

INTERIM REPORT, BLUE BOOK REVISION COMMITTEE

Robstown, Texas

January 28, 2011

Good morning. My name is Kerry Mattila, Past President, Ontario Canada Unit and a member of the Revision Committee.

The Blue Book Revision Committee was initiated by President Norm Beu at the July 5, 2010 meeting in Gillette as a Special Committee of the Executive Committee. Why a Revision Committee? RONR describes the Revision process as one that includes sufficient changes that the resulting document really is a new document, not an amended document. Our Constitution, Bylaws and Policy - the Blue Book - is an amalgam of original text, multiple amendments and additions. It is complex, frequently contradictory or ambiguous and cumbersome. It needs an overhaul.

Dona Garner, our Club Parliamentarian, was asked to Chair the Committee and I was asked to be a member. Joe Perryman from Washington was next, followed by Bob Novak, Metro NY and finally Tom Smithson from the NorCal Unit. We started as a diverse group of members from different geographic areas, with differing backgrounds in the Club. What we shared is a passion for this Club and a desire to see it move forward at a time when most of the news we get about the state of our Club is not encouraging.

At the outset, we had a ready supply of material to work with. Over the past number of years, there have been studies, member surveys, failed motions to amend the Constitution and Bylaws, reports from the 2020 Committee and many ideas for change that never reached the motion stage. We interviewed Standing Committee Chairs, Region Presidents, and Executive Committee members. Much of what we needed to do our job already existed or had been previously discussed.

A Constitution is the foundation on which an organization is built. Ours was designed in an era when WBCCI was growing into a club with tens of thousands of members. That is not the Club that we have today and our Constitution has grown dated. It is important to understand that the Constitution and its Bylaws are a very integrated package, where any change, even a small one, can have unintended consequences in one, two or five other areas. That has made amending our Constitution and Bylaws a difficult task. A Revision provides an opportunity for a fresh, comprehensive approach. The goal is to have a new Constitution ready for review by the members of WBCCI in the coming weeks, studied and then voted on by Units for the Delegates meeting at the International Rally in DuQuoin this June. I commend our President and the Executive Committee for having the courage to give us this opportunity and the commitment to see it through to completion.

Ladies and gentlemen, after many hundreds of hours of work, we are almost finished in drafting a new Constitution for WBCCI. We are still working some minor details but we are 99% there. We believe that this proposed Constitution is a workable approach to running the business of WBCCI in a leaner, more efficient and more participative manner. It is appropriate for the Club that we are today and hopefully

will be well into the future. While a new Constitution can help us to operate more efficiently, it doesn't change the real heart of WBCCI – Fun, Fellowship and Adventure. Instead, it changes how we do our business.

So what is different? Virtually every Article and Section has been changed in some manner – from editorial changes to complete rewrites. The following are some of the highlights:

- We have gone back to our club roots and replaced the Code of Ethics with a Standard of Conduct that is positive, that further enshrines the Fun, Fellowship and Adventure of WBCCI.
- The proposal is based on a leaner WBCCI structure, with a smaller Executive Committee and a smaller regional structure resulting in a smaller IBT.
- We are shortening the term of office for region officers and lengthening the term for the International Treasurer and Recording Secretary, for purposes of continuity.
- We are proposing to use direct member voting for election of officers and for future amendments to our Constitution while retaining a deliberative forum for discussing key issues.
- We are giving greater flexibility in setting dates for the International Rally and, since with direct member voting there will be no Delegates, we will have fewer meetings at the rally, allowing more opportunity for Fun, Fellowship and Adventure.
- We are proposing that MALs be given more rights within the Club, such as the right to vote and hold office in Intra-Clubs and at the International level.
- There is a simplified and streamlined process for any future amendments to the Constitution and Standard of Conduct that will be the same for all, no matter where the proposed amendment originates.
- One thing that is new is that WBCCI will be able to use electronic means to do any and all of its business, as may be appropriate. Our current Constitution doesn't allow that.

This proposed constitution truly is a new document and a new way for WBCCI to conduct its affairs. But as Darrell Watters described us at Gillette last year, we are a traveling social club. What we value and want to maintain are the social aspects of our Club. Nothing that we are proposing will change that.

So, what is next? We are doing our final edit to make sure that we have all the words right and haven't overlooked anything in the final document. An explanation of what is different and the rationale will be developed to be distributed along with the proposed Constitution. This material will be made available to all Units so that members can study the proposal, vote on it and instruct their Delegate. The Delegates meeting at DuQuoin will be a pivotal meeting for the future of this Club. We may never have a better opportunity to make these kinds of decisions. To the Units, we ask that you make sure that your Delegate will be there and that your voice will be heard on this critical issue.

Our Committee has also started work on the Bylaws and Policy, but of course cannot go too far down that road until the Delegates vote and approve a new Constitution. Once that is done, the Bylaws will follow quickly and we can assure you, they will also be slimmer and simpler.

Mr. President, we are very confident that we have a good workable package that will move this Club forward, that will remove some of the irritants that have caused dissention and that will give us a leaner, more efficient organization. There have been many calls for change in WBCCI. Well, it's here and it's time. Members of WBCCI, it's your time to decide.

Thank you.