

Zone 8 Rotary Institute

Proposed Resolution 2009-01

AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF ROTARY GOVERNORS (ACRG)

PREAMBLE

For some years there has been concern informally expressed by many that Rotary in Australia has no central point of contact or a body that can speak on behalf of Rotary in Australia. This has not been assisted by having half of Australian Rotary Districts in Zone 7, and the other half in Zone 8.

This concern has not only been expressed by Rotarians but also by other national bodies and organisations who have wished to have contact with Rotary.

With the recent rezoning, with all Australian Districts now in the one zone, there is opportunity to have a central body that can be recognised as the contact point and spokes body for Rotary in Australia. It should help by better co-ordinating the promotion and development of Rotary in Australia.

Similar bodies exist in some other countries such as the Philippines.

RID John Lawrence has convened a working group to consider the method and process of establishing such a body. The group consists of

RID John Lawrence – Convenor
PDG Ron Geary, - D 9470
PDG Ross Forgione – D9630
PDG Dick Garner – D9810
PDG Jennifer Scott – D9690
PDG Geoff Schahinger – D9500

This group recognised that the ultimate central and co-ordinating body of Rotary in Australia is the Zone Institute and that any new body formed would be responsible to the Institute. Its establishment and its membership could only be created at the request of the Institute. In fact under RI Policy Institutes have no administrative responsibility or authority. Thus any sub committee or group they form can or should only act with the agreement of the Institute.

It could be argued that it is only the current District Governors who have any Rotary authority in Australia. However, as a group that responsibility and authority only exists for one year and does not necessarily provide for the continuity a spokes body would need. Even when an RI Director is an Australian he/she is not authorised to speak on behalf of Rotarians in Australia

The working group avoided suggesting a body that might be seen to have the authority or status of RIBI or resembled this in any way.

The problem seen by the working group is that while the Institute is a very worthwhile and important body it only meets once a year and that there are events and occasions which arise and for which a prompt or continuing response is desirable. An appropriate sub committee should be able to deal with matters promptly on behalf of the Institute.

It consequently recommends the establishment of the Australian Council of Rotary Governors (ACRG).

The purpose of ACRG would be:

- to serve Rotarians in Zone 8
- to provide a collective voice for PR, Communications and Marketing for the 22 Districts in the zone on matters non controversial that are uniquely Australian.
- to facilitate Rotarian meetings.
- to be a contact point for Australian bodies/organisations.
- to respond to Rotarians needs and concerns
- to be a conduit of policy concerns, - to RI - from Districts - to Districts and clubs via DG
- an ongoing Forum, a communication link
- a Sounding Board, a Think Tank.
- a focal point for COL recommendations, options, collaborations, and promotion of policy.
- to not cut across any existing programs, only acting as a support and resource.
- a formal body to communicate on behalf of Rotarians to Australian Governments and outside organisations.
- to provide a quick response to urgent matters, in particular major disasters in our region.
- to be responsive in the absence of the Institute.
- to act on behalf of and be a resource for the Institute.
- to research when requested by the Institute.

Other purposes and functions may evolve over time and with experience.

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**PROPOSED BY RI DIRECTOR JOHN LAWRENCE
SECONDED BY PDG RON GEARY DISTRICT 9470**

- 1 It is proposed that the Rotary International Zone 8 Institute shall create a sub committee to be known as the Australian Council of Rotary Governors.”
- 2 That initially the membership of this Council shall consist of the steering Committee convened by RID John Lawrence for a term not

exceeding more than three years, after such time the Council shall consist of:-

The RI Director from Zone 8, if an Australian, and if not, the most recent Australian Director, as Convenor (ex officio)

One PDG elected from each of four Zones.

Central/ Western Zone - D9455, D9465, D9500, D 9520

Northern Zone - D9550, D9570, D9600, D9630, D9640, D9650

Eastern Zone - D9670, D9680, D9690, D9700, D9710, D9750

Southern Zone - D9780, D9790, D9800, D9810, D9820, D9830

One DG elected by the current DGs

One DGE elected by the current DGsE

3. That the members of the Council serve terms as follows:
 - a. the PDG members shall serve three years, retiring on a rotational basis, those elected to the first Council to be selected for rotation by a draw.
 - b. The PDG members shall be elected by those attending the annual Zone Institute.
 - c. The DGE member shall serve two years, whilst DGE and DG and be elected at the Institute by the current DGsE
 - d. For the initial term only, the current DG member shall serve one year and be elected at the Institute by the current DGs.
4. That no proxies or absentee voting would be permitted.
5. That the term of office of the Council would be for one year, commencing at the conclusion of each Institute.
6. That the purpose and function of the Council shall be:-
 - The advisory and representational body of the Zone 8 Australian Institute
 - To complement the existing Club and District structure
 - A formal Australian Rotary voice to deal with Australian Governments and other national organisations
 - A national contact and conduit point for outside organisations that want to converse with Rotary.
 - To provide a national voice for Rotary
 - A catalyst for the wider national marketing of Rotary
 - An additional advisory contact point for District Officers
7. That this resolution, if passed with or without amendment, be incorporated as Institute Rule 10 with current Rule 10 renumbered Rule 11.

Zone 8 Rotary Institute

Proposed Resolution 2009-02

To improve the guidelines for the Zone Director Nominating Committee to nominate the best suggested candidate for Zone Director.

Proposed by Past District Governor Ron Pickford – District 9780.

Seconded by Past District Governor Lew Pretorius – District 9830.

IT IS STATED in the Rotary Code of Policies, “the selection of a director should be conducted in a dignified, responsible manner in harmony with the principles of Rotary.” (RCP **28.010**. Selection Methods for Directors)

STATED IN ADDITION in the Rotary Code of Policies, “Personal interviews of candidates are not required. However, if the majority of the committee determines that interviews should be offered to all candidates at their expense, they shall be notified no later than two weeks before the scheduled meeting of the nominating committee. If the committee decides to interview candidates, it must take care that no candidate is disadvantaged because of an inability to come for an interview.” (RCP **28.010.4** Guidelines for the Functioning of the Nominating Committee. A. Prior to the Meeting. 5.)

Following Resolution is not in any way intended to put aside the responsibilities and requirement of the Zone Director Nominating Committee pursuant to Rotary International Bylaws **Article 12 Nominations and Election for Directors. 12.020.14. Meeting of the Nominating Committee** but assist the Zone Director Nominating Committee to consider exploring with the suggested candidate their extent of knowledge of Rotary, commitment to the total Rotary program, and other matters additional to the following information contained in the official suggestion form:

- a. Is the candidate a good speaker and able to communicate well?
- b. Has the candidate demonstrated good leadership ability and does he/she relate well to others?
- c. Do family or work responsibilities prevent the candidate from giving the time necessary to serving effectively as a member of the Board of Directors of Rotary International?
- d. Is the candidate in good health so as to serve ably as a Rotary International Director?
- e. Has the candidate been active in Rotary beyond the district level and continued to serve Rotary at all levels?

- f. Can the candidate demonstrate a broad knowledge of Rotary and a strong commitment to the total program of Rotary?
- g. If married, has the candidate's spouse been supportive of Rotary activities?
- h. What ideas does the candidate have for changes and improvements in Rotary?

RESOLUTION

That this Australian Rotary Institute recommends all future Zone 8 Director Nominating Committees adopt the practice of conducting personal candidate interviews in conjunction with, and in addition to information contained in the official suggestion form when determining the Director Nominee, and Director Nominee alternate.

PURPOSE AND EFFECT

This resolution would provide a more even evaluation opportunity for all members of the Zone Director Nominating Committee when determining which candidate is best suited to receive the nomination, as opposed to a nomination made by thoroughly reviewing the qualifications contained in the official suggestion form, and Zone Director Nominating Committee members sharing personal knowledge of candidates with one another.

FINANCIAL IMPACT STATEMENT

This resolution may have a financial impact on districts, as each district is encouraged to meet expenses of their nominating committee member. Depending upon the number of suggested candidates, conducting interviews may extend beyond one day. Some districts may need to meet the additional accommodation costs of their nominating committee member.

Existing policy is; General Secretary of Rotary International shall budget US\$1,500.00 for each convenor of a director nominating committee, which may be used to offset costs of meeting room rental, coffee breaks, and one meal for the committee during its meeting, as well as for out-of-pocket postage, copying, telephone and miscellaneous expenses incurred in making arrangements for the committee meeting, and which may be reimbursed upon submission of an expense report form. The resolution would have no impact on this existing policy.

Suggested candidates would be required to meet their own expenses for travel and accommodation to attend an interview.

SUGGESTED PRE-COMMITTEE MEETING PROCEDURE

That, in the event of a considerable number of suggested candidates, the nominating committee chairman give consideration to conducting with all nominating committee members, a short listing review of candidates using digital conferencing, or similar methods.

Pursuant to Rotary International Bylaws – Article 12, Clause 12.020.18 *Proposal of Challenging Candidates*, use of pre-committee meeting procedure shall not prevent any club in the zone or section from proposing a challenging candidate on appeal. The challenging candidate must have been duly suggested to the nominating committee

Zone 8 Rotary Institute

Proposed Resolution 2009-03

RESOLUTION

Proposed by PDG Ken McDonald District 9670
Seconded by PDG Ted Gaffney District 9780

“That Rotary Zone 8 Institute recommends to the Board of Rotary International that it consider recognising and approving the use of the name “Rotary Youth Programme of Enrichment” and the acronym “RYPEN” for use by any Rotary District or Rotary Club that seeks to present this programme as part of their service to youth aged between 14 and 17 years.”

BACKGROUND

The Rotary Youth Programme of Enrichment (RYPEN), so-called, originated in Australia in 1980 as an initiative of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Belconnen. In the ensuing years this activity has spread throughout Australian Rotary Districts, as well as Rotary Districts in New Zealand and a number of other countries. Whilst RYPEN grew out of the RYLA programme, its aim is to “..communicate to the young people involved a series of ideas, problems, and social experiences which will assist them in forming their own values and moral standards.”

The programme selects participants who are not the high achievers or outstanding youth leaders, but rather average young people, between the ages of 14 to 17 years, who are likely to benefit from the learning experience. This is where the current programme differs from RYLA.

EXPLANATION

During the 2008-2009 Rotary year District Governors were reminded that a number of programmes being presented, by Districts and Clubs, which include the word Rotary in the title (e.g. RYPEN, RYAG, RYSTAR, etc..) without the express approval of the Board of Rotary International. The Zone 8 RYPEN Committee have given this matter considerable thought and, whilst we appreciate that the definition of RYLA includes youth from the age of 14 years of age, felt it was appropriate to propose this resolution to this Zone 8 Institute for its consideration and subsequent action.

Zone 8 Rotary Institute

Proposed Resolution 2009-04

Resolution

Proposed by RI Director John Lawrence

Seconded by PDG Bill Dethlefs

That Rule 7 Terms of Reference for Institute Committees be amended by adding the following subsection:

“7.10 Committee Vacancy

7.10.1 In the event of a vacancy on an Institute Committee, the Zone Director may, in consultation with current members of that committee, fill the vacancy for a period that is no longer than the specified term of that vacated position.”

Explanation

A consequential amendment to the current Institute Rules – 7.7 Insurance Committee is required, namely, delete “7.7.3.4 The chairman shall have the power to co-opt.”

Purpose and Effect

A number of committees have a vacancy that have remained unfilled since the last Rotary Institute.

The Insurance Committee is the only one of these committees that has the power to co-opt members. Since the last Institute the Insurance Committee exercised this responsibility and co-opted a member with approval of the Zone RI Director.

It would seem appropriate that this Institute should extend the capability of filling committee vacancies to all Institute Committees.