

RESOLUTION 23R-20

To request the RI Board to consider ensuring that the general qualifications for membership on RI committees are reflective of Rotary's DEI statement

Proposer(s): Rotary Club of Tsuruga, District 2650, Japan

1 WHEREAS, RI has adopted a statement on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI),
2 which affirms its commitment as a global network that strives to build a world
3 where people unite, take action, value diversity, and celebrate the contributions of
4 people of all backgrounds, and

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6 WHEREAS, English-language proficiency is currently a prerequisite for membership
7 on certain RI committees, and

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9 WHEREAS, this requirement is contrary to Rotary's DEI statement and
10 significantly handicaps Rotarians who are non-native English speakers

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12 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
13 International consider ensuring that the general qualifications for membership on
14 RI committees are reflective of Rotary's DEI statement.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

15 The October 2022 Board decisions updated RI's committee structure, by setting
16 up new committees and clarifying the relationships between them and their roles.

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18 For some committees, such as the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, the
19 member qualifications include the ability to read and write in English.

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21 This excludes a large number of Rotarians whose native languages are completely
22 different from English.

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24 To deny those with knowledge and capability the opportunities to serve on RI
25 committees, because they are non-English speakers is contrary to the Rotary DEI
26 statement.

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28 Removing this restriction would help to accelerate Rotary's development as an
29 organization. Additionally, the rapid advancement of technology enables
30 meetings to be held in the metaverse and automate translation and interpretation.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

- 1 If implemented, this resolution could have a financial impact on RI which cannot
- 2 be determined at this time. Cost would be dependent on the scope and extent of
- 3 support provided by the RI Board to accomplish this goal.