



# Rotary's Legislative Process and the Council on Legislation

# Council on Legislation (CoL)



Patients on an island in the Gangesdelta wait for the Rotarian „Life boat“  
photo Gundel Iblher

## Council on Legislation (CoL)



- Body of elected representatives
- Authorized to amend the constitutional documents of RI
  - Constitution of RI
  - Bylaws of RI
  - Standard Rotary Club Constitution
- Direct requests of action to the board

## Council on Legislation (CoL)



- 1933: Created and met every year at the Convention
- 1954: Began meeting every two years
- **1972: Became official legislative body**
- 1974: Started meeting every three years
- 1977: Started meeting independently of Convention
- 2001: Started meeting in Chicago

# Council Cycle



Starts 3 Rotarian years before Council meets

**Year 1:** Representatives and alternates elected, 30.06.14

**Year 2:** Proposed legislation with RI, 31.12.14

**Year 3:** The Council meeting, 10. – 15.04.16



# Council Participants



## Representatives – Voting Members



- One representative/vote per district  
(ca. 535 members)
- Qualifications:
  - Past district governor
  - Member of a Rotary club in the district
  - Served fewer than three times
  - Language command

# Nonvoting Members of the Council



- Chair (vote in case of tie)
- Co-Chair
- Vice chair
- Parliamentarian
- Trainer
- Secretary
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee
- Members-at-large
- President
- President-elect
- Other Board members
- General Secretary
- Rotary Foundation Trustee (elected by the Trustees)
- Past Rotary Presidents

# Council Operations Committee



Council Operations Committee made up of the

- Chair
- Vice Chair
- Constitution and Bylaws Committee

## The Committee

- Recommends the rules of procedure and the order of consideration
- Reviews all amendments and takes care of necessary changes
- Makes correlative amendments to other constitutional documents
- Prepares report of the Council

# Legislation



181 propositions  
117 enactments  
64 resolutions

2016 COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION  
OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

# PROPOSED LEGISLATION

16-01 through 16-181

10-15 April 2016 | Chicago, Illinois, USA



EN



# Proposed Legislation



- Legislation can be proposed by:
  - Clubs
  - Districts
  - Rotary Board (special regulation for urgent legislation, 31.12. year of CoL)
  - The Council
  - RIBI General Council or the RIBI Conference
- Legislation proposed by clubs must be endorsed by the district through (either or) a :
  - District conference
  - District resolutions meeting
  - Ballot-by-mail

# Types of legislation



- Two types of legislation:
  - **Enactments:**  
seek to change RI's constitutional documents
    - RI Constitution
    - RI Bylaws
    - Standard Rotary Club Constitution
  - **Resolutions:**  
requests of the RI Board - do not change RI's constitutional documents
    - May also be submitted as petitions directly to the Board
    - Proposers of resolutions have been offered to withdraw their resolution from the Council in order to be considered as soon as possible by the Board

## Representatives' preparation for the Council



- Study proposed legislation in context with the related constitutional documents (MoP)
- Complete Council training (zone, online, start CoL)
- Read the Recommended Rules of Procedure
- Talk to Rotarians and clubs in your district, but keep an open mind until you hear debate
- Decisive questions:
  - Is the proposal's purpose clear?
  - What is best for Rotary as a whole?

## Representatives' preparation for the Council



The **online test** can be accessed by

- <http://learn.rotary.org/pages/lms/managequiz.aspx?courseid=289&id=70>

Or through the

- Rotary website at <http://www.rotary.org/myrotary> > Learning & Reference > Learning Center

# Council Statistics



	2007	2010	2013
<b>Items Transmitted to Council</b>	<b>357</b>	<b>220</b>	<b>200</b>
Enactments	174	128	151
Resolutions	183	92	49
<b>Items Adopted</b>	<b>97</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>59</b>
Enactments	59=33,9%	47=36,7%	53=35,1%
Resolutions	38=20,8%	19=20,1%	6=12,2%

See enactments 16-112, -113, to procede differently with enactments and resolutions

# Statements of Support and Opposition

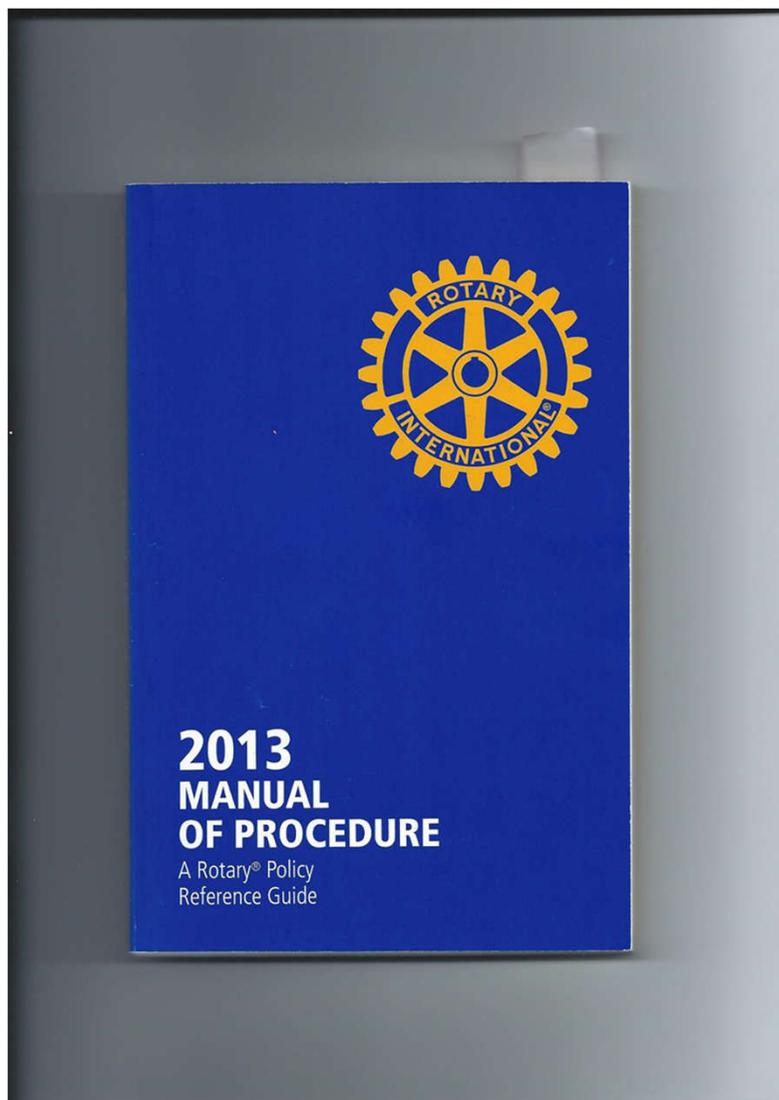


- Statements of support and opposition commenting on legislation can be submitted by clubs, districts, RI board
- no later than two months before the Council begins (Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>)
- Copies provided to all representatives prior to the Council

# Rules of Procedure



## Chapter 17 MoP



# Rules of Procedure



- Recommended rules of procedure are sent to representatives prior to the Council
- The rules of procedure are adopted during the opening session of the Council
- They govern the proceedings of the Council
- They remain in effect until the next Council



- Moving legislation
  - Representatives present items of proposed legislation from their district
  - Representatives answer questions raised about legislation they are presenting
  - If the representative does not move the item of legislation, it will be considered withdrawn and will not be voted on at the Council
- Debating Legislation (some minutes per statement)
  - For (green card)
  - Against (red card)
  - Procedural (yellow card)



- Motions regarding legislation (yellow card)
  - Asking for further information or a point of privilege
  - Amend (one day in advance, can be waived)
  - Reconsider
  - Refer to the Board
  - Table or resume
  - Close debate (striped card blue and gold)
  - 2 – 6 require a second

## Motion to close debate



## At the Council

- Final remarks of the proposer
- Vote on Legislation
  - Only district representatives vote
  - Chair votes in case of tie
  - The RI Board may participate in debate, but does not vote
  - Voting adopts or rejects legislation

# At the Council

## Voting technology



# Attending the Council



## At the Council



- Representatives stay at Chicago Marriott Downtown Magnificent Mile
- Breakfast, lunch, and the Council also take place in the hotel
- Numerous restaurants in area for dinner
- Business attire for meeting



## When you arrive at the hotel:

- Check-in to the hotel
- Complete credentialing
- Pick-up registration materials



A sample daily schedule is:

- 0630-0830 **Breakfast**
- 0900-1030 **Council Plenary Session**
- 1030-1100 **Morning Refreshment Break**
- 1100-1230 **Council Plenary Session**
- 1230-1345 **Lunch Break**
- 1400-1530 **Council Plenary Session**
- 1530-1600 **Afternoon Refreshment Break**
- 1600-1730 **Council Plenary Session**

## Spouses and Guests



- The Council is a business meeting
- Spouses and guests may attend the Council as observers at their own expense
- Observer space is very limited

# After the Council

## After the Council



- Inform clubs in your district about the results of the Council
- **Report of Action** distributed to clubs and districts within two months of the end of the Council
- Clubs have the opportunity to oppose any adopted legislation (5% of votes required)
- If they succeed there is a ballot by mail for all clubs

# Adopted Enactments



- Adopted enactments become **effective on 1 July following the Council**, unless a later date is stated in the legislation
- The adopted changes are incorporated into the constitutional documents
- Revised constitutional documents available 2 months later
- Manual of Procedure is updated

# Important Details

## Significant dates for the 2016 Council



**30 September 2015**

Publication of legislation

**31 December 2015**

Emergency legislation from the Board

**10-15 April 2016**

2016 Council on Legislation

**June 2016**

Report of Action mailed to all clubs and districts

**1 July 2016**

Adopted enactments go into effect

**October 2016**

Manual of Procedure published

**Begin of 2017**

Translation into other Languages

## Additional Information



- Chapter 17 of the 2013 *Manual of Procedure*,
- Article 10 of the RI Constitution,
- Articles 7 and 8 of the RI Bylaws,
- Article 59 of the RI Code of Policies,
- *How to Propose Legislation*,
- *How to Select a Representative*,
- Representative Handbook
- [www.rotary.org/col](http://www.rotary.org/col)
- Email: [council\\_services@rotary.org](mailto:council_services@rotary.org)