



# HIGHLIGHTS



President Maria Coyo

## Rotary Club of Belize City

[RotaryBelize.org](http://RotaryBelize.org); Club 7193 District 4250  
District Governor and First Lady: Andre' & Nan Lopez

April 30, 2013  
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### Reflections on this year's Council on Legislation

By William Pollard, past governor of District 7600 (Virginia, USA) and a member of the Rotary Club of Churchland, Virginia



Council delegates William Pollard (left), past governor of District 7600 (Virginia, USA), and William Nyirenda, past governor of District 9210 (Zambia)

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### Special Dates

- **Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS):** Saturday, May 4 – Sunday, May 5, Radisson Ft. George Hotel
- **Entertainment for our Golden Citizens:** Saturday, May 18; **Fireside** follows
- **Full Moon Dance:** Old Belize Cucumber Beach **Postponed**

I had the honor to represent District 7600 at the 2013 Council on Legislation in Chicago from April 21-26. It was an incredible experience to be with more than 500 fellow Rotarians serving as delegates for their districts.

The Council on Legislation meets every three years. It is the legislative body of RI, which has the authority to amend the RI constitutional documents. The delegates take this responsibility very seriously. It was obvious at the start of the council that delegates had done their homework and they were prepared to discuss the enactments and resolutions proposed at the council. I quickly learned that some items that might not be important to my district might be very important to a district in another country.

The margin between yes and no votes on some measures was very slim, and produced passionate comments from delegates. Rotarians have different viewpoints on various issues and topics, and this is good for Rotary. While the delegates did not always agree with each other, everyone was treated with respect. The delegates wanted to make Rotary a stronger and better organization and hopefully our actions at this year's council achieved that.

The council is also a great opportunity to experience several days of fellowship with Rotarians from all over the world. Where else would I have the opportunity to have dinner with individuals from the Slovak Republic, Wales, England, Barbados, Bahamas, St. Croix, South Carolina, and Georgia?



## Reflections Con't...

One of the Rotarians sitting next to me at the council was from Zambia and we had a great time sharing our thoughts on Rotary. He talked about a bridge he visited in Zambia which has provided improved access to markets, education, and health care. Turns out this bridge was built with a Rotary Foundation grant involving a club in my district the year I served as district governor, 2008-09. Rotary truly makes the world smaller.

I'd like to thank all of the volunteers and staff at RI who made this year's Council on Legislation a successful event. I would also like to thank Rotarian John Germ who did a great job serving as the chair of the council. Most importantly, thanks to the delegates who spent a week away from their families and jobs to work together to make Rotary an even better organization, allowing Rotarians throughout the world to work together to achieve Peace Through Service.

### Council on Legislation concludes, approves dues increase, unlimited e-clubs

Representatives concluded the 2013 Council on Legislation Friday, where they approved a US\$1-a-year increase in per capita dues, removed limits on e-clubs, and changed the name of the Fifth Avenue of Service to Youth Service.

"It has been a pleasure for me to serve you as chair and work with you this week on the legislation before the 2013

Council on Legislation," Council Chair John Germ said. "You have come with energy and thoughtfulness, and you have represented your districts well."

During the final day of deliberations Friday, the council rejected several resolutions that would have asked the RI Board of Directors to grant official recognition to programs that serve a range of different age groups, including EarlyAct, Kid Act, and Elder Act.

They approved resolutions asking the Board to consider allowing grandchildren of Rotarians to be eligible for Rotary Foundation programs, and to waive the rules for Rotary grants so that family member of Rotarians affected by a natural disaster would be eligible.

During the week, the delegates considered more than 170 pieces of legislation that addressed the policies that govern Rotary International and its member clubs. The council is held every three years.

The council approved a US\$1-a-year increase in per capita dues that clubs pay to Rotary International, starting in 2014-15.

The increase was proposed by the RI Board based on a [five-year financial forecast](#) presented to the Board last week and shared with delegates on Sunday. According to the forecast, if there were no dues increase, RI's deficit would grow to \$9 million in 2018 and reduce the General Surplus Fund below the level required in the RI Bylaws.

With the dues increase, the deficit will fall to \$5 million in 2018, according to the forecast, and the surplus fund will then stand at \$88 million, above the mandated level.

Supporters of the dues increase maintain that it will be sufficient to keep pace with inflation without necessitating cutbacks in service. Dues are the primary source of funding for Rotary's operations.

The Council action raises Rotary clubs' annual per capita dues paid to RI to \$54 in 2014-15, \$55 in 2015-16, and \$56 in 2016-17. Dues for 2013-14 are \$53, and they have increased \$1 a year for the past three years.

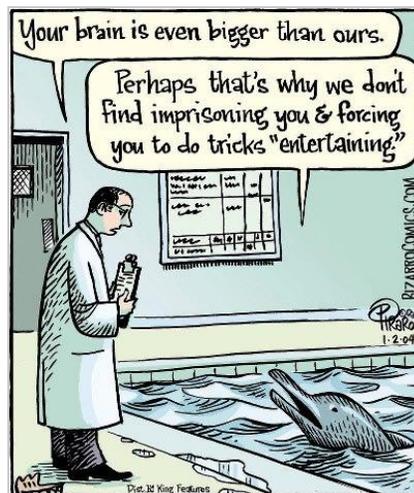
In other action during the week, delegates:

- Approved a measure creating the office of vice governor, who would fill in if the governor becomes unable to serve. The vice governor would be selected by the district's nominating committee from among the district's past governors.

## Council on Legislation Con't...

- Increased the number of clubs that can take part in pilot projects to 1,000, up from the previous limit of 200. The RI Board uses pilot projects, which last for up to six years, to test new ideas, methods, and organizational frameworks for clubs. Pilot clubs that take part in these experiments are fully functioning Rotary clubs that are exempt from some requirements in the Standard Rotary Club Constitution.
- Approved allowing a district to have an unlimited number of e-clubs, removing a previous restriction of two e-clubs per district. E-clubs meet electronically, conduct service projects, and sometimes also hold in-person meetings.
- Approved a measure, aimed at increasing membership that provides for satellite clubs, whose members meet at a different time and location from their parent club but who are also considered members of the parent club.
- Approved a measure allowing participation in club projects to count toward club attendance requirements. The measure amends the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to provide that a member must attend or make up at least 50 percent of club regular meetings or engage in club projects for at least 12 hours in each half of the year, or a combination of both.
- Removed the travel reimbursement policy from the RI Bylaws. This will enable the RI Board of Directors to develop a policy that is flexible, able to address emergency travel situations, and able to take advantage of cost-saving opportunities.
- Defeated two measures that would have allowed clubs to meet less frequently. The delegates also rejected a measure that would have allowed a club to cancel six regular meetings a year instead of four, for holidays, the death of a club member, disasters, or other emergencies.

Get [vote totals](#) and download [proposed legislation](#) . Watch [a video of delegates](#) talking about the process and read updates all week on [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) . Follow the Council on Twitter at [#col13](#)



## New email scams target Rotarians

Rotary International News - 19 March 2013

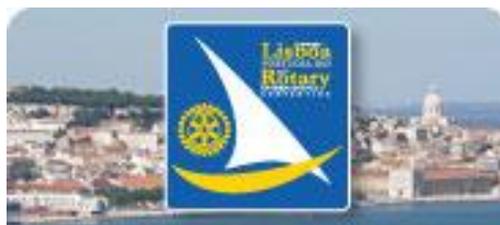
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Several Rotarians have recently reported receiving a fraudulent email with the subject line Rotary Membership Update that reports to be from Rotary International asking them to update their membership status for the 2013 year by clicking on the link supplied in the email. Please be aware that this is a phishing scam. Phishing is the criminally fraudulent act of attempting to acquire sensitive information such as usernames, passwords, or credit card information by masquerading as a trustworthy source.

Other recent scams include:

- Several Rotarians have reported receiving a fraudulent email which reports to be from an Australian Rotarian stuck in London, England. The email claims the individual was robbed at gunpoint while on holiday and that she needs money to get home. Other Rotarians have reported receiving a similar email sent out in the name of a senior Rotary leader, a trustee of The Rotary Foundation, seeking money. The email claims that the individual is stuck at an airport with lost luggage and needs the cash to get home. Both emails are scams.
- An email scam with the subject line "Award Winning Notification Final" has targeted Rotarians claiming that they are one of 21 winners of a promotional program held on 1 January 2012 by the Rotary Foundation. The fake promotion says winners will receive US\$1 million cash payment. The email is signed by "Mr. Jerry Blake, The Promotion Manager, Rotary Foundation Int (UK), London, United Kingdom."
- An email scam targeting Rotarians and Rotaractors claims the recipient has won hundreds of thousands of euros through an international promotional program conducted by the "Euro-Millones Lottery". Attached to the e-mail is a PDF letter signed by "Luis Alberto, Vice President" with a photo of Past RI President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar.
- An email scam with the subject line "Dear Award Beneficiary!!!" has targeted Rotarians claiming the recipient has won US\$500,000 and two HP laptops from RI. The email asks for contact information and is signed by "Mrs. Sarah Olic, Programme Co-ordinator, Rotary International".

RI encourages Rotarians and Rotary clubs to avoid becoming victims of such scams by deleting any email that appears suspicious.



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*“Service above Self”*

ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it bring good will and better friendships?

Simple Process for Giving

THOSE LIVING OUTSIDE OF BELIZE KINDLY DONATE BY BANK DRAFT - WIRE INSTRUCTIONS:

Whitney National Bank  
4265 San Felipe, Suite 400  
Houston, TX 77027, U.S.A.  
ABA NO. 065000171  
SWIFT: WHITUS44

Beneficiary Bank  
Atlantic International Bank, Ltd.  
A/C No. 750461829  
SWIFT: AIBLBZBZ

Beneficiary:  
Rotary Club of Belize  
Account No. 100-163-305  
*(Please state purpose)*

Please note that there is a deduction of US\$27.50 from the amount being transferred.  
*With sincere thanks...*

Support Rotary-Sponsored Service Clubs



**Interact Clubs of Belize** For young people, ages 12-18. Develop leadership skills and personal integrity. Demonstrate helpfulness and respect for others. Understand the value of individual responsibility and hard work. Advance international understanding and goodwill.



**Rotaract Club of Belize** for young men and women ages 18 to 30. Rotaract clubs are either community or university based, and they're sponsored by a local Rotary club. This makes them true "partners in service" and key members of the family of Rotary.



Luncheon Meeting  
Each Wednesday  
12:30 p.m. – 1: 30 p.m.  
Arrive at noon to visit  
Radisson Hotel Fort George, Belize  
City, Belize, Central America

The Rotary Club of Belize was chartered on July 7, 1957. There are now eight Rotary Clubs in Belize who take pride in serving our communities and our country through club projects and vocational commitments by our members. Rotary's main objective is service – in the community, in the workplace and around the world. Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations.