

Would you like to help your Club be stronger?

Show Me Rotary Council Members are often asked by Rotarians for their advice on how to help their Rotary Club be stronger. Often the responses are tailored to a specific club, but one piece of advice that is applicable to many clubs and often repeated follows:

Advice to Clubs about Officer Elections

If you are your Club's President, one of your responsibilities involves scheduling the election of club officers. An observation by the Show Me Rotary Leadership Planning Council is that many Presidents (and Clubs) miss the opportunity to help their club in a very large way, by not timely electing an individual to serve as President-elect for a full year. This would require that the future Rotary Club President be elected not more than two (2) years and no less than 18 months prior to the day of taking office. Elections should occur in the November - December time frame of each year. Clubs already following this timetable are strongly commended. It is apparent that the stronger clubs are led by Presidents that have adequately prepared to be President. The time served by a President Nominee and then as President-elect provides an opportunity for an individual to look forward to becoming President with enthusiasm and excitement, to reflect on the opportunity where their club can truly "make a difference" and to organize their life and thoughts to make the very most of this opportunity. These individuals have a greater likelihood of savoring the year that they serve as President and often are able to lead their Rotary Club to accomplish significant goals in their communities.

Every President should be aware that guidance on this topic is available in the *Manual of Procedure for Rotary International* which provides for the election of Club Officers in the month prior to December 31 of each year. For more details please consult *RI's Manual of Procedure*. The 2016 edition may be downloaded from RI as document (035) en (for English). Article 13, Section 4 and 5 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and Articles 3, 4, and 5 of the Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws are applicable to this topic. Newer editions may be available.