

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

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To: All 2007-08 District Governors

**Re: 2010 Council on Legislation**

Dear Rotarians:

As District Governor, you will have many responsibilities during your year in office. Two of these responsibilities are associated with the Council on Legislation. Your district will need to select your representative for the 2010 Council on Legislation. Your district should also begin to consider whether it wishes to propose any legislation.

Representatives for the 2010 Council on Legislation must be selected in the Rotary year two years preceding the Council. Thus, your district must select a representative and an alternate representative to the 2010 Council during your year as governor. The Council is tentatively scheduled to take place 25 – 30 April 2010 in Chicago, Illinois, USA. These dates and the location have not been finalized and are therefore subject to change.

As governor, you should issue a call for nominations from the clubs in your district. Full information about the qualifications and duties of the representatives and the procedures for his or her nomination and selection can be found in RI Bylaws sections 8.010.1., 8.020., 8.030., 8.050., 8.060., 8.070. and 8.080. Information can also be found in the attached form “How to Select a Council Representative.”

The 2007 Council adopted changes to the selection of Council representatives. The preferred method for selecting a Council representative is by nominating committee procedure. Districts choosing not to use this method may still elect a representative and an alternate at a district conference or through a ballot-by-mail. Moreover, districts choosing to elect a representative and alternate should know this method has also been changed. First the representative is elected, who is the candidate who received the highest number of votes. Once the representative is elected, then another ballot must be conducted to select the alternate representative. You may wish to consult the revised constitutional documents that are available on the RI Web site at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

Immediately following the selection, the names of the representative and alternate representative should be certified by you on the enclosed form. This form should be completed in triplicate. The first copy of the form should be returned to the Council Services Section at RI Headquarters in Evanston. The completed form also may be faxed to 847-556-2123. The second copy of the form should be given to the representative for presentation to the Credentials Committee at the 2010 Council site. The alternate representative should be given the third copy in case he or she is asked to serve in the event that the representative is unable to attend the Council.

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The RI Board of Directors encourages districts to select as representatives the best qualified eligible Rotarians who are well-informed about current Rotary policies, procedures and programs. Representatives should be selected on the basis of their ability to carry out the representatives' defined duties and not on the basis of their personal popularity. The role of representative should be viewed as a serious and responsible position and not simply as a benefit of having served as governor. Furthermore, care should be taken to ensure the selected representative can meet the physically and mentally demanding circumstances of the Council. The representative should be prepared for a long and challenging meeting.

While we sometimes provide advance Council materials in German, Italian and Swedish, it should be noted that the Council itself is conducted in English, with simultaneous interpretation in French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese and Korean only. Legislation is also translated into those five languages only. Therefore, all Council representatives and alternates should have a good command of at least one of the following languages: English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese or Korean.

As you are probably aware, the RI Bylaws provide that each club must pay additional annual capita dues of US\$1.00 to pay for the expenses of the next Council (RI Bylaws 17.030.2.). These additional dues provide for the Council's administrative expenses as well as for the representatives' expenses (generally defined as travel, lodging and meal costs). RI will not pay the expenses of spouses or other family members accompanying representatives. This information on Council finances should be brought to the attention of the district and especially to Rotarians being considered for selection as representatives.

Furthermore, representatives and alternates are expected to attend their 09-10 Rotary institute to receive Council training and other important Council-related information. Please know that RI does not reimburse for these travel expenses, so the district and the candidates should make appropriate provisions.

Your second job associated with the 2010 Council will be to determine whether your district will be proposing any legislation to the Council. The 2007 Council adopted legislation that changed the deadline to submit legislation; RI must receive legislation, including the form certifying district endorsement, by **31 December 2008**. Enclosed with this letter are several forms to help you with this task. Enclosed are the "What's new for the 2010 Council on Legislation," "How to Propose Legislation" as well as the certification forms used for submitting legislation. These forms are also available on the RI Web site at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org). Additional information about proposing legislation will also be sent in a separate communication.

In the meantime, if you have questions about the selection of Council representatives or other aspects of RI's legislative procedures, I would be pleased to hear from you.

Sincerely,



Monica Wanat

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