



Statements of Support and Opposition

2016 Council on Legislation

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**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF REVELSTOKE (DISTRICT 5060)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-03**

To provide that the secretary-elect shall be a member of the board

I believe we need better training for our secretaries as they have a very important role in the running of the club.

STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF O'NEILL (DISTRICT 5630)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-04

To revise the provisions for club officers

The requirement that a club officer be in attendance at every satellite club meeting is not reasonable.

STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ST. PAUL (DISTRICT 5630)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-04

To revise the provisions for club officers

The requirement that a club officer be in attendance at every satellite club meeting is not reasonable when sponsor clubs and their satellites are separated by large distances.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-14**

**To add a fifth part to the Object of Rotary to encourage a new generation of
global leaders**

The Object of Rotary corresponds to each of the Avenues of Service documented in the Rotary International Constitution and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. In 2010, the Council on Legislation created the fifth Avenue of Service: New Generations Service, renaming it Youth Service in 2013. This proposed enactment is intended to correct the inconsistency in the Object of Rotary by adding a fifth part.

Working with youth and young leaders is one of the most important activities of Rotary. Nearly every Rotary club participates in youth service, by

- sponsoring, co-sponsoring, or partnering with Rotaract or Interact clubs
- hosting or sponsoring Rotary Youth Exchange students
- sponsoring Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) participants or conducting RYLA events
- welcoming children and other family members to participate in social or service events
- conducting job shadow programs and other vocational service activities with students or young professionals
- mentoring young people
- providing scholarships
- volunteering in local schools
- supporting scouting activities
- helping at-risk youth
- hosting essay or speech contests

Rotary clubs serve young people, they guide and support youth, foster leadership development opportunities, and work alongside Rotaractors and young professionals as partners in service.

While these activities are often what Rotary clubs are known for in a given community, partnership with and development of young leaders and young professionals is necessary for Rotary's good work to grow and to continue as clubs consider qualified younger adults under 30 for membership. Every club should be proud of its work with youth and endeavor to cultivate new citizens of the world and new Rotarians.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-14.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA EAST (DISTRICT 2690)
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA-SOUTH (DISTRICT 2690)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-14**

**To add a fifth part to the Object of Rotary to encourage a new generation of
global leaders**

We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-14, which relates to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, because we question whether this enactment should be discussed and voted on by the Council on Legislation without going through certain processes beforehand. This item should be submitted to the Council after the procedures stated below.

In order to amend guiding principles that are connected to the viability of Rotary, the RI Board should initially propose legislation and establish a committee that investigates and researches the issue. Then, they should elicit public debate by broadly disclosing the result of the committee research. After receiving feedback, the RI Board should draft an enactment to submit to the Council on Legislation. We must be extra cautious in amending the Object of Rotary, as it deals with the guiding principles of Rotary.

We propose the process below as an example of how to deal with proposed legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary.

- 1) The RI Board decides on how to deal with the legislation and establishes an appropriate committee. What they discuss in the committee should be disclosed.
- 2) An appropriate committee conducts research and investigates the issue. This committee should adopt a procedure for eliciting public comment.
- 3) An appropriate committee reports to the RI Board and answers questions.
- 4) The RI Board discusses the report and drafts proposed legislation.
- 5) The RI Board submits the proposed legislation to the Council on Legislation.

We request that Proposed Enactment 16-14, relating to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, be suspended until the next Council on Legislation. We believe that the Council could better perform its original role if important legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary, such as the Object of Rotary, were properly handled through the above-mentioned process by the RI Board.

STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MAEBASHI (DISTRICT 2840)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-14

**To add a fifth part to the Object of Rotary to encourage a new generation of
global leaders**

The Object of Rotary is “to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise,” and should not be modified due to changes and additions to the Avenues of Service. The Avenues of Service in the Standard Rotary Club Constitution are the framework of a club’s service activities, and should be modified due to changes in the trend of service activities. It is important to emphasize the difference in characteristics between the Object of Rotary and the Avenues of Service.

David Forward’s *A Century of Service* states on page 62, “the last significant change [came] in 1951. It was then decided that Rotary really had but a single Object: “To encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.”” At the 2013 Council, past RI President Dochterman, in referring to Proposed Enactments 13-64 and 13-65 , expressed concern about adding a new part to the Object of Rotary and carelessly referring enactments to the Board. His point is well taken. We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-14.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA EAST (DISTRICT 2690)
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA-SOUTH (DISTRICT 2690)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-15**

**To add a fifth part to the Object of Rotary to include the development of
service and leadership in youth and young adults**

We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-15, which relates to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, because we question whether this enactment should be discussed and voted on by the Council on Legislation without going through certain processes beforehand. This item should be submitted to the Council after the procedures stated below.

In order to amend guiding principles that are connected to the viability of Rotary, the RI Board should initially propose legislation and establish a committee that investigates and researches the issue. Then, they should elicit public debate by broadly disclosing the result of the committee research. After receiving feedback, the RI Board should draft an enactment to submit to the Council on Legislation. We must be extra cautious in amending the Object of Rotary, as it deals with the guiding principles of Rotary.

We propose the process below as an example of how to deal with proposed legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary.

- 1) The RI Board decides on how to deal with the legislation and establishes an appropriate committee. What they discuss in the committee should be disclosed.
- 2) An appropriate committee conducts research and investigates the issue. This committee should adopt a procedure for eliciting public comment.
- 3) An appropriate committee reports to the RI Board and answers questions.
- 4) The RI Board discusses the report and drafts proposed legislation.
- 5) The RI Board submits the proposed legislation to the Council on Legislation.

We request that Proposed Enactment 16-15, relating to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, be suspended until the next Council on Legislation. We believe that the Council could better perform its original role if important legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary, such as the Object of Rotary, were properly handled through the above-mentioned process by the RI Board.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA EAST (DISTRICT 2690)
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA-SOUTH (DISTRICT 2690)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-16**

To add a fifth part to the Object of Rotary to include New Generations

We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-16, which relates to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, because we question whether this enactment should be discussed and voted on by the Council on Legislation without going through certain processes beforehand. This item should be submitted to the Council after the procedures stated below.

In order to amend guiding principles that are connected to the viability of Rotary, the RI Board should initially propose legislation and establish a committee that investigates and researches the issue. Then, they should elicit public debate by broadly disclosing the result of the committee research. After receiving feedback, the RI Board should draft an enactment to submit to the Council on Legislation. We must be extra cautious in amending the Object of Rotary, as it deals with the guiding principles of Rotary.

We propose the process below as an example of how to deal with proposed legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary.

- 1) The RI Board decides on how to deal with the legislation and establishes an appropriate committee. What they discuss in the committee should be disclosed.
- 2) An appropriate committee conducts research and investigates the issue. This committee should adopt a procedure for eliciting public comment.
- 3) An appropriate committee reports to the RI Board and answers questions.
- 4) The RI Board discusses the report and drafts proposed legislation.
- 5) The RI Board submits the proposed legislation to the Council on Legislation.

We request that Proposed Enactment 16-16, relating to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, be suspended until the next Council on Legislation. We believe that the Council could better perform its original role if important legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary, such as the Object of Rotary, were properly handled through the above-mentioned process by the RI Board.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA EAST (DISTRICT 2690)
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA-SOUTH (DISTRICT 2690)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-17**

To amend the Object of Rotary

We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-17, which relates to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, because we question whether this enactment should be discussed and voted on by the Council on Legislation without going through certain processes beforehand. This item should be submitted to the Council after the procedures stated below.

In order to amend guiding principles that are connected to the viability of Rotary, the RI Board should initially propose legislation and establish a committee that investigates and researches the issue. Then, they should elicit public debate by broadly disclosing the result of the committee research. After receiving feedback, the RI Board should draft an enactment to submit to the Council on Legislation. We must be extra cautious in amending the Object of Rotary, as it deals with the guiding principles of Rotary.

We propose the process below as an example of how to deal with proposed legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary.

- 1) The RI Board decides on how to deal with the legislation and establishes an appropriate committee. What they discuss in the committee should be disclosed.
- 2) An appropriate committee conducts research and investigates the issue. This committee should adopt a procedure for eliciting public comment.
- 3) An appropriate committee reports to the RI Board and answers questions.
- 4) The RI Board discusses the report and drafts proposed legislation.
- 5) The RI Board submits the proposed legislation to the Council on Legislation.

We request that Proposed Enactment 16-17, relating to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, be suspended until the next Council on Legislation. We believe that the Council could better perform its original role if important legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary, such as the Object of Rotary, were properly handled through the above-mentioned process by the RI Board.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA EAST (DISTRICT 2690)
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA-SOUTH (DISTRICT 2690)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-18**

To amend the Object of Rotary

We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-18, which relates to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, because we question whether this enactment should be discussed and voted on by the Council on Legislation without going through certain processes beforehand. This item should be submitted to the Council after the procedures stated below.

In order to amend guiding principles that are connected to the viability of Rotary, the RI Board should initially propose legislation and establish a committee that investigates and researches the issue. Then, they should elicit public debate by broadly disclosing the result of the committee research. After receiving feedback, the RI Board should draft an enactment to submit to the Council on Legislation. We must be extra cautious in amending the Object of Rotary, as it deals with the guiding principles of Rotary.

We propose the process below as an example of how to deal with proposed legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary.

- 1) The RI Board decides on how to deal with the legislation and establishes an appropriate committee. What they discuss in the committee should be disclosed.
- 2) An appropriate committee conducts research and investigates the issue. This committee should adopt a procedure for eliciting public comment.
- 3) An appropriate committee reports to the RI Board and answers questions.
- 4) The RI Board discusses the report and drafts proposed legislation.
- 5) The RI Board submits the proposed legislation to the Council on Legislation.

We request that Proposed Enactment 16-18, relating to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, be suspended until the next Council on Legislation. We believe that the Council could better perform its original role if important legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary, such as the Object of Rotary, were properly handled through the above-mentioned process by the RI Board.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA EAST (DISTRICT 2690)
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA-SOUTH (DISTRICT 2690)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-19**

To amend the Object of Rotary

We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-19, which relates to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, because we question whether this enactment should be discussed and voted on by the Council on Legislation without going through certain processes beforehand. This item should be submitted to the Council after the procedures stated below.

In order to amend guiding principles that are connected to the viability of Rotary, the RI Board should initially propose legislation and establish a committee that investigates and researches the issue. Then, they should elicit public debate by broadly disclosing the result of the committee research. After receiving feedback, the RI Board should draft an enactment to submit to the Council on Legislation. We must be extra cautious in amending the Object of Rotary, as it deals with the guiding principles of Rotary.

We propose the process below as an example of how to deal with proposed legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary.

- 1) The RI Board decides on how to deal with the legislation and establishes an appropriate committee. What they discuss in the committee should be disclosed.
- 2) An appropriate committee conducts research and investigates the issue. This committee should adopt a procedure for eliciting public comment.
- 3) An appropriate committee reports to the RI Board and answers questions.
- 4) The RI Board discusses the report and drafts proposed legislation.
- 5) The RI Board submits the proposed legislation to the Council on Legislation.

We request that Proposed Enactment 16-19, relating to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, be suspended until the next Council on Legislation. We believe that the Council could better perform its original role if important legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary, such as the Object of Rotary, were properly handled through the above-mentioned process by the RI Board.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA EAST (DISTRICT 2690)
ROTARY CLUB OF OKAYAMA-SOUTH (DISTRICT 2690)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-20**

To amend the Object of Rotary

We oppose the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-20, which relates to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, because we question whether this enactment should be discussed and voted on by the Council on Legislation without going through certain processes beforehand. This item should be submitted to the Council after the procedures stated below.

In order to amend guiding principles that are connected to the viability of Rotary, the RI Board should initially propose legislation and establish a committee that investigates and researches the issue. Then, they should elicit public debate by broadly disclosing the result of the committee research. After receiving feedback, the RI Board should draft an enactment to submit to the Council on Legislation. We must be extra cautious in amending the Object of Rotary, as it deals with the guiding principles of Rotary.

We propose the process below as an example of how to deal with proposed legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary.

- 1) The RI Board decides on how to deal with the legislation and establishes an appropriate committee. What they discuss in the committee should be disclosed.
- 2) An appropriate committee conducts research and investigates the issue. This committee should adopt a procedure for eliciting public comment.
- 3) An appropriate committee reports to the RI Board and answers questions.
- 4) The RI Board discusses the report and drafts proposed legislation.
- 5) The RI Board submits the proposed legislation to the Council on Legislation.

We request that Proposed Enactment 16-20, relating to the Object of Rotary as stated in Article 4 of the RI Constitution, be suspended until the next Council on Legislation. We believe that the Council could better perform its original role if important legislation related to the guiding principles of Rotary, such as the Object of Rotary, were properly handled through the above-mentioned process by the RI Board.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Board of Directors of Rotary International endorses the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements regarding when the club meets and whether or not to track attendance that are relevant and in the best interest of their membership.

Today's social and societal environment increasingly requires flexibility, responsiveness and adaptation. This enactment empowers clubs to respond to the needs of their members and to address some of the objections potential members may have regarding the obligation of a weekly meeting. Clubs can maintain traditional rules and requirements; or, they can adjust the rules to meet the needs of their members. This enactment does not change who we are (qualifications of membership), what we do (pursuit of Objects of Rotary), nor why Rotary exists (our essence statement).

These changes give the clubs the freedom to implement new actions and also honor what many clubs have found to be successful and have been deciding and doing for years:

- Select the best day and time to meet
- Change or cancel a meeting as needs arise
- Select the best time to hold an annual meeting
- Use other measures of club health instead of only attendance
- Combine multiple formats of meetings, e.g., face-to-face, electronic meetings, social events in lieu of a club meeting, etc.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ESBJERG-FANØ (DISTRICT 1450)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

This enactment will allow exceptions to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to provide Rotary clubs flexibility in their club bylaws. Clubs can determine when and how often the club meets, set applicable attendance requirements, and modify or eliminate termination policies for non-attendance.

Clubs shall have the possibility to determine the meeting frequency, as many young Rotarians have problems attending each week due to business arrangements, family, and social involvements. The attendance requirements are not requirements that either prospective or current members need. Termination policies must be up to each club to.

The flexibility will increase membership of future members and membership retention.

The Rotary Club of Esbjerg-Fanø supports the proposal, as it is a part of making membership requirements more up-to date and more compliant with the demands of young business people of today.

For these reasons, the Rotary Club of Esbjerg-Fanø supports Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF DOWNTOWN HONOLULU
(DISTRICT 5000)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

I am writing in support of the above-noted proposed enactment, which will formally recognize many of the things that our Rotary club and others already practice. Rotary must evolve to meet the changing lifestyles and demands of our current and future members and the communities in which they exist.

Flexibility for a club to determine its meeting schedule is vital to its continued success. Our club, a morning club, continues to meet at its regularly-appointed time on Fridays; however, on the last Thursday of the month, we hold a social in lieu of our regular Friday meeting. We have found that this is a great way for new and potential members to get to know the club in a more informal, relaxed environment; it is also an opportunity for our current members to enjoy fellowship and for the club to steward its resources more carefully.

Membership, as we know, is a continuing challenge for all clubs. At one time, our small club had four attorneys as members. We worked to “classify” so that we could accommodate all of them. As Rotarians, we seek like-minded people who want to serve their communities. Their “classification” shouldn’t matter as much as their heart and intentions.

We urge the Council on Legislation to adopt Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY E-CLUB OF HAWAII (DISTRICT 5000)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

On behalf of the Rotary e-Club of Hawaii, I write in support of Proposed Enactment 16-21.

I am the sitting President of the Rotary e-Club of Hawaii, District 5000. I have also attended the Rotary West Coast Young Professionals Summit in 2015 and the Rotary Zone 25/26 Institute 2015, and visited and partnered with over 20 clubs in my district.

Having spoken with many Rotarians here in District 5000, in the United States, and around the world, I've observed that one of the things we seem to have in common is a growing challenge to grow and maintain membership. I believe increased flexibility is an important tool to help us meet that challenge.

I've heard many generous and hardworking Rotarians say that going to a weekly meeting, at the same time of day, on the same day of the week, is increasingly difficult due to work, family, health and other factors. Recognizing these issues, the Rotary e-Club of Hawaii currently meets online three times a month and once in person.

One of our members, who has been a Rotarian for more than 20 years, joined our club because he was no longer able to get around as easily, and our flexible format was perfect for him because, it allowed him to remain a Rotarian on terms that better suited his physical limitations while still affording him the opportunity to meet in person on a regular basis to develop the same personal relationships that occur in a traditional brick and mortar club.

While many clubs may prefer the traditional club formats, we support Proposed Enactment 16-21 because it will allow individual clubs the flexibility to respond to their unique situations and adopt club meeting and attendance formats that will help them retain their existing members, while adding new members too.

We all want Rotary to grow, strive, and be successful. Thank you for your consideration and your service in Rotary.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KANEOHE (DISTRICT 5000)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We are writing as President and President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Kane'ohe to support the approval of Proposed Enactment 16-21.

Our club has 28 active members who are significantly involved with a wide variety of projects in the community and internationally. But like all clubs our size, our membership is aging and traditional forms of meeting are not addressing the needs of potential younger members.

We believe strongly that recruiting new members would be greatly facilitated by greater flexibility with meeting options. We have people interested in Rotary and its mission, but they do not join because they cannot commit to one particular day to meet every week or may need to have a creative membership option that allows their participation in new ways.

Our board met and approved support of Proposed Enactment 16-21. On behalf of our membership, please add our club name as supporting the adoption of this enactment. We deeply appreciate that new and innovative ways are being considered to give life and new energy to the work of Rotary around the world.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LAHAINA SUNSET, MAUI
(DISTRICT 5000)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of Lahaina Sunset was chartered in 2014 with great diversity of our charter members. We believe that the addition of our new club and our membership diversity were driven by our adoption of a non-traditional Rotary meeting schedule. Therefore, we'd like to request your consideration of Proposed Enactment 16-21.

Generally speaking, our club meets on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. However, we maintain a varied meeting schedule, which provides us with the opportunity to focus our club on the top reasons new members join: fellowship and community service. On the first, third and fifth (when appropriate) Tuesdays of the month, we hold a traditional one-hour meeting with a guest speaker. On the fourth Tuesday of the month, we meet for a purely social occasion. This could include meeting at a local restaurant, holding a beach potluck or getting everyone together to enjoy a sunset whale watch excursion. This social time is unscripted and provides us with an opportunity to laugh and have fun together. It is here where we really get to know each other, which allows us to work more effectively together. There is no structured meeting on the second Tuesday of the month. Rather, we meet for a community service project. Depending on the event, this community service activity may fall on any day of the month.

This alternative meeting schedule allows us to inherently provide a Rotary experience that balances our Members' desire to develop themselves, build lasting friendships, and support our local community. This alternative schedule was very appealing to me as a new member and I believe paramount to recruiting new members. Sixty percent of our members have been in Rotary for less than two years and 20percent of our members are under the age of 40.

Rotary must evolve to continue thriving in our community. I believe the flexibility allowed by Proposed Enactment 16-21 will allow us to be relevant to millennials and future members. Thanks for your support.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY (DISTRICT 5150)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

Our club supports having flexibility of meeting times and places while still having meetings once a week and having flexibility in requiring the number of meetings members must attend in order to maintain membership. The board and I agree that these measures will both attract new members as well as help retain existing members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO CHINATOWN
(DISTRICT 5150)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

Due to changing demographics and varied schedules, we are in support of Proposed Enactment 16-21, to allow flexibility in club meetings and attendance. This may allow members with work schedules more flexibility to schedule their time to attend more meetings.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO EVENING
(DISTRICT 5150)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

On behalf of the Rotary Club of San Francisco Evening, I wish to register our support for Proposed Enactment 16-21, "To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance."

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF CUPERTINO (DISTRICT 5170)
ROTARY CLUB OF HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD (DISTRICT 5790)
DISTRICT 5810
ROTARY CLUB OF NEW BRAUNFELS DOWNTOWN (DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We endorse the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements regarding when the club meets and whether or not to track attendance that is relevant and in the best interest of its membership.

Today's social and societal environment increasingly requires flexibility, responsiveness and adaptation. This enactment empowers clubs to respond to the needs of their members. Clubs can maintain traditional rules and requirements; or, they can adjust the rules to meet the needs of their members. This enactment does not change who we are (qualifications of membership), what we do (pursuit of the Object of Rotary), nor why Rotary exists (our essence statement).

These changes give the clubs the freedom to implement new actions and also honor what many clubs have found to be successful and have been deciding and doing for years:

- Selecting the best day and time to meet
- Changing or canceling a meeting as needs arise
- Selecting the best time to hold an annual meeting
- Using other measures of club health instead of only attendance
- Combining multiple formats of meetings, e.g., face-to-face, electronic meetings, social events in lieu of a club meeting, etc.

For these reasons, we support Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SCOTTS VALLEY (DISTRICT 5170)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We understand that at the forthcoming Council on Legislation Proposed Enactment 16-21, relating to flexibility in club meetings and attendance, is scheduled to be voted upon.

This matter has been discussed by the members and the Board of the Rotary Club of Scotts Valley, District 5170, and we overwhelmingly support allowing for flexibility in club meetings and attendance.

The core values of Rotary, Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership, are not promoted with rigid rules of club meetings and attendance.

Clubs which recognize the demands on the lives of their members are the best entities to select the best day and time to meet. They can change or cancel a meeting as the need arises. They can select the best time to hold an annual meeting. They can decide on other measures of club health instead of only attendance.

We are saddened that due to the rigid rules of Rotary in the early years, one of Paul Harris' best travelling companions was kicked out of Rotary due to the three meeting attendance requirement yet he participated in more fellowship and service than most Rotarians.

On behalf of our club, we wish to register our support in favor of Proposed Enactment 16-21, allowing for flexibility in club meetings and attendance.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF PAHRUMP VALLEY
(DISTRICT 5300)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of Pahrump Valley would like to express its support for the rule changes in Proposed Enactment 16-21. Rotarians' lives change constantly, both professionally and personally. Rotary should be flexible enough to change with them. Our club has had the honor of being in the innovative club classification for the last year and the results have been remarkable. Our meetings are well attended, relevant, and the level of engagement has increased dramatically. I attribute this directly to the flexibility the innovative club status has allowed. The number and quality of service projects have increased and the membership recruitment resulting from these has brought new Rotarians to us that understand and believe in the Rotary message of service above self. We constantly send the message that membership in our club is not having to attend every meeting but to consistently put service above self. As a result of this, we have a motivated, talented group of people that make things happen. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the proposed changes. These should allow other clubs to duplicate our results and grow Rotary both in stature and membership.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5390
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

On behalf of District 5390, I wish to submit a statement in support of Proposed Enactment 16-21. It is imperative in this day and age that Rotary become flexible in order to retain and attract membership. I do not feel that by changing attendance requirements, possibly allowing less than weekly meetings, that it will dilute the fellowship of Rotary. I have heard of clubs that have experimented with such and, as a result, have actually increased membership over the past few years.

There are many professional organizations that only meet monthly and yet are very effective. I anticipate that if the weekly meeting attendance requirement is loosened, you may see more service projects being completed in the community in the name of Rotary during a non-meeting week. You may also see more effective clubs if a non-meeting week is used for club committee meetings instead.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOISE SUNRISE (DISTRICT 5400)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

As I look forward to leading District 5400 in the coming year, we have one major issue—membership. We have stopped the decline in membership, but we must grow our membership.

Proposed Enactment 16-21, “To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance,” proposed by the RI Board and District 5450, helps our clubs grow membership. Flexibility in club meetings and attendance is a critical issue and a tool to attracting new members and younger members. We in District 5400 believe that this will allow us to grow membership. The growth in membership will also provide more funding to The Rotary Foundation, which helps us in “Serving Humanity.”

We are very supportive of Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ST. GEORGE (DISTRICT 5420)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

While our club has long been an avid supporter of the traditional values and procedures of RI, including the creation of other spin-off clubs in our area from our members, we sense the urgent need to adapt to current demands and needs of current and prospective members in order to maintain and increase membership and provide a stronger base and core support to The Rotary Foundation and the many worthy projects to help others in need throughout the world. Proposed Enactment 16-21 will allow for further flexibility to all clubs to tailor a meeting and attendance structure that best meets the needs of current and future members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF FORT COLLINS (DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins endorses the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements regarding when the club meets and whether or not to track attendance that are relevant and in the best interest of their membership, for two reasons:

- 1) In the past we have lost members (and recently reinstated two very good Rotarians) who had left simply because they were not able to meet attendance requirements. To attract the two former members back, we personally promised they would never be harassed over attendance again. It is in Rotary's best interest to have members with a heart for service who will engage with Rotary in service, but may or may not meet rigid attendance requirements.

By focusing on engagement, not attendance, so far this Rotary Year we have inducted 18 new members. With deaths and physical/career moves, we have a net gain of seven in the first six months of this Rotary year, with three more ready for induction.

- 2) We have a very active and engaged satellite membership, started in 2014-2015, with 18 members. They have chosen to meet the first and third Wednesday of every month, and hold a community service event at least once per month, effectively meeting three times per month. Six of their members were originally part of our Wednesday membership, but would have resigned due to attendance requirements if the satellite membership had not become available. Having more flexible meeting and attendance requirements has resulted in 18 additional members we would not have otherwise.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins supports Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LARAMIE SUNRISE
(DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of Laramie Sunrise supports Proposed Enactment 16-21, allowing individual clubs to determine meeting schedules and attendance requirements.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LOVELAND MOUNTAIN VIEW
(DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

These changes will allow clubs to offer more flexibility in the places where it is needed. In our club, all of our members have full time jobs and flexibility is of the utmost importance.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF POWELL (DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of Powell supports Proposed Enactment 16-21, which provides individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to determine meeting frequency and attendance. Our club consists of approximately 26 members, who include bankers, a college president, law enforcement personnel, certified public accountants, retirees, and other professionals. Out of the 26 members, we have approximately 15 very active members. That does not mean the other members do not participate in fundraising and occasional meetings. We have traditional weekly meetings and, a few times a year, evening socials, along with joint meetings with other organizations. Our club also uses the Northwest College Nelson House for our meetings and there are times that there is a conflict for usage and we must change our location or time. By the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-21, we can continue our flexibility in not only our meeting locations, but also in our joint meetings with other service organizations. Attendance, as with most clubs, can be very large to very sparse depending on the time of year or the employment of our members. Many certified public accountants are in their busy season from January thru April. School employees are not always available for meetings and many retirees are traveling during certain seasons. Allowing a club to have flexibility with attendance will help our current and future members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SHERIDAN (DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

I support Proposed Enactment 16-21, which will allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5450
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

District 5450 firmly believes that individual clubs should have the flexibility to determine the rules for meeting frequency and attendance requirements. Clubs are in the best position to determine which rules for membership and attendance best fit their communities.

This flexibility is necessary for clubs to properly respond to and change with shifting societal customs and expectations. Approval of this proposed enactment will position clubs to make appropriate changes that will attract and retain high quality members. Under this proposed enactment, a club may modify any or all of the existing club meeting and attendance requirements. If a club does nothing, the existing requirements will remain in place.

This enactment does not change or jeopardize the core values of Rotary. It allows clubs to tailor their club meeting and attendance requirements to be more accessible to members of their communities, which will increase membership. Clubs will be in a better position to honor their traditions yet be open to new approaches to attract and retain members.

For these reasons, District 5450 supports Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5470
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

After consultation with the leadership of District 5470, I submit the following statement of support. For the most part, this is what clubs are doing at present. What this does is codify what is happening and is in the best interest of Rotary and the clubs. The attendance requirement change will keep good Rotarians in the clubs. Some have business commitments that do not allow regular attendance, but they contribute time, talent and treasure.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5520
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Clubs of District 5520 understand that the forthcoming Council on Legislation will consider Proposed Enactment 16-21, which would provide Rotary clubs flexibility in their club bylaws to determine provisions for meeting frequency and attendance.

The clubs of District 5520 feel that this flexibility is key to their remaining relevant in their communities and to their retaining and engaging members. Such flexibility is an important factor in maintaining membership and attracting new members.

On behalf of our clubs, I wish to register District 5520's support for Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF RAPID CITY RUSHMORE
(DISTRICT 5610)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We support this proposed legislation and feel that it will help maintain our membership and will help grow clubs by responding to younger lifestyles.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KEARNEY DAWN
(DISTRICT 5630)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We have seen our membership and participation in activities increase this year due to the flexibility given members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF O'NEILL (DISTRICT 5630)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of O'Neill supports Proposed Enactment 16-21, to provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to determine meeting frequency and attendance. The adoption of this proposal will allow for further flexibility to all clubs to tailor a meeting and attendance structure to best meet the needs of current and future members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ST. PAUL (DISTRICT 5630)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of St. Paul, District 5630, strongly supports Proposed Enactment 16-21. We feel that flexibility in meetings and attendance will promote new members and younger members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON (DISTRICT 5690)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of Newton in District 5690 supports Proposed Enactment 16-21, to provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to determine meeting frequency and attendance. Our club meets twice per month in person for a “traditional” Rotary meeting with personal fellowship and interaction with our speaker. Proposed Enactment 16-21 will allow for further flexibility to all clubs to tailor a meeting and attendance structure that best meets the needs of current and future members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF DE SOTO (DISTRICT 5710)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of De Soto, Kansas, a member of District 5710, wishes to offer support for a proposed amendment before the Council on Legislation. Proposed Enactment 16-21 will allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance. We are a small club in a small town and the flexibility allowed by this proposal will “legalize” the rule-bending we have had to do for some time. On behalf of the Rotary Club of De Soto, I urge the Council to approve this amendment, as it will enhance the opportunity not only to persevere in small towns, but also to grow.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ADA SUNRISE (DISTRICT 5770)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We urge your support of this legislation. It will help our club both recruit new members and retain the members we have. As their circumstances change, members may become unable to meet at 6:45 am. Younger individuals with school-age children also find it challenging to attend a meeting during the time they normally prepare their children for school. This legislation would allow us to schedule meetings at times more appropriate for them and to recognize that their lives may legitimately make regular attendance a challenge.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORMAN-CROSS TIMBERS
(DISTRICT 5770)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We understand that at the forthcoming Council on Legislation, Proposed Enactment 16-21 will be proposed by the RI Board to allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance .

This matter has been discussed and considered by the Rotary Club of Norman-Cross Timbers, District 5770, and we favor the proposal as allowing Rotary clubs the right to greater flexibility to meet the needs of their members, club and community.

On behalf of our Rotary club, we wish to register our support for the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-21, to amend the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORMAN-SOONER
(DISTRICT 5770)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We are aware of some changes to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution that will be voted on at the upcoming Council on Legislation in Chicago—specifically, decisions regarding club meetings and attendance.

These issues have been discussed at length amongst the Norman-Sooner club members, as we face the membership challenges that accompany strict attendance policies and narrow membership guidelines. We support changes that would allow for flexibility on the part of the local club to make decisions that will best benefit its particular situation.

On behalf of our club, I would like to register our support in favor of the proposed changes as outlined in Proposed Enactment 16-21 to be considered by the Council on Legislation.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5790
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

Anytime we can have flexibility to allow our membership to be engaged in Rotary, we all benefit.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY E-CLUB OF DISTRICT 5810
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary E-Club of District 5810 supports Proposed Enactment 16-21, to provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to determine meeting frequency and attendance. Our e-club is a model example of a new Rotary club that meets the time and financial commitments of our members. We meet weekly in person for a “traditional” Rotary meeting with personal fellowship and interaction with our speaker; however, we also broadcast our weekly meetings live online and record the meetings for playback anytime by both members of our e-club or other Rotarians wishing to see our meeting. Our motto is “Rotary Your Way” and Proposed Enactment 16-21 will allow for further flexibility to all clubs to tailor a meeting and attendance structure to best meet the needs of current and future members.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5840
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We support this enactment to grow the future membership of Rotary.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOERNE SUNRISE
(DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Boerne Sunrise Rotary Club of District 5840 supports Proposed Enactment 16-21, to provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to determine meeting frequency and attendance. While many of our club members are retired, three of the last four new members were 40 or younger. Our club desires to do more to meet the time and financial commitments of our members, and while we meet weekly in person for a “traditional” Rotary meeting with personal fellowship and interaction with our speaker, we support those who broadcast weekly meetings live online and record them for playback anytime by both members of their own club or any Rotarian wishing to see the meeting. We believe that Proposed Enactment 16-21 will allow for further flexibility to all clubs to tailor their meeting and attendance structure to best meet the needs of current and future members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS RANCH
(DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

I respectfully submit a statement of support for Proposed Enactment 16-21, "To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance."

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF FREDERICKSBURG-MORNING
(DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

The Rotary Club of Fredericksburg-Morning endorses the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements regarding when the club meets and whether or not to track attendance that are relevant and in the best interest of its membership.

Ours is a growing club in a small town. In the last several years, our membership has increased from 31 to 46 members. We have been a 100 percent Paul Harris Fellow club and have consistently been a 100 percent Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member club. In fact, for the 2014-2015 Rotary year, we were recognized as one of the top three clubs in the district in our per capita giving to the Foundation. Our continued growth is dependent on our ability to be as flexible as possible in our membership management practices. This enactment empowers clubs to respond to the needs of their members. This enactment does not change who we are (qualifications of membership), what we do (pursuit of the Object of Rotary), nor why Rotary exists (our essence statement).

These changes give our club the freedom to implement new actions and also honor what many clubs have found to be successful and have been deciding and doing for years:

- Selecting the best day and time to meet
- Changing or canceling a meeting as needs arise
- Selecting the best time to hold an annual meeting
- Using other measures of club health instead of only attendance
- Combining multiple formats of meetings, e.g., face-to-face, electronic meetings, social events in lieu of a club meeting, etc.

For these reasons, our club supports Proposed Enactment 16-21.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5870
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

I am in favor of Proposed Enactment 16-21 allowing for flexibility in club meetings and attendance. The clubs in our district which are creative with how they hold meetings and what they count as attendance are becoming the most vibrant. The workforce as a whole is becoming more diverse, and even more so for younger professionals, who represent the largest opportunity for growth. With the rise of social media, it is not necessary to be at a meeting to know what is going on, or to be plugged into the group. What we are ultimately striving for is engagement. Flexibility will allow us to meet prospective members' unique needs.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5890
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

We support the proposed enactment.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ANGLETON (DISTRICT 5890)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

On behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Angleton, I would like to express my support for Proposed Enactment 16-21, "To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance." As smaller clubs like ours struggle to secure new members, one of the greatest barriers is the attendance requirement. It is unrealistic in today's business climate to require 100 percent attendance, and it scares away younger members who seek greater flexibility in both the workforce and their altruistic pursuits. Please pass this legislation to help enable small Rotary clubs to survive in today's world.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHSIDE CORPUS CHRISTI
(DISTRICT 5930)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-21**

To allow for flexibility in club meetings and attendance

This statement is in support of allowing for flexibility in club meetings and attendance. Innovative and flexible Rotary clubs are fun, dynamic, diverse, resilient, tolerant, interested in trying new things, proactive, member driven, results oriented, resourceful, inspirational, and relationship rich. They support and strengthen their membership, focus and increase their humanitarian service, and enhance their public image and awareness. We must be flexible to authorize clubs to make changes to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and to their bylaws.

- Let clubs self-determine their operations to fit better with the needs of their members and community.
- Try out different meeting logistics and designs.
- Improve club leadership and oversight.
- Develop relevant and creative membership qualifications and requirements.
- Shift the focus from meeting attendance to member engagement.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY
(DISTRICT 5010)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-22**

To allow clubs flexibility in structuring their weekly meetings

Our club members support increased flexibility regarding attendance at meetings. Already we are more flexible than the bylaws require, and we want to reflect current practices. Many resolutions and enactments address this issue. This proposal is a particularly good one that our club members support.

Mandatory attendance does not promote participation and engagement; it actually deters people from becoming Rotarians.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LA CELLE SAINT CLOUD-
BOUGIVAL (DISTRICT 1660)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-23**

To allow clubs flexibility in choosing a regular meeting schedule

Several proposed enactments, in particular 16-21 to 16-25, aim to reduce the number of club statutory meetings by decision of the Council on Legislation.

Proposed Enactment 16-23 entrusts the club general assembly with the authority to modify the frequency of club meetings through a two-thirds majority of the members present and voting, without any obligation whatsoever for clubs wishing to maintain the status quo.

This opportunity to adapt to the club's reality, including a specific geographical situation, will simplify the planning of clubs' committee meetings.

A positive vote on Proposed Enactment 16-23 at the Council would allow clubs that feel this need to reach a consensus and to change the frequency of their meetings.

We therefore support the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-23, as we consider it vital.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY
(DISTRICT 5010)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-27**

To revise attendance requirements

Our club supports greater flexibility in attendance requirements. This proposed enactment says that members should attend the club's meetings and/or participate in club activities as set forth in the bylaws. Our club members support this proposal because it provides all clubs with greater autonomy to set standards and expectations that meet the needs of our community and our members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY
(DISTRICT 5010)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-34**

To amend the provisions for excused absences

Our club supports this proposed legislation. We have just had two babies born to two of our club members. Those Rotarians, as well as others in similar situations, need to feel as if they may take time off for extended and excused leave time and still be welcomed back to the club as active members. We support flexibility in all attendance matters. If a medical reason is considered sufficient to extend an excused absence, so should the birth of a child.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Board of Directors of Rotary International endorses the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements that affect the composition of their membership and how a club may wish to manage their membership.

Today's social and societal environment increasingly requires flexibility, responsiveness and adaptation. This enactment empowers clubs to respond to the needs of their members. Clubs can maintain traditional rules and requirements; or, they can adjust the rules to meet the needs of their members. This enactment does not change who we are (qualifications of membership), what we do (pursuit of Objects of Rotary), nor why Rotary exists (our essence statement).

These changes give the clubs the freedom to implement new actions and also honor what many clubs have found to be successful and have been deciding and doing for years:

- Create various membership types in addition to active and honorary
- Determine how former or transferring members are accepted into the club
- Determine whether it is possible to be a member in more than one club
- Allow Rotaractors to become Rotary club members while they still are Rotaractors
- Determine how a club manages the resource of honorary membership

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ESBJERG-FANØ (DISTRICT 1450)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

This proposed enactment is intended to provide Rotary clubs the flexibility to remove or modify the membership classification system in their club bylaws and modify the membership provisions.

The clubs are in the best position to determine how they can assemble the members. The classification system can both help and hinder membership attraction, however the club shall represent the community it serves. Flexibility to eliminate the classification system and allow clubs to decide who fits in the club in accordance with the club's strategic plan can result in an increase in membership and greater flexibility.

The Rotary Club of Esbjerg-Fanø supports this proposal, as the flexibility can result in an increase in membership and retention of members.

For these reasons, the Rotary Club of Esbjerg-Fanø supports Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF DOWNTOWN HONOLULU
(DISTRICT 5000)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

I am writing in support of the above-noted proposed enactment, which will formally recognize many of the things that our and other Rotary clubs already practice. Rotary must evolve to meet the changing lifestyles and demands of our current and future members and the communities in which they exist.

Flexibility for a club to determine its meeting schedule is vital to its continued success. Our club, a morning club, continues to meet at its regularly-appointed time on Fridays; however, on the last Thursday of the month, we hold a social in lieu of our regular Friday meeting. We have found that this is a great way for new and potential members to get to know the club in a more informal, relaxed environment; it is also an opportunity for our current members to enjoy fellowship and for the club to steward its resources more carefully.

Membership, as we know, is a continuing challenge for all clubs. At one time, our small club had four attorneys as members. We worked to “classify” so that we could accommodate all of them. As Rotarians, we seek like-minded people who want to serve their communities. Their “classification” shouldn’t matter as much as their heart and intentions.

We urge the Council on Legislation to adopt Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY E-CLUB OF HAWAII (DISTRICT 5000)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

On behalf of the Rotary e-Club of Hawaii, I write in support of Proposed Enactment 16-36.

I am the sitting President of the Rotary e-Club of Hawaii, District 5000. I have also attended the Rotary West Coast Young Professionals Summit in 2015 and the Rotary Zone 25/26 Institute 2015, and visited and partnered with over 20 clubs in my district.

Having spoken with many Rotarians here in District 5000, in the United States, and around the world, I've observed that one of the things we seem to have in common is a growing challenge to grow and maintain membership. I believe increased flexibility is an important tool to help us meet that challenge.

While many clubs may prefer the traditional club formats, we support Proposed Enactment 16-36 because it will allow individual clubs the flexibility to respond to their unique situations and adopt club membership and classification formats that will help them retain their existing members, while adding new members too.

We all want Rotary to grow, strive, and be successful. Thank you for your consideration and your service in Rotary.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KANEOHE (DISTRICT 5000)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We are writing as President and President-Elect of the Rotary Club of Kane'ohe to support the approval of Proposed Enactment 16-36.

Our club has 28 active members who are significantly involved with a wide variety of projects in the community and internationally. But like all clubs our size, our membership is aging.

We believe strongly that recruiting new members would be greatly facilitated by greater flexibility with membership and classification options. We have people interested in Rotary and its mission, people who would join if they were offered a creative membership option that allows their participation in new ways.

Our board met and approved support of Proposed Enactment 16-36. On behalf of our membership, please add our club name as supporting the adoption of this proposed enactment. We deeply appreciate that new and innovative ways are being considered to give life and new energy to the work of Rotary around the world.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY
(DISTRICT 5010)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

Our club members support the RI Board's proposed enactment to amend Article 5 of the RI Constitution to adopt rules regarding membership that are not in accordance with section 2(b) of this article. Our club would like to see Rotary clubs having more autonomy to make their own policies about membership and classifications.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MILL VALLEY (DISTRICT 5150)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

Our club supports having flexibility in membership and classifications. The Board and I agree that this measure will help attract new members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SAN FRANCISCO EVENING
(DISTRICT 5150)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

On behalf of the Rotary Club of San Francisco Evening, I wish to register our support for Proposed Enactment 16-36, "To allow for flexibility in membership and classification."

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF CUPERTINO (DISTRICT 5170)
ROTARY CLUB OF HURST-EULESS-BEDFORD (DISTRICT 5790)
DISTRICT 5810
ROTARY CLUB OF NEW BRAUNFELS DOWNTOWN (DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership

We endorse the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements that affect the composition of their membership and how a club may wish to manage its membership.

Today's social and societal environment increasingly requires flexibility, responsiveness and adaptation. This enactment empowers clubs to respond to the needs of their members. Clubs can maintain traditional rules and requirements; or, they can adjust the rules to meet the needs of their members. This enactment does not change who we are (qualifications of membership), what we do (pursuit of the Object of Rotary), nor why Rotary exists (our essence statement).

These changes give the clubs the freedom to implement new actions and also honor what many clubs have found to be successful and have been deciding and doing for years, namely:

- Creating various membership types in addition to active and honorary
- Determining how former or transferring members are accepted into the club
- Determining whether it is possible to be a member in more than one club
- Allowing Rotaractors to become Rotary club members while they are still Rotaractors
- Determining how a club manages the resource of honorary membership

These changes give the clubs the freedom to implement new actions and also honor For these reasons, we support Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SCOTTS VALLEY (DISTRICT 5170)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We understand that at the forthcoming Council on Legislation, Proposed Enactment 16-36, relating to flexibility in membership and classification, is scheduled to be voted upon.

This matter has been discussed by the members and the Board of the Rotary Club of Scotts Valley, District 5170, and we would overwhelmingly support allowing for flexibility in membership and classification.

The core values of Rotary, Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership, are not promoted with rigid rules of membership and classification.

Today's social and societal environment increasingly requires flexibility, responsiveness and adaptation. These changes give us the freedom to continue the action that we have found to be successful and have been doing for years.

The flexibility in our club has helped to promote Rotary and, more importantly, to promote the core values of Rotary.

On behalf of our club, we would wish to register our support in favor of Proposed Enactment 16-36, allowing for flexibility in membership and classification.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF PAHRUMP VALLEY
(DISTRICT 5300)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Rotary Club of Pahrump Valley would like to express its support for the rule changes in Proposed Enactment 16-36. Rotarians' lives change constantly, both professionally and personally. Rotary should be flexible enough to change with them. Our club has had the honor of being in the innovative club classification for the last year and the results have been remarkable. Our meetings are well attended, relevant, and the level of engagement has increased dramatically. I attribute this directly to the flexibility the innovative club status has allowed. The number and quality of service projects have increased and the membership recruitment resulting from these has brought new Rotarians to us that understand and believe in the Rotary message of service above self. We constantly send the message that membership in our club is not having to attend every meeting but to consistently put service above self. As a result of this, we have a motivated, talented group of people that make things happen. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support for the proposed changes. These should allow other clubs to duplicate our results and grow Rotary both in stature and membership.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5390
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

Rotary needs to allow clubs the flexibility of modifying the membership classification system for their club. Although Rotary may have been formed over 100 years ago to be, in part, a “networking” opportunity among different professionals, it has grown to so much more at this point in time. It is seen by many current members as primarily a service organization, “Serving Humanity.” By prohibiting members with the same classification from joining a club, we are inhibiting the growth of Rotary clubs as well as the development of further fellowship and camaraderie among a single classification.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF BOISE SUNRISE (DISTRICT 5400)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

As I look forward to leading District 5400 in the coming year, we have one major issue—membership. We have stopped the decline in membership, but we must grow our membership.

Proposed Enactment 16-36, “To allow for flexibility in membership and classification,” proposed by the RI Board and District 5450, helps our clubs grow membership. Flexibility in membership and classification is a critical issue and a means of attracting new members and younger members. We in District 5400 believe that this will allow us to grow membership. The growth in membership will also provide more funding to The Rotary Foundation, which helps us in “Serving Humanity.”

We are very supportive of Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF ST. GEORGE (DISTRICT 5420)
ROTARY CLUB OF NEWTON (DISTRICT 5690)
ROTARY E-CLUB OF DISTRICT 5810
ROTARY CLUB OF BOERNE SUNRISE (DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We support Proposed Enactment 16-36, to provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to remove or modify the membership classification system to make the club more attractive to current and new members. We support this measure that will attract quality new members to Rotary based not necessarily on their professional classification, but rather on their desire to do good in our world and “serve humanity.” Additionally, we support this enactment to allow Rotaractors who are already actively involved in Rotary service to further that commitment to serve by also becoming a member of a Rotary club. Rotary should be “inclusive” not “exclusive,” and should provide an avenue for all quality individuals to become members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF FORT COLLINS (DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins endorses the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements that affect the composition of their membership and how a club may wish to manage its membership.

We strongly support the ability for clubs to modify the “classification system” and its associated requirements and limitations, as it is an outdated concept. At the base level, the classification system’s original intention was probably to encourage some level of diversity among the membership, who happened to all be business people or professionals, and all older white males, who might feel some level of competition with similar business men. But “diversity” is much more than a job or industry, and it is time for Rotary to recognize that, and find ways to measure and encourage all varieties of diversity both visible and invisible - race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, gender preference, etc. Any litmus test should be based on the heart for service, the willingness to engage Rotary and participate in events, and the ability or willingness to keep dues and charitable contributions current. Other “litmus” tests, such as “classification” are outdated and not in Rotary’s best interest.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins supports Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LARAMIE SUNRISE
(DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Rotary Club of Laramie Sunrise supports Proposed Enactment 16-36, allowing the individual club to determine their membership classification system.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF LOVELAND MOUNTAIN VIEW
(DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

These changes will allow clubs to offer more flexibility in the places needed. In our club, all of our members have full time jobs and flexibility is of the utmost importance.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF POWELL (DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Rotary Club of Powell, District 5440, supports Proposed Enactment 16-36, to allow Rotary clubs the flexibility to manage their own membership. A club can decide whether to maintain its traditional rules or adjust rules to meet the needs of its members. Some of our rules “Is it fair to all concerned?”, and “Will it be beneficial to all concerned?” will allow clubs the freedom to attract new members and to work with their current members on how to manage their members. Not only will this rule benefit Rotary clubs, but also benefit the communities that we serve.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SHERIDAN (DISTRICT 5440)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

I support Proposed Enactment 16-36, which would allow for flexibility in membership and classification.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5450
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

District 5450 hereby expresses its support for Proposed Enactment 16-36 to be considered by the 2016 Council on Legislation.

A very similar proposal with virtually identical objectives was discussed and considered by members of District 5450, including its executive committee and operations committee. This proposal was overwhelmingly adopted by a ballot-by-mail from the clubs in District 5450 on 10 December 2014.

District 5450 firmly believes that individual clubs should have the flexibility to modify the membership classification system. In many clubs, the burden of conforming to the classification system is not justified and, in many instances, has created a chilling effect on attracting new members. Clubs are in the best position to determine which classification rules, if any, best fit their communities.

This flexibility is necessary for clubs to properly respond to and change with shifting societal customs and expectations. Approval of this proposed enactment will position clubs to make appropriate changes that will attract and retain high quality members. Under this proposed enactment, a club may modify any or all of the existing classification rules. If a club does nothing, the existing requirements will remain in place.

This enactment does not change or jeopardize the core values of Rotary. It allows clubs to be more accessible to members of their communities, which will increase membership. Clubs will be in a better position to honor their traditions yet be open to new approaches to attract and retain members.

For these reasons, District 5450 supports Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5470
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

In consultation with district leadership, I hereby submit this statement in support of Proposed Enactment 16-36. This merely codifies what the clubs are doing in substance anyway. They currently use innovative tactics to create classifications to permit good people to become members. Their efforts are limited only by their imaginations. I know of no one who has been denied membership over classification.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5520
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The clubs of District 5520 understand that the forthcoming Council on Legislation will consider Proposed Enactment 16-36, which would provide Rotary clubs flexibility to remove or modify the membership classification system in their club bylaws and to modify some of the provisions regarding membership while maintaining the prohibition on limiting membership on the basis of gender, race, color, creed, national origin or sexual orientation.

The clubs of District 5520 feel that this flexibility is an important factor in their remaining relevant in their communities and in their retaining and engaging members. Such flexibility is important in maintaining membership and attracting new members.

On behalf of our clubs, I wish to register District 5520's support for Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF RAPID CITY RUSHMORE
(DISTRICT 5610)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We support this proposed legislation and feel that it would encourage growth.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF KEARNEY DAWN
(DISTRICT 5630)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We have seen our membership and participation in activities increase this year due to the flexibility given members and their classification.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF O'NEILL (DISTRICT 5630)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Rotary Club of O'Neill supports Proposed Enactment 16-36, to provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to remove or modify the membership classification system to make the club more attractive to current and new members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ST. PAUL (DISTRICT 5630)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Rotary Club of St. Paul, District 5630, strongly supports Proposed Enactment 16-36. We feel that flexibility in membership and classification can only be helpful in the recruitment of new members.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF DE SOTO (DISTRICT 5710)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The flexibility afforded by this amendment will help clubs from small, rural towns continue to grow. We do not always have the representative diversity that would be more typical of larger, urban area clubs. We urge the Council to say yes to Proposed Enactment 16-36, allowing for more flexibility in membership and classification.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ADA SUNRISE (DISTRICT 5770)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We urge support of this item. We feel the classification system does not accurately reflect the reality we live in, especially concerning younger members. Our established members are likely to change career paths, not only changing places of employment but also working in entirely different professions. Their original classifications no longer reflect the reality of their occupations. For them, the system becomes an archaic reminder that at least part of Rotary is out of step with the world in which they live.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORMAN-CROSS TIMBERS
(DISTRICT 5770)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We understand that at the forthcoming Council on Legislation, Proposed Enactment 16-36 will be proposed by the RI Board to allow for flexibility in membership and classification.

This matter has been discussed and considered by the Rotary Club of Norman-Cross Timbers, District 5770, and we favor the proposal as allowing Rotary clubs the right to greater flexibility to meet the needs of their members, club and community.

On behalf of our Rotary club, we wish to register our support for the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-36, to amend the RI Constitution, RI Bylaws, and Standard Rotary Club Constitution to allow for flexibility in membership and classification.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF NORMAN-SOONER
(DISTRICT 5770)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We are aware of some changes to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution that will be voted on at the upcoming Council on Legislation in Chicago—specifically, decisions regarding membership and classification.

These issues have been discussed at length amongst the Norman-Sooner club members, as we ourselves face the membership challenges that accompany strict attendance policies and narrow membership guidelines. We support changes that would allow for flexibility on the part of the local club to make decisions that will best benefit its particular situation

We would like to register our support for the proposed changes outlined in Proposed Enactment 16-36 to be considered by the Council on Legislation.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5790
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

I think the decision to give clubs the flexibility to make their own road map for success is necessary to have vibrant clubs.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5840
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We support flexibility to grow Rotary.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF FAIR OAKS RANCH
(DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

I respectfully submit a statement of support for Proposed Enactment 16-36, “To allow for flexibility in membership and classification.”

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF FREDERICKSBURG-MORNING
(DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

The Rotary Club of Fredericksburg--Morning endorses the idea of giving clubs the ability to craft rules or requirements that affect the composition of their membership and how a club may wish to manage their membership.

Ours is a growing club in a small town. Our membership in the last several years has increased from 31 to 46 members. We have been a 100% PHF Club and have consistently been a 100% Sustaining Member Club. In fact, for the 2014-2015 year we were recognized as one of the top three per capita clubs in the district in our giving to the Foundation. Our continued growth is dependent on our ability to be as flexible as possible in our membership management practices.

The changes proposed in 16-36 will give our club the freedom to implement new actions and also honor what many clubs, including ours, have found to be successful and have been deciding and doing for years:

- Creating various membership types in addition to active and honorary
- Determining how former or transferring members are accepted into the club
- Determining whether it is possible to be a member in more than one club
- Allowing Rotaractors to become Rotary club members while they still are Rotaractors
- Determining how a club manages the resource of honorary membership

For these reasons our club supports Proposed Enactment 16-36.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5870
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

I am in favor of Proposed Enactment 16-36 allowing for flexibility in the classification system. Diversity in a club is important, but with the growing diversity in the workforce I think it will happen naturally. The classification system just limits us on creative options for increasing membership.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5890
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

We support this change.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ANGLETON (DISTRICT 5890)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

On behalf of the members of the Rotary Club of Angleton, I would like to express my support for Proposed Enactment 16-36, "To allow for flexibility in membership and classification." As smaller clubs like ours struggle to secure new members, we have a need to offer flexibility in the way we recruit and classify members in order to retain existing members and attract new ones. Please pass this legislation to help enable small Rotary clubs to survive in today's world.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTHSIDE CORPUS CHRISTI
(DISTRICT 5930)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-36**

To allow for flexibility in membership and classification

This statement is in support of allowing for flexibility in membership and classification, which will provide individual Rotary clubs the flexibility to remove or modify the membership classification system in their club bylaws and to modify some of the provisions regarding membership. Without this flexibility, Rotary may continue to experience a declining and aging membership base.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY
(DISTRICT 5010)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-38**

To revise the provisions for membership

Our club members are absolutely and emphatically in favor of this proposed enactment to amend the RI Constitution to change the composition of clubs. In our community, we need to be able to have flexibility to determine the type of membership best suited to achieve our Rotary club's goals, and the goals and mission of RI. We like the new composition of club membership that is proposed here very much. It is "ideal" we believe.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-39**

To revise the provisions regarding membership of alumni

The Board of Directors of Rotary International believes this enactment proposed by the Rotary Club of Tamagawa, of District 2750, in Japan, is consistent with and in support of the January 2014 decisions of the RI Board and The Rotary Foundation Trustees to expand the definition of alumni to include former participants of all Rotary programs. This enactment would bring the Rotary constitutional documents in line with the January 2014 decisions of both Boards and thereby broaden the base of potential Rotarians to include all alumni of any programs of Rotary. The alumni of Rotary are generally some of the most knowledgeable non-Rotarians about Rotary and have had wonderful experiences from Rotary programs. These alumni are generally interested in becoming a Rotarian and giving back to their communities and the world. This enactment is clearly in support of one of Rotary's major and necessary goals of membership development and growth.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-39.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-40**

To allow Rotaractors to be active members

The Board of Directors of Rotary International endorses the idea of including current Rotaractors in Rotary club membership. Rotaractors would still need to satisfy the qualifications of membership (business, professional and/or community leaders.

This proposed enactment explicitly qualifies Rotaractors for membership in a Rotary club and provides a pathway to membership for Rotaractors who wish to join RI. This enactment recognizes the special skills of Rotaractors who may already have up to twelve years of Rotary experience in leadership and service projects through Rotaract.

While this enactment will allow Rotaractors to become members of Rotary concurrently, it does not automatically allow Rotaractors to become Rotarians. They must still be invited into a club, they must meet the qualifications of membership, and they must be a person of good character and good business, professional and/or community reputation.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-40.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF HOMER-KACHEMAK BAY
(DISTRICT 5010)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-41**

**To revise membership criteria to prohibit those who have never worked
from becoming members**

Our club members are adamantly and vehemently opposed to revising membership criteria to prohibit those who have never worked from becoming members. This is a poorly-worded and inaccurately stated proposal that is very confusing. It seems to prohibit those who have “never worked” from becoming Rotary club members. However, what does “work” mean? Perhaps the proposers believe those who take care of their homes and families are not working? Or maybe they are prohibiting those who have never worked for pay? In either case, if the person has shown he/she is a leader in the community and has done volunteer work, is of good character, integrity and reputation, and is willing to serve the community and the world, why on earth would we not want those people as Rotarians?!

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-45**

To provide for a new category of membership: associate membership

The Board of Directors of Rotary International endorses the idea of creating the additional membership category of associate member. Associate members must satisfy the qualifications of membership (business, professional and/or community leaders).

One of the primary reasons people join Rotary is to establish relationships in the community. Associate memberships are an easy way for qualified prospective members to try a club and get to know other people in their community. Clubs participating in Rotary's Associate Member pilot program have concluded that after these associate members have made friends within the club, they are more likely to join.

This enactment creates a category of membership that is frequently used in many membership organizations as a way for qualified potential members to familiarize themselves with the organization before making a long term commitment. It also lowers the barriers of entry for qualified, younger members to join at a time when there are many other, perhaps higher, priorities in life – business, family, and other engagements.

One of Rotary's membership growth objectives is to engage qualified members who are in their late 20s, and their 30s and 40s. Associate membership provides a tool and incentive that is relevant to this demographic group. This also could be an attractive option for Rotaractors who wish to join a Rotary club when they are too old for Rotaract.

Concern has been expressed that existing members might downgrade their current status to become an associate member. Arguably, anyone who would want to make this change would be considering departing Rotary entirely anyway. The associate status may keep members who otherwise might leave the club.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-45.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF BAR HARBOR (MOUNT DESERT
ISLAND) (DISTRICT 7790)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-45**

To provide for a new category of membership: associate membership

Proposed Enactment 16-45 provides for a new category of associate membership, but limits it to persons between the ages of 20 and 34. Our club fully supports establishment of the new category, but suggests that the Council eliminate the age restriction.

Our club was one of the 200 participants in the Associate Member Pilot Program, which has been a boon to our club, increasing membership from 61 to 80 and lowering the median age from 65 to 57. Over the past three and a half years, we have inducted 29 associate members. Some have left, but 12 became active members, and 12 remain associate members. Those who chose to become active members did it on their own schedule because they chose to – not because of some artificial age requirement.

All of our members, whether active or associate, have been engaged and active in club committees, projects and fundraisers. Each enriches our club with their experience and contributes to the functioning of our club. Four of those who became full active members presently serve on the board of directors.

The average age of associate members when they joined was 41.5! If the proposed age restriction of being between 20 and 34 were in effect, only eight of the 29 would have been eligible. Based on a survey, none of those who responded would have joined if not for the associate membership program, including the four who are now serving on the board. Ten of the 12 associate members remaining are already over the age of 35 (average age 47.7). Only one of those who responded to the survey will remain in the club if they are required to become active members.

Rotary cannot afford to lose this valuable resource. While it is desirable to attract younger members, it is also important to grow membership by adding new Rotarians, regardless of age.

As an alternative to losing this valuable resource and limiting the reach of Rotary in our community, we recommend that this proposed enactment be amended to delete any reference to age and allow associate members to continue in that capacity indefinitely.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF SEGUIN SUNRISE
(DISTRICT 5840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-54**

To amend the duties of the president

The Rotary Club of Seguin Sunrise supports Proposed Enactment 16-54, which amends the duties of the president.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-55**

**To provide for the president-nominee to be a non-voting participant at
meetings of the RI Board**

This proposed enactment would add the president-nominee to the Board as a non-voting participant. The Board supports this legislation for the following reasons:

- Continuity is a high priority throughout Rotary – at the club, district, zone and senior leadership levels. By attending Board meetings, the president-nominee is able to observe and listen to the debate, rationale and strategic purpose of board decisions prior to becoming a president-elect. This increased awareness and knowledge leads to better multiyear planning.
- Similarly, many of the most critical issues facing Rotary today require a multiyear focus, effort and commitment. With the annual change of the office of the president, it is critical that incoming presidents have a full understanding and engagement in these efforts, and that they feel they were a part of the decision so that they are committed to the issue during their term in office.
- The practice of engaging the president-nominee is a well-established practice in clubs, districts and zones. If it is good enough for the rest of Rotary, it should be good enough for Rotary’s highest office.
- Nominal cost to support, encourage and foster continuity.

It has been the Board’s practice over the last several years to invite the president-nominee to attend all Board meetings following his declaration by the RI president on 1 October each year. For these reasons, the Board believes that this practice should be made a requirement in the bylaws.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-55.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-56**

To amend the rules for selecting the RI president-nominee

The Board of Directors of Rotary International believes this enactment proposed by the Rotary Clubs of Carson City and Grass Valley, of District 5190, and District 6040, all in the USA, is not in the best interest of RI and is not needed for the intended purposes stated in the purpose and effect statement submitted by the proposers.

The effect of the proposed enactment is to instruct and/or suggest that the RI Board schedule the meeting of the Nominating Committee for RI President, including candidate interviews, in conjunction with the annual RI Convention. The Board believes that this would have a negative impact on the convention experience for most Rotarians. Having the selection of the RI President occur at, during, or in conjunction with the annual RI Convention elevates the likelihood of campaigning, either directly or indirectly, during the convention.

Currently, the Nominating Committee for RI President meets in Evanston each August at a time when there are no other RI meetings in the building. This allows the committee to arrive at an independent decision without being influenced. In 2015, the RI Board adopted a policy to invite the top six candidates selected by the committee to be interviewed in person by the committee. This worked well in 2015 and will be continued going forward.

Finally, the Board notes that this enactment would increase the cost to RI for the committee. In addition, as the committee comprises representatives of 17 of Rotary's 34 zones, substantial interpretation is needed for the operation of the committee, and the availability of interpreters is better and the costs for them is less in the Evanston area than during our annual RI Convention.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors opposes Proposed Enactment 16-56.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-59**

To revise the qualifications for director

This proposed enactment would eliminate the requirement that candidates for the office of director must have attended at least two institutes and one convention in the 36-month period prior to being proposed. The RI Board opposes this legislation for the following reasons:

- To be effective, well-informed leaders, directors must be current on all issues, and programs of Rotary. This information is best obtained at the Rotary Convention and institutes. By eliminating this requirement, directors could come into office without the necessary history, perspective, or information.
- The basis of Rotary is the relationships we create at all levels of the organization. Attending the institute is necessary to establish, cultivate, and engage Rotarians throughout the zones – the very people directors will represent. This is particularly critical of the newest classes of leadership – the governors, governors-elect, and governors-nominee. These classes are fertile ground for new talent and resources that directors will need during their years of service. Further, it is essential that a director develops a relationship with, and an understanding of, the Past District Governors, as one of the most important responsibilities of a Director is to develop a regional leadership team, and make assignments, based on the breadth of all Rotarians in the zone. If the director candidates do not attend their institutes, they will miss the opportunity to meet and know an important constituency.
- Attending the conventions is essential because this is the best event to expose developing leaders to projects, programs and senior leadership. The information conveyed at these events is essential knowledge to wise governance and leadership.
- If candidates are unable to attend the institutes and convention because of other scheduling conflicts before they become directors, it is likely that they will be challenged with the responsibilities of being a director, which require a higher level of commitment and time for district visits, zone, district, and club events, attendance at the institutes, convention, and Board and committee meetings.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors opposes Proposed Enactment 16-59.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MORADABAD (EAST)
(DISTRICT 3100)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-63**

**To amend the qualifications for membership on the nominating committee
for director**

It has been observed in several districts that current governors are also offering themselves for the post. This situation is not fair as most of the clubs or club presidents, who are the voters, are inclined to favor their governor. Also, without completing the governorship tenure a person should not be considered eligible as at that point in time he has not proven his credentials. This sort of anomaly was also present during the 90s for Council on Legislation representative which was rectified. Hence, we support the enactment.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-71**

To revise the provisions regarding concurrences to challenges

This enactment would make it more difficult for clubs to challenge the selection of the nominating committee for governor. Currently, as few as five clubs can force the district to conduct a ballot-by-mail or conference vote between the candidate selected by the nominating committee and a challenging candidate. These challenges can often lead to disharmony and confusion in a district. The RI Board believes that requiring a greater number of clubs for challenges will reduce the number of challenges in the Rotary world and thereby lessen the administrative burden on districts to conduct a subsequent ballot to select the governor-nominee.

The Board notes that this proposed enactment would not affect a district's ability to elect its governor-nominee by either a ballot-by-mail or conference vote instead of a nominating committee if that is the wish of the district.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-71.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ESCALON SUNRISE
(DISTRICT 5220)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-75**

To amend the provisions for selecting the vice-governor

The role of vice-governor was established to provide continuity when a governor cannot carry out his/her duties and responsibilities. Rather than rely on a random selection process, it makes sense to me that the individual who will be governor should be able to pick the person that he/she feels best able to work with and who can and will be willing to carry out the governor's vision in conducting district training and meeting events. If a person is to take over in case of an emergency, he/she should in some way have been involved in the planning processes for those events, at least as an interested observer. I believe the position of vice-governor should not be a passive one, sitting back and waiting to see if an emergency arises. The individual should prepare himself/herself to step in. We allow the governor, governor-elect, and governor-nominee to make a number of important appointments to help meet district and RI goals and policies; he/she should be allowed to choose the person who might need to take over and insure continuity through the remainder of the Rotary year.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-81**

To authorize the RI Board to suspend or terminate a club for litigation-related actions and to amend the provisions for repeated election complaints from a district

This proposed enactment would amend the RI Bylaws to authorize the RI Board to suspend or terminate a club that sues RI over an election complaint or that retains in its membership an individual that sues RI over an election complaint, unless the club has first exhausted RI's internal election complaint procedures. The proposal would also slightly broaden the existing authority of the Board to take appropriate remedial action where there are two or more successful election complaints in a district within a five-year period. Currently, the Board's authority is limited to complaints related to elections for district governor. This enactment would expand it to apply to all district elections.

Election-related lawsuits and election complaints have become too common in recent years. Responding to lawsuits costs Rotary money and resources. There have been 13 election lawsuits in the last three years. Over the past three years, Rotary has spent an average of US\$20,000 a year to defend election lawsuits. The RI Bylaws provide a fair mechanism for resolving election complaints and should be utilized. Yet clubs and individuals have filed lawsuits against RI, as well as the RI president, general secretary and staff, without using these available remedies. The proposal would hopefully discourage this expensive, disruptive and counterproductive behavior.

Further, while the RI Bylaws currently provide the Board with substantial authority to take punitive action against individuals who engage in improper election activities in district governor elections, the RI Bylaws do not specifically authorize the Board to take the same actions in regard to other district-related elections, such as the selection of the representative to the Council on Legislation. This proposal would remedy this limitation.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-81.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ESCALON SUNRISE
(DISTRICT 5220)
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-81**

To authorize the RI Board to suspend or terminate a club for litigation-related actions and to amend the provisions for repeated election complaints from a district

I am opposed to this proposed legislation for three reasons:

- 1) I do not get a sense of how many times repeated election complaints occur and what the actual cost is to Rotary. Is it isolated to one part of the world, or is it a pervasive problem? The financial considerations included in our binder state that there would be no cost to RI if this enactment is approved, but what are the actual savings in litigation costs?
- 2) The RI Bylaws already list severe penalties for individuals involved in election complaints, including disqualification, removal from office, and declaring a current or past RI officer to no longer have that status. This enactment seems like overkill in punishing a club for the actions of a member over which it may or may not have control.
- 3) In the United States and probably other countries, I am not sure if any organization or club can negotiate or legislate away a person's right to seek redress for a grievance he or she feels has been done to them. Are we setting Rotary up for additional litigation costs if the new language is approved?

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-84**

To revise the Board's authority to change district boundaries

The purpose of this enactment is to provide greater flexibility in allowing changes to district boundaries in both smaller and larger districts, merging smaller adjacent districts, and moving clubs from one district to another. Currently, the RI Board is unable to eliminate or change the boundaries of any district with fewer than 33 clubs or fewer than 1,100 Rotarians over the objection of the majority of clubs in the involved districts.

Currently, there are approximately 24 districts with fewer than 1,100 Rotarians and 40 districts have between 1,100 and 1,200 Rotarians. Some districts have been unable to reach or maintain 1,100 members. On the other side, 32 districts have over 100 clubs. Districts with over 100 clubs and 5,000 members can present tremendous logistical challenges for governors.

The average size of a Rotary district is 65 clubs and 2,258 Rotarians. Currently, the smallest district has 27 clubs and 476 Rotarians and the largest district has 173 clubs and 7,317 Rotarians. The essential consideration in looking at districting changes is that the overall number of Rotarians has remained constant at approximately 1.2 million members for the past twenty-four years despite an increase of 44 districts. In 1992, Rotary had 491 districts and today there are 535 districts. It has been easy to create new districts where needed but there are many difficulties in consolidating districts or moving clubs from one district to another. Often, a smaller district that is surrounded by larger districts cannot easily find a district or districts that will take in their clubs.

The Board seeks to realign district boundaries in consultation with local leadership to better support and strengthen Rotary clubs.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-84.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF MAEBASHI (DISTRICT 2840)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-87**

To allow districts to add a geographical name to their district number

All districts are currently given numbers by RI for identification. This results in the universal tendency that while members can recognize their own districts immediately, it is very often difficult for them to understand geographical locations of distant districts unless they regularly communicate with the districts. Although it would be difficult to add geographical names to districts containing more than two countries or regions, if districts will be allowed to use geographical names for their districts (upon a single majority vote at district conferences or resolution meetings), it would facilitate networking of members and further friendship. There would be no administrative issues for RI, since the current district numbers remain the same.

We would like to ask for the understanding and support from many representatives.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-90**

To provide for a membership committee of RI

The Board of Directors of Rotary International endorses the idea of establishing a standing committee to support membership.

The one committee that is focused on, and responsible for, membership is an ad hoc committee that is convened at the direction of the RI president. Traditionally, each incoming Rotary president can determine whether or not to appoint a committee on membership, who serves on the committee, when and how they meet, and the terms of reference for a given year. This pattern has created a situation in which the guidance of membership is neither consistent nor strategic. By establishing a standing committee, it will foster greater permanence, continuity, and priority on the critical area of membership growth.

Continuity of the committee personnel is an essential element of longer term thinking, planning, and execution. Creating a standing committee that ensures that its members will be appointed to a three-year term will promote strategic planning and consistent execution.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-90.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-93**

To amend the terms of reference for the Strategic Planning Committee

This enactment is proposed by the Board of Directors of Rotary International to create a joint Strategic Planning Committee for RI and The Rotary Foundation. In recent years, the Rotary Strategic Planning Committee has been moving in this direction by allowing Trustee liaisons to fully participate and basically act as voting members. A major difference for the Rotary Strategic Planning Committee, with this enactment and as it has operated in the last couple of years, is to remove current Directors and Trustees from consideration for membership on this committee and truly make it an advisory committee to the RI Board and Rotary Foundation Trustees. Another major change is the equal annual appointments of committee members from the RI Board and Rotary Foundation Trustees. The RI Board believes this will allow the best and most qualified Rotarians to be found and appointed to the Rotary Strategic Planning Committee in order to plan and make recommendations to the RI Board and Rotary Foundation Trustees. The RI Board believes this enactment will allow RI and The Rotary Foundation to be better aligned as decisions are made for the future of Rotary.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-93.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-97**

To amend the subscription requirements for the Rotary magazine

The Board of Directors believes that enhancing our public relations is one of the most important priorities for our organization. It is important that Rotarians worldwide understand the full scope of our organization's work. The magazines are an essential part of the effort to ensure our story is widely known, and that our members understand and are proud of our organizations many accomplishments.

All of our communication tools – the magazine, social media, websites, and other channels – play important roles in telling our story. Our magazines remain the only direct communication channel that is able to reach every Rotarian all over the world. The magazines are one of the means we have to inspire and engage our members.

The magazines are fully integrated in our communication plans and are used together with the other channels. The magazines represent our key promotional vehicle for Rotary's major initiatives, tools, campaigns and events. The magazines provide us with a platform to develop stories in depth and bring important information to each member.

Messages such as the ones from the President of Rotary International and those from the Chair of the Trustees are very valuable, but the magazines also allow us to communicate on significant priorities and initiatives such as the Centennial of the Foundation, the Global Reward Initiative, and the convention. By telling member and projects stories, the magazines inspire members to take action. In addition, the magazines effectively communicate organization changes such as club invoicing.

The regional licensed Rotary magazines source their own material and provide a depth of information not available anywhere else. These magazines are a source of global, regionalized content and stories that can be shared and curated throughout the entire network and channels.

If approved, this action would destabilize the revenue model for all the Rotary magazines by reducing their subscribing base. Smaller Rotary regional magazines will be unlikely to survive under these conditions leaving large gaps in Rotary's communication network. The remaining magazines would have to reduce their quality.

We should be proud of the regional magazine network Rotarians have supported and created, and maintain this critical communications resource.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors opposes Proposed Enactment 16-97.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-98**

To support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions

This proposed enactment is submitted by the Rotary Club of Madison, District 6250, USA.

The proposed enactment would add an article to the RI Bylaws and amend Article 13, Section 1 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. While environmental issues are important global concerns, they are outside of the scope of Rotary's six areas of focus. Moreover, global warming is a controversial issue in some parts of the world and is therefore inconsistent with Article 13, Section 3 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, which states that Rotary be non-political.

- This issue is not within the scope of the purposes of Rotary (Article 3) nor the Object of Rotary (Article 4).
- It is not desirable or essential to include a project in our constitutional documents. For example, our current corporate priority, eradicating polio, is not included in Rotary's constitutional documents.
- This enactment appears to propose that Rotary establish global environmental concerns as one of our corporate priorities, which is not consistent with The Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus.
- Further, Rotary has no expertise, resources, or protocols by which to address environmental concerns. Approving this enactment could cost Rotary substantial resources to support.
- This legislation is not necessary to allow clubs to take this action. There is no current reason or restriction against clubs supporting environmental concerns. In fact, the Rotary Code of Policies Article 8.040.5. encourages clubs to consider environmental projects as part of their community service.
- The RI Board has recognized both the Environmental Sustainability Rotarian Action Group and the Environment Fellowship of Rotarians to connect members of the family of Rotary interested in addressing environmental concerns.

While the RI Board and Rotary agrees that protecting the global environment is important, the decision on how to address environmental concerns through service is best left up to clubs and districts.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors opposes Proposed Enactment 16-98.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-99**

To increase per capita dues

The Board of Directors of Rotary International has requested the Council to approve a US\$1 dues increase for each year beginning in fiscal year 2018 through fiscal year 2020. Current per capita dues are US\$55 per year. Per capita dues were approved by the 2013 Council on Legislation to increase to US\$56 per year for 2016-2017. This enactment would increase per capita dues by US\$1 each year for the following three years 2017-18 through 2019-20.

RI has revenues from three primary sources: membership dues, investment return and services and other activities.

Net investment return is very volatile. While fiscal year 2014 ended with positive results of US\$15.9 million, in fiscal year 2015 we budgeted conservatively with a five percent return, but experienced losses of US\$2.5 million. Net investment returns are not a consistent source of reliable revenues.

Membership dues provide 65 percent of Rotary's revenues and are the primary source of financing for RI's operations, therefore membership and its growth are a priority. Revenues from dues support essential services that are critical to the continued success of RI's service to clubs and districts, including membership development and retention, RI programs (Rotaract and Interact), communications, international IT infrastructure and member services, staff resources, officer and district governor travel, and training expenses.

The Board believes that it is fiscally responsible to increase membership dues each year to absorb projected inflationary increases instead of reducing services to members. The recommended increase in annual per capita dues is approximately two percent.

The Board and secretariat continue to research and implement process improvements, cost reduction efforts, and staff benefit changes such as the pension termination, which partially offset inflationary and other increases and help Rotary to remain financially stable. Additionally, the Board is actively exploring other revenue options.

It is important to note that Rotary has not been able to fund strategic initiatives in communications and membership from its operations budget but instead has utilized dollars from the General Surplus Fund or 'savings.' Additionally, major investments in technology infrastructure and projects have been delayed. In order to make more significant investments in Rotary's future, a dues increase of more than US\$1 would be necessary.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-99.

**STATEMENT BY DISTRICT 5390
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-100**

To increase per capita dues

This COL item is of preference over Proposed Enactment 16-99. If implemented, the dues increase is done (and soon forgotten by the masses), rather than carrying it on for 3 years. A dues increase is in order due to the increasing costs of running an organization the size and scope of RI. To be effective in this day and age, RI needs a strong robust website and a lot of technologically-advanced capabilities, all of which require more money than needed in the past to run the organization.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-102**

**To waive per capita dues for one of the members when two married people
are both members of the same club**

The Board of Directors of Rotary International does not agree with waiving per capita dues when two married people are both members of the same club.

If RI waives per capita dues for one of the lawfully married persons of the same club, revenues would decrease while expenses associated with membership would remain.

In addition to lower revenues, there would be an increase in expenses to collect and maintain marriage data, and to invoice only one of the members. This would require Rotary to track and monitor spousal relationships, which is currently not the case. Each individual member of Rotary, married or not, is treated as an equal in every way, without discrimination.

In addition, the dues from RI are not usually a significant component of the dues paid by a member, as the member dues include district dues, clubs dues, and other meeting expenses such as meals.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors opposes Proposed Enactment 16-102.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-104**

To provide that each club pays dues for a minimum of 10 members

This enactment would amend the RI Bylaws to require that each club pay per capita dues for a minimum of 10 members. The ten member minimum RI dues payment was removed from the RI Bylaws in 2013. Currently, clubs pay RI per capita dues for the exact number of members certified by the club president and secretary in their club report.

- New clubs are required to have a minimum of 20 charter members. However, once chartered, clubs are not required to maintain a minimum number of members. There are approximately 9,000 clubs worldwide that are below the charter level of 20 members, and of these, over 1,100 clubs have fewer than 10 members.
- Dues help Rotary to achieve its purposes as noted in the Strategic Plan, which are: Support and Strengthen Clubs; Focus and Increase Humanitarian Service; and Enhance Public Image and Awareness.
- Membership dues are the primary means of funding Rotary's operations. Revenues from dues support essential services that are vital to the continued success of clubs and districts, including services to clubs and districts, membership development and retention, RI programs (Rotaract and Interact), communications, international IT infrastructure and member services, staff resources, officer and district governor travel, and training expenses.
- Approximately US\$65 million of RI's operating expenses annually are funded by dues from approximately 33,000 clubs, averaging approximately US\$2,200 per club. The minimum dues payment would be US\$550 (based on fiscal year 2016 per capita dues of US\$27.50 per half year for ten members).
- If the clubs with fewer than 10 members were charged for 10 members, this would provide an annual increase of approximately US\$200,000 in dues revenue for RI.
- There are approximately 150 clubs with one to five members and 950 clubs with six to nine members. Requiring clubs to pay for a minimum of 10 members may encourage membership growth in smaller clubs, or smaller clubs may merge with local clubs which may result in a more dynamic environment to support club growth.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-104.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-108**

To revise the process for consideration of legislation

This proposed enactment would allow the Rules of Procedure adopted at each Council on Legislation to include provisions that would allow the Council the flexibility to consider and act upon certain items of legislation prior to the convening of the Council.

This item is one of seven items that comes to the Council as a result of the work of the Council on Legislation Review Committee. After the 2013 Council on Legislation, the RI Board appointed the committee to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. This committee believed that the Council should have some way to review proposed legislation prior to its in-person meeting. The committee believed that the Rules of Procedure should be revised but as the Rules of Procedure are adopted at the Council, the committee recognized that there was a timing issue. As a solution, the committee believed that a provision should be added to the RI Bylaws in order to make it explicit that the Rules of Procedure may provide for the Council to act prior to the Council being convened.

Allowing legislation to be reviewed prior to the Council could allow the Council to act on those items where there is a clear majority of opinion. This would allow additional time for the Council to debate those items that are more strategic in nature or that the Council itself views as more important.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-108.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN OPPOSITION TO
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-109**

To provide for the distribution of minutes for the Council on Legislation

At the conclusion of each Council on Legislation, the RI Bylaws require that the chairman of the Council provide to the General Secretary a comprehensive report of the action taken by the Council within ten days of adjournment of the Council. In addition, the general secretary is required to send to all Rotary clubs a report of action taken by the Council within two months of the adjournment of the Council.

This proposed enactment would provide that minutes be kept of each Council on Legislation and a copy be distributed to anyone who requests it. As the Council takes steps to inform Rotarians of the action taken at the Council, the Board believes that this proposed legislation is unnecessary. In addition, there would be costs associated with providing this service.

For this reason, the Board of Directors opposes Proposed Enactment 16-109.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-112**

To restrict legislation to enactments

This proposed enactment would limit the type of proposed legislation submitted at the Council on Legislation to enactments only. The Board of Directors of RI is not opposed to eliminating resolutions as the Board continues to be open to clubs and districts submitting petitions or memorials directly to the Board on issues of concern.

For this reason, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-112.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-113**

To provide for a Council on Resolutions

This proposed enactment would create an annual online Council on Resolutions to debate and consider resolutions.

This item is one of seven items that comes to the Council as a result of the work of the Council on Legislation Review Committee. After the 2013 Council on Legislation, the RI Board appointed a committee to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. This committee believed that a more appropriate way to consider resolutions would be to review them annually and consider them using electronic communications. The Council on Legislation would continue to meet in-person every three years but would only consider enactments and position statements. Position statements could only be proposed by the RI Board.

The committee believed that an annual Council on Resolutions meeting could make the Council more responsive as the time between meetings would be greatly reduced. Proposed resolutions could be submitted annually and be considered the following year. Having an annual online Council on Resolutions could also allow the Council on Legislation to focus its limited time on enactments and position statements.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-113.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ARLINGTON (DISTRICT 5790)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-113**

To provide for a Council on Resolutions

The Rotary Club of Arlington, through its board of directors, supports the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-113, "To Provide for a Council of Resolutions."

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-116**

**To amend the process for selecting representatives to attend the Council on
Legislation**

This proposed enactment would change the number of representatives attending the Council on Legislation. Under this proposal, each district would be paired with another district and would then alternate sending a representative to attend the in-person meeting of the Council. The result is that the number of representatives attending the in-person meeting would be halved. Currently, each district elects and sends a representative to attend the in-person meeting.

This item is one of seven items that comes to the Council as a result of the work of the Council on Legislation Review Committee. After the 2013 Council on Legislation, the RI Board appointed a committee to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. This committee believed that the current format of the Council was too large to produce good and meaningful debate.

The COL Review Committee made two alternate recommendations to select Council representatives: 16-116 and 16-117. Under this proposal, the committee recommends that each district be paired with another district. Districts would continue to elect a Council Representative and they would serve a six-year term. The two districts would alternate sending a representative to the in-person meeting. Reducing the number of attending representatives from approximately 534 to 267 would allow for better debate and also ensure that districts were still adequately represented. This representation follows the current practice and protocol of the selection of a director in many paired zones, where the past governors of one zone select the director that represent both zones in alternating periods.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-116.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF ARLINGTON (DISTRICT 5790)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-116**

**To amend the process for selecting representatives to attend the Council on
Legislation**

The Rotary Club of Arlington, acting through its board of directors, urges the adoption of Proposed Enactment 16-116, “To amend the process for selecting representatives to attend the Council of Legislation.”

**STATEMENT BY:
ROTARY CLUB OF JONESBORO (DISTRICT 6150)
ROTARY CLUB OF SEARCY (DISTRICT 6150)
ROTARY CLUB OF WYNNE (DISTRICT 6150)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-116**

**To amend the process for selecting representatives to attend the Council on
Legislation**

Because the Council in its current format is too large to produce good debate and make real change, decreasing the number of attendees would allow more complete debate in a less hectic, less cumbersome environment.

Representation would not be compromised and the clubs of both paired districts would be represented in alternate six-year cycles by their respective Council member.

This enactment would have no net financial impact on RI because revenues from additional dues to fund the Council on Legislation will be reduced by an amount equivalent to the reduction in expenses (budget neutral). The clubs will realize a dues reduction.

The expenses for the Council on Legislation in fiscal year 2013 were \$3 million, which included \$1.8 million for 532 representatives to travel to the meeting.

If each district paired with another district and only one representative attended the Council on Legislation, versus one representative from each of the districts, there would be 268 fewer delegates. Estimated cost savings of \$1.5 million could be realized as follows:

- \$900,000 related to airfare, hotel and meals
- \$250,000 related to venue, interpretation equipment, transportation, printing, and other miscellaneous expenses

Our club supports this legislation.

**STATEMENT BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF RI
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-117**

**To amend the process for selecting representatives to attend the Council on
Legislation**

This proposed enactment would change the number of representatives attending the Council on Legislation as voting members. Under this proposal, each zone would be represented at the Council by nine voting members to be selected from the elected representatives.

This item is one of seven items that comes to the Council as a result of the work of the Council on Legislation Review Committee. After the 2013 Council on Legislation, the RI Board appointed a committee to review the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council. This committee believed that the current format of the Council was too large to produce good and meaningful debate. The committee also believed that the disparity in district size resulted in smaller districts having a larger voice at the Council than larger districts.

The COL Review Committee made two alternate recommendations to select representatives: 16-116 and 16-117. Under this proposal, the committee recommends districts continue to elect a Council representative. The names of these representatives would be presented to a zone nominating committee. The zone committee would select nine voting members who would serve at the Council and represent the zone. Since district size varies greatly but each zone has approximately the same number of Rotarians, this proposal would allow for more proportionate representation. It would also reduce the number of voting members from approximately 534 to 306 to allow for better debate.

For these reasons, the Board of Directors supports Proposed Enactment 16-117.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF PEORIA NORTH (DISTRICT 5490)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-117**

**To amend the process for selecting representatives to attend the Council on
Legislation**

The purpose and effect statement is very clear. The proposed enactment would be one of the first steps in making the Council on Legislation more efficient and effective. It simply reduces the number of delegates that would attend the Council in person. Districts would still select a representative and then nine zone representatives and up to three alternates would be selected from that pool by a zone nominating committee.

This is a lengthy proposal because of the number of RI Bylaws sections that would have to be altered. However, as just stated, the effect is very easy to understand. You are encouraged to pass this proposal as it simply will make the Council, and in turn Rotary, better able to function.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF GWALIOR MAHANAGAR
(DISTRICT 3053)
IN SUPPORT OF
PROPOSED RESOLUTION 16-133**

**To request the RI Board to consider lowering the maximum age for
membership in Rotaract to 25**

Rotaract was founded by RI to involve youth in Rotary programs by giving them the opportunity to interact with senior Rotarians to build their future and to provide leadership amongst youth to help build the society. The age of 25 years means that most of the Rotaractors are at a stage of completing their education. Therefore, anyone up to the age of 25 years old would make them likeminded and most likely never older than a Rotarian. This age group would keep them in harmony. The present age limit of 30 years old appears to be youth of two different levels. Therefore, my club supports this resolution.

**STATEMENT BY THE ROTARY CLUB OF GWALIOR MAHANAGAR
(DISTRICT 3053)
IN OPPOSITION OF
PROPOSED RESOLUTION 16-134**

To request the RI Board to consider raising the Rotaract age limit to 35

Rotaract was founded by Rotary to provide an opportunity to involve youth in the activities of Rotary. The idea was to involve college-bound youth or those who had just entered business, profession or employment, presumably to have common thinking and approach, to form a group to help Rotarians in their activities and simultaneously build their own character under the guidance of Rotarians. Extending the Rotaract age limit to 35 shall form a group of youth 18 to 35 which may not be able to work homogeneously. This will not help in reducing the average age limit of Rotarians. At times and maybe frequently, a Rotaractor may be elder to a Rotarian. This might take away the advantage of creating Rotaract. My club has supported Proposed Resolution 16-133, to reduce the age limit of Rotaract to 25 and is therefore opposed to this resolution.