RESOLUTION 19R-07

To request the RI Board to consider amending the Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws

Proposer(s): District 3141, India
Endorsed by: District 3141 through a ballot-by-mail, 27 May-27 June 2019

WHEREAS, the Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws were amended in 2016 to remove language from Article 10, Method for Electing Members, and

WHEREAS, it is important to announce the names of applicants for membership only after they have been approved by the club board and it is equally important to safeguard the names of applicants who have been rejected for membership, and

WHEREAS, it is also essential to determine whether current club members have any objections to the admission of those who have been approved for membership, and

WHEREAS, the club board has final authority over all matters of the club, it should review and make all final decisions regarding the admission of new members to the club, and

WHEREAS, the club should understand and approve the membership of honorary members who have been duly proposed by the club board, and

WHEREAS, it is very important to give new members information on Rotary before they are inducted as a way to improve retention

IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary International consider amending Article 10, Method of Electing Members, of the Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws to restore it to the 2013 language as follows:

Article 10 Method of Electing Members

Section 1 — A member proposes a candidate for membership to the board, or another club proposes one of its transferring or former members. The proposal is kept confidential unless the board instructs otherwise.

Section 2 — The board approves or rejects the candidate’s membership within 30 days and notifies the proposing member of its decision.

Section 3 — If the board approves the candidate’s membership, the prospective member is invited to join the club, be educated about Rotary and membership
requirements, and asked to allow his or her name and proposed classification to be conveyed to the club.

Section 4 — If no member of the club submits a written objection, including a reason for the objection, to the board within seven days after the club is notified of the prospective member, that person, upon payment of the admission fee, if any, and the club dues, is considered to be elected to membership. If an objection has been filed with the board, the board shall vote on this matter. If approved despite the objection, the proposed member is elected to membership after the required payment is made.

Section 5 — The club may elect honorary members proposed by the board.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

It is important to provide new members with Rotary information before they are admitted to membership. A new member so informed is more likely to stay a member. Clubs must also review all proposals for membership, including the proposed member’s classification, prior to admitting new members. This will lead to greater transparency in new member growth.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI. Rotary developed the Club Leadership Plan to simplify the club structure and offer clubs the option to modify their club bylaws as needed.