, and this contributes to a higher level of  
32 engagement among young and old alike.

1 In other words, a cycle of retention and growth can be achieved, and clubs can be  
2 further revitalized, if senior members will engage more actively with new and  
3 potential club members.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

4 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on  
5 RI.

# RESOLUTION 22R-02

To request the RI Board to consider including the vice president of the club among the officers listed in the Official Directory and also providing him/her with the same access to resources and services available to the club president on My Rotary

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Tandil Oeste, District 4921, Argentina

1 WHEREAS, the vice president, as a member of the club board, is elected by the  
2 members, and

3  
4 WHEREAS, the vice president plays a very important role since he/she would  
5 take over the duties of the club president in the event of any absence,  
6 impediment, or vacancy, and

7  
8 WHEREAS, he/she supports the club president throughout his/her term of office  
9 in a joint governance position, and

10  
11 WHEREAS, the vice president is not listed in the Official Directory and does not  
12 have the same level of access to My Rotary as the club president and other club  
13 leaders

14  
15 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
16 International consider including the first vice president of the club among the  
17 officers listed in the Official Directory and also providing him/her with the same  
18 privileges and access to resources and services available to the club president on  
19 My Rotary.

(End of Text)

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

20 Article 4, section 4 of the Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws defines the vice  
21 president as the person who presides at club and board meetings when the  
22 president is absent and performs other duties incidental to the office.

23  
24 Most clubs have one or more vice presidents on their boards.

25  
26 The important role and responsibilities of vice presidents should be clearly  
27 recognized by including them in the Official Directory and facilitating their access  
28 to My Rotary.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 1 If implemented, this resolution would have a financial impact on RI which cannot
- 2 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
- 3 support provided by the RI Board to include the first vice president of the club
- 4 among the officers listed in the Official Directory and provide him/her with the
- 5 same privileges and access to resources and services available to the club
- 6 president on My Rotary.

# RESOLUTION 22R-03

To request the RI Board to consider lowering the minimum number of members a club must have to sponsor a new club from 20 to 15 members

**Proposer(s):** District 1650, France

1 WHEREAS, subsection 18.020.5. of the Rotary Code of Policies states that a club  
2 wishing to sponsor a new club must have at least 20 members. If there are two or  
3 more sponsoring clubs, only one of the co-sponsors must have at least 20  
4 members, and

5  
6 WHEREAS, a new club does not necessarily have to have a sponsor club, and

7  
8 WHEREAS, a club with fewer than 20 members can sponsor a satellite club, and

9  
10 WHEREAS, the worldwide average number of members per club is only about 33  
11 members, and

12  
13 WHEREAS, 35 percent of countries that host Rotary clubs have an average of 20  
14 or fewer members per club, and the highest averages are often found in countries  
15 that are small in size and population, and

16  
17 WHEREAS, in some countries where the potential for RI development is real,  
18 there are clubs that do not reach 20 members

19  
20 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
21 International consider lowering the minimum number of members a club must  
22 have to sponsor a new club from 20 to 15 members.

(End of Text)

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

23 The growth of RI must necessarily involve the growth of membership and the  
24 expansion of the geographical locations of clubs. However, based on current  
25 membership figures, it is reasonable to assume that approximately nine percent  
26 of the world's clubs are unable to sponsor a new club due to insufficient  
27 membership.

28  
29 And yet they are in countries where RI has a real potential for development.



1 If there is a willingness within a club or clubs to participate in the formation of a  
2 new club, why should RI risk the loss of that goodwill by requiring a minimum of  
3 20 members for the club?

4  
5 In addition, for the sponsoring club(s), participating in the chartering of a new  
6 club is a positive experience that can enrich, challenge, excite its members, and  
7 create a new dynamic.

8  
9 Similarly, a satellite club could become a full-fledged club more quickly.

10  
11 However, there should be a minimum of 15 members if the club is to be properly  
12 represented.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

13 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on  
14 RI. There would be no cost involved in lowering the minimum number of  
15 members a club must have to sponsor a new club from 20 to 15 members.

# RESOLUTION 22R-04

To request the RI Board to consider allowing retired professionals to add the word 'retired' to their classification in Rotary's member database

**Proposer(s):** District 1790, France

1 WHEREAS, clubs are composed of members who represent their professions and  
2 this representation extends to Rotary itself as a network of professionals  
3 representing their communities, and

4  
5 WHEREAS, members are identified by their business or professional  
6 classification, and

7  
8 WHEREAS, the retired category is not representative of any professional skill

9  
10 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
11 International consider allowing retired professionals to retain their original  
12 membership classification through the simple addition of the word 'retired' to their  
13 classification in Rotary's member database.

(End of Text)

## PURPOSE AND EFFECT

14 Rotary emphasizes the professional expertise of its members as an aspect of their  
15 participation in the club and its service activities. Though a large number of our  
16 members are retired professionals, they do not simply 'lose' their skills the day  
17 they retire; if they are identified only as retired, then there can be no way to  
18 properly acknowledge their professional skills. This is why it is proposed to keep  
19 a professional identifier for retired members that would be preceded by the word  
20 'retired.' For example, a retired primary care physician would be identified as  
21 'retired primary care physician' instead of 'retired.'

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

22 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI.  
23 It is currently possible to add the word 'retired' to a member's classification in  
24 Rotary's membership database.

# RESOLUTION 22R-06

To request the RI Board to consider improving the access and readability of the Board meeting minutes

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Tokyo Ochanomizu, District 2580, Japan

1 WHEREAS, although RI Bylaws section 5.020., Publication of Board Decisions and  
2 Minutes, provides that “the minutes of board meetings and board action shall be  
3 available on RI’s website within 60 days after a board meeting or action,” they are  
4 currently written and published on the web in a way that makes them not only hard  
5 for clubs and Rotarians to find but also difficult to read

6  
7 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
8 International consider improving the access and readability of the Board meeting  
9 minutes.

(End of Text)

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

10 Making the RI Board’s decisions and discussion easier for clubs and Rotarians to  
11 understand will further promote its actions.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

12 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot  
13 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of  
14 support provided by the RI Board to improve the ease of access and  
15 comprehensibility of the Board meeting minutes.

# RESOLUTION 22R-14

To request the RI Board to consider conducting Rotary events in a manner that takes global environmental issues into consideration

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Osaka, District 2660, Japan

1 WHEREAS, we learned during the COVID-19 pandemic that it is desirable to utilize  
2 apps that allow for online meetings, as well as to take advantage of other current  
3 and developing technological trends for this purpose, and

4  
5 WHEREAS, major Rotary events, such as the International Convention,  
6 International Assembly, and Council on Legislation can also be conducted virtually,  
7 and our organization need not revert to a pre-COVID mentality, and

8  
9 WHEREAS, global environmental issues should also be taken into consideration

10  
11 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
12 International consider conducting Rotary events, such as the International  
13 Convention, International Assembly, and Council on Legislation, in a manner that  
14 takes global environmental issues into consideration.

(End of Text)

## PURPOSE AND EFFECT

15 The 2021 Council on Resolutions adopted Resolution 21R-35, “To request the  
16 Board to consider providing a virtual meeting platform to supplement in-person  
17 attendance at certain events,” by a vote of 292 in favor and 187 against.

18  
19 On the other hand, Resolution 21R-21, “To request the RI Board to consider  
20 setting environmental goals for the organization,” which includes a goal of  
21 holding International Conventions in person once every three years to reduce  
22 pollution produced by air travel, was rejected by a vote of 205 in favor and 270  
23 against.

24  
25 Besides holding the convention every three years, Resolution 21R-21 also  
26 proposed that the annual Rotary theme be replaced with a permanent theme,  
27 “Service Above Self,” in an effort to conserve environmental resources and reduce  
28 plastic waste, among other things. However, this proposal was rejected,  
29 presumably because of skepticism as to how much the elimination of the annual  
30 theme would contribute to the reduction of plastics.

1 Taking into account the overall message of these resolutions, whether adopted or  
2 narrowly rejected, it is hoped that RI will continue to explore and implement  
3 methods of holding conventions and other Rotary events online and integrating  
4 them with newer virtual reality (VR) and augmented reality (AR) technologies, as  
5 might be expected in our post-pandemic age.  
6  
7 We believe that utilizing the latest technologies will provide sustainable growth  
8 for future Rotary activities and will allow us to evolve into a new Rotary.  
9  
10 Therefore, it is hoped that Rotary will be quick to utilize such cutting-edge  
11 technologies in its operations and activities.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

12 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot  
13 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of  
14 support provided by the RI Board to support conducting Rotary events, such as  
15 the International Convention, International Assembly, and Council on  
16 Legislation, in a manner that takes global environmental issues into  
17 consideration.

# RESOLUTION 22R-15

To request the RI Board to consider proposing legislation to provide that representatives shall be elected in the year of the Council on Legislation

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Chigasaki, District 2780, Japan

1 WHEREAS, this resolution addresses RI Bylaws sections 9.040., Terms of  
2 Representatives, and 9.060., Election of Representatives at the District Conference

3  
4 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
5 International consider proposing legislation to a future Council on Legislation that  
6 would revise the RI Bylaws to provide that representatives shall be elected in the  
7 year of the Council on Legislation, beginning their term on 1 July of the following  
8 Rotary year and serving for three years or until a successor is selected and certified  
9 by the district.

(End of Text)

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

10 RI Bylaws subsection 9.060.1. provides that “The election shall take place by 30  
11 June in the year two years before the council on legislation.” Section 9.040. provides  
12 that “The term of a representative begins on 1 July in the year after the year of  
13 selection. Each representative shall serve a term of three years or until a successor is  
14 selected and certified.” In accordance with these provisions, many districts currently  
15 elect their representatives in the year following each Council on Legislation, and  
16 they serve three-year terms beginning on 1 July of the subsequent Rotary year. This  
17 scarcely allows sufficient time for representatives to fulfill their primary  
18 responsibility: the submission of legislation to the Council on Legislation. Such an  
19 issue arises because the enactment submission deadline is scheduled only six  
20 months into the first year of a representative’s term. We therefore propose that  
21 representative elections be timed to coincide with the end of each Council year, and  
22 that representatives begin their term on 1 July of the following year and serve for  
23 three years or until a qualified successor is selected and certified by the district. This  
24 change would extend to one-and-a-half years the amount of time in which  
25 representatives may prepare and submit legislation, an accommodation we believe  
26 will enable them to develop a more solid understanding of the process, as well as  
27 allow for a more comprehensive educational effort within the district about it.

## **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

- 1 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI,
- 2 as it is moving the representative election year and start of their term one year
- 3 earlier in the Council cycle. Under the current process, the next representatives
- 4 will be selected in 2025-26; however, under this proposal, they would instead be
- 5 selected in 2024-25 and begin their term on 1 July 2025.

# RESOLUTION 22R-16

To request the RI Board to consider proposing legislation to a future Council on Legislation to include the Standard Rotaract Club Constitution as one of the constitutional documents

**Proposer(s):** Rotary Club of Tsuruga, District 2650, Japan

1 WHEREAS, the 2019 Council on Legislation voted to admit Rotaract clubs into RI,  
2 making Rotaract clubs official members of RI. Following this decision, the RI Board  
3 is now rapidly advancing the status of Rotaract clubs, and

4  
5 WHEREAS, specifically, the inclusion of Rotaract club members on all district  
6 committees is strongly encouraged, as is the participation of Rotaract club  
7 representatives in various district training meetings, including PETS. Also, Rotaract  
8 clubs can now participate in Rotary Foundation grants, and

9  
10 WHEREAS, moreover, Rotaractors began paying per capita dues on 1 July 2022,  
11 and they now have new obligations as well as clearer duties and responsibilities as  
12 members of RI, and

13  
14 WHEREAS, however, the Standard Rotaract Club Constitution is still not defined as a  
15 constitutional document of RI, and only the RI Board is authorized to modify it. In  
16 light of the calls for improving the status of Rotaract clubs, this situation is  
17 inconsistent with the policy set forth by the RI Board

18  
19 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
20 International consider proposing legislation to a future Council on Legislation to  
21 include the Standard Rotaract Club Constitution as one of the constitutional  
22 documents, as well as further promoting the status of Rotaract clubs.

(End of Text)

## **PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

23 Currently, there is a pressing need to increase youth involvement in Rotary, and  
24 this can be accomplished most effectively by improving Rotaract's status within  
25 RI.

26  
27 This trend is now gaining momentum, as the RI Board proposed an enactment to  
28 the 2022 Council on Legislation to promote the status of Rotaract clubs.

29  
30 If Rotaractors were allowed to propose and make changes to the Standard  
31 Rotaract Club Constitution, they would have increased autonomy and a greater  
32 sense of engagement than ever before.



1 Such a change would also increase the membership in Rotaract clubs, thereby  
2 revitalizing Rotary as an organization.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

3 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot  
4 be determined at this time.

5  
6 The expenses for the triennial Council on Legislation in fiscal year 2019 were  
7 US\$2.4 million, which included approximately US\$1 million in hotel, meals, and  
8 equipment expenses for 535 representatives.

9  
10 If adding enactments for the Rotaract Constitution increased the length of the  
11 meeting, additional expenses are estimated at US\$200,000 per day due to higher  
12 expenses for hotel, meals, and equipment.

13  
14 Additional per capita dues for the Council on Legislation are determined by the  
15 Board sufficient to pay for the projected expenses of the next scheduled Council  
16 on Legislation and Councils on Resolutions. The additional per capita dues are  
17 US\$1.00 for 2022-23. Future additional per capita dues would be adjusted by an  
18 amount equivalent to changes in expenses.