

# RESOLUTION 19R-10

To request the RI Board to consider making legal services committees mandatory for districts

**Proposer(s):** District 3662, Korea

**Endorsed by:** District 3662 through a ballot-by-mail, 17 June 2019

1 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary  
2 International consider amending the Rotary Code of Policies section 17.030.2.  
3 District Committees, as to the number and type of district committees, as follows:

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5 **Article 17. Rotary Districts**

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7 **17.030. District Leadership Plan**

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9 **17.030.2. District Committees**

10 District committees are charged with carrying out the goals of the district as  
11 formulated by the governor with the advice of the assistant governors. The  
12 governor-elect, governor, and immediate past district governor should work  
13 together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning. The  
14 governor-elect is responsible for appointing committee members to fill  
15 vacancies, appointing committee chairs and conducting planning meetings  
16 prior to the start of the year in office.

17  
18 Committees shall be appointed to address the following administrative  
19 functions:

- 20  
21 A. Membership  
22 B. District Finance  
23 C. District Programs  
24 Interact  
25 Rotaract  
26 Rotary Friendship Exchange  
27 Rotary Youth Exchange  
28 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)  
29 D. District Community Service  
30 E. District International Service  
31 F. District Alumni  
32 G. Public Image  
33 H. District Conference  
34 I. The Rotary Foundation  
35 J. Convention Promotion  
36 K. District Training  
37 L. Legal Services (Legislative)

1 Additional district committees are appointed when they serve a *specific*  
2 function as identified by the governor and the district leadership team.

3  
4 *Committee Descriptions*

5 The following outlines the purpose, additional qualifications, duties and  
6 responsibilities, and additional training requirements for district committees  
7 noted above.  
8

9 L. Legal Services Committee

10  
11 1. Purpose

12 The committee shall provide administrative assistance to the governor in  
13 proposing enactments and resolutions to submit to the Council on  
14 Resolutions and Council on Legislation, and contribute to the advancement  
15 of the district through the adoption of district practices and procedures that  
16 do not conflict with the RI constitution, the RI bylaws, or the standard  
17 Rotary club constitution (collectively known as the constitutional  
18 documents of RI).

19  
20 2. Additional Qualifications of Members

21 Preference should be given to those who have served a full term as a club  
22 president or who have held a key post within the district, and possess a  
23 thorough knowledge of the RI constitutional documents, and are familiar  
24 with the district and its operations.

25  
26 3. Duties and Responsibilities

27 a) Identify issues or inconsistencies within the RI constitution, RI bylaws,  
28 or the standard Rotary club constitution, as well as a means of  
29 correcting them, and submit these in the form of a proposed enactment  
30 to the Council on Legislation.

31  
32 b) Identify issues or inconsistencies within the Rotary Code of Policies or  
33 the programs of RI, as well as a means of correcting them, and submit  
34 these in the form of a proposed resolution to the Council on  
35 Resolutions or as a petition to the RI Board.

36  
37 c) Address issues of district operation or organization that do not fall  
38 under a) or b) as described above, by preparing a recommendation that  
39 can be adopted as a district rule through the decision-making process  
40 of either the district conference, a district legislation meeting, or a  
41 ballot-by-mail.

42  
43 d) For a) and b) described above, the process must be pursued in  
44 cooperation with the Council representative as there are established  
45 procedures on the method of endorsement and submission of  
46 legislation and resolutions to RI. In particular, the deadline for  
47 submitting legislation in clause a) is 31 December in the year preceding  
48 the year of the Council on Legislation, so the committee may identify

1 legislation, but defer submission of these items until the next Council  
2 on Legislation deadline.

3  
4 e) In addition to the district legislation meeting, the committee shall be in  
5 charge of coordinating legislative activity, discussion and voting at the  
6 district conference, as well as arranging district ballots.

7  
8 f) In order to carry out the legislative activities of the district efficiently,  
9 attention and participation from clubs shall be encouraged, including  
10 an open environment in which clubs may contribute their ideas  
11 organizational improvements.

12  
13 g) The chair shall not only maintain a close relationship with district  
14 representatives but also be proactive in soliciting feedback from other  
15 Rotarians about the district and its operation, as well as the larger  
16 Rotary world, and shall also schedule committee meetings to identify  
17 potential legislation or resolutions, discuss relevant measures, and  
18 assign responsibilities to each respective committee member.

19  
20 4. Additional Training Requirements

21 The chair and committee members are strongly encouraged to attend  
22 training events at the zone level in order to acquire a more comprehensive  
23 knowledge of Rotary. It is particularly important that they attend the  
24 council on legislation sessions at the Rotary Institutes.

(End of Text)

**PURPOSE AND EFFECT**

25 There is no official group among the district's committees that can competently  
26 solicit and draft enactments and resolutions for the Council on Legislation and  
27 Council on Resolutions.

28  
29 Even though it is the governor who confirms the district's endorsement of the  
30 enactments and resolutions above, the reality is that governors are not involved  
31 in drafting legislation as this is often misperceived to be the responsibility of the  
32 Council representative.

33  
34 From the governor's standpoint, the timing for submitting enactments is within  
35 six months of the start of their term. They have neither the time nor the energy  
36 to identify quality proposals as most of their schedule is filled with official club  
37 visits, zone training sessions, and district seminars, not to mention membership  
38 development initiatives and fundraising for The Rotary Foundation.

39  
40 As for Council representatives, approximately 80 percent are new, which makes it  
41 difficult to provide guidance to districts or clubs on drafting effective proposals  
42 and limits their development in that regard. This provides the opportunity for

1 the 20 percent of reelected representatives to take control of the proceedings at  
2 the Council on Legislation.

3  
4 In both the 2016 and 2019 Councils on Legislation about 117 enactments were  
5 considered. Even taking into account compromise legislation and Board  
6 proposals, the fact that over 50 percent of Rotary's 538 districts did not even  
7 submit a single item of legislation shows that there is a fundamental institutional  
8 problem.

9  
10 In addition to the above, it might also be added that district legislation meetings  
11 are by no means regularly held or well attended. This is not surprising, as other  
12 facets of a district's operation, whether financial, administrative, or  
13 philanthropic, will also be poorly coordinated if it has no centralized  
14 administration. Under these circumstances, the district can easily lose the  
15 confidence of its clubs and their members.

16  
17 Such issues do not stem from any deficiency on the part of the governor but  
18 rather from the district's own inability to create committees, or sub-  
19 organizations, that can approach the essence of a problem professionally and  
20 make the necessary institutional corrections to address it

21  
22 Therefore, this resolution seeks to establish a mandatory legal services committee  
23 that can perform this function for the district.

#### **FINANCIAL IMPACT**

24 If implemented, this resolution would have no substantial financial impact on RI.  
25 Rotary developed the Club Leadership Plan to simplify the club structure and  
26 offer clubs the option to add committees as needed.