

March 13, 2015

Via electronic mail

ROTARY CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Chair Wesley Wade Drinkard  
P.O. Box 480696  
Linden, AL 36748  
USA  
[w.drinkard@mchsi.com](mailto:w.drinkard@mchsi.com)

Juin Park  
108-63 Hyundai Apt.,  
Yongdang-dong, Suncheon,  
Jernranam 540-771, Korea  
[juinpark@hotmail.com](mailto:juinpark@hotmail.com)

Kenneth M. Schuppert  
201 Second Av. SE,  
Decatur, AL 35601  
USA  
[schupperts@aol.com](mailto:schupperts@aol.com)

LIAISON DIRECTOR

Giuseppe Viale  
Via Assarotti 12-3A,  
16122 Genova, GE  
Italy  
[giuseppe\\_viale@hotmail.com](mailto:giuseppe_viale@hotmail.com)

LIAISON TRUSTEE

Julio Sorjús  
Diputacio 188 Desp. 92  
08011 Barcelona,  
Spain  
[sorjus@jsorjus.com](mailto:sorjus@jsorjus.com)

Gentlemen:

It appears that the Constitution and Bylaws [C&B] Committee's declaration of File 163-E-D to be defective was in error and contrary to Rotary International's governance procedures. The C&B Committee's stated reason for declaring the proposal defective was "it is subject to two or more inconsistent meanings." RI Bylaws 7.037.2(a).

RI District 6250 contests this finding. The C&B Committee has furnished no evidence or basis for the proposal's susceptibility to two or more inconsistent meanings. That finding, we believe, is incorrect.

To bring its decision into compliance with RI's governance procedures and to render an action that is "Fair to All Concerned", Rotary District 6250 urges the C&B Committee to reconsider and alter its "tentative" action on File 163-E-D to advance the District 6250's proposal for consideration at the 2016 Council on Legislation.

Time is of the essence. Please direct your response by email to District Governor Dave Warren with email copies to all parties listed on this email message at your earliest, but in any event on or before Monday, 23 March 2015. If the Committee is unable to act on or before that date, RI District 6250 asks that Rotary International extend to the District leave to pursue corrective action including action under 7.040 of RI Bylaws<sup>1</sup> until the latter of 30 April 2015 or thirty days following the District's receipt of the C&B Committee's reconsideration of this matter and the Committee's

---

1 7.040. Review of Proposed Legislation. [Article 7, RI Bylaws]

The constitution and bylaws committee shall review all legislation submitted to the general secretary for transmittal to the council and may:

7.040.1. on behalf of the board, recommend to proposers suitable changes to correct proposed legislation that is defective.

conveyance of the result of that reconsideration. For your convenience, we are reattaching the relevant documents.

District 6250's Going Green Fellowship Group proceeded precisely as then President Elect Gary Huang advised when he spoke at the Rotary Club of Madison, saying that initiatives in Rotary “must begin with the club.” We are deeply disappointed that the C&B Committee is considering keeping our duly proposed and endorsed enactment from reaching the 2016 Council on Legislation for their consideration.

Yours in service,

Dave Warren, District 6250 DG

Cc:

Dean Dickinson, District 6250 2016 Council on Legislation Representative, General Chair  
WisconZONE 2014, and PDG, [LOGAN63@aol.com](mailto:LOGAN63@aol.com)

Mary Beth Growney Selene, RI Board of Directors, [mbgrowneyselene@ryansigns.net](mailto:mbgrowneyselene@ryansigns.net)

Charles Hansen, District 6250 PDG, [CEH@haleskemp.com](mailto:CEH@haleskemp.com)

Rob Stroud, District 6250 PDG, [rstroud@STROUDLAW.com](mailto:rstroud@STROUDLAW.com)

Dean Ryerson, District 6250 PDG, [dryerson@tds.net](mailto:dryerson@tds.net)

Tim Stadelman, President, [tstadelman@findorff.com](mailto:tstadelman@findorff.com)

Pat Jenkins, Executive Director, Rotary Club of Madison, [patjenkins@rotarymadison.org](mailto:patjenkins@rotarymadison.org)

Ellsworth Brown, PE, [ellsworth.brown@wisconsinhistory.org](mailto:ellsworth.brown@wisconsinhistory.org)

Roth Judd, PP, [rothjudd@gmail.com](mailto:rothjudd@gmail.com)

Karen Kendrick-Hands, District 6250 Going Green Fellowship Co-Chair, [kdkhands@me.com](mailto:kdkhands@me.com)

Paul Riehemann, PP and District 6250 Going Green Fellowship Co-Chair, [paulr@well-today.com](mailto:paulr@well-today.com)

Sarah Christensen, RI Council Services Supervisor, [Council\\_Services@rotary.org](mailto:Council_Services@rotary.org)

## PROPOSED ENACTMENT 16-

To provide for the support of RI in reducing greenhouse gas emissions

**Proposed by** the Rotary Club of Madison, District 6250, USA

To amend the **BYLAWS** of Rotary International as follows (page 195 MOP)

### **Article 25 Global Warming Humanitarian Crisis**

RI supports the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis. This article may be deleted after atmospheric CO2 levels fall below 350 parts per million.

(Subsequent articles will be renumbered as appropriate)

And to amend the **STANDARD ROTARY CLUB CONSTITUTION** as follows (page 208 MOP)

### **Article 13 Community, National, and International Affairs**

**Section 1 — Proper Subjects.** The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinions. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis.

### **Section 3 — Non-Political.**

- (a) *Resolutions and Opinions.* This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions, and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis.
- (b) *Appeals.* This club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples, or governments, or circulate letters, speeches, or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature. This club may nevertheless support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the global warming humanitarian crisis.

(End of Text)

## PURPOSE AND EFFECT

The global warming humanitarian crisis threatens to undo much of the good work done through Rotary's service projects. Polio eradication is being impeded by flooding, sewage contamination of water, and migration caused by global warming. This looming catastrophe dwarfs polio, having already created climate refugees and contributed to war, food shortages and drought. The Millennium Project deems global warming to be the biggest problem facing humanity.

Average CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations in 2013 were a historical high of 396 parts per million (ppm) – 141 percent of the pre-industrial level of 280 ppm. The 10 warmest years since 1880 have occurred after 1997.

The vast majority of scientists worldwide believe that it is almost certain that global warming is caused by human greenhouse gas emissions (GGEs). The longer we wait to reduce GGEs, especially CO<sub>2</sub>, the greater the human suffering, the higher the cost to slow the warming, and the greater the damage to world economies. Prudent risk management dictates that we reduce GGEs rapidly.

“Service Above Self” dictates that we work to reduce GGEs and proactively share information with others. We cannot ‘adapt’ to global warming; temperatures will continue to rise unless GGEs are significantly reduced. Individuals need to reduce their emissions and clubs need to undertake projects to reduce GGEs and share information.

Supporting the reduction of GGEs to mitigate global warming is consistent with the Object of Rotary and will help people worldwide. Working to stop the global warming humanitarian crisis will resonate with the next generation of Rotarians, strengthening our organization for the challenges ahead.

We do this for our children, our grandchildren and future generations.

## FINANCIAL IMPACT

## NOTES

## VOTE TOTALS

\_\_\_\_\_ for and \_\_\_\_\_ against

## RESULT

### Adopted

- ☐ Adopted as Amended
- ☐ Referred to Board
- ☐ Rejected
- ☐ Tabled
- ☐ Withdrawn



Via electronic mail

27 February 2015

Dean Dickinson  
Representative  
2016 Council on Legislation, D-6250

**Re: 2016 Council on Legislation: File 163-E**

Dear Council Representative Dickinson:

Thank you for the proposed legislation submitted by the Rotary Club of Madison and endorsed by District 6250. The proposal has been assigned the file number indicated above, which should be cited in all future correspondence. Please review this item, including the purpose and effect statement. Note that any financial impact details included in your purpose and effect statement have been removed.

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee met in February 2015 to review proposed legislation.

The Committee has tentatively determined that file 163-E, proposed by the Rotary Club of Madison, is duly proposed, but defective under RI Bylaws section 7.037.2:

(a) it is subject to two or more inconsistent meanings

If the RI Board agrees with the Committee's determination as to the status of your proposed legislation, it will not be transmitted to the 2016 Council for consideration. Even if it is transmitted to the Council, a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee may comment at the Council that the proposed legislation has been determined to be defective.

In their review of the legislation, the Committee made the following comments:

During its review of file 163, the Committee believed that this proposed change would be inconsistent with the constitutional documents, as it could be considered political in nature and would be in conflict with article 13, sections 1 and 3 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution.

You may wish to be aware that the deadline to submit amendments to proposed legislation is 31 March 2015. Please respond with any amendments to your legislation **as soon as possible**.

If you have any questions about this matter or the Council in general, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Sarah Christensen  
Council Services Supervisor

cc: David J. Warren, District Governor, D-6250