



Summary: Council on Legislation 2025

By LIZ SKINNER

Every three years, representatives from Rotary districts around the world meet at the Council on Legislation (COL) to review and vote on proposed changes to Rotary’s constitutional documents (the RI Constitution, the RI By-Laws, and the Standard Club Constitution). They consider enactments proposed by clubs, districts, and the RI Board. (Resolutions are currently voted on by the Council delegates electronically on an annual basis).

This year’s Council was held April 13-17 in Chicago and considered 86 proposed enactments and adopted 31, 11 were withdrawn, 37 failed, four were referred to the RI Board, and three postponed indefinitely. The changes made become effective July 1, 2025.

Among the noteworthy changes:

- An annual district conference is no longer required; it is optional.
- The number of members needed to charter a new Rotary club decreased from 20 to 15.
- The names of the presidents-elect training seminar and district training assembly are amended (the word “training” is replaced by the word “learning”).
- After lengthy discussion, an increase in per capita dues of \$3.50 per year in 2026-27 and \$3.75 per year in the following years was approved. The previous Council set dues for 2025-26 at \$41.00 per half year, and they will not change.

With the approved increase, the dues that clubs pay to RI per member will increase to \$42.75 per half year in 2026-27, \$44.63 per half year in 2027-28, and \$46.50 per half year in 2028-29 and thereafter. The dues will not be raised again until a future Council votes to change it.

- The nonpolitical nature of Rotary International was reinforced with specific guidelines.
- Council representatives are to be elected in the year of the Council and begin their terms in the year of the Council. (Implementation of this change to be determined by the Board.)

Changes to the Standard Club Constitution:

- The deadline for the club midyear financial report was extended from Dec. 31 to Jan. 31.
- The word “community” was added to the purposes of Rotary clubs.
- The RI Board may instruct a club to terminate the membership of a member or Rotaractor.
- The “diversity of membership clause” was amended to read “including age, sex, gender and ethnic diversity.”



Council on Legislation changes:

- The deadline for submitting enactments is extended from Dec. 31 to March 31 in the year before the Council.
- The percentage requirement to place an item on the consent agenda at the COL is 70 percent instead of 80 percent.
- Within six months of the conclusion of the Council of Resolutions, the RI Board must inform on status of adopted resolutions.
- The Board is to provide Council representatives with relevant materials during the appeal of a Board decision.

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Charleston, Fairbury Clubs Have New Paul Harris Fellows



Ky Newsome (left) accepts her Paul Harris Fellow pin from Charleston Rotary President Aaron Lock.



Charleston Rotary President Aaron Lock (left) recognizes Rich Wandling with his Paul Harris Fellow Plus Two pin.



Fairbury Rotary President Joan Smeltzer (left) is presented with her Paul Harris Level 5 donor pin by Past President Sue Popejoy.



Third-generation Rotarian Bob Nussbaum (left) of Fairbury Rotary recognizes his daughter, Rebecca Sommer, as a Paul Harris Fellow.



Dale Maley (left) is recognized by Fairbury Rotary President Joan Smeltzer as a Paul Harris Fellow.



Fairbury Rotary President Joan Smeltzer (left) recognizes Bill Fugate as a Paul Harris Level 6 donor.

District Grants for 2025-2026 Rotary Year Due Sept. 15!

Increase your club's impact in your community or around the world by applying for a District Grant for the 2025-2026 Rotary year. Clubs may apply for a District Grant of up to \$2,000 to fund small-scale, short-term activities.

Approximately \$50,000 is available in District Designated Funds (DDF) this Rotary year for District Grants. The District Grant application is available to download at www.rotarydistrict6490.org under the Community Service tab.

Please review the guidelines and instructions carefully as you complete the application.

If you have questions, contact District Grants Chair Marlys Scarbrough: scarbrou@illinois.edu.



Make Reservations for Speaker Series Luncheon

Join the Women of Rotary and Women United on May 9 for their fifth program in a series of impactful presentations!

Paula Mitchell will speak on the topic "Leadership Courage."

The event will be held at Rob Dob's Restaurant in Bloomington. Lunch is at 11:30 a.m., with the speaker beginning at noon. Lunch is \$25, which includes entrée, water, iced tea, or soft drink, along with tax and tip.

Feel free to invite your friends and colleagues by sharing this link to make reservations with your personal network: <https://rsvptoday.wufoo.com/forms/may-speakers-series/>. The deadline for reservations is Tuesday, May 7.

For more information, contact Pat Grosso, assistant to Julie Dobski, at grossopat27@gmail.com.

District Grant Final Reports Due June 30

If your club received District 6490 District Grant funds in the 2024-2025 Rotary year, plan to complete your grant project before June 30, 2025.

Keep receipts for items purchased with grant funds and take action-photos of Rotarians and recipients participating in the project. Complete your Final Report within 30 days of the full expenditure of the grant funds.

Final Report forms can be found at www.rotarydistrict6490.org under the "Community Service" tab, then the "District Grants" section. Please submit your final report, along with photos and receipts, to District Grants Chair Marlys Scarbrough: scarbrou@illinois.edu.

Charleston Rotarians Honored at Legacy Dinner



Charleston Rotarians Judy and Karl Konrad were honored at the District 6490 Legacy Dinner.

Fairbury Meets RYLA Attendees



Fairbury Rotary Club President Joan Smeltzer (right), volunteered as a counselor for the 2025 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) at Allerton Park near Monticello, introduced her club to three Prairie Central High School students who attended the camp (left to right): Addi Livengood, Rheagan Aberle, and Haiden Willis.

Legislation Council Cont.

- Disputes must be appealed to the Council on Legislation to exhaust all remedies in the constitutional documents before seeking intervention of any non-Rotary agency or system.
 - Online participation in the Council on Legislation with Board approval only under exceptional circumstances and for compelling reasons.
 - The powers of the RI Board amended to enhance transparency and accountability in financial as well management practices.
 - Allowed the RI Board to test additional governance models in adapting to future needs.
 - Directed the RI board to consider culture and language, not just numbers in determining zone boundaries.
- In some respects, the Council defined itself as much for what it did not do. It rejected a number of measures that would have placed restrictions on clubs, districts, and Rotary International.
- As your district representative to the 2025 Council, I would be happy to answer any questions. I can be reached at rotaryliz6490@gmail.com or 217-714-6060.

Other key changes:

- The duties of a governor were amended to include encouraging promotion of the RI strategic plan, encouraging participation in grant programs, and providing support to assistant governors.
- A club or Rotaract club may be terminated for misuse of TRF funds.
- The 5-year forecast at Rotary Institutes to include updates on specific process improvements and cost reduction measures taken by RI.

A complete list of enactments as well as vote totals can be found on My.Rotary.org.



What is the **IGNITE** App?

The Ignite App is a mobile app for smartphones and tablets designed by DACdb. This app takes the most common tools and features from DACdb and makes them easier and more convenient to use from your mobile device. Whether you love or loath DACdb, you're sure to find their new Ignite App to be both clean and simple to use. The screens are clutter-free making it effortless to find exactly what you need.

How to **Download** the **IGNITE** App:



1. Open up the App Store (Apple) or Google Play Store (Android) on your device.
2. Enter "Ignite" in the search bar.
3. Scroll down until you find the IGNITE app and click on the red fire icon.
4. Download the app by clicking the "Get" or "Install" button.

Sign in to the **IGNITE** App:

Simply enter your DACdb login credentials.

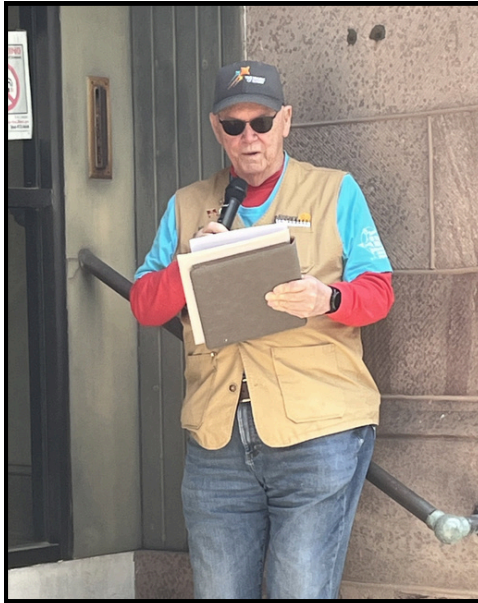
Remember, IGNITE is powered by (and is effectively just a better version of) DACdb.

- Username: This is your email address (the one you received this message on)
- Password: If you don't remember your DACdb password you can reset it by going to www.DACdb.com and click "Forgot/Reset Password?"

Newsletter Submission Guidelines

Rotarians are encouraged to submit news and information (including articles and photos) regarding grants, service projects, social events, fundraisers, community collaborations, gifts, new members, and initiatives to share the good news and good work with others in our district. The deadline for submissions to be included in the next newsletter is the third week of each month. Please email content for the newsletter to Newsletter Editor: Christine Walsh (Savoy) cwalsh1974@live.com.

Bloomington-Normal Area Rotarians Team Up with Habitat for Humanity of McLean County to Build 200th Home!



Bloomington-Normal Rotarians joined other local volunteers and the Conely family (top center) to break ground and erect walls for the family's new home.

DG Mike Martin (top left) and Bloomington Mayor-Elect (top right) kicked off the day, thanking Rotary, sponsors, and the community for supporting the effort.

D6490 Rotary club volunteers include Bloomington, Bloomington-Normal Sunset, Bloomington-Normal Sunrise, Bloomington Pub Club, Normal, and Moraine View Satellite.



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