

May Meeting of the R.I. Board

Under the leadership of President Charlie Wheeler, 11 members of the R.I. board spent May 16 and 17 considering more than seventy important items which had come from all parts of the world. A number of decisions of the board have appeared in the Convention Daily Bulletin and in the last issue of the News Letter. Additional decisions will appear in subsequent issues of the News Letter as independent items.

A summary of other important decisions is presented in the following paragraphs:

"A Wartime Challenge"

Because varying interpretations have been given in different countries to the Wartime Challenge, issued by the board of R.I. in 1942-43, and political significance has been attached thereto which was not intended, the board deemed it desirable that the position be restated. Below is given the restatement in full:

In view of the fact that the term "private enterprise" is given entirely different connotations and implications by those living under different political systems, and meanings have been attributed to that term as used in the "Wartime Challenge" which were not intended, the board reaffirms absolutely the basic principles stated in Article IX of the standard club constitution entitled "Avoidance of Politics," and has never at any time intended to take any action which might be construed as contrary thereto.

The board is in entire accord with the viewpoint that a cardinal principle of Rotary is that Rotary International is and must continue to be non-sectarian and non-political.

It reaffirms the obligation of Rotarians to do everything possible to promote high ethical standards in all businesses and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

The board further approves and endorses the decision of the Aims and Objects Committee of R.I. at its meeting of February, 1944, a portion of which reads as follows:

The Aims and Objects Committee of Rotary International expresses its deep concern lest some Rotarians or Rotary Clubs inadvertently embarrass Rotary International and injure its effectiveness throughout the world by actions which are beyond the legitimate scope of Rotary activities, and therefore urges each Rotary Club to observe and conform to the provisions of Article IX of the standard club constitution.

Rotary and Famine Relief

The board reiterated its decision made at its June, 1942 meeting, wherein the board expressed sympathy with any proposal to bring relief to distressed humanity through the supplying of clothes, food, and other necessities, but wherein the board recognized that this was a matter which the Allied Governments were

studying, and expressed the belief that they could be relied upon at the earliest possible moment to take steps to alleviate suffering among distressed peoples, thereby making acts by R.I. undesirable, since by multiplication of effort, the aims of the respective governments might be retarded rather than assisted.

In that decision the board pointed out, in addition, that Rotary clubs are autonomous and, accordingly, may take such action as circumstances prescribe. The board expressed its confidence that, when general relief measures have been taken throughout the world, Rotary clubs so disposed will find opportunities of supplementing what has been done officially by the governments.

The board reiterated also its stand taken at its July, 1942, meeting wherein the board recognized that numerous agencies are in existence to handle the promotion of various campaigns to supply humanitarian aid and equipment and, because of this, and the large number of such campaigns that are continually developing, the board expressed the belief that R.I. should not ally itself with such movements.

Length of International Assembly

The board agreed that, if at all possible, the international assembly in 1945 and in subsequent years should be of a week's duration and be so set up as to give the maximum amount of Rotary education, instruction in administrative duties, and fellowship to those in attendance.

Obligations Due R.I.

It was agreed that the provisions of Section 2 of Article II of the by-laws of R.I., relating to non-payment of obligations to R.I. by Rotary clubs, shall be strictly enforced as provided in the procedure established by the board, viz.:

1. The secretary will send a registered letter to each club which fails to make its per capita tax payment within the three months period calling attention to the by-law concerning termination of membership for non-payment;
2. Copy of this letter will go to the district governor with an appeal for his cooperation in
 - (a) effecting immediate payment;
 - (b) or, where immediate payment is impossible but early future payment likely, recommending an extension of time;
 - (c) or, where payment within the one year appears impossible, recommending cancellation of the indebtedness, provided that he considers the club worth saving.
3. If an extension of time is granted for less than one year from due date and the club fails to pay within the period of extension, follow out again the procedure outlined in the foregoing steps.
4. If the extension of time has been granted up to one year from due date, the secretariat will send a registered letter to the club, with a copy to the governor, to reach the club early enough to serve as a final warning of the early expira-

tion of the maximum period allowed for payment and the necessity, under the by-laws, for terminating the membership of the club if the payment is not received before the expiration of that period.

5. A period of grace amounting to 30 days after the expiration of the one year period shall be allowed.
6. At the close of the 30 days grace, the secretary of R.I. will declare the membership of the club as having terminated.
7. The secretary will then send a registered letter to the club confirming the termination of its membership and asking for the return of the charter (via the district governor) a copy of this letter to go to the district governor with special instructions, if any are necessary, in connection with taking up the charter and returning it to the secretariat.

Pamphlet on "The Post-War Work Pile"

The board authorized the printing of a sufficient number of copies of the pamphlet entitled "The Post-War Work Pile" by Member Roy A. Plumb of the R.I. Post-War Committee for distribution of one copy to each Rotary club in the world and to each R.I. officer.

Reserve for Contingencies of the Magazine

The board rescinded its action taken in May, 1943, wherein provision was made for setting up a reserve for contingencies for "The Rotarian" and "Revista Rotaria," and authorized the magazine committee to establish a reserve for contingencies under the following plan:

- (a) The net excess of income over expense of the various editions of the official magazine of R.I. shall be set aside at the end of each fiscal year as a Reserve for Contingencies, which shall be accumulative annually until such time as the total of said Reserve fund shall amount to ten percent of the consolidated magazine income as shown by the final audit of each fiscal year. All excess of income over expense above that required for the said Reserve shall be credited to the general surplus of R.I.
- (b) If at the end of any fiscal year the Reserve is in excess of ten percent of the total consolidated income of the magazine, the Reserve shall be reduced to ten percent of the total income.
- (c) This Reserve for Contingencies shall be available to the magazine committee for use in meeting exigencies common to publishing enterprises and for the publication and improvement of the magazine.
- (d) If a part or all of this Reserve for Contingencies is expended in a fiscal year the Reserve shall be restored to the limit prescribed in Section (a) out of the first available excess of income over expense of the magazine.