

**Columbia Metro Rotary Board Policy on political activity by club or during meetings.
Adopted October 10, 2012**

This policy is adopted to ensure that the club complies with the policy of Rotary International and the rules and regulations of the IRS regarding political activity. **Rotary International's Policy** is as follows:

Because its worldwide membership includes persons of many facets of political opinion, no corporate action or corporate expression of opinion shall be taken or given by Rotary International on political subjects. (RCP 26.040.)

As the association of Rotary clubs worldwide, RI maintains a neutral position and does not issue formal statements for or against any specific issues. It is through service initiatives of individual Rotary clubs, rather than declarations by the corporate body, that Rotary best demonstrates its commitment to peace and humanitarian endeavors. (RCP 26.150.)

RI and its member clubs must refrain from issuing partisan political statements. Rotarians are prohibited from adopting statements with a view to exerting any corporate pressure on governments or political authorities. However, it is the duty of Rotarians

- 1) In their clubs, to keep under review political developments in their own communities and throughout the world insofar as they affect service to their vocations and communities as well as the pursuit of the Rotary objective of world understanding and peace. They are expected to seek reliable information through balanced programs and discussions so that members can reach their own conclusions after a fair, collective examination of the issues.
- 2) Outside their clubs, to be active as individuals in as many legally constituted groups and organizations as possible to promote, not only in words but through exemplary dedication, the awareness of the dignity of all people and the respect of the consequent human rights of the individual. (89-134, RCP 2.100.)

Accordingly, the board of Columbia Metro Rotary adopts the following policy:

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 public measure.

Section 2 — *No Endorsements.* This club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office and shall not discuss at any club meeting the merits or demerits of any such candidate. Nonmember speakers and invited guests shall not endorse or recommend the passage, defeat or repeal of any ballot measure or legislation, nor endorse or recommend any candidate for public office. This does not preclude members from sharing their own opinions or recommendations during club meetings with other members, or inviting other members to events sponsored by organizations in which the announcing member is involved. Nor does it preclude a member inviting and introducing an individual who is a candidate to a club meeting as a guest or a speaker, provided that statements endorsing the candidate or recommending how other members might vote are

not made as part of the candidate's attendance. If an event announcement is to be made during the meeting period, or informational literature put on tables, the permission of the club president must be first obtained. If an announcement or literature favoring a particular ballot or legislative issue is distributed by a member, permission to make an announcement or distribute literature reflecting other points of view on the same issue shall be granted to other members requesting such permission, provided that all such literature distributed shall be limited to that which is informational in nature. No literature that supports or opposes candidates or political parties shall be distributed to members during or in conjunction with a club meeting.

Section 3 - *No Solicitations.* Solicitations of money, pledges, other financial, or in-kind donations for candidates, ballot issues, or other political measures shall not be made during or in conjunction with a club meeting.

Section 4 — *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.

(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.