

April 12, 2016

An open letter to the esteemed Delegates of the 2016 Council on Legislation,

We have amended PE 16-98 (see page 2), in response to the RI Board of Directors' Statement in Opposition. We anticipate that the amendments will cure the Board's objections so that "...*how* to address environmental concerns through service is best left up to clubs and districts." Work to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, regardless of how it is accomplished, benefits all six of our Areas of Focus.

Rotary Clubs DO have expertise and resources to address environmental concerns – as evidenced by the 800+ ESRAG members from 55+ countries. For all the people on the planet and future generations, we urge you to actively support PE 16-98 at this Council on Legislation -

1. **Climate change is a humanitarian crisis threatening to undo much of Rotary's good work.** Polio eradication is being impeded by flooding, sewage contamination of water, and migration caused by climate change. Notwithstanding the urgency and importance of eradicating polio, this looming catastrophe dwarfs polio, having already created climate refugees and contributed to war, drought, disease, extreme weather events and food shortages.
2. **Please listen to our fellow Rotarians from ISLAND NATIONS that are disappearing.** The very existence of Small Island States, home to dozens of Rotary Clubs, is threatened by sea level rise. It's just a 'flip of a coin' where we are born. If we were they, we would beg fellow Rotarians to listen. The beauty and power of Rotary is that we are a global organization and we listen to each other.
3. **PE 16-98 is well supported by Rotaractors and it is already attracting the next generation of Rotarians.** The proposed enactment offers an expansion of opportunity for Rotary to lead proactively; no Club or District will be compelled to act. PE 16-98 clarifies that Clubs and Districts will be allowed to act under the Rotary banner to work to mitigate climate change if they choose.

**Paul Harris:**

***"This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it.***

***The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again."***



Thank you. In Rotary service,

Mary Beth Growney Selene – 2013-2015 RI Director; ESRAG Advisor (U.S.)  
Dean Dickinson – PDG District 6250; 2016 CoL Delegate (U.S.)  
Paul Riehemann – Co-Founder and Chair, ESRAG; PP Rotary Club of Madison, WI (U.S.)  
Karen Kendrick-Hands – Co-Founder & Committee Chair, ESRAG; former Rotary Exchange Student  
Christopher F. Puttock Ph.D. – Executive Director, ESRAG; PE Rotary Club of College Park, MD (U.S.)  
David Brawn – PDG District 9675; ESRAG Advisor (Australia)  
Mahfuza Mousumi Ph.D. – Committee Chair, ESRAG (Bangladesh)  
Kazi Amdadul Hoque – Committee Chair, ESRAG (Bangladesh)  
Peter Sephton – Vice-Chair, ESRAG; Chair and Co-Founder The Sustainability Trust (2007) (England)  
Peter Moralee – Vice-Chair, ESRAG; Chair and Co-Founder The Sustainability Trust (2007) (England)  
Jeremy Wright – Committee Chair, ESRAG; PP Rotary Club of Sydney Cove (Australia)  
Rachel Snethen – Committee Chair, ESRAG; PE Rotary Club of Oregon, WI (U.S.)  
Melissa Mills – Committee Chair, ESRAG (U.S.)  
Mark Krawczynski – Committee Chair, ESRAG; Director, Rotary Club Warszawa City (Poland)

---

On Apr 12, 2016, at 8:26 AM, Karen Kendrick-Hands wrote:

Dear Dean -

.....we want to be flexible and propose the following, *italicized underlined language*. This proposed amendment to the Standard Club Constitution fully addresses the RI Board's concern about not placing this provision in the RI Bylaws.

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

Paul and Karen