

RESOLUTION 17R-15

To request the RI Board to consider defining “service”

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Chiba, District 2790, Japan

Endorsed by: District 2790 through a ballot-by-mail, 21 June 2017

1 WHEREAS, the word “service” is Rotary’s guiding principle and is translated into
2 the languages of various countries, and there are instances in which the
3 translation can cause a nuanced shift in the meaning of the word, and

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5 WHEREAS, such differences in nuance can cause the entire guiding principal of
6 Rotary to be misunderstood in those countries, and

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8 WHEREAS, such misunderstanding leads to confusion about the purpose of RI,
9 which can, in turn, lead to a misguided perception of Rotary, and

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11 WHEREAS, this tends to happen more frequently in non-English speaking
12 countries, and

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14 WHEREAS, “service” needs to be explained in easy-to-understand English, and

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16 WHEREAS, furthermore, it is also desirable to make an official explanation in
17 English of the word “service.” The word may be explained, for instance, as
18 “thoughtfulness and helpfulness to others”

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20 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
21 International consider providing an explanation for “service,” which expresses
22 Rotary’s guiding principle, in easy-to-understand English, and making the
23 English text the official explanation of the word.

(End of Text)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

24 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot
25 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
26 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal, which may require
27 outside consultants on cultural interpretation.