

RESOLUTION 25R-23

To request the RI Board to consider amending subsection 20.030.1. of the Rotary Code of Policies on the qualifications and selection of president's representatives

Proposer(s): District 3600, Korea

1 WHEREAS, in January 2023, the RI Board took a decision regarding the
2 qualifications and selection process for the RI president's representative, and
3

4 WHEREAS, this decision is now reflected in the Rotary Code of Policies as
5 follows:
6

7 **Article 20. District Meetings** 8

9 **20.030. President's Representative at Conference** 10

11 20.030.1. Qualifications and Selection of President's Representatives 12

13 The president's representative represents the RI president at the
14 conference by presenting inspirational, motivational, and educational
15 addresses. In selecting representatives, the president should consider
16 public speaking, relevant language abilities, the expertise of the individual
17 in specific areas where the district requires additional support, and the
18 cost effectiveness of the appointment. The president should make these
19 appointments as early as possible and provide the representatives with
20 background materials well in advance of the conference. President's
21 representatives shall not be appointed to more than one conference
22 per Rotary year unless the appointments serve a legitimate business
23 purpose and are authorized as an exception by the president, for report to
24 the Executive Committee at their next meeting.
25

26 WHEREAS, according to this policy, the president's representative is to be
27 appointed by the RI president. However, this raises a significant question: Is it
28 truly possible for the RI president to personally select all such representatives?,
29 and
30

31 WHEREAS, each Rotary year, over 500 president's representatives must be
32 selected. It is hard to imagine that the president could be personally familiar with
33 all the potential candidates. Key qualifications such as public speaking ability and
34 language proficiency are difficult to assess without direct interaction or
35 experience, and
36

37 WHEREAS, if the president does not personally know the candidates, it is likely
38 that someone is making recommendations on his or her behalf. But how can one

1 be sure that the person in question is recommending someone who truly
2 possesses the qualifications outlined in Rotary Code of Policies subsection
3 20.030.1.? If this person served as an RI officer many years ago, he or she may be
4 quite out of touch with current realities, and

5
6 WHEREAS, for this reason, it is advisable that recommendations for this role be
7 made only by those who have served as RI officers within the past five years, and
8

9 WHEREAS, looking at the situation in Korea, there are approximately 450
10 members registered as past governors with the Korean Rotary governors' council,
11 and
12

13 WHEREAS, it is unclear how the selection criteria for the president's
14 representative are determined. Is this done under the authority of an RI director?
15 Are members of the Arch Klumph Society given a higher priority among the
16 nominees? Are selectees secretly assigned from a particular group? Even district
17 governors are unsure about the selection process for the president's
18 representative and find out about appointments by word of mouth, long after the
19 decision has been made, and
20

21 WHEREAS, there is growing frustration among Rotarians at the secrecy
22 surrounding the appointment process for the president's representative and the
23 conflict it engenders in the Rotary world. There are even instances in which
24 nominees for the role have refused to serve due to the lack of transparency and
25 fairness in this process, and
26

27 WHEREAS, each year, the RI president-elect requests incoming governors to
28 submit in ranked order of preference (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) the names and districts of
29 those who wish to serve as president's representative. One cannot be certain,
30 however, that this process is being properly implemented in every district, and
31

32 WHEREAS, if the selection of the president's representative is delegated to
33 another individual by the RI president-elect, the identity of that person should be
34 publicly disclosed. It would further contribute to the transparency and general
35 accountability of the process if such delegates were required to select
36 representatives based on the decisions taken by the Board, and
37

38 WHEREAS we feel it is essential to maintain transparency throughout this entire
39 process and believe that, as a matter of course, the list of those who nominate the
40 president's representative should be made public each year, and
41

42 WHEREAS, it is often said that a Rotarian serves until their last day in life. We
43 believe that former RI leaders and past district governors aged 80 or older should
44 consider stepping back from front-line roles and entrust greater responsibility to
45 their younger successors. This would be a meaningful step forward into the future
46 for Rotary in Korea and the wider Rotary world
47

48 IT IS RESOLVED by Rotary International that the Board of Directors of Rotary
49 International consider amending subsection 20.030.1. of the Rotary Code of

1 Policies on the qualifications and selection of president's representatives by
2 only allowing recommendations for president's representative from individuals
3 who have served as RI officers within the past five years, and limiting the number
4 of times a Rotarian may serve as a president's representative to two.

(End of Text)

FINANCIAL IMPACT

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