

District 1080 Council 21 October 2020

COUNCIL ON RESOLUTIONS

There is one significant item coming before the 2020 Council on Resolutions to which I should like to draw District Council's attention.

Before 2016, two types of item were considered at the triennial Council on Legislation (CoL) – "Enactments" (which amended Rotary's constitutional documents); and "Resolutions" (which ask the RI Board to do something).

At CoL 2016, a "Council on Resolutions (CoR)" was introduced to save time and money at CoL by removing resolutions from that event. CoR takes place annually; the resolutions are available to Council representatives on the web, and voting takes place online (between 15 October and 15 November).

At CoL 2019, an enactment was passed which permits the RI Board to bring an urgent enactment to CoR, recognizing that the three-year cycle of CoL makes it difficult for the Board to react quickly to changing circumstances.

The RI Board is exercising this power at this year's Council on Resolutions.

At CoL 2019, an enactment was passed, providing that only one member of the RI Board (other than the President) would be a member of CoL. The rationale behind this was that this would result in a cost saving. The RI Board has brought an enactment to CoR 2020 to reverse this, and to reinstate the earlier position that all members of the Board are non-voting members of CoL. RI points out that the Board usually brings several proposals to CoL, and states that the 2019 enactment imposes an unreasonable burden on a single Director. Having the Board members at CoL allows the Board to consider any important matters which may arise during the Council meeting, and to respond thereto. RI also points out that one of the Board's regular meetings is always scheduled to take place in Evanston immediately before CoL, and that therefore, the cost implications of the Board members remaining in the Chicago area for the four extra days of the Council are not significant.

There are thirty Resolutions before CoR this year.

They include requests that the RI Board should:

- Add to club by-laws the obligation that each club should invite annually to one of its meetings people and organisations which have benefited from its support in the last three years, especially in response to Covid-19
- Reintroduce vocational service committees at district level
- Establish committees of DGs and IPDGs in each Zone to consider and propose candidates for RI regional positions
- Redefine "political" so that climate change can be better addressed

- Support approval of Treaty on Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and encourage clubs to encourage governments to sign
- Designate one specific developing area of the world as a priority assistance area regarding Covid-19
- Add senior health to the Foundation Area of Focus currently termed “child and maternal health”
- Make publicity a mandatory part of global grant applications and devote 3% of grant monies to publicity

Tom Griffin

District 1080 Representative Council on Legislation and Councils on Resolutions 2020-23.