Bylaw Amendment – Board Member Qualifications

On April 10th during the regular lunch meeting of the Traverse City Rotary Club the membership will be asked consider a revised amendment to the bylaws of Rotary Charities and Rotary Camps & Services.

In August 2017 a proposal for changing the years of service from five years to three years to be eligible for the boards was presented to the membership and tabled. The proposal was a result of the findings of the nominating committees for Rotary Charities and Camps. An analysis of current membership showed that out of 239 active members, only 54 were eligible for service. Of that 54, half of them had attendance below 50% due to travel, seasonal homes and other reasons. When the nominating committees pulled a list of members that were in the club for three years or more, the list grew by 22 more people. When the committee added members that had previous club experience, it added 13 more people to the list.

After this initial proposal of changing the years of service from five years to three years was tabled, a task force led by Allison Beers was formed to discuss the pros and cons of having members involved for three years vs. five years as well as previous service in another Rotary Club. Rotarians involved in the task force were: Sid Lammers, Benjamin Marentette, Katy McCain, Michael Caruso, Don Fraser, Mark Newhouse, Ashlea Walter, Sharron Zimmerman and Chris DeGood.

The group concluded that:

- the years of service should remain at five years,
- previous years of service should be included for transferring Rotarians, and
- the President may appoint their designee regardless of years of service and that person may run as an incumbent in the future, regardless of years of service.

Two main factors led to this recommendation.

Proven Expertise and Rotary Leadership
15 of our newer club members have previous Rotary experience – including club officer service.

Candidate Pool that Complements Boards and Fills Gaps
Both Rotary Charities and Camps and Services have specific, and diverse stakeholders in the communities we serve. In the past we have struggled not only to find Rotarians who were able and willing to fulfill the obligation of board service – but also who had skills and experiences that complemented those of existing board members. (For example, we would not want all doctors or all lawyers). The amendment would ensure a diverse candidate pool, so that Rotarians had a variety of options to choose from in building what they believe to be the right board for each organization.

Current Bylaw

Section 2. Members of the Board; Qualifications. The Board of Trustees shall consist of ten (10) Members, one of whom shall be ex-officio, with vote, the President of the Rotary Club or such President's designee, which may be the President Elect, or any other member of the Rotary Club Board of Directors. The remaining nine (9) Members shall be voting Members of the Rotary Club, in good standing for not less than five (5) years as of the date elected to the office.

Redline Version

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Proposed Bylaw

Section 2. Members of the Board; Qualifications. The Board of Trustees shall consist of ten (10) Members. One member shall be ex-officio, with vote, the President of the Rotary Club or such President's designee, which may be the President Elect, a member of the Rotary Club Board of Directors or any Member of the Rotary Club, regardless of years of service in the Rotary Club. The remaining nine (9) Members shall be voting Members of the Rotary Club, in good standing for not less than five (5) years as of the date elected to the office or a Rotary Club Member that was previously a President's designee, regardless of years of service in the Rotary Club. Members of the Rotary Club may transfer previous years of service from other Rotary Clubs.