

## "Report on the 2007 Council on Legislation"

On the 21<sup>st</sup> of April, 2007, the 2007 Council on Legislation convened in Chicago, Illinois. Rotary International President Bill Boyd appointed me as Chair of the Credential Committee. The Credential Committee certified the credentials of 525 members. This was out of the 530 voting members authorized to be voting delegates - having been elected by the clubs in their respective districts.

### Brief History

Prior to 1970 the authority for legislation resided in the annual RI Convention. In its early days the Council on Legislation grew up mainly as an advisory body, making recommendations to the voting delegates at every convention. By the time legislative authority shifted to the Council, the Council met in conjunction with the convention, it met only in the even-numbered years when the convention was a "Legislative" one. In 1970, the Council on Legislation became the sole legislative body of Rotary International and currently the COL meets every three (3) years.

### What Really Is The Council On Legislation

I have just provided you a brief history of the Council but a comparison of the Council with some other institutions outside Rotary may assist your understanding the role of COL delegates. In the United States the Congress is mentioned as where laws are made by Americans for Americans. In London, England, the Palace of Westminster is the Parliament which houses the National Legislative Body of Great Britain.

In the same vein, the Council on Legislation in accordance with the provisions of our constitutional documents constitutes the

legislative body of Rotary International, subject only to balloting by clubs recording their opposition to action by the Council in adopting various items of proposed legislation. It is the function of the Council to be responsible for any changes in the constitutional documents and to approve certain policy matters brought before the Council in the form of resolutions.

The 2007 council faced a formidable task. On the desks before us were 337 proposed enactments or resolutions.

The council made time for careful, deliberate consideration of the important proposals. Members were free to speak to the issues, but they generally did not belabor the obvious or repeat an earlier speaker. It was a business-like meeting, conducted with mutual good feeling and characterized by a paramount concern for the welfare of all Rotary International.

The final tally at adjournment was:

- 84 proposals adopted as proposed,
- 13 proposals adopted with some amendment,
- 14 proposals referred to the RI board for further study,
- 152 proposals rejected,
- 50 proposals withdrawn,
- 24 considered withdrawn.

Of the 337 legislative proposals (see attached overview), most important achievements were in the area of membership and RI finances. The council, with minor amendments, adopted a proposal from the Board of Directors to ensure an annual balanced budget, and instructed the board to continue providing more detailed financial information to the Rotary world. It then resoundingly approved a US \$1.00 per year per capita dues increase beginning

July 1, 2008-2009. In the area of membership, the council adopted two major provisions amending the Rotary International Constitution and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to qualify for active membership an individual who has demonstrated through involvement in community affairs a commitment to service and the Object of Rotary and also, to allow Rotary Foundation alumni to be active members of Rotary.

I would also like to pay well deserved tribute to the other officers of the council:

Chairman - John Germ, USA  
Vice-Chair - John Boag, Australia  
Parliamentarian - Rolf Horndler, Germany

Members @ Large

Bill Sergeant, USA  
Eric Adamson, USA  
Umberto Laffe, Italy

Constitution and bylaws committee of Rotary International

David Roper, USA  
David Morgan, Wales  
Francisco (Paco) Creo, Mexico

Credentials Committee

Chairman - Ronald L. Beaubien, USA  
Mike McCullough, USA  
Mike Colasurda, USA  
Kokichi Nakamura, Japan  
Shung-Yeoul Yang, Korea  
Mario Yee, Panama  
Jose Zago, Brazil

Nickels Peter Hinrichsen, Germany

Jean Flageul, France

Marco Randone, Italy

Karl-Ingvar Persson, Sweden

(Three English speaking balanced by foreign speakers for the major languages present).

The sergeant, assistant-sergeants-at-arms, and the RI staff supporting council, all performed exceedingly well.

You are, of course, reminded that all proposals adopted by the council are subject to ratification by clubs. If ten percent of the voting strength of the world's 32,000+ clubs register an objection in writing to any item of legislation adopted by the council, it will be reconsidered by the 2007 convention in Salt Lake City.

A Council on Legislation of Rotary International is always a remarkable demonstration of the democratic nature of our association, and this council was one of the best!

It was an efficient, affirmative council, but, it was also a cheerful, happy council, remarkably free of bias, animosity, anger or ill will.

Rotary, and district 5340, can and should take great pride in the council and the service of every member, each whom truly exemplified President Bill's challenge to **"Lead the Way"** in Rotary.

I wish to thank District 5340's clubs the opportunity of serving as your delegate to the 2007 Council on Legislation.

Your in the Service of Rotary

*Ron*

Ronald L. Beaubien  
Rotary International Director  
2003-2005  
Rotary Club of Coronado