

RESOLUTION 25R-09

To request the RI Board to consider appointing a committee with representation of the districts in Zone 8 to provide input to the current regionalization pilot

Proposer(s): District 9920, American Samoa, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, New Zealand, Tonga, and Samoa

1 WHEREAS, District 9920 is part of Zone 8 and has been included in the pilot
2 initiated by RI that includes 12 countries in the zone, and
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4 WHEREAS, the Regional Council is incorporated in Australia as a public
5 corporation with RI as its sole shareholder, and
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7 WHEREAS, as part of the pilot, travel budgets for districts were reduced or
8 removed, with the funds allocated to the Regional Council instead. Due to issues
9 relating to filling regional appointments, district officers have had to continue to
10 travel to cover club needs in the eight countries in which the district has clubs
11 and programs. District travel costs have had to be met out of district reserves
12 and, in many cases, solely by using their own personal funds. While the district is
13 outperforming most districts in Zone 8 with growth in clubs and membership,
14 the district finances are being adversely affected, and
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16 WHEREAS, this is an RI pilot and the benefits are intended to be primarily for RI
17 as the regions will enable more direct control and reduction in district costs. The
18 burden of the partial defunding of the district is falling unfairly upon the leaders
19 of the districts and in particular District 9920 with its huge geographical area,
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, District 9920 wishes to see its travel budget reinstated and
23 confirmation that RI will not add imposts to the costs for members thereby
24 further disadvantaging District 9920, and
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26 WHEREAS, the district and its clubs were not consulted as to the structure and
27 form of the new RI corporation and with the current review wish to do so and, in
28 particular, the regional magazine company *Rotary Down Under* is developing
29 new technology which the members are being levied to support without
30 identifying the benefits
31

32 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
33 International consider appointing a committee with representation of the
34 districts in Zone 8 to provide input to the current regionalization pilot.

(End of Text)

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

1 This resolution requests that the RI Board appoint a committee with
2 representation of the district to consider and advise that:

- 3
- 4 1. The constitution of the regional corporation and why it is not part of RI's
- 5 constitutional documents
- 6 2. The powers to levy be specifically defined
- 7 3. The role of *Rotary Down Under* in funding new technology at the cost of
- 8 the members, when it has reserves and is no longer a traditional Rotary
- 9 magazine publisher
- 10 4. The portfolio Council members be replaced with election without having to
- 11 nominate a portfolio, a concept that makes seeking candidates difficult
- 12 and one that many members do not understand
- 13 5. The constitution establishes a Board subcommittee to ensure all countries
- 14 have a direct voice and that the region does not become dominated by the
- 15 largest country.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

16 If implemented, this resolution could result in an increase in expenses for RI.
17 Currently, there is a Zone 8 Steering Committee and a Regional Council. They
18 are both made up of Rotarians from the districts in the zone.

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20 If a third committee were created, it would result in an increase in expenses for
21 RI. Committee costs are primarily driven by meeting expenses and staff support.
22 Actual meeting expenses would be nominal for a virtual meeting. The cost of an
23 in-person meeting would depend on the number of members and would mainly
24 consist of airfare, hotels, and meals. The related indirect cost for additional time
25 provided by existing staff to support the committee is estimated at US\$34,000.