



2023 COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS
OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

REPORT OF ACTION

17 October-4 November 2023



December 2023

Dear Rotarians:

The Council on Resolutions of Rotary International met online from 17 October to 4 November 2023. In accordance with subsection 9.150.1. of the RI Bylaws, I am issuing this report on the actions taken by the Council.

26 resolutions were transmitted to the Council. The Council adopted 7 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. The deadline for submitting resolutions to the next Council on Resolutions is 30 June 2024.

Sincerely,

Sarah Christensen
Manager, Council Services
Rotary International

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RESOLUTION 23R-05

To request the RI Board to consider setting an upper age limit of 30 for admission into a Rotaract club

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Arouca, District 1970, Portugal
Rotary Club of Figueira da Fóz, District 1970, Portugal
Rotary Club of Gaia-Sul, District 1970, Portugal
Rotary Club of Porto, District 1970, Portugal
Rotary Club of Seia, District 1970, Portugal
Rotary Club of Senhora da Hora, District 1970, Portugal

1 WHEREAS, as a Rotary program, Rotaract was originally designed for young
2 people aged 18 to 30, and

3
4 WHEREAS, Rotaract clubs were admitted into RI membership in 2019, and

5
6 WHEREAS, there is no longer an age limit for joining or remaining in a Rotaract
7 club, and

8
9 WHEREAS, this change was made primarily as a means of attracting younger
10 people to Rotary, and of improving their levels of membership retention within
11 the organization, as well as to foster new ideas and service projects, and

12
13 WHEREAS, this should in no way be interpreted as diminishing the value of
14 Rotary clubs

15
16 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of RI
17 consider setting an upper age limit of 30 for admission into a Rotaract club.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

18 By bringing Rotaract into Rotary membership there are now few distinguishing
19 criteria between being a Rotarian and being a Rotaractor. One could misinterpret
20 this to mean that a person of any age, even retired, may join a Rotaract club.

21
22 Setting an age limit of 30, will encourage young adults who are older and more
23 developed in their professional lives, to join Rotary clubs. This will, in turn, serve
24 to rejuvenate Rotary clubs, as well as make them more diverse.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 1 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI.
- 2 Per a January 2020 decision, the RI Board provided that a Rotaract club may, but
- 3 is not required to, set an age limit if the club receives the approval of its
- 4 members.

RESOLUTION 23R-06

To request the RI Board to consider amending the Rotary Code of Policies as to the duties and responsibilities of district Rotaract representatives

Proposer(s): District 1830, Germany
District 1841, Germany
District 1940, Germany

1 WHEREAS, district Rotaract representatives (DRRs) are best informed on
2 specific conditions and/or situations within the district that may impact Rotaract
3 clubs, and

4
5 WHEREAS, they are capable of motivating young people to join Rotaract clubs,
6 and know how best to support the process of forming an active new Rotaract
7 club, and

8
9 WHEREAS, moreover, DRRs can ensure that optimal connections are
10 maintained between Rotaract clubs and the multidistrict information
11 organizations (MDIOs) in a given region

12
13 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
14 International consider amending the Rotary Code of Policies section 12.020.,
15 Sponsorship, and subsection 12.080.2., District Rotaract Representative, as to
16 the duties and responsibilities of district Rotaract representatives, as follows:

17
18 **Article 12. Rotaract Clubs**

19
20 **12.020. Sponsorship**

21 1. A Rotaract club is established following the endorsement of the governor after
22 hearing the report of the district Rotaract representative and upon certification
23 and recognition by Rotary International. Its existence depends upon continued
24 recognition by Rotary International.

25
26 **12.080. Rotaract District Meetings and Activities**

27
28
29 12.080.2. District Rotaract Representative

- 30
31 4. The district Rotaract representative in conjunction with other district
32 leaders, should:
33 a. Develop and distribute a district Rotaract newsletter
34 b. Support and implement leadership training

- 1 c. Conduct Rotaract promotion and extension activities throughout the
- 2 district
- 3 d. Plan and implement service activities (if approved by three-fourths of
- 4 the Rotaract clubs in the district)
- 5 e. Provide advice and support to Rotaract clubs in implementing their
- 6 projects
- 7 f. Help coordinate joint Rotary-Rotaract activities in the district
- 8 g. Coordinate public relations activities for Rotaract at the district level
- 9 h. Plan and implement a training session for Rotaract club officers in the
- 10 district
- 11 i. Assist in establishing new Rotaract clubs

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

1 The purpose of this resolution is to support district governors and sponsoring
2 clubs, so that new Rotaract clubs succeed in the long term, and they can be
3 optimally integrated into the existing Rotarian and Rotaract structures of the
4 district. The governor and sponsoring clubs shall hear the opinion of the DRR
5 during the formation of new Rotaract clubs, resulting in a more active role for the
6 DRR and the Rotaract committee. This is an added measure of support that will
7 help clubs to remain viable and effective once they are officially established. This
8 is not intended to restrict the discretionary decision making of governors in any
9 way.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

RESOLUTION 23R-09

To request the RI Board to consider explaining in detail the purpose and methods of implementation of the regionalization pilot projects

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

1 WHEREAS, based on RI Bylaws section 14.030., Supervision Through a Pilot
2 Project, which was adopted by the 2022 Council on Legislation, clubs within RIBI
3 and/or zones in Australia or New Zealand were able to begin pilot projects, and
4

5 WHEREAS, the purpose and implementation of these pilot projects is unclear,
6 because they are not provided specifically in the RI Bylaws. Therefore, various
7 questions have been raised regarding the impact these pilot projects would have to
8 the current system of governors, such as if a regional system were adopted or if
9 regional offices were utilized more widely, would this lead to a smaller RI?
10

11 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
12 International consider explaining in detail the purpose and methods of
13 implementation of the regionalization pilot projects.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

14 In the past, within the scope of Shaping Rotary's Future, we were not informed
15 about the details of specific activities which were downsized in order to
16 implement them as regionalization pilot projects in limited areas. It is impossible
17 to fully understand pilot projects if they are not explained clearly. Therefore, we
18 would like to propose that the RI Board considers explaining the purpose and
19 methods of implementation of the regionalization pilot projects as detailed as
20 possible.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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

RESOLUTION 23R-10

To request the RI Board to consider developing a tool to help Rotarians share their professional classifications

Proposer(s): District 1660, France

1 WHEREAS, the core Rotary principal of classification is officially incorporated
2 into the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, as reflected in the current *Manual of*
3 *Procedure*, and

4
5 WHEREAS, sharing of one's professional classification among Rotarians is
6 essential to the success of projects carried out within the community economic
7 development area of focus

8
9 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
10 International consider developing a tool to help Rotarians within a district or
11 multidistrict share their professional classifications.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

12 Helping to carry out community economic development projects will bring us
13 closer to those of younger generations who seek out greater meaning in their
14 professional lives through volunteer activity. Such a relationship, once fully
15 developed, will allow our organization to have greater success in recruiting from
16 among this demographic.

17
18 The goal of this proposal is to increase the number of community economic
19 development projects, such as career days, start-up assistance, volunteerism,
20 assistance to young professionals, job search help, RYLA, etc., by more effectively
21 communicating information regarding the professional classification system of
22 Rotarians in the district.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

23 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot
24 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
25 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.

RESOLUTION 23R-15

To request the RI Board to consider establishing corporate partnerships that can support Rotary's service activities globally

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

1 WHEREAS, in recent years, RI has established partnerships with the United
2 Nations, the World Health Organization, and UNICEF, as well as other
3 nongovernmental organizations, to implement service activities and is focused on
4 strengthening those relationships, and

5
6 WHEREAS, as a natural result of such partnerships, RI's service activities have
7 become more robust, especially those relating to the seven areas of focus. Costs for
8 this expanded activity are also rising, however, and Rotary members bear a
9 disproportionate share of the financial burden

10

11 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
12 International consider establishing corporate partnerships that can support
13 Rotary's service activities globally.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

14 Many private sector companies support the concept of corporate social
15 responsibility. Not only is this displayed on their mission statements, but it is also
16 an ethical standard they put into practice by returning a portion of corporate
17 profit to the community.

18

19 It is likely that a significant number of these corporations would be interested in
20 supporting service activities by leveraging Rotary and its global network of clubs
21 and volunteers.

22

23 Cultivating such partnerships with corporations that are willing to offer their
24 support on a purely philanthropic basis for Rotary's service activities on a global
25 scale could help to considerably elevate the profile of Rotary.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

26 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot
27 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
28 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.

RESOLUTION 23R-25

To request the RI Board to consider providing regular updates on process improvements and cost savings measures taken by RI

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Maebashi, District 2840, Japan

1 WHEREAS, the 2022 Council on Legislation voted to significantly increase per
2 capita dues based on information provided by RI in the five-year financial forecast,
3 and

4
5 WHEREAS, Enactment 22-46, “To increase per capita dues,” which the RI Board
6 proposed, was adopted after intense debate, with a vote of 285 in favor and 205
7 opposed. The number of those voting in opposition to this item, amounting to 41.8
8 percent of the total vote, should not be casually dismissed. It is believed that the
9 heated discussion over Enactment 22-46 may be because RI’s five-year financial
10 forecast was not persuasive to many representatives, as it provided only projected
11 revenues and expenditures, but did not contain a specific spending plan relative to
12 RI’s anticipated revenues, and

13
14 WHEREAS, the five-year financial forecast states that the RI Board and Secretariat
15 will continue to research and address process improvements and cost savings with
16 respect to expenditures. However, it does not specify what measures will be taken to
17 conduct or evaluate the research, and

18
19 WHEREAS, the RI Board should annually report and be accountable to all clubs
20 and districts, independently from the five-year financial forecast, for specific actions
21 it takes to improve processes and reduce costs

22
23 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
24 International consider providing regular updates on process improvements and cost
25 savings measures taken by RI.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

26 The purpose of this resolution is to require regular progress reports on process
27 reviews and cost reductions. Those reports would help maintain a healthy
28 balance between revenues and expenditures, a dynamic which is not adequately
29 accounted for in the five-year financial forecast on which RI’s dues increases are
30 currently based.

- 1 Rotary's key stakeholders, its clubs, require clear accountability from the RI
- 2 Board and Secretariat for their management efforts, and such transparency
- 3 would greatly help to enhance the quality and credibility of debate on enactments
- 4 related to per capita dues at the Council on Legislation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 5 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI.
- 6 There would not be a significant cost to provide regular updates on process
- 7 improvements and cost savings measures taken by RI.

RESOLUTION 23R-26

To request the RI Board to consider proposing legislation to a future Council on Legislation clarifying the general secretary’s qualifications in RI’s constitutional documents

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

1 WHEREAS, in RI Bylaws section 6.050., qualifications are clearly provided for all
2 officers of RI save the general secretary. RI Bylaws section 6.040. stipulates only
3 that “the Board elects a Rotarian as general secretary,” and

4
5 WHEREAS, over time, the role of the general secretary has changed. At the time of
6 Rotary’s founding, the general secretary served as an active managing officer of RI.
7 This was changed by the 2019 Council on Legislation, which adopted legislation
8 elevating the general secretary’s role to that of chief executive officer of RI. The
9 duties and responsibilities of the role have also significantly increased over the
10 years, and

11
12 WHEREAS, now that the general secretary serves as the chief executive officer of
13 RI, the qualifications for this position should be clearly defined in the constitutional
14 documents of RI

15
16 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
17 International consider proposing legislation to a future Council on Legislation
18 clarifying the general secretary’s qualifications in RI’s constitutional documents.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

19 At the time of Rotary’s founding, the general secretary served as the active
20 managing officer of RI. The role has changed since then, developing from that of
21 chief administrative officer of RI (1995), to chief operating officer of RI (2010),
22 and finally into chief executive officer of RI (2019). During this time, however,
23 qualifications have not been clearly prescribed for the role.

24
25 As RI’s chief executive officer, the general secretary is authorized to make
26 important decisions on behalf of the RI president and Board, thus the
27 qualifications for this office should be officially incorporated into RI’s
28 constitutional documents.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 1 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI.