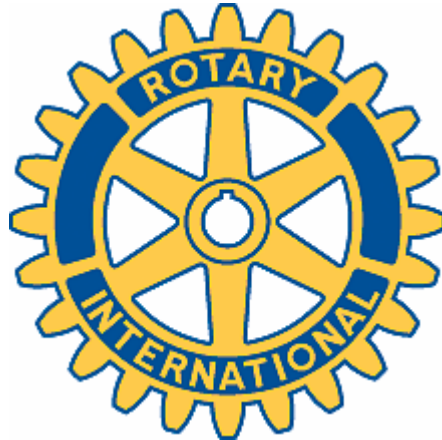


ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION

23-30 APRIL, 2010

CHICAGO, ILLINOIS - U.S.A.

KENNETH G. TILLMAN, REPRESENTATIVE  
DISTRICT 7610

REPORT ON THE 2010 COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION  
BY  
KENNETH G. TILLMAN, REPRESENTATIVE, DISTRICT 7610

The 2010 Council on Legislation convened Sunday, April 25 at 16:30 at the Chicago Marriott Downtown with orientation and the opening session. This was followed by an optional session at 18:30. This session was an opportunity to have questions answered and to provide additional guidance for the representatives in preparation for the opening plenary session at 8:30 on Monday. There was also a welcome reception for all representatives that began at 18:30.

The schedule for the week included two plenary sessions in the morning and two in the afternoon. The first session began at 8:30 and the final session each day ended at 18:00. Breakfast was from 6:30 to 8:00 and lunch from 12:30 to 13:45. Increased time was provided for the plenary sessions later in the week to make sure there was time to cover all proposals.

There were three special events in the program for the week. Rotary International hosted a Fellowship Dinner on Tuesday night and representatives had the opportunity to tour R.I. Headquarters Wednesday afternoon. Zone 33/34 Director Eric Adamson had arranged for a Zone dinner at the Metropolitan Club in the Willis Tower (formerly called the Sears Tower) for those interested on Wednesday evening.

Representatives, numbering 527 of a possible 531, presented their credentials for the Council. Approximately 3/4<sup>th</sup> of the representatives were participating in their first Council on Legislation. To prevent regionally influenced voting, delegates were seated alphabetically by club name for the first two days and alphabetically by first name of the representative for the remainder of the Council. I ended up seated between two representatives from India the first two days and, since I had an aisle seat for the remainder of the Council, I was seated next to a representative from New Zealand for the final three days. All seats had keypads for electronic voting. This worked effectively without any hitches. Initially we had 15 seconds to vote. Later this was reduced to 10 seconds to speed up the process. The results were displayed within seconds on large screens in the front of the room. Each representative was given ear phones to receive translations in all Rotary languages that were used by representatives when presenting a proposal or commenting on proposals. Each representative also had three cards that were used when approaching a microphone to speak. Green was used to indicate support for a proposal, red

indicated opposition, and yellow was used by a representative who wanted to present an amendment or a point of order. The cards enabled the moderator to provide balance in the comments on each proposal. The cards were also used to indicate support or opposition to close debate and for similar motions.

The Council chair was Mark Daniel Maloney from the U.S. and the vice chair was John Boag from Australia. The parliamentarian was Rudolf Horndler from Germany. Other non-voting members included the Constitution and Bylaws Committee members who were called on numerous times for interpretations and implications of proposed legislation; the RI president, president-elect, other board members; a trustee from the Rotary Foundation; members (3) at large appointed by the RI president; and Ed Futa, the RI General Secretary. There were also a number of observers present as well as RI staff members.

Following the Council, Mr. Futa sent a comprehensive report of Council actions to the representatives. The Council considered 220 pieces of proposed legislation. These included 128 enactments (proposals to amend the constitutional documents of RI) and 92 resolutions (do not amend or conflict with constitutional documents of Rotary International, but which express opinions or make recommendations to the Rotary International Board of Directors). Of these, the Council adopted 47 enactments and 19 resolutions. The Council referred 3 pieces to the RI Board for future study. The Council rejected 101 proposals, and 50 proposals were withdrawn or considered withdrawn. Of the 66 adopted proposals, the Council adopted 51 exactly as they were proposed, while 15 were adopted with amendments. Mr. Futa's report includes the text of the 66 pieces of adopted legislation and the vote tallies of adopted legislation.

#### PARAPHRASED SUMMARY OF SELECTED ENACTMENTS

1. E-clubs will become a permanent part of Rotary International. E-clubs shall be assigned to districts with a maximum of two per district.
2. Terminated members shall forfeit all interest in funds or other club property if, under local laws, any member may have acquired any right to them upon joining the club.
3. Club officers shall include the immediate past president.

4. Admission of a transferring or former Rotarian as an active member shall be contingent upon receiving a certificate confirming membership from the board of the previous club and written proof that all debts have been paid.
5. A Rotarian's excused absence shall not extend for longer than twelve months.
6. The guiding principles for terminating a member shall include high ethical standards one should hold as a Rotary club member.
7. New Generations Service added as a Fifth Avenue of Service
8. Procedure and time table for selecting Foundation trustees were revised.
9. Per capita dues to Rotary International will be increased to \$50 in 2010-11 (as established by 2007 Council), \$51 in 2011-12, \$52 in 2012-13, and \$53 in 2013-14.
10. Decreased the number of members on the nominating committee for RI president from 34 to 17.
11. Authorized the RI Board to suspend or terminate a club that fails to comply with stewardship policies of The Rotary Foundation.
12. Made provision for when a suspended club shall be reinstated or terminated.
13. Provided for a standing committee of RI for Interact. (Interact becomes part of the Rotaract Committee.)
14. Stipulated that a Rotarian shall not attend more than three Councils on Legislation as a representative.

15. Rotarians in the U.S. and Canada shall have the option of receiving the official magazine via internet or by a printed copy. Two Rotarians residing at the same address have the option of subscribing jointly to the official magazine.
16. Clubs may not limit membership based on sexual orientation.
17. In addition to meeting other requirements for excused absences from Rotary meetings, Rotarians must be 65 and above in age.
18. Provision was made for amending the procedure for calculating attendance records. (My observation is that this will be a secretary's nightmare!)

#### **PARAPHRASED SUMMARY OF SELECTED RESOLUTIONS**

1. Request Board to encourage clubs to create a training and leadership committee.
2. Request Board to consider making policies for the disabled to join Rotary.
3. Request Board to consider requesting districts to take a greater role in club public relations efforts.
4. Request Board to consider including land mine removal efforts in R.I. and Foundation humanitarian programs.
5. Request Board to consider recommending that governors conduct training seminars for new members.
6. There were several resolutions relating to environmental issues. Support for Shelterbox program was also approved.

7. Request Board to consider recognizing Early Act Clubs and the Inner Wheel organization as official parts of Rotary. (It was proposed that Inner Wheel be recognized as a valuable working associate of Rotary.)
8. Recommended that the secondary motto of Rotary be revised to read: “One Profits Most Who Serves Best.”

The Council considered a number of other proposals relating to frequency of meetings, increasing the types of membership, support for many worthwhile organizations and activities, changing the age for various programs, and a variety of issues that were strongly supported by the districts that presented them. However, the Council ended up rejecting 101 proposals and 50 additional proposals were withdrawn or considered withdrawn.

It was a pleasure to serve as the District 7610 representative to the 2010 Council on Legislation. It was impressive to see “grass roots” Rotary in action, and to observe that decisions were based on the representatives’ views of what is best for Rotary now and in the future.

I thank District 7610 and the district selection committee for the opportunity to participate as a representative on the Council on Legislation. It was a meaningful experience to be completely immersed in Rotary for a full week, and to learn more about Rotary from a world wide perspective.

I encourage Rotarians to contact me if they have specific questions about Council decisions or if they want a summary of action taken on proposals. I am also available to present a program on the Council on Legislation and the decisions that were made.