

## **THE HISTORY OF ECLUBS IN ROTARY**

The concept of Rotary e-clubs was developed by members of the Rotary Club of Boulder Colorado and a design committee from D5450, commencing work in March 2001. The Board of Rotary International approved the world's first provisional Rotary e-club (Rotary eClub One) in 2001.

In 2003 a major review of the Rotary e-club concept was undertaken. Significant changes were made, monitored closely by RI. The model that was adopted became the benchmark that we all know today.

In June 2004 the RI Council on Legislation approved the resolution: "To allow attendance credit for a 30-minute interactive club Web site activity." This opened the way for the Cyber Rotary Clubs Pilot Project with 14 e-clubs participating in the proof-of-concept evaluation trial.

A Rotary e-clubs advisory panel was established to respond to the needs of the 14 Rotary e-clubs in the pilot.

In June 2008, following a robust Q&A session, RI Directors were satisfied that e-clubs should continue beyond the pilot period, subject to the approval of the 2010 Council on Legislation (COL).

The Rotary E-Clubs Pilot Project concluded on 30 June 2010 following the COL at which Rotary e-clubs were approved permanently, with a limit of two per Rotary District.

At the 2013 COL, voting delegates removed the limit of two Rotary e-clubs per District. Earlier concerns that there may have been a "gold rush" effect, with an overwhelming number of e-clubs being chartered, proved to be

unfounded, with less than 100 Rotary e-clubs being chartered in the three years following the 2010 COL.

In 2014, District 9790 established an Eclub as a satellite of the Rotary Club of Southern Mitchell.

With thanks to Rotary International and other E-clubs who have similar information available, especially the Rotary E-Club of London Centenary.