Rotary’s Legislative Process and the Council on Legislation
Patients on an island in the Gangesdelta wait for the Rotarian „Life boat“
photo Gundel Ibiher
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 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
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


Or through the

## Council Statistics

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

See enactments 16-112, -113, to proceed 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. 10th)
- Copies provided to all representatives prior to the Council
Rules of Procedure
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
At the 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)
At the Council

• 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
Arrival

When you arrive at the hotel:

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

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
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>30 September 2015</td>
<td>Publication of legislation</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 December 2015</td>
<td>Emergency legislation from the Board</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 2016</td>
<td>Report of Action mailed to all clubs and districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 July 2016</td>
<td>Adopted enactments go into effect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>September 2016</td>
<td>Manual of Procedure published</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Begin of 2017</td>
<td>Translation into other Languages</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
- Email: council_services@rotary.org