



13 May 2009

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL
SOUTH PACIFIC & PHILIPPINES OFFICE
Parramatta NSW
Australia

Attention: Ms. Joy Walker (Joy.Walker@rotary.org)
Manager, Club & District Support

Subject: Email of Ms. Walker dated 12 May 2009

Dear Colleagues in the SPPO,

I acknowledge receipt of the email sent by your Club and District Support Manager Joy Walker with date and time stamp "Tuesday, May 12, 2009,10:31 AM." My staff brought Ms. Walker's message to my attention this morning.

Consistent with Article 13.040.4 of the RI Bylaws, the DGN election results were officially announced to the candidates, clubs, and Rotarians immediately after I received the report of the Balloting Committee at the conclusion of the ballot validation and counting proceedings in the afternoon of 11 May 2009. In accordance with the said results, I also declared Past President Ismael "Billy" Villareal as the governor nominee of our district. Yesterday evening, I caused the issuance of a report to the clubs and Rotarians in the district confirming and reiterating the said official announcement and declaration. A copy of the report is attached for your reference and guidance.

During the validation and counting proceedings, the representative of the challenging candidate PP Joji Tan (PP Billy was the candidate previously selected by the nominating committee) manifested that a query had been sent to RI in regard to the propriety of the district election guideline interpreting the phrase "most recent semiannual payment preceding the date on which the vote is to be held" as used in Article 13.040.1 of the RI Bylaws. However, as neither the querying club nor Ms. Walker saw it fit to furnish me a copy of the query itself, the district remains uninformed as to specific bases for your statement that the guideline "does not appear to be consistent with RI Bylaws" or for your warning that "a recommendation may be made for a recount of the ballot." Indeed, and I remark at this, even the identity of the club referred to by Ms. Walker as having "raised the point" remains undisclosed.

Therefore, until and unless the district is favored with information sufficient for it to respond fully and intelligently on this matter, I shall consider myself duty-bound to certify PP Billy as governor nominee to the General Secretary within the ten (10)- day period provided under Article 13.050 of the RI Bylaws, reckoned from my official 11 May 2009 announcement and declaration. The clubs have spoken and as their servant, their voice I heed, their lead I follow.

Nevertheless, as Ms. Walker invites us to “consult further,” I make of record the following:

FIRST: Immediately upon my receipt of Ms. Walker’s email, I ordered a list drawn up of the clubs’ respective voting strengths computed in two (2) ways, to wit: (a) Based strictly on the clubs’ payments of per capita dues as reflected in their latest SAR invoices; and (b) Based on all payments of per capita dues, inclusive of *pro-rata* payments made even after the SAR-based payment but before each club voted. As you will readily see from this list, a copy of which is attached hereto, the total votes under the second scheme is greater than the comparative figure under the first scheme by a mere nine (9) votes. You will agree this would not materially alter the election results, considering that PP Billy garnered nineteen (19) more votes than PP Joji. A recount, in this situation, would be a superfluity.

SECOND: The superfluity of a recount notwithstanding, I assert that there is actually no inconsistency between the RI Bylaws and the district guideline.

Nowhere in the constitutional documents of RI or in the pronouncements of its board as set forth in the 2009 RI Code of Policies will we find a rule suggesting that a club’s voting strength should be based strictly on its SAR or on its SAR Invoice. Likewise, nowhere in the constitutional documents of RI or in the pronouncements of its board will we find a rule excluding from the per capita dues paid under cover of the SAR, the *pro rata* per capita dues subsequently paid to RI. Rather, I perceive in Article 13,040.1 of the RI Bylaws, the laudable intention of basing voting strength on the club’s *current* membership as of the time it actually votes.

I repeat my submission that, contrary to Ms. Walker’s casual observation, there is actually no inconsistency between the RI Bylaws and the district guideline. In fact, my decision (to include post-SAR *pro rata* payments in ascertaining voting strengths) added impetus to Pres. DK Lee’s membership drive, and I have taken this as a further indication of its essential correctness.

In any event, for your consideration, I attach to this letter a brief on the district’s position as to the proper interpretation of the term “most recent semiannual payment preceding the date on which the vote is to be held” as used in Article 13.040.1 of the RI Bylaws.

In any event, should I be directed by Pres. DK Lee or the RI Board to conduct a recount, I shall of course comply, in the dutiful discharge of my duties as the official representative of RI in District 3830. But I too am obliged to the clubs and Rotarians in my district, and with a view to their empowerment, I am posting this letter as well as Ms. Walker's, in the district's website and email fora. Utmost honesty, fairness, and transparency have always been my fighting faith; my fellow Rotarians and their clubs expect nothing more, but neither will they accept anything less.

Thank you and best regards.

Yours in Rotary,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'E. Limon', with a stylized flourish at the end.

EDGARDO "BOYET" LIMON
Governor