

In July of 2010 the International President created a committee to revise the bylaws of the club. The first step of this process was to completely rewrite the existing constitution of the club. The rewrite is complete and should be available for everyone to view at this time. It will be the job of the delegates at this year International Rally to approve or reject this constitution at that time. The Constitution is one of the two documents that govern the club and must be approved by the members. The other document is the bylaws which is controlled, modified and interpreted by the International Board of Trustees and not the members.

Having read all of documentation accompanying the revised constitution as well as the proposed constitution, I am recommending a NO vote on this motion. There are many changes in this new document, but none that will help solve the problems within the club today. I have listed several of the things that I see as a problem with the revised document.

Delegate Meeting – This change would eliminate the meeting where delegates from every unit get together every year. This is called a deliberative assembly and it is a foundation for most organizations. Without this meeting proposed changes to the club constitution could not be amended by the members nor could a member run from the floor to hold an International Office. The Deliberative Assembly is so important to an organization that it is the very first item listed in Roberts Rules of order.

IBT Meetings – This change potentially moves the July meeting to a date outside of the International Rally. By doing this it creates an additional expense to the members in the form of travel reimbursement for the members of the IBT. It puts it in the same category as the winter IBT meeting which cost the membership roughly \$30,000 this year. The end of June IBT meeting has been eliminated along with the IBT seminar which was the only time members could publicly address the IBT with their questions, comments and recommendations. Many members have questioned the need for a winter meeting and suggested that it be eliminated to save money. In the current constitution the president can cancel that meeting, but in the revised constitution that option does not exist. Holding the two meetings at the International makes more sense since there is no travel reimbursement to the officers for this meeting. If any meeting should be eliminated, it is the winter IBT meeting.

Regions / Areas – The new constitution removes the regions and replaces them with Areas. This is not a needed change; The IBT through the existing bylaws has the power to define the existing regions as they feel necessary. There is no defined process for dissolving the regions at this time and it raises the question of where the funds in the region bank accounts will be transferred to and who will take possession of any properties owned by the region. It also raises the question of who will be seated at the IBT meetings. On July 5th the IBT will have its first meeting of the club year. Since the new constitution states that the IBT is made up of International officers and Area presidents and the areas and their presidents have not yet been defined, it appears that the International officers will be the only ones in control. This is also supported by the fact

that the new wording states that a quorum is now simply a majority of the members and not a fixed number as we have now (10 out of 17).

Nominating Committee – The new constitution contains the statement “candidates who have met the minimum qualifications as found in the Bylaws”. There should be no other qualification than that of being a member of the club. There is no need for this change. In fact there is really no reason for this committee to exist. Nominations could be sent to Headquarters where their membership could be verified and then their names could be placed on the ballot. Members should also be allowed to run from the floor at the delegates meeting.

Election of Officers – The new constitution eliminates running from the floor at the delegates meeting and allows a candidate to be elected to International office without receiving a majority of the votes. Both of these items should not be eliminated.

International Officers – The terms of the secretary and treasurer are both extended to 2 years while retaining their voting right as a member of the IBT. Every International Officer should be elected on an annual basis. If these were not voting members this would be acceptable.

International Treasurer – The club presently holds in trust over one million dollars in assets. These funds are the property of the club and its members. The new constitution eliminates the requirement for an outside accounting firm to do an audit of the accounting of these funds. The cost of this audit is minimal (\$500) when compared to the amount of assets that need to be safeguarded.

Delegates Caucus – This caucus is nothing more than a discussion of proposed motions by the members. It has no authority to make any changes and is a poor substitute for the Delegates Meeting. It is also not defined to be held during the International Rally when more members could attend. If held outside of the International there will be reimbursable expenses paid to the International officers who are required to attend.

Amendments – Currently there are two ways to amend the Constitution of the club. The new constitution has only one and has combined the worst parts of both of the existing methods into one. The new method will require that the motion be “in compliance” as defined by the CBL committee and will not be subject to any changes by the membership.

MALs – Many of the changes to the Constitution were done to give MALs the right to hold office and to vote. This could have been added to the existing constitution very easily. If this constitution is defeated, I will propose the following changes be made. MALs will be able to select a voting unit on their membership application. They will not be a member of the stated unit, but will be entitled to participate in the voting process for International officers as well as any motions to amend the Constitution. They will also be eligible to run for International office. One dollar of the MAL surcharge will be paid to the stated unit for each MAL to cover any additional expenses. The delegate for the

selected unit will have the voting strength of all the regular members and the MALs who have selected that unit at the delegates meeting.

Summary – The new Constitution could have done many things to correct the problems of the club today. It could have empowered the units to be more creative and to start thinking outside the box. It could have required a balanced budget with the elimination of travel expenses for International officers as well as fixed limits based on the membership numbers for other expenses. It could have allowed anyone to run for International office on a level playing field. It could have incorporated the proposed motion from the Denver unit to give the members oversight on any changes made by the IBT to the bylaws of the club. This Constitution does not give any additional rights to the units which are the foundation of the club. There are too many negatives in this document to justify the few positives. The existing Constitution can be amended to incorporate these changes; a new constitution is not needed.

The size of the club is shrinking every year as are the assets of the club. Raising the membership dues only accelerates this process, it does not fix anything. If the club is to survive things need to change and that change needs to come from the members. Replacing the constitution was the opportunity for many of these changes to be made, sadly it was not.

I encourage the members to carefully read all of the documentation included with the revised constitution. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee report contains many of the issues that I have listed here. The CBL Committee recommends that this motion be defeated and so do I.