

A NEW ROTARY YEAR BEGINS, AND WITH IT A NUMBER OF CHANGES TO THE WAY CLUBS AND DISTRICTS DO BUSINESS.

PER CAPITA DUES INCREASE

The annual per capita dues that Rotary clubs pay to Rotary International will increase to \$50 in 2010-11, as established by the 2007 Council on Legislation. The 2010 Council approved a \$1 increase for the three subsequent years, setting per capita dues at \$51 for 2011-12, \$52 for 2012-13, and \$53 for 2013-14.

E-CLUBS

The 2010 Council, which met in April, took several other actions that will go into effect 1 July: E-clubs will become a permanent part of Rotary International after years of participating in a pilot project. Districts will be allowed up to two e-clubs, which are defined as Rotary clubs that meet through electronic communications. Some of the pilot e-clubs have been meeting solely through online forums, while others have combined electronic with in-person meetings.

ANOTHER AVENUE OF SERVICE: NEW GENERATIONS

New Generations Service will join the other Avenues of Service -- Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service. Before starting a project, Rotarians are asked to think broadly about how their club and its members can contribute within each avenue.

ROTARIAN: PRINTED OR E-MAILED?

Rotarians in North America will have the choice of receiving either an electronic or print version of *The Rotarian* magazine. Rotarians living at the same address may qualify for a joint subscription.

Here are some changes that will primary affect Rotary clubs:

- ✓ No club may limit membership based on sexual orientation.
- ✓ Clubs must inform their district governor of a proposed change to the club name or locality at least 10 days before voting on the proposal.
- ✓ The immediate past club president will be considered a club officer and a member of the board.

- ✓ The RI Board may suspend or terminate the membership of any club that retains any member who has misused funds from The Rotary Foundation or who otherwise has breached the stewardship policies of the Foundation.
- ✓ Clubs accepting a transferring or former Rotarian must first secure a certificate from the former member's club confirming that person's membership. The former club is obligated to verify that the member does not owe any debts to the club. A prospective member cannot join a new club until all debts have been paid.

Here are some changes that will primarily affect Rotary districts:

- ✓ District assemblies must be held in March, April, or May, and presidents-elect training seminars in February or March.
- ✓ The chair of the nominating committee for district governor must notify the current governor of the committee's candidate within 24 hours, and the governor must inform clubs within 72 hours.
- ✓ When a governor-elect position is vacant less than three months before the International Assembly, the successor will automatically fill the vacancy, if he or she is willing.
- ✓ If two or more governor election complaints are filed in a district in a five-year period and the Board believes that the RI Bylaws or election complaint procedures have been violated, it may disqualify the nominee, select a past governor to serve, and remove any governor, governor-elect, or past governor who is improperly influencing or interfering with the election process. The Board may dissolve any district and reassign its clubs to other districts if three or more election complaints are filed in a five-year period.

Representatives at the 2010 Council on Legislation approved an enactment 28 April to add a fifth Avenue of Service: New Generations.

After adopting an amendment to change the name from Youth Service, as originally proposed, to New Generations, the Council narrowly supported the addition to article 5 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. The 263-250 vote was received by surprised gasps and applause after a short debate.

New Generations joins Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service as the foundation of club activity. Before starting a project, Rotarians are asked to think broadly about how their club and its members could contribute within each avenue.

"It's a significant change – a historic day in Rotary," said Council Chair Mark Daniel Maloney. "Rotarians have always strongly

supported youth activities even though they were never part of the four Avenues of Service. I think this strengthens our commitment.”

The Avenue of New Generations recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults involved in leadership development activities, community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

Representative Ronald P. Sekkel, of District 5170 (California, USA), proposed the enactment by saying that New Generations is the future of Rotary.

Opponents argued that youth services are already covered by the four Avenues of Service. One representative said that adding a fifth avenue could decrease emphasis on the other four avenues.

Representative Emile M. Rijcken, of District 1900 (Germany), said the new avenue is well deserved.

“The volume of activity in youth programs shows how strong Rotary can be,” she said. “The addition of New Generations to the Avenues of Service will contribute in an enormous way toward public opinion.”