

RESOLUTION 25R-04

To request the RI Board to consider proposing legislation to a future Council on Legislation that would revise the RI Bylaws to establish stricter and more detailed classifications for both termination of membership and restoration of membership eligibility

Proposer(s): District 3600, Korea

1 WHEREAS, RI Bylaws section 4.030. provides for the proposal and admission of
2 transferring or former Rotary members as follows:

3 4 **Article 4 Membership in Clubs**

5 6 **4.030. *Transferring or Former Rotarian.***

7 A member or a former club may propose a transferring or former member for
8 membership. Potential members with debts to another club are ineligible for
9 membership. Any club that wishes to admit a former member shall demand
10 that the potential member provide a written statement from the previous club
11 that all debts have been paid. The admission of a transferring or former
12 Rotarian as an active member is contingent upon receiving a written
13 statement from the board of the previous club confirming the prospective
14 member's prior membership in that club, and whether debts are owed by the
15 current or former member that is being considered for membership in the
16 other club. If a written statement is not provided within 30 days, it is assumed
17 that the member does not owe the other club.
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19 WHEREAS, this resolution aims to better define and categorize the reasons
20 currently provided for termination of club membership in RI Bylaws section
21 4.030. and thereby assist clubs and districts in their task of verifying the status
22 and background of individuals during the membership application process, and
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24 WHEREAS, those who have voluntarily resigned after paying all dues still hold
25 positive views of Rotary, while former members whose membership has been
26 terminated due to dishonorable conduct, unpaid dues, or unresolved financial
27 disputes with fellow members often engage in negative propaganda that damages
28 Rotary's public image, and
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30 WHEREAS, we believe it is necessary to establish more detailed and stricter
31 classifications for both termination of membership and restoration of
32 membership eligibility. This is essential as the reputational harm caused by
33 former members can very negatively impact a public organization that takes as its
34 motto 'Service Above Self,' not only by hampering membership growth but more
35 directly by undermining the dignity and pride of being a Rotarian, and

1 WHEREAS, currently, the reasons for membership termination include non-
2 payment of club dues, personal circumstances, relocation, family matters,
3 professional obligations, and participation in a newly chartered club, and

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5 WHEREAS, among these, termination due to personal circumstances is
6 considered voluntary resignation, whereas termination resulting from non-
7 payment of dues or other club decisions represents a serious action taken by the
8 club's board, and

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10 WHEREAS, we propose that for members whose membership was terminated by
11 club decision, any attempt to rejoin, transfer, or participate in a new club must
12 include a verification process confirming that the reason for termination has been
13 resolved. This verification step should be added to the RI membership
14 registration procedure, and

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16 WHEREAS, we recommend adding "voluntary resignation with all dues paid" as
17 a distinct reason for membership termination in club records, and

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19 WHEREAS, we believe there is a need to strengthen RI's information-sharing
20 system so that membership termination records can be accessed by all clubs
21 when a former member seeks to rejoin a Rotary club, and

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23 WHEREAS, we further propose that additional grounds for membership
24 termination by club decision be explicitly recognized, including:

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 - Damage to Rotary's public image,
 - 27 • Instigation of conflict within the club, and
 - 28 • Violations of The Rotary Foundation's stewardship policies.

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30 WHEREAS, all such misconduct – whether it be dishonoring the club,
31 undermining the dignity of Rotarians, non-payment of dues, or misappropriation
32 or misuse of global grant funds – must be promptly acknowledged and addressed
33 by the club's leadership, and

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35 WHEREAS, there is strong consensus among members that individuals who have
36 been terminated under such circumstances should not be permitted to rejoin
37 another club or district without scrutiny, and that RI should enforce restrictions
38 or denial of membership accordingly. This is not only a preventive measure to
39 protect the integrity of Rotary as an organization, but also a step to uphold the
40 dignity and standards of Rotarians themselves

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42 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
43 International consider proposing legislation to a future Council on Legislation
44 that would revise the RI Bylaws to establish stricter and more detailed
45 classifications for both termination of membership and restoration of
46 membership eligibility.

(End of Text)

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.

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5 Database systems would have to be updated to add additional categories of
6 member termination and reinstatement as well as allowing those beyond the club
7 to access these records. In addition, allowing clubs to see these detailed records
8 of another member's termination status would create a privacy concern.