

ROTARY

CODE OF POLICIES

January 2008

(Containing Board Decisions Through November 2007)

ROTARY CODE OF POLICIES

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PREFACE

Rotary Code of Policies

HISTORY AND PURPOSE

This volume constitutes the first known codification of the general and permanent policies of Rotary International. The decisions of the RI Board, the RI Conventions, and the RI Councils on Legislation in establishing such policies have been collected and compiled since 1910, but without any systematic arrangement. Thousands of decisions were reviewed in preparing this Code, and many were found to be duplicative or outdated. However, several hundred were found to still be in effect, and they are set forth in the Code.

The purpose of the Code is to place all general and permanent policies of the RI Board, the RI Conventions, and the RI Councils on Legislation, which are currently in effect, into an integrated and comprehensive volume with the topics arranged in logical order and with consistent language. The existence of such a code will make it easier for members of the Board, and those charged with the responsibility to administer the policies, to be familiar with all general and permanent policies currently in force, regardless of the dates of their adoption. This inaugural Code of Policies is expected to provide an important source of information for Rotary leaders.

INITIAL STEP

This first version of the Code is limited to a compilation of general and permanent policies currently in effect. It is recognized that some areas still need the development of policies and that some of the policies shown in the Code need restatement. Therefore, it is contemplated that the various chapters will be revised and supplemented, as time permits, in order to perfect and refine the Code as a comprehensive document. It is hoped that at least one of chapters can be revised and supplemented each year for the next several years until the Code is improved to the point of optimum usefulness. The goal is to make the Code a practical and helpful document, which will serve as a model for Rotary clubs and districts.

ARRANGEMENT

Each chapter in the Code is intended to represent a separate subject, and each article is intended to represent a separate topic, as indicated by the titles. The chapters are numbered consecutively and are arranged in logical order for easy reference. A listing of the articles within the chapters is shown at the beginning of each chapter, and a listing of the sections within the articles is shown at the beginning of each article. If new articles become necessary between the issuance of revised editions of the Code, then such articles may be inserted in the appropriate location with an "A" following the number of the new article. For example, "Article 2A" may be added between Article 2 and Article 3. Space also has been left at the end of each chapter for additional articles as needed. For example, Chapter II ends with Article 12 and Chapter III begins with Article 16.

NUMBERING

The Code utilizes the numbering system used in the RI Bylaws, and the sections are numbered progressively with Arabic numerals. A progressive rather than consecutive system is used in order to provide space for the insertion of additional sections within the articles to accommodate new policies in the future. Generally, the sections are numbered progressively by tens. For example, in Article 5 the first three sections are numbered 5.010, 5.020, and 5.030. New sections, as necessary, may be inserted between existing sections without changing any of the current numbers. For example, a new section between 5.010 and 5.020 could be 5.015 or any other number between 5.010 and 5.020, which illustrates the flexibility in the general numbering system.

Each section number also carries the number of the article in which it is found. The article number and the section number are separated by a decimal point. When it is recognized that the number to the left of the decimal point is the article number, and the number to the right of the decimal point is the section number within that article, the system is easily comprehended and utilized. For example, Section 7.050 means Section 50 in Article 7.

ANNOTATIONS

Annotations for development of the various sections of the Code are shown at the end of the sections. Initially, all of the sections will show an adoption date of June, 1998, which will be noted as "June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348". As the policies are amended, the

sections will show the dates and decision numbers of the applicable amendments. For example, if a section is amended by Board Decision 123 on October 30, 2001, the following notation will appear at the end of the amended section: “Oct. 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123.”

The “Source” notes at the end of the sections also show the historical development of the policies prior to adoption of the Code. “Cross reference” notes also are shown at the end of some of the sections to refer the reader to other sections of the Code for related topics. “Exhibit” notes also appear at the end of some sections to call attention to related documents in the exhibits portion of the Code.

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AMENDMENTS AND NEW POLICIES

The RI Board will adopt new policies and amend existing policies in its regular course of business. In the case of amendments, the sections of the Code being amended will be referenced in the actions of the Board. In the case of new policies, the placement of the new policies in the Code will be referenced in the actions of the Board.

ANNUAL SUPPLEMENTS

Annual supplements will be prepared and distributed to show the changes in the Code through the close of the last fiscal year. The supplements will be cumulative for the period of time from the adoption of the Code, or its latest edition, to the end of the applicable fiscal year. Making the annual supplements cumulative in nature means that each copy of the Code will need to contain only the latest supplement in order to be current. The annual supplements may be organized for placement either as one insertion at the front or back of the Code or as separate insertions at the end of the various articles of the Code.

REVISED EDITIONS

The Code will need to be revised periodically in order to incorporate the amendments and additions into the body of the Code itself rather than relying upon the cumulative annual supplements for a period of many years. It is expected that the Code will be revised after each meeting of the Council on Legislation.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The Code has been prepared by members of the RI staff and the Codification Committee over a period of two years without the expense of consultants or contractors, except for some initial work by an outside company in the late 1980's when the Code was first proposed.

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CHAPTER I

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1.010. Purpose

The purpose of this *Rotary Code of Policies* is to establish a comprehensive document containing all of the general and permanent policies of Rotary International. All policies of a general and permanent nature adopted by the RI Board or the RI Council on Legislation after the effective date of this *Rotary Code of Policies* will be added to the Code in order for it to remain a single collection of such policies. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.020. Citation

The policies contained in this *Rotary Code of Policies* shall constitute and be designated the *Rotary Code of Policies* and may be so cited. Such policies may also be cited simply as the "Code of Policies" or the "Code." Revised editions, as prepared and authenticated from time to time in accordance with this article, shall be designated by listing the year of the revision and adding the word "revised" to the title. For example, a revised edition of the Code in 2002 would be designated as the "2002 Revised Code of Rotary Policies." Such a revised edition also may be cited simply as the "2002 Revised Code" or the "2002 Code." (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.030. Rules of Construction

All general provisions, terms, phrases and expressions contained in this Code are to be construed in a manner that allows for the implementation of policies. Words and phrases are to be taken in their plain or usual sense, but technical words and phrases having a particular or appropriate meaning in law or in the constitutional documents are to be understood according to their technical import. As used in this Code, the words "shall," "is," and "are" are mandatory, and the words "may" and "should" are permissive. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.040. Definitions

In the construction of this Code, the following definitions are to be observed unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

- 1) **Board:** The Board of Directors of Rotary International.
- 2) **Club:** A Rotary club.
- 3) **Code or Code of Policies:** The *Rotary Code of Policies* as contained in this article and the other articles of this document.
- 4) **Constitutional Documents:** The Constitution and Bylaws of Rotary International and the Standard Rotary Club Constitution.
- 5) **Council:** The RI Council on Legislation.
- 6) **Foundation:** The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.
- 7) **General Officers of RI:** The president, president-elect, vice-president, treasurer, other directors and the general secretary.
- 8) **General Secretary:** The duly elected or acting general secretary of Rotary International.
- 9) **Governor:** A governor of a Rotary district.
- 10) **Member:** A member, other than an honorary member, of a Rotary club.
- 11) **RI:** Rotary International.
- 12) **Rotary Entity/Rotary Entities:** Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, a Rotary club or group of clubs, a Rotary district or group of districts (including a multidistrict activity or a multidistrict administrative group), a Rotary Fellowship, Rotarian Action Groups, RI Convention Host Committees, and administrative territorial units of Rotary International. Individual RI Programs are not considered Rotary Entities.
- 13) **Rotary Marks:** See Section 33.005.
- 14) **Rotary Senior Leaders:** Those individuals serving as current, incoming, and past RI presidents; current, incoming, and past RI directors; and current, incoming, and past Foundation trustees.
- 15) **Rotary World Magazine Press:** When referred to as a group, *The Rotarian* and all certified regional magazines shall be known as the Rotary World Magazine Press.
- 16) **Secretariat:** The world headquarters and international offices of Rotary International.
- 17) **Spouse:** One of a couple with legally married status.

- 18) **Staff:** The employees of Rotary International.
- 19) **TRF:** The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.
- 20) **Trustees:** The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

1.050. Relationship to the Constitutional Documents

This Code is supplemental to the constitutional documents and should be construed in harmony with them. In the event of a conflict between the provisions of the constitutional documents and the provisions of this Code, the constitutional documents take precedence and thereby modify the conflicting provisions of the Code. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.060. Severability

The chapters, articles, sections, and subsections of this Code are severable. If any chapter, article, section, or subsection of this Code is declared invalid by the judgment of any court or other agency of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect any of the remaining chapters, articles, sections, or subsections of this Code. If any part of this Code is declared invalid by any court or agency of competent jurisdiction, it shall be invalid only within the jurisdiction of such court or agency. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.070. Repeal of Policies

When an action repealing a former policy is itself repealed or rescinded, such repeal or rescission shall not be construed to revive the former policy, unless such policy is expressly reinstated. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.080. Implementation of Policies

Unless noted to the contrary in a particular provision, the general secretary shall have both the duty and the authority to implement the policies set forth in this Code. For that purpose, the general secretary may prepare and approve policies, procedures, guidelines, rules, schedules and other documents to implement the policies. The general secretary also may delegate authority for the implementation of various policies to one or more members of the staff, either by name or title. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.090. Amendments

Amendments to this Code may be made through action of a Council, in accordance with the provisions of the constitutional documents for actions by the Council. Amendments to the Code also may be made by the Board, in accordance with the constitutional documents for actions by the Board. Amendments made by a Council shall become effective on 1 July following the action, subject to the limitations of the constitutional documents. All other amendments shall become effective upon their adoption by the Board, unless a later date is specified in such action. When appropriate, the Board will delay the effective date of amendments to the Code in order to provide adequate notice of the changes or additions to the policies.

When amending this Code, the Board shall endeavor to specify the chapter, article, section, or subsection being amended or to designate the place in the Code for the new policies to be inserted. Failure to make such references shall not affect the validity of actions by the Board to adopt new or different policies. The general secretary has the duty and authority to make technical corrections in the amendments adopted by the Board and to incorporate such corrections into the Code. Such corrections, if any, shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 42*)

1.100. Annual Supplements

This Code shall be updated by the general secretary after each board meeting. An annual cumulative supplement to this Code shall be prepared by the general secretary following the end of each Rotary year. Such cumulative supplements shall contain all amendments to the Code, and all other changes or additions of general and permanent policies, since the Code's adoption or its last revision. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.110. Revised Editions

Revised editions of this Code shall be prepared by the general secretary from time-to-time, but not less than once every four years. Revised editions shall merge the Code (or the latest revised edition), the latest cumulative annual supplement and any subsequent amendments of the Code, and all other changes or additions of general and permanent policies, into a single integrated document. Revised editions of the Code will bear the year of publication as part of the title, such as the 2001 Revised Code of Rotary Policies. Revised editions, when duly prepared and authenticated, will replace earlier editions of the Code. When a revised edition of the Code is prepared and authenticated, the revised edition shall be presented to the Board at a regular meeting, and its receipt shall be noted in the minutes.

The new edition of the Code will become effective at the time of such presentation to the Board with the proviso that any policies inadvertently omitted or altered in their transfer from the previous edition of the Code to the new edition will remain effective as stated in the earlier edition for six-months. During the six-month period after its presentation to the Board, the new edition may be corrected by the general secretary to reflect accurately the transfer of policies from the previous edition, and such corrections shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting. After the expiration of the six month period, the new edition will become as fully effective as if adopted in toto by the Board, and the text of the policies in such revised edition may not be changed thereafter except by action of the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

1.120. Authentication

The general secretary has the duty to prepare, and the authority to authenticate, the cumulative annual supplements and the revised editions of the Code as they are issued in accordance with this article. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)



CHAPTER II

THE ROTARY CLUB

Articles

- 2. Club Membership and Administration**
- 3. Club Name, Locality, and Adjustment to Locality**
- 4. General Membership Guidelines and Classifications**
- 5. Types of Membership and New Members**
- 6. Former Rotarians and Family of Current Rotarians**
- 7. Club Meetings and Attendance**
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- 11. Club Relationships With Rotarians and Others**

Article 2. Club Membership and Administration

- 2.010. Membership of Clubs in RI**
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- 2.030. Clubs Chartered Prior to 6 June 1922**
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- 2.070. Club Compliance With National Law**
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- 2.100. Clubs and Politics**
- 2.110. Youth Protection**
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2.010. Membership of Clubs in RI

RI is an association of member Rotary clubs, each of which has a direct relationship and common responsibility to the association with no national or other grouping of clubs intervening in the administration and functioning of the clubs as members of RI. Every member club of RI is expected to comply with the provisions of the constitutional documents which provide for the organizational structure and functioning of the club. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265

2.010.1. Failure to Function

In accordance with the RI Bylaws, the RI Board is responsible for ensuring that all member clubs of the association are functioning, and defines a functioning club as

1. having paid its per capita dues to Rotary International;
2. meeting regularly;
3. ensuring that its members subscribe to a Rotary World Magazine Press magazine;

4. implementing service projects that address needs in the local community and/or in communities in other countries;
5. receiving the visit of the governor, assistant governor, or an officer of Rotary International;
6. maintaining appropriate general liability insurance as provided in section 71.080. of this Code.

Each governor shall identify which clubs in the district are failing to function according to the above criteria and report the same on the “Memo of Club Visits” form. This form shall be submitted to the general secretary. The general secretary will review the “Memo of Club Visits” and shall annually report to the Board at its fourth meeting which clubs are not meeting the minimum standards for all clubs in accordance with this section. Rotary senior leaders are also encouraged to report any observations that suggest that a club has failed to function. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 339; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 425; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

2.010.2. Plan For Achieving Minimum Standards In All Rotary Clubs

1. Creating Opportunities for Clubs to Become Functioning

The following steps will be taken to support the efforts of governors to strengthen and expand the clubs in their districts:

- a) By 1 August in each Rotary year, the general secretary will provide to each governor a list of the clubs in the district that have been identified as not functioning in accordance with section 2.010.1 of the *Rotary Code of Policies*. RI directors and directors-elect will receive a copy of these lists for the clubs in their zones.
- b) The governor will make arrangements as deemed appropriate to strengthen these clubs so they are able to fulfill the minimum standards established by the Board for all clubs by the end of the current Rotary year and report the same to the general secretary.

2. Addressing Clubs That Are Not Functioning

If a club elects not to participate in the strengthening opportunities described in Part II, the governor will work with the club to identify an appropriate course of action from the following options:

- a) Voluntary termination – After careful consideration, in consultation with the governor, the club members will agree to terminate the membership of their club. The governor will provide the names of interested Rotarians to nearby clubs for membership consideration.
- b) Club consolidation – In consultation with the governor, the club and all of its members will consolidate with a nearby club. This option is applicable when there is a nearby club that is willing to absorb into its membership all of the members of the club concerned. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.010.3. Merger of Clubs

Where geographically feasible, neighboring clubs with fewer than 20 members should merge. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

Cross References

9.020. Clubs in Arrears to RI

31.030.5. Club Termination and Reinstatement by General Secretary

31.030.10. Magazine Subscription Requirements

2.020. Association of Clubs Outside RI

Clubs may cooperate in sponsoring service projects where such cooperation may be considered necessary or desirable. However, a club does not have the authority to bind its members to any other organization nor establish a formal association of clubs outside the framework of RI. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: April 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.030. Clubs Chartered Prior to 6 June 1922

Unless an exception was granted pursuant to the RI Bylaws, all clubs chartered before 6 June 1922 shall be deemed to have adopted the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, as amended from time to time, since 1 January 1990. The General Secretary, on behalf of the Board, is required to identify, as an addendum for each club to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, those variations, submitted by some of the clubs chartered before 6 June 1922, that meet the following criteria: the provision must have been in the club's constitution as of 6 June 1922; it must be a provision derived from one which was in the club's constitution as of 6 June 1922, having been amended to conform more closely to the standard; it must have been a part of the standard constitution at some time since 1922, which was changed by the Convention or Council, but which the clubs did not change at that time; and to keep accurate records in the Secretariat of all identified variations. No variation should be identified that would substitute a different procedure for Article 19 (amendments) of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, since to do so would be inconsistent with the superior authority of the constitutional documents of RI. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

2.030.1. Pre-1922 Club Constitutions

Where a club has had one or more variations identified as addenda to its constitution in accord with RI Bylaws 2.030.2. and wishes to amend any such variation to make it conform more closely to the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, as amended from time to time by a Council or Convention, it may do so by following the provisions of Standard Rotary Club Constitution Article 19, section 2. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

2.040. Recommended Club Bylaws

The Standard Rotary Club Constitution requires all clubs to adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the constitution and bylaws of RI. The Board has adopted Recommended Club Bylaws as found in Appendix A to this Code. A change in the recommended Standard Club Bylaws does not necessarily mean a change in the Code of Policies. Amendments to the Recommended Club Bylaws resulting from the action of the Council on Legislation may be approved by the Executive Committee, acting on the Board's behalf. The Recommended Club Bylaws shall be reviewed by the Board at least once every six years. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197*)

Source: July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.050. Incorporation of Clubs

A club may incorporate so long as the club includes within the articles of incorporation a phrase reciting the allegiance to and submission of the club to the constitutional documents of RI as now existent and as may hereafter be amended. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36. Amended by Jan 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.050.1. Suggested Incorporation Format

Certain general provisions for articles of incorporation are as follows:

The name of this corporation shall be "Rotary Club of _____, _____ Incorporated."
(City) (State/Province/Country)

This corporation shall be a non-profit corporation. Its purpose shall be charitable and benevolent and to encourage, promote and extend the Object of Rotary, and to maintain the relations of a member club in RI.

In so far as the provisions of the law of the State/Province/Country of _____, under which this corporation is incorporated, shall permit, this corporation shall operate in a manner consistent with the constitution and bylaws of Rotary International.

This corporation shall have the authority to adopt such bylaws as may be consistent with the purposes enumerated herein and consistent with the law of the State/Province/Country of _____, under which this corporation is incorporated. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236*)

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325 and June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

2.050.2. Harmony of Club Corporate Bylaws

In order that the new corporation shall be brought into harmony with RI, it shall adopt as its corporate bylaws all relevant provisions of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution and Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws provided by RI for its member clubs. The articles of incorporation must contain such additional statements and declarations as may be required by the laws where the corporation is incorporated. These provisions may be modified in any way not inconsistent with the expressed purpose of the incorporated club to be in all respects a member club of RI. If any existing club be incorporated pursuant to

these conditions, it shall be recognized as a mere continuance of the former club without any change in its relationship to RI. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.050.3. General Secretary Authority Regarding Club Incorporations

The general secretary shall review all proposed incorporation documents on behalf of the Board for compliance with the policies of RI. In the event of unusual circumstances requiring further statements of policy, the general secretary shall refer any such application to the Executive Committee. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.060. Incorporation of Club Activity

Where a club proposes to engage in an unusual activity which is likely to involve liability on the part of the club, such activity should be separately incorporated from the club itself. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36. *Amended by* Jan 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.070. Club Compliance With National Law

Every club is expected to comply with the laws of the country in which it exists and functions. In order to comply with the laws of such country, clubs may take action as may be necessary to meet specific legal requirements, provided that:

1. the action taken and any arrangements made relating to the organization and functioning of the clubs within the country do not contravene the constitutional documents as they relate to the practical administration and functioning of the clubs;
2. any club concerned submits and continues to submit to the constitutional documents of RI as they may be amended from time to time and that the club continues in all respects to be and to function as a member Rotary club of RI; and
3. any such action as may be contemplated by the clubs of any country shall first be submitted to the Board for review. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220*)

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; *Amended by* June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

2.080. Legal and Insurance Counsel

Clubs should obtain the advice of legal counsel and liability insurance counsel with respect to the need for protection against liability resulting from club projects and activities through the incorporation of the club or its activities. Clubs in the U.S. and its territories and possessions must participate in the club and district general liability insurance program administered by RI. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178. *Amended by* February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 282; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

2.090. Lawsuits Involving Rotary Clubs

As a general matter, RI shall not accept any request by a club to defend the club and/or its members in a lawsuit. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93

2.100. Clubs and Politics

RI and its member clubs must refrain from issuing partisan political statements. Rotarians likewise are prohibited from adopting statements with a view to exerting any corporate pressure on governments or political authorities. However, it is the duty of Rotarians within their clubs to keep under review political developments in their communities and throughout the world, insofar as they affect their service to their vocations and their communities as well as the pursuit of the Rotary objective of world understanding and peace. They also are expected to seek reliable information through balanced programs and discussions so that each club member can reach his or her own conclusions after a fair collective examination of the issues. Outside of their clubs, individual Rotarians are to be active in as many legally constituted groups and organizations as possible in order to promote through exemplary dedication, the awareness of the dignity of humankind and respect of human rights of the individual. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 288

Cross References

33.020.1. Use of Rotary Name for Political Means

2.110. Youth Protection

2.110.1. Statement of Conduct for Working with Youth

Rotary International strives to create and maintain a safe environment for all youth who participate in Rotary activities. To the best of their ability, Rotarians, Rotarians' spouse, and partners, and other volunteers must safeguard the children and young people they come into contact with and protect them from physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98; *Amended by* November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

2.110.2. Failure to Comply with Youth Protection Laws

Upon obtaining information that a club has failed to address an allegation against a member in connection with a Rotary-related youth program for violating applicable law regarding the protection of youth, the board may suspend or terminate the membership of the club in accordance with RI Bylaws section 3.030.3. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

2.110.3. Sexual Abuse and Harassment Prevention

All Rotarians, clubs and districts should follow the statement of conduct for working with youth and RI guidelines for abuse and harassment prevention established by the general secretary. The guidelines include the following requirements

1. RI has a zero-tolerance policy against abuse and harassment.
2. An independent and thorough investigation must be made into any claims of sexual abuse or harassment.
3. Any adult involved in a Rotary youth program against whom an allegation of sexual abuse or harassment is made must be removed from all contact with youth until the matter is resolved.
4. Any allegation of abuse must be immediately reported to the appropriate law enforcement agency, in accordance with RI's zero-tolerance policy.
5. A club must terminate the membership of any Rotarian who admits to, is convicted of or is otherwise found to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment. A non-Rotarian who admits to, is convicted of, or is otherwise found to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment must be prohibited from working with youth in a Rotary context. A club may not grant membership to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment. (Upon obtaining information that a club has knowingly failed to terminate the membership of such a Rotarian, the RI Board will take steps to have the Rotarian's membership terminated, including action to terminate the club's charter for failure to comply).
6. If an investigation into a claim of sexual abuse or harassment is inconclusive, then, for the safety of youth participants and the protection of the accused, additional safeguards must be put in place to assure the protection of any youth with whom the individual may have future contact. If there are subsequent claims of sexual abuse or harassment, the adult shall be permanently prohibited from working with youth in a Rotary context. Regardless of criminal or civil guilt, the continued presence of the adult could be detrimental to the reputation of the organization and could be harmful to youth. It can also benefit the adult in preventing additional accusations from other youth. A person who is accused but later cleared of charges, may apply to be reinstated to participate in youth programs. Reinstatement is not a right, and no guarantee is made that he or she will be reinstated to his or her former position. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

2.120. Pilot Projects

2.120.1. Rotary E-Club Pilot Project

The Board, in accordance with article 5, section 4 of the RI constitution, agrees to conduct an E-Clubs pilot project through 2009-10, establishing "cyber" Rotary clubs that would have innovative and flexible constitutional provisions allowing the clubs to conduct activities through electronic communications.

The following procedures have been adopted for confirming qualifications for E-Club membership:

- a. where a prospective member of an E-Club was previously a Rotarian, the E-Club shall request confirmation from the prospective member's previous club, that the applicant was a Rotarian in good standing on termination of his/her membership in that club;
- b. where the prospective member of an E-Club was not previously a Rotarian, the E-Club shall request confirmation from two Rotarians (names to be provided by the prospective member), in the applicant's community, that the applicant is a person of good standing. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 135; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

2.120.2. Meeting Frequency Pilot Clubs

The Board has established a pilot project to explore the effects of club meeting frequency on membership development and related statistics, effective 1 July 2007 to 1 July 2013. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 200



Article 3. Club Name, Locality, and Adjustment to Locality

3.010. Club Name

3.020. Locality (Geographical Boundaries) of a Club

3.010. Club Name

The name of a Rotary club is to identify the club with its locality. The name should be one (or include some reference) that is easily identifiable on a map of the area, so that someone unfamiliar with the area can determine the general location of the club. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: May-June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 371; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

3.010.1. Name of Additional Club in Same Locality

In instances where a new club is organized as an additional club in the same locality as an existing club, the additional club shall adopt as its name such term as will identify it with its locality. The name shall include a further distinguishing designation or other appropriate reference. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45. See also May-June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 371

3.010.2. General Secretary Authorization to Review Club Name

The general secretary shall determine if a name is appropriate. The general secretary shall reject any proposed name for a new club or proposed change of the name for an existing club, if the proposed name is apt to cause dissension with any neighboring club or be confusing. In such instances, the general secretary shall inform the RI president of such action. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: May-June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 371; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

3.010.3. Nomenclature for Clubs in Taiwan Clubs

The nomenclature of Taiwan, previously referred to as “Taiwan, Republic of China” and “Taiwan, China,” shall be referred to as “Taiwan” only as part of the official name of every Taiwanese Rotary club. *(February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 384

3.020. Locality (Geographical Boundaries) of a Club

Each Rotary club shall be organized and exist in a locality. The locality can be any area where there are sufficient business and professional persons actively engaged in service to society whose offices or places of business or residence are so contiguous to one another as will enable them to function as a club. The club shall designate the locality in the constitution of the club. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1939 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

3.020.1. Establishment of a Club on a Cruise Ship

A large cruise ship shall not be the locality of a club. It is in the best interest of Rotary that clubs not be closely associated with a commercial enterprise whereby one corporation has undue influence on the club. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

3.020.2. Change in Club Locality

Where a club considers that its locality should be amended, the club shall take appropriate steps to amend its constitution. Such amendment shall be submitted to the Board for approval. Notification of action by a club to amend the provisions of its constitution relating to locality shall be accompanied by a statement of the reasons for the amendment. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: May-June 1965 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59



Article 4. General Membership Guidelines and Classifications

4.010. Diversified Membership

4.020. Membership in Rotary Club and Other Service Organizations

4.030. Personal Nature of Club Membership

4.040. Dual Gender Clubs

4.050. General Classification and Membership Principles

4.060. Movement of Rotarians into a New Community

4.010. Diversified Membership

A club's membership should be fully reflective of the community it serves. Every club should endeavor to have a sufficient number or proportion of members whose places of business are within the locality of the club to represent adequately business, professional, and community leaders. Each club should consider adopting a rule that the number of members in the club whose membership is based on the location of their residence within the locality of the club should not exceed 50% of the members. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86; November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

4.010.1. Statement on Diversity

Rotary International recognizes the value of diversity within individual clubs. Rotary encourages clubs to assess those in their communities who are eligible for membership, under existing membership rules, and to endeavor to include an appropriate range of individuals in their clubs. A club that reflects its business and professional community is a club with the key to its future. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35)*

Source: June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 223

4.010.2. Defining "Place of Business" for Membership in Clubs

"Place of business" means the establishment from which the proposed active member normally administers business or professional responsibilities and activities. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: RIC Art. V, Sec. 2; SRCC Art. VI, Sec. 3; July 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 45; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

4.010.3. Defining "Residence" for Membership in Clubs

References in the constitutional documents to a Rotarian having "residence" within the locality of a club or within the surrounding area mean the individual's principal place of residence. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

4.020. Membership in Rotary Club and Other Service Organizations

In order to comply with the obligations of membership in a club, a Rotarian should not belong to similar community or service clubs which would substantially reduce the member's opportunity to comply with the obligations of club membership. A person being considered for membership in a club should be expected to disclose membership in other service organizations. Members of a club who wish to join a similar community or service organization should seek prior approval from the club board. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 223. See also July 1990 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 50

4.020.1. Termination of Membership Based On Participation in Other Organizations

A club board may deem it sufficient reason to terminate the membership of a member who, in the opinion of that board, was not fulfilling the obligations to such club because of continued membership in another service club or any similar organization. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

4.030. Personal Nature of Club Membership

Membership in a club is the personal membership of the individual and not of the partnership or corporation which employs the individual. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: COL 80-102

4.040. Dual-Gender Clubs

All Rotary clubs are encouraged to have membership consisting of both men and women. Governors are encouraged to promote dual-gender membership in all clubs in their districts and, where clubs that have single-gender membership remain, should promote the establishment of new dual-gender clubs in the locality of the existing single gender clubs. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 345)*

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. Amended by February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 323 and June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 345

4.050. General Classification and Membership Principles

Each club should adhere to the classification and membership principles of Rotary and correct, as opportunities permit, any irregular classification or membership which may exist in the club. Clubs should carefully consider the classification practice and broaden the interpretation of classifications where necessary to meet the modern day business, professional, and community service environment. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: May-June 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297; November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

4.050.1. Classification Surveys

Clubs should maintain and use up-to-date classification surveys to develop and strengthen club membership. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: May-June 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

4.050.2. Membership of Retired Persons

Retired persons being inducted into active membership in a Rotary club will use their former profession as their classification but this will not be counted towards the club's limit of members in a single classification. The classification roster in a club shall not include retired Rotarians. *(October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62)*

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62

4.060. Movement of Rotarians into a New Community

When a member in good standing intends to move or moves to a new community, the member's club should provide information concerning the member to a club in the new locality. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: May-June 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

4.060.1. Rotarians' Membership in New Club

When a former Rotarian has been proposed for membership in a new club in accordance with the RI bylaws, the club should consider contacting the club in which such former Rotarians previously held membership to request information concerning their Rotary activities and interests. Such process shall assist the new club to utilize and benefit from the particular interests of such individuals. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59



Article 5. Types of Membership and New Members

5.010. Honorary Membership

5.020. Membership of TRF Alumni in Rotary Clubs

5.030. Membership Cards

5.040. Membership Growth and Development

5.050. Prospective Members and New Members

5.010. Honorary Membership

Clubs should guard the election to honorary membership as exclusively a distinction for meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals and for permanent support of Rotary's cause. Honorary membership is the highest distinction that a club may bestow and should be conferred only in exceptional cases, but may not be conferred upon an active member by the members of one's own club. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: May-July 1952 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. Affirmed by Jan. 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

5.010.2. Committee Membership

Any honorary member of a Rotary club shall not serve on district or Rotary International committees, by virtue of that honorary membership, regardless of past club, district, or RI offices held by the honorary member. *(February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 134

5.020. Membership of TRF Alumni in Rotary Clubs

Although Rotary clubs should not establish any special kinds of memberships or classifications for TRF alumni, they should actively recruit alumni as club members. Rotary clubs also should maintain contact with TRF alumni in their respective localities, and use the talents of such alumni, who are not yet qualified for membership or who have declined invitations for membership. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: May-July 1959 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 253; Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

5.030. Membership Cards

Rotary clubs should issue membership cards to its active members in good standing. Every Rotarian visiting a club who is not personally known in such club should present his or her Rotary membership card as a means of introduction. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: COL 80-102; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.030.1. Letters of Introduction for Rotarians

It is not the policy of RI to issue credentials, identification cards, or letters of introduction for anyone other than those traveling on RI business. In adherence to its policy, RI will not issue cards of introduction to students, or traveling sons and daughters of Rotarians, to serve as an introduction and identification of the holders to individual Rotarians and officers of clubs. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 262

5.040. Membership Growth and Development

5.040.1. Factors for Achieving Membership Growth

Clubs should include the following points in their membership development programs:

1. strong and sustained presidential encouragement and support;
2. a well-designed program for new members that includes Rotary education, induction, and assimilation and involvement into club activities;
3. suitable recognition for sponsors of new members;
4. retention of existing members with suitable recognition of growing clubs and growth within districts by the president and governors each year;
5. reasonable costs of membership; and adequate and attractive publicity for Rotary that stresses both Rotary's service to the community and the benefits of Rotary membership to Rotarians and their families;
6. public relations;
7. a strong and well-supported membership committee;
8. classification surveys for building membership. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.040.2. Membership of Younger Persons

Clubs should seek out past Rotaractors and other younger persons who are qualified for membership. Clubs should find methods of increasing the appeal of membership to the growing number of young men and women who are occupying positions of responsibility in business and professions, and community leadership. Clubs may waive club dues and admission fees for members under the age of 35. In addition, clubs may provide payment of district dues for new members in this age group, and/or, by action at an assembly or conference, districts may reduce the per capita district dues for new members in this age group. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 150; June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

5.040.3. Individual Rotarian's Role in Membership Growth

Inherent in the purpose of Rotary is the acceptance of the personal application of the ideal of service. Individual Rotarians should recognize that this responsibility includes a personal obligation to share Rotary with others and to help extend Rotary through proposing qualified persons for Rotary club membership. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93

5.040.4. Report of Membership Termination Form

The "Report of Membership Termination" form shall indicate the length of time that a person has been a member. Such information shall be used in developing statistical information helpful to the membership development committees on all administrative levels. Clubs are encouraged to find out from each member who resigns the reason for the resignation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151. See also November 1991 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 115

5.040.5. Relationship Between Club Secretaries and District Membership Development Committees

Club secretaries are requested to supply information about the causes of membership loss to governors and district membership development committees. Upon receipt of such information, governors and such committees shall take steps to help clubs eliminate loss of members. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151

5.040.6. Club Membership Increase

When a club's membership increases by more than 25 percent between semiannual report periods the general secretary shall take the following action:

- a. determine the legitimacy of the membership list;
- b. work with the district governor to assist the club in administering the substantial increase in its membership;
- c. advise the club president that if the purported membership increase is not verified, the Board will consider this a serious violation of the trust placed in him/her as a club officer, and – pursuant to RI bylaws section 3.030. – will consider disciplining the club, up to and including termination for cause. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235

Cross References

44.090. Membership Development Initiatives Recognition Program

5.050. Prospective Members and New Members

5.050.1. Prospective Members' Attendance at Club Meetings

Clubs should invite a prospective member to several regular meetings before the prospective member is asked to sign an application card. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1950 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E9

5.050.2. Pre-Induction Information

Clubs should ensure that proper pre-induction information be provided to prospective members which clearly explains the history of Rotary and the privileges and responsibilities of a Rotarian. The club classification, membership, membership development and Rotary information committees should meet cooperatively to focus on membership development and especially to see that the club has an effective pre-induction orientation program as well as a post-induction follow-up. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.050.3. Induction of New Members

Clubs should hold an appropriate induction for new members. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.050.4. Rotary Education and Information

Clubs should provide a well-organized and well-implemented Rotary education and information program on a continuing basis. This may include basic pre-induction information and post-induction follow-through by personal contacts, use of RI literature, and personal involvement of the new members in the affairs and activities of the club. Clubs are encouraged to invite spouses as a part of such program where appropriate. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 264; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.050.5. Involvement of New Members

Clubs should encourage all new members to attend club and district events, including the club assembly and district conference. Clubs should also include new members on club committees when possible. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

5.050.6. Prohibition of Entry Fee for New Members

It is not advisable to have clubs pay an entrance fee received from new members to increase the income of RI. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: February 1921 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 7(a)

5.050.7. Prohibition of Mandatory Contributions to The Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation has developed on the basis of voluntary contributions. Contributions to the Foundation shall not be a condition of membership, and any reference implying such condition of membership shall not appear on the membership application card. Clubs are prohibited from enacting a bylaw that makes contributions to the Foundation a condition of membership. Any reference to such contributions on membership identification cards is not authorized. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: November 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

Cross References

20.010. *New Member Orientation*



Article 6. Former Rotarians and Family of Current Rotarians

6.010. Former Rotarians

6.020. Involvement of Spouses and Other Family Members of Rotarians

6.010. Former Rotarians

6.010.1. Involuntary Past Rotarians

Rotarians who involuntarily lose their membership in a club cannot join together and have any connection with RI. The Board understands the motive which may prompt past members of clubs to associate themselves in groups. However, the use of any name by an organization which would indicate a connection with RI is prohibited unless specifically provided for under the RI constitutional documents. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: June 1925 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV(k); Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. See also June 1962 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27, January 1950 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81

6.010.2. Jurisdiction of RI Board in Club Dispute

A dispute between a former Rotarian and the Rotary club in which he or she formerly held membership is a matter that is not within the jurisdiction of the RI Board, with the exception of matters submitted to the general secretary under the provisions of RI Bylaws article 24. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: July 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

Cross References

33.020.8. Restrictions on the Use of Name "Rotary" and Rotary Emblem by Former Rotarians

6.020. Involvement of Spouses and Other Family Members of Rotarians

1. Clubs and districts are encouraged to plan and implement service projects in such a manner that the spouses and other family members of Rotarians can easily participate;
2. Clubs and districts are encouraged to organize educational, service, and fellowship programs and events in such a manner that the spouses and other family members of Rotarians can attend and participate;
3. The general secretary and relevant RI committees are requested to organize the appropriate RI meetings, such as the convention, International Institutes, and presidential conferences, in such a manner as to encourage the registration and participation of the spouses and other family members of Rotarians in such meetings;
4. To serve as a model for the broad participation of the spouses and other family members of Rotarians in such Rotary projects, programs, and events,

- a. the spouses of directors are encouraged to participate in club and district service projects, to attend and participate in educational, service, and fellowship programs and events, and to serve as advocates of Rotary service;
- b. the spouses of directors are requested to attend and participate in RI meetings, including the convention, the International Assembly, International Institutes, presidential conferences, and meetings of the Board of Directors, as appropriate. (*August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71. See also COL 89-139.

6.020.1. Informal Groups of Spouses of Rotarians

Clubs are encouraged to sponsor groups of spouses and/or families of Rotarians within the following guidelines:

- a) the auxiliary group, committee or organization should be associated with and maintain regular liaison with the local club to which their spouses and/or family members are members;
- b) the objectives of the group should include the support of club service activities, the encouragement of friendship among the members and the promotion of the general ideals of Rotary;
- c) the activities, projects and programs of the group should be principally in support of or complementary to the objectives of the local club.
- d) auxiliary-type groups should be only informally associated with the local club. Such groups provide excellent service and fellowship activities. Their programs of service should be encouraged. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79*)

Source: November 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 130. Affirmed by June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 330; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 346 and November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79

6.020.2. Official Recognition of Spouses and Family Members

The RI Board does not recognize officially groups of spouses and/or families of Rotarians as institutions or as Rotary-club-sponsored organizations. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159*)

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79

6.020.3. Certificates for District-Level Recognition of Spouses and Family Members

A certificate shall be available for purchase for district-level recognition of the positive contributions to individual Rotary clubs made by groups of spouses and/or family members of Rotarians. Certificates will be distributed on the recommendation of the club president and at the discretion of the governor in accordance with guidelines for sponsorship of informal groups of Rotarians. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79

6.020.4. Family of Rotary Committees

Districts and clubs are encouraged to establish Family of Rotary committees and to actively initiate and pursue appropriate programs to improve membership retention. *(February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159)*

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109



Article 7. Club Meetings and Attendance

- 7.010.** Club Meeting Location
- 7.020.** Conducting Club Meetings
- 7.030.** Programs for Club Meetings
- 7.040.** Speakers for Club Meetings
- 7.050.** Club Assembly
- 7.060.** Club Adherence to Attendance Rules
- 7.070.** Requests for Leave of Absence
- 7.080.** Visitors and Guests
- 7.090.** Status of Informal Meetings of Rotarians

7.010. Club Meeting Location

Each club is autonomous in determining its place of meeting. However, as each member of a club is entitled to attend the meeting of any other club, it is expected that each club will meet in a place where any member of any club in the world can attend its meeting. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166

7.010.1. Meetings Outside of Club Locality

Clubs should hold their regular meeting within their locality. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.020 Conducting Club Meetings

Recognizing that clubs include members who have many beliefs and values, each club should use its good judgment in conducting its meetings and other activities in a manner that reflects Rotary's basic principles of tolerance and participation in humanitarian service projects. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.020.1. Decorum of Club Meetings

No story, stunt, joke or entertainment is proper or fit to be placed before any Rotarian or any gathering of Rotarians which would not be perfectly proper and fit to place before such Rotarians if each one were accompanied by one's parents, spouse or children. No story or joke is fit to be told or repeated by any individual Rotarian unless such joke or story might properly be repeated before such Rotarian's family. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1917 Mtg., Bd. Item 3

7.030. Programs for Club Meetings

Clubs should hold regular meetings devoted to discussing club business and activities. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

7.030.1. Club Programs: Rotary Education

Clubs should periodically hold regular meetings exclusively for imparting Rotary information, Rotary education, and leadership training to their members. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1936 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E58; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.030.2. Club Programs: Issues of Public Interest

A club may properly discuss public questions of interest to its members provided that, when such questions are controversial, both sides are adequately presented. No corporate action shall be taken on any pending controversial public measure. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1957 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. *See also* February 1982 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 285

7.030.3. Club Programs: Cultural, Economic and Geographical Conditions

Clubs should arrange programs on cultural, economic and geographical conditions in countries other than their own as a means of helping to overcome possible difficulties arising from language barriers and differences in cultural and social backgrounds. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149

7.030.4. Club Programs: The Rotary Foundation

Clubs should present at least two meeting programs during each Rotary year, one of which should occur during the month of November, which has been designated as The Rotary Foundation month, on the purpose, programs and fund development activities of The Rotary Foundation. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 350; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.040. Speakers for Club Meetings

7.040.1. Expenses of Speakers

Clubs that invite officers of RI, past officers of RI, or other Rotarians to come for visits are expected to pay their expenses. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May-June 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196

7.040.2. RI Prohibition on Funding and Securing Speakers

RI is not to provide or fund clubs with paid speakers on Rotary subjects. The World Headquarters shall not act to secure speakers for clubs. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: August 1922 Mtg., Bd. Item 2. See also January 1943 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E6

7.050. Club Assembly

The club assembly is a meeting of all club members, including the club's officers, directors and committee chairs, held for the purpose of conferring on the program and activities of the club or for membership education. All members of the club are urged to attend the assembly. The club president, or other designated officer, presides at club assemblies.

A. Purpose

A club assembly allows for:

- Strategic planning
- Coordination of committee activities
- A greater awareness of how club plans are actually implemented
- Informal discussions that stimulate creative solutions and activities
- Ongoing education about Rotary and its programs
- Periodic review of the club's strengths and weaknesses

B. Topics for Discussion

Topics for discussion may include service projects and activities, membership growth and retention strategies, attendance at the district conference or other district and RI meetings, the programs of Rotary, as well as an opportunity for open discussion.

C. Scheduling

Four to six club assemblies during the year are recommended but may vary depending on the club's schedule:

1. Immediately following the district assembly to describe, review, and discuss plans developed and suggested at the district assembly as well as how the club will incorporate the annual RI theme and emphases. This club assembly is presided over by the president-elect.
2. After 1 July to discuss and adopt the plan for the year.
3. Two weeks prior to the district governor's official visit for preparation.
4. During the official visit to discuss club status with the assistant governor and/or district governor.
5. Mid-point of Rotary year to review the club's progress toward goals and determine club program for remaining half of the Rotary year.
6. After the district conference to discuss ideas and suggestions to help bring club plans toward completion.

D. Outcomes

Assemblies may provide the club's board, specific committees, or the club as a whole with information that may be used for official decisions taken by the board or club on related matters.

Assemblies provide opportunities for education and may stimulate the member's interest in new opportunities for service. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279*)

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279

7.060. Club Adherence to Attendance Rules

Club leaders should emphasize to club members and prospective members:

1. the value and significance of regular attendance;
2. the 50 percent attendance requirement in Standard Rotary Club Constitution Article 12, Section 4;
3. the importance to the club and the community of active participation by each member in all club activities without placing undue emphasis on 100 percent attendance. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

7.060.1. Attendance Credit

The Board interprets Article 9, Section 1(a)(3) of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to allow credit for one make-up for each day a member attends a RI meeting, such as a district conference, provided the days claimed for attendance credit fall in periods during which a make-up would otherwise be acceptable. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194*)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

7.060.2. Recording and Reporting Club Attendance

Club secretaries shall send their monthly membership/attendance reports to their respective governors within 15 days of the last meeting of the club each month, without waiting for make-up cards. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: May-June 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 354; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. *Affirmed by* October-November 1980 Mgt. Bd. Dec. 107

7.070. Requests for Leave of Absence

Clubs should inform members of the provisions in the club bylaws which permit a member to apply to the club board for a temporary leave of absence when faced with a problem of maintaining attendance. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.080. Visitors and Guests

7.080.1. Guests at Club Meetings

Clubs should encourage members to invite guests to regular club meetings so that non-Rotarian members of the community may be better informed about the function of the club and its aims and objects. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 125; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. *See also* January 1916 Mgt. Bd. Dec. 16

7.080.2. Students as Club Guests

Clubs are encouraged to invite students to be guests at club meetings. Clubs are encouraged to take an active interest in students at universities and schools and to see that they are familiar with the ideals and principles of Rotary. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1927 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV(i); *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

7.080.3. Guests of Visiting Rotarians

Rotary clubs are encouraged to welcome guests, including spouses, of visiting Rotarians at their club meetings; however, clubs have discretionary authority in determining guests of visiting Rotarians. *(February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

7.080.4. TRF Alumni as Guests

Clubs are encouraged to welcome Rotary Foundation alumni as guests at their meetings, particularly alumni who have recently moved to the locality of the club. The alumni will be expected to pay the same costs of attendance as paid by visiting Rotarians. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 231)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 231

7.090. Status of Informal Meetings of Rotarians

Informal meetings of Rotarians do not constitute official meetings of their clubs or districts. Consequently, no resolution passed by those present at informal meetings can be regarded by the Board as an expression of the clubs or the districts. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1949 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 120; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59



Article 8. Club Programs

8.010. Club Autonomy of Activities

8.020. Monthly Emphasis on Various Programs

8.030. Basic Principles of Vocational Service

8.040. Basic Principles of Community Service

8.050. Basic Principles of International Service

8.060. Club Support of Local Youth Organizations

8.070. Guidelines for Clubs to Conduct Projects in Non-Rotary Countries

8.080. Club Rotary Foundation Committee

8.090. Club-Level Training

8.010. Club Autonomy of Activities

Clubs should develop their own programs according to the needs of their communities. It is not within the scope of the program of RI to sponsor or prescribe for any club a particular service project or program. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: May-June 1927 Mtg., Bd. Dec. XIV(b)(3); May-June 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

8.020. Monthly Emphasis on Various Programs

RI has established monthly program emphases as follows: August as “Membership and Extension Month,” September as “New Generations Month,” October as “Vocational Service Month,” November as “The Rotary Foundation Month,” December as “Family Month,” January as “Rotary Awareness Month,” February as “World Understanding Month,” March as “Literacy Month,” April as “Magazine Month,” and June as “Rotary Fellowships Month.” Clubs should present one or more weekly programs to promote the appropriate emphasis. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: January 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; May 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238; January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; November 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192; February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268; February 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; February 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 299; November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 144; November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138; July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 20; July 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 17; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

8.030. Basic Principles of Vocational Service

8.030.1. Statement on Vocational Service

Vocational Service is the manner in which Rotary fosters and supports the application of the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations.

Inherent in the vocational service ideal are:

- 1) Adherence to, and promotion of, the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including faithfulness and fidelity to employers, employees and associates, fair treatment of them and of competitors, the public, and all those with whom one has any business or professional relationships;

- 2) The recognition of the worthiness to society of all useful occupations, not just one's own or those which are pursued by Rotarians;
- 3) The contribution of one's vocational talents to the problems and needs of society.

Vocational service is both the responsibility of a club and of its members. The role of the club is to implement and encourage the objective by frequent demonstration, by application to its own actions, by example and by development of projects that help members contribute their vocational talents. The role of the members is to conduct themselves, their businesses, and their professions in accordance with Rotary principles and to respond to projects which the club has developed. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; *Affirmed* by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 352

8.030.2. Business and Professional Relations Among Rotarians

The following declaration has been adopted for the use of Rotarians:

As a Rotarian engaged in a business or profession, I am expected to:

- 1) Consider my vocation to be another opportunity to serve;
- 2) Be faithful to the letter and the spirit of the ethical codes of my vocation, to the laws of my country, and to the moral standards of my community;
- 3) Do all in my power to dignify my vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation;
- 4) Be fair to my employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public and all those with whom I have a business or professional relationship;
- 5) Recognize the honor and respect due to all occupations which are useful to society;
- 6) Offer my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community;
- 7) Adhere to honesty in my advertising and in all representations to the public concerning my business or profession.
- 8) Neither seek from nor grant to a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: COL 89-148

8.030.3. Vocational Service Month

Clubs and districts are encouraged to use Vocational Service Month to

1. recognize a Rotary Volunteer at a district-level event, if possible
2. promote involvement in Rotary Fellowships
3. sponsor a Vocational Service activity or project

4. promote membership development in open classifications. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43

8.040. Basic Principles of Community Service

8.040.1. 1923 Statement on Community Service

Community Service is to encourage and foster the application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life.

In carrying out this application of the ideal of service, many clubs have developed various Community Service activities as affording opportunities for service by their members. For the guidance of Rotarians and Rotary clubs and to formulate a policy for Rotary toward Community Service activities, the following principles are recognized and accepted as sound and controlling:

- 1) Fundamentally, Rotary is a philosophy of life that undertakes to reconcile the ever present conflict between the desire to profit for one's self and the duty and consequent impulse to serve others. This philosophy is the philosophy of service - "Service Above Self" - and is based on the practical ethical principle that "He profits most who serves best."

- 2) Primarily, a Rotary club is a group of representative business and professional people and community leaders who have accepted the Rotary philosophy of service and are seeking:

First, to study collectively the theory of service as the true basis of success and happiness in business and in life; and second, to give, collectively, practical demonstrations of it to themselves and their community; and third, each as an individual, to translate its theory into practice in business and in everyday life; and fourth, individually and collectively, by active precept and example, to stimulate its acceptance both in theory and practice by all non-Rotarians as well as by all Rotarians;

- 3) RI is an organization that exists:

- a) for the protection, development and worldwide propagation of the Rotary ideal of service;

- b) for the establishment, encouragement, assistance and administrative supervision of Rotary clubs;

- c) as a clearinghouse for the study of their problems and, by helpful suggestion but not compulsion, for the standardization of their practices and of such Community Service activities, and only such Community Service activities, as have already been widely demonstrated by many clubs as worthwhile and as are within, and will not tend to obscure, the Object of Rotary as set out in the RI Constitution.

4) Because they who serve must act, Rotary is not merely a state of mind, nor Rotary philosophy merely subjective, but must translate itself into objective activity; and the individual Rotarian and the Rotary club must put the theory of service into practice. Accordingly, corporate action by Rotary clubs is recommended under the safeguards provided herein. It is desirable that every Rotary club sponsor a major Community Service activity each fiscal year, varied from year to year if possible before the end of the fiscal year. This activity is to be based upon a real community need and should require the collective cooperation of all its members. This is to be in addition to the club's continuing its program for the stimulation of the club members to individual service within the community.

5) Each individual Rotary club has absolute autonomy in the selection of such Community Service activities as appeal to it and as are suited to its community; but no club should allow any Community Service to obscure the Object of Rotary or jeopardize the primary purpose for which a Rotary club is organized; and RI, although it may study, standardize and develop such activities as are general and make helpful suggestions regarding them, should never proscribe any Community Service activity for any club.

6) Although regulations are not prescribed for an individual Rotary club in the selection of Community Service activities, the following rules are suggested for its guidance:

a) Because of the limited membership of Rotary, only in a community where there is no adequate civic or other organization in a position to speak and act for the whole community should a Rotary club engage in a general Community Service activity that requires for its success the active support of the entire citizenship of the community, and where a chamber of commerce exists, a Rotary club should not trespass upon or assume its functions, but Rotarians, as individuals committed to and trained in the principle of service, should be members of and active in their chambers of commerce and as citizens of their community should, along with all other good citizens, be interested in every general Community Service activity, and, as far as their abilities permit, do their part in money and service;

b) As a general matter, no Rotary club should endorse any project, no matter how meritorious, unless the club is prepared and willing to assume all or part of the responsibility for the accomplishment of that which it endorses;

c) While publicity should not be the primary goal of a Rotary club selecting an activity, as a means of extending Rotary's influence, proper publicity should be given to a worthwhile club project well carried out;

d) A Rotary club should avoid duplication of effort and in general should not engage in an activity that is already being well handled by some other agency;

e) A Rotary club in its activities should preferably cooperate with existing agencies, but where necessary may create new agencies where the facilities of the existing agencies are insufficient to accomplish its purpose. It is better for a Rotary club to improve an existing agency than to create a new and duplicative agency;

f) In all its activities a Rotary club acts best and is most successful as a propagandist. A Rotary club discovers a need but, where the responsibility is that of the entire community, does not seek alone to remedy it but to awaken others to the necessity of the remedy, seeking to arouse the community to its responsibility so that this responsibility may be placed not on Rotary alone but on the entire community where it belongs; and while Rotary may initiate and lead in the work, it should endeavor to secure the cooperation of all other organizations that ought to be interested and should seek to give them full credit, even minimizing the credit to which the Rotary club itself is entitled;

g) Activities which enlist the individual efforts of all Rotarians generally are more in accord with the genius of Rotary than those requiring only the mass action of the club, because the Community Service activities of the Rotary club should be regarded only as laboratory experiments designed to train members of a Rotary club in service. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: RI Convention Proceedings 23-34; 26-6; 36-15; 51-9; 66-49; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

8.040.2. 1992 Statement on Community Service

Rotary Community Service encourages and fosters the application of the ideal of service to the personal, business and community life of every Rotarian. In carrying out this application of the ideal of service, a variety of activities developed by Rotary clubs have afforded significant opportunities for service by their members. For the guidance of Rotarians and to formulate a policy for Rotary toward Community Service activities, the following principles are recognized:

Community Service is an opportunity for every Rotarian to exemplify “Service Above Self.” It is the commitment and social responsibility of every Rotarian and Rotary club to improve the quality of life for those who live in the community and to serve the public interest.

In this spirit, clubs are encouraged to:

- 1) review regularly service opportunities within their communities and involve each club member in an assessment of community needs;
- 2) capitalize on the unique vocational and avocational talents of members in implementing their Community Service projects;
- 3) initiate projects in accordance with the needs of the community and commensurate with the club’s standing and potential in the community, recognizing that every Community Service activity, however small, is important;
- 4) work closely with the Interact clubs, Rotaract clubs, Rotary Community Corps, and other groups which they sponsor in order to coordinate Community Service efforts;
- 5) identify opportunities to enhance Community Service projects through Rotary programs and activities at the international level;

- 6) involve the community, when desirable and feasible, in implementing Community Service projects, including the provision of required resources;
- 7) cooperate with other organizations in accordance with RI policy, to achieve Community Service objectives;
- 8) achieve proper public recognition for their Community Service projects;
- 9) act as catalysts to encourage other organizations to work together in Community Service efforts;
- 10) transfer responsibility for continuing projects, when appropriate, to community, service, or other organizations so that the Rotary club can become involved in new projects.

As an association of clubs, RI has the responsibility to communicate news of Community Service needs and activities, and from time to time suggest programs or projects which advance the Object of Rotary and which would benefit from the concerted efforts of Rotarians, clubs and districts who wish to participate. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: COL 92-286

8.040.3. Participation in Community Service Activities by Clubs and Districts

As a basis for effective Community Service, all club presidents are encouraged to appoint Rotarians to serve on Community Service subcommittees, as needed, within the following groups: Human Development, Community Development, Environmental Protection, and Partners in Service. These subcommittees are urged to :

1. ascertain community needs by comprehensive survey and analysis of the particular relative circumstances in their respective localities;
2. encourage individual club members to supplement and strengthen such survey and analysis by exploring the locality of the club in their personal and vocational capacities for the purpose of discovering community needs;
3. meet with other community organizations for discussion and exchange of ideas where such meetings can be undertaken in harmony with established policy;
4. include as a factor in considering prospective members, their demonstrated active interest in and familiarity with community needs. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 148. Amended by June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 259

8.040.4. Service with Chambers of Commerce

Rotary clubs are encouraged to establish communication with chambers of commerce and industry to explore service opportunities and, when appropriate, develop service projects which would be more productive if undertaken jointly. Such projects might include employee training, post retirement service opportunities, functional literacy programs,

workplace drug abuse prevention and treatment programs, employment counseling, and vocational recognition programs. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194*)

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127. *Affirmed by* July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45 and November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

Cross References

21.050. District Community Service Committee

8.050. Basic Principles of International Service

8.050.1. Policy of Rotary in International Service

The aim of International Service in Rotary is expressed in the fourth avenue of service: namely, to encourage and foster the advancement of international understanding, good will and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons and community leaders united in the ideal of service. The Rotary ideal of service finds expression only where there is liberty of the individual, freedom of thought, speech and assembly, freedom of worship, freedom from persecution and aggression and freedom from want and fear. Freedom, justice, truth, sanctity of the pledged word and respect for human rights are inherent in Rotary principles and also are vital to the maintenance of international peace and order and to human progress. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: January 1952 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96. *Amended by* June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226. *See also* May 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216

8.050.2. Areas of International Service

In concept, International Service can be categorized as follows:

1. World Community Service Activities
2. International Educational and Cultural Activities
3. Special International Observances and Events
4. International Meetings (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: October 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

8.050.3. Responsibility of the Individual Rotarian

Each Rotarian should make an individual contribution to the achievement of the ideal inherent in the fourth Avenue of Service. Each Rotarian should help to create a better-informed public opinion.

Rotarians should:

1. look beyond national patriotism and share responsibility for the advancement of international understanding, good will and peace;
2. resist any tendency to act in terms of national or racial superiority;
3. seek and develop common grounds for agreement with peoples of other lands;

4. defend the rule of law and order to preserve liberty of the individual so that all may enjoy freedom of thought, speech and assembly, freedom from persecution and aggression, and freedom from want and fear;
5. support action directed towards improving standards of living for all peoples, realizing that poverty anywhere endangers prosperity elsewhere;
6. uphold the principles of justice for humankind, realizing that these are fundamental and must be worldwide;
7. strive always to promote peace between nations and be prepared to make personal sacrifices for that ideal;
8. urge and practice a spirit of understanding of every other person's beliefs as a step towards international good will recognizing that there are certain basic moral and spiritual standards which, if practiced, will ensure a richer, fuller life.
9. Exercise appropriate caution in conducting activities and programs where international tensions exist between countries. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1952 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

8.050.4. Respect for National Laws and Customs

Rotarians should avoid criticizing the laws or customs of other countries. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1933 Mtg., Bd. Dec. VII-c; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

8.060. Club Support of Local Youth Organizations

Clubs should support all worthy local youth organizations. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 144; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

8.070. Guidelines for Clubs to Conduct Projects in Non-Rotary Countries

RI has adopted the following guidelines to assist clubs and districts in carrying out international service projects in countries with no Rotary presence:

- a) under no circumstances should the club or any of the members undertake any formal or informal extension activities in the project country. Extension is the responsibility of the Board;
- b) the purpose, scope, time frame, beneficiaries, and role of the club should be clearly explained to the leaders of the community in which the project is undertaken, as well as to government authorities in the area;
- c) a complete outline of the project prospectus, including purposes, objectives, in-country contacts, extent and kind of involvement of other organizations and government agencies,

timetable for completion, and whether Foundation grant funding is being sought should be provided to the governor with a copy to the general secretary before the project is implemented;

d) a project status report should be provided to the governor with a copy to the general secretary on a semiannual basis;

e) the club should ensure that the project does not violate the laws of the country of the club, or the project country, and has received approval from the appropriate government authority of the project country to undertake the project;

f) if working in cooperation with another organization(s) the club should determine that such organization(s) is registered and acts within the laws of the project country. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94

Cross References

41.030.7. RCC Funding

8.080. Club Rotary Foundation Committee

Clubs are encouraged to appoint a Rotary Foundation committee. The structure of the committee should address the goals and activities of the club. The club may wish to base The Rotary Foundation committee's structure on the district level, combining or deleting subcommittees as appropriate. The club Rotary Foundation committee may supervise the following subcommittees:

- a) Annual Giving
 - b) Permanent Fund
 - c) Scholarships
 - d) Group Study Exchange
 - e) Grants
 - f) PolioPlus
 - g) Alumni
- (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268

8.090. Club-Level Training

8.090.1. Club Trainer

The club president-elect may wish to appoint a club trainer(s) to oversee the club training plan during the coming year. The club trainer serves a one year term, with a limit of three consecutive terms.

The club trainer should work with the club's board and committees to ensure all training needs are met and work with the district training committee, the assistant governor assigned to the club, and the district governor for support and ideas. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

8.090.2. Club Training Plan

The club should have a comprehensive training plan that ensures

1. Club leaders attend district training meetings as appropriate
2. Orientation is consistent and regularly provided to new members
3. Ongoing educational opportunities are available for current members
4. A leadership skills development program is available for all members. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

8.090.3. Club Leadership Development Seminar

Purpose:

To develop the personal leadership skills of club members thereby enhancing their professional life and developing future club leaders.

Participants:

Any interested Rotarian may attend

Suggested topics:

- Communication skills
- Leadership styles
- Leading and motivating volunteers
- Mentoring
- Time management
- Goal setting and accountability
- Strategic planning
- Ethics (4-Way Test)
- Building Consensus
- Team work

Organizer:

Club trainer, club president, assistant governor, and/or district training committee
(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107)

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107



Article 9. Club Finances and Public Relations

9.010. Club Finances

9.020. Clubs in Arrears to RI

9.030. Participation of Clubs in Fundraising Activities

9.040. Club Public Relations

9.050. Club Promotion of RI Aims and Objectives

9.010. Club Finances

At the beginning of each fiscal year the club's board of directors shall prepare or cause to be prepared a budget of estimated income and estimated expenditures for the year, which, having been agreed to by the board, shall stand as the limit of expenditures for the respective purposes unless otherwise ordered by action of the board.

All bills shall be paid by the treasurer, or other authorized officer, only after approval by two other officers or directors. An independent review by a qualified accountant or other qualified person shall be made once each year of all the club's financial transactions. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.010.1. Club Fines and Assessments

Clubs should review their practices of fining or establishing informal club assessments in order to minimize the expense to the individual Rotarian. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.010.2. Club Meetings Without Meals

Club meetings are not required to include a meal, thereby reducing costs to the individual Rotarian. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.010.3. Attendance of Incoming Club Presidents at Convention

Within the constraints of their budgets, clubs should consider sending the club's incoming president to the International Convention as the club's delegate. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1934 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25

Cross References

5.050.6. Prohibition of Entry Fee for New Members

5.050.7. Prohibition of Mandatory Contributions to The Rotary Foundation

18.050.11. Formation of New Clubs: Costs

18.050.12. Admission Fee for New Clubs

9.020. Clubs in Arrears to RI

The procedures outlined in the following subsections govern the payment by clubs of financial obligations to RI:

9.020.1. Notification of Non-Payment of Per Capita Dues

Notification to all clubs of the Board's policy relating to non-payment of per capita dues and other financial obligations to RI shall be included in the letter transmitting each semiannual report. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 333

9.020.2. Procedures for Collection of Club Past Due Financial Obligations

RI has adopted Procedures for Collection of Club Past Due Financial Obligations, which include the following:

- 1) reminder notices to clubs with unpaid financial obligations in excess of US\$250 will be sent 90 days (three months) from due date;
- 2) termination of clubs with unpaid financial obligations in excess of US\$250 will occur 180 days (six months) from due date;
- 3) any terminated club that has fully paid its financial obligations, which will include a US\$10 per member reinstatement fee for a minimum of ten members, within 270 days (nine months) from the due date will be reinstated;
- 4) unpaid financial obligations of US\$50 or less will be written off after 270 days from the due date;
- 5) letters requesting payment will be sent to clubs with balances of US\$250 or less, but termination will not be mentioned;
- 6) a record of clubs with consistent patterns of nonpayment under US\$50 will be maintained. After two cycles of nonpayment, the general secretary has discretionary authority to suspend the services of RI to the club;
- 7) records of all write-offs of club financial obligations will be maintained for review by the Board at any time. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83, Appendix I; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 453; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236; and March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178

9.020.3. Notification to Clubs of Non-Payment and Termination

Clubs shall be notified at the end of the first quarter of a club's non-payment and its forthcoming termination unless payment is made by the end of the current semiannual period, or unless arrangements acceptable to the Board are made to pay them. The termination notification shall be sent by registered mail (return receipt, recorded delivery, et al.) at the end of the semiannual period of the club's termination due to unpaid financial obligations. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141*)

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 333; Amended by October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141

9.020.4. Clubs in Restricted Currency Countries

Clubs located in restricted currency countries which, despite their best efforts are unable to transmit payments due to RI, will not automatically be terminated. Such clubs are required to establish, to the satisfaction of the Board, that they have provided for an adequate financial reserve, holding the amounts due to RI with the understanding that such funds will be released to RI upon demand within the country in which the club is located, or transmitted to RI's bank account at the earliest possible date. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 333

9.020.5. Exceptions to Club Notification and Termination Procedures

The general secretary is authorized to make exceptions implementing these guidelines which in the general secretary's judgment are warranted, based on special or unique circumstances. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May-June 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268

9.020.6. Notice of Termination to Governors and Directors

Copies of notifications of termination will be sent to the governors and to the director(s) in the area. *(October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141)*

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 333; Amended by October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141

9.020.7. Reinstatement of Clubs Terminated Due to Non-Payment of Financial Obligations

A terminated club may only seek to be reinstated up to one year (365 days) after its termination. When a club seeks to be reinstated within 90 days of termination, it must pay the full amount of its outstanding financial obligations at the time of termination, all semiannual dues payments that have continued to accrue during the period between termination and reinstatement, and a US\$10.00 per member reinstatement fee. When a club seeks to be reinstated more than 90 days but less than 365 days after termination, it must fulfill all the requirements of a club seeking to be reinstated within 90 days of termination and, in addition, it must complete an application for reinstatement and pay a US\$15.00 per member application fee. A club seeking to be reinstated may only revise its membership list within one year (365 days) of the semiannual period due date. If only partial payment is made by the 365th day following termination, that amount will be applied to the terminated club's delinquent financial obligation. Terminated clubs that have not fulfilled their entire financial responsibility, which includes the full amount of their outstanding financial obligations at the time of termination, all semiannual dues payments that have continued to accrue during the period between termination and reinstatement, the application fee, and the reinstatement fee, within 365 days of termination, shall lose their original charter and are not eligible for reinstatement. Reinstated clubs shall maintain their name, history, and charter, and are considered members in financial good standing eligible to receive the full services of the association. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 328)*

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220; and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 328

9.020.8. Revisions to Club Membership Lists

All clubs are strongly encouraged to immediately report their new members to RI. To facilitate the appropriate collection of pro-rata dues payment for new members, a Rotary club may only revise its membership list within six months (180 days) of the new member's admittance date. Clubs are obligated to fulfill the entire financial responsibility of its new members, which includes the full amount of any pro-rata dues and all semiannual dues payments that fall within 180 days of a Rotarian's admittance date. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97*)

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

Cross References

17.060.1. Status of Clubs with Service Suspended

31.030.5. Club Termination and Reinstatement by General Secretary

9.030. Participation of Clubs in Fundraising Activities

9.030.1. Legal Requirement for Club Fundraising

Where laws require a provision in a club's constitution for fundraising, a club desiring such authority shall act under the provisions of RI Bylaw 2.030.3. and seek approval of the Board for amendment of its constitution to meet local requirements. Where such club requests are required by law, they shall be favorably considered. The general secretary is authorized to act for the Board in such cases. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.030.2. Telephone Cards

Clubs are not authorized to offer pre-paid telephone cards which bear the Rotary Marks as a fund-raising activity. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324

9.030.3. Affinity Cards

Clubs are not authorized to offer affinity cards which bear the Rotary Marks as a fund-raising activity. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324

Cross References

34.070.1. Use of Rotary Marks on Telephone Cards

34.070.2. Use of Rotary Marks on Affinity Cards

9.040. Club Public Relations

Clubs are expected to maintain positive public and news media relations. Clubs should be encouraged to sponsor meetings to which the public is invited. Clubs should also note that publicity for Rotary is not necessarily publicity for Rotarians. The practice of public relations

varies throughout the world. But regardless of cultural differences from one country to another, Rotary clubs around the globe have audiences with which they should communicate. Developing a message and finding an appropriate way to deliver it is public relations in action.

Public relations should be directed to several audiences: Media, local government officials, the business community, civic leaders and organizations, as well as qualified candidates for membership and people directly affected by Rotary service projects. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. See also January 1933 Dec. of Exec. Comm. 152M

9.040.1. Rotarians' Responsibility in Promotion of Rotary

Individual Rotarians are urged to help their Rotary clubs to become more identifiable in their communities by personally informing others about what Rotary is and does, in order to improve and expand Rotary growth and service. Each Rotarian is expected to be fully informed about Rotary's object, programs, and activities, and seek opportunities to make the aims and accomplishments of Rotary better known in his or her personal, business and professional contacts. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 82

9.040.2. Publicity for Club Projects and Activities

Clubs are expected to seek publicity for successful service projects and activities which illustrate Rotary's aims and accomplishments.

Experience shows the following Rotary Stories are most effectively promoted:

1. Outstanding volunteers
2. Interaction between people in developed and developing countries
3. Local Rotary and/ or The Rotary Foundation projects
4. Rotary exchange program individuals such as Youth Exchange students, Ambassadorial Scholars, or GSE participants
5. Human interest stories of people benefiting from Rotary service
6. PolioPlus activities – particularly in polio-endemic areas. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.040.3. Club Relations with Media

Clubs should reach out to the public by sharing their stories with the local media. This can be done by identifying media targets, developing a media list and contacting appropriate media with a press release. Refer to *Effective Public Relations: A Guide for Rotary Clubs* for further information or the Effective Public Relations section of the RI Web site at www.rotary.org.

In addition, club activities should include talks to clubs by news media personnel on the role of the media. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: February 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.040.4. Public Relations Training for Club Officers

Clubs are encouraged to seek resources among their membership to train officers in effective techniques to use in response to news media inquiries and interviews. Clubs also are encouraged to include a segment on Rotary public relations in all club leadership training. Clubs should consult www.Rotary.org for more information or the publication *"Effective Public Relations: A Guide for Rotary Clubs."* (November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.040.5. Publicity for RI Through *The Rotarian*

Clubs should consider adopting the four-point program offered by the Rotary World Magazine Press magazine to: Encourage Rotarians to pass their copy of the magazine along to non-Rotarians; subscribe for the magazine for the local newspaper editor who is not a Rotarian; place the magazine in the public school libraries; and pass along to the editors suggestions for articles, and news of club activities. (November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)

Source: January 1936 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

9.040.6. Adverse Public Relations

Every club should take positive steps to prevent or correct any attitudes within its community or conditions within the club that may harm Rotary's reputation and limit its effectiveness. If negative public opinion is caused by misperceptions of Rotary's purpose or activities, a club should counter these misperceptions with well-directed public information and community relations efforts. When appropriate, the club also should strengthen its service program. (June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146

9.040.7. Adverse Public Relations: Governor Involvement

Where a condition exists or a problem arises which may affect other clubs or RI, a club should advise the governor at the earliest opportunity so that a cooperative effort can be made to address the problem. It is the governor's responsibility to advise and assist clubs in preventing or solving local public relations problems. The general secretary shall assist governors and clubs, keeping the president and the Board advised and referring to them problems that may require their consideration and action. (June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146

9.040.8. Club Promotion of Community Service Activities

Rotary clubs are encouraged to allocate an appropriate portion of their budget annually for the purpose of increasing public awareness of club activities within the community. Rotary clubs are encouraged to enhance the public image of Rotary through public and permanent identification of club community service activities using the Rotary club name and emblem. Rotary clubs are encouraged to seek appropriate public and permanent

recognition for their financial and service contributions to other organizations and causes. *(June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245)*

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

9.050. Club Promotion of RI Aims and Objectives

The club is expected to utilize the Rotary World Magazine Press and other promotional tools and techniques to promote Rotary's aims and accomplishments within the community. *(November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145)*

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

9.050.1. Club Promotion of the Object of Rotary

The club is expected to cultivate the understanding of community leaders, young people and other special interest groups who should be aware of Rotary, its Object, scope, programs and activities. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

9.050.2. Community Speakers

Clubs are encouraged to make available to various groups in their community speakers who can effectively talk about Rotary. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 209

9.050.3. Club Service and Exchange Activities

Clubs are encouraged to initiate international service and exchange activities with clubs in new Rotary countries in order to take advantage of current media responsiveness involving those countries and to help educate these new clubs about Rotary and the nature of its service activities. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137

9.050.4. Broadcasting of Club Meetings

There is no practical way in which to control the action of any club in regard to holding or giving publicity to or broadcasting a meeting. However, it is suggested that all clubs give very serious consideration to invitations which are received to broadcast their meetings. It is further suggested that clubs take advantage of the opportunity to confer with their governor and others in regard to the advisability of any particular program on any particular occasion in connection with such broadcasts. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1923 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IX (e). See also April 1923 Mtg. Bd. Dec. IX (m)



Article 10. Club Officers

- 10.010.** Club Officers
- 10.020.** Qualifications of the Club President
- 10.030.** Duties of Club President
- 10.040.** Duties of Club President-elect
- 10.050.** Club Officer Disputes

10.010. Club Officers

10.010.1. Rotation of Club Officers

The best interests of a club are served by observing the principle of rotation in office. This includes membership on the board of directors and chairmanship of committees as well as the offices of president and secretary. Club officers should not be encouraged or expected to hold office for two successive years; however, clubs may sometimes find it advantageous to elect an officer for a second and successive year or to re-elect a former officer of the club. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1936 Dec. of Exec. Comm. E34; January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; Amended by January 1943 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123. Affirmed by Jan 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113. See also April 1922 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 9 (S)

10.010.2. Board of Directors Acting as Club Planning Committee

Each club board of directors, in addition to fulfilling its function as the governing body of the club, should meet as a planning group at least four times each year. In such capacity, the board should develop the program and activities of the club, its policies, and the extent to which they are being effectively implemented; consider ways and means of further promoting the Object of Rotary; and be concerned with the trends of the times and evaluate how well the club is fulfilling its function. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E20; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.010.3. Annual Recognition of Club Officers

Each club is encouraged to hold a meeting at the commencement of each Rotary year for the purpose of installing its president and other officers, recognizing that such a meeting provides opportunity for club officers and members to renew and reaffirm their commitment to the objectives of RI. Such meetings may provide a public relations opportunity to acquaint the community with the purpose and goals of Rotary. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.020. Qualifications of the Club President

In addition to the qualifications listed in the Standard Rotary Club Constitution, the club president should:

1. possess leadership skills;
2. have sufficient time to lead and carry out the work of the club;

3. have served in the club as a board member or as chair or member of one or more of the major committees or as club secretary;
4. possess a working knowledge of the club constitution and bylaws;
5. have attended one or more district conferences and international conventions. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; April 1971 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 231. See also January 1963 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 112

10.030. Duties of the Club President

The club president has the following duties:

1. presides at meetings of the club;
2. ensures that each meeting is carefully planned, opening and adjourning on time;
3. presides at regular meetings (at least once a month) of the club board of directors;
4. appoints club committee chairmen and members who are qualified for the jobs assigned;
5. ensures that each committee has definite objectives and each is functioning consistently;
6. attends the district conference;
7. cooperates with the governor and assistant governor in various club and district Rotary matters, and handles all correspondence promptly;
8. supervises the preparation of a club budget and the proper accounting of club finances, including an annual audit;
9. ensures that a comprehensive training program is implemented by the club and may appoint a club trainer(s) to carry out the training, if needed;
10. ensures that important information from the Governor's "Monthly Letter," and other bulletins and literature from the Secretariat and governor are passed on to the club members;
11. submits each June a comprehensive report to the club on the status of club finances and the extent to which the club has achieved its objectives for the year;
12. works cooperatively with the president-elect before leaving office to ensure the smooth transition of authority, including the transfer of all relevant records, documents, and financial information;
13. arranges a joint meeting of the incoming and outgoing club boards to ensure the success of the new administration and to provide continuity of administrations. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104. See also Jan 1951 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 53 and February 1923 Mtg. Bd. Dec. VIII(z)

10.040. Duties of Club President-elect

10.040.1. District Assembly Attendance

Before accepting office, club presidents-elect should commit to attend the district assembly. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.040.2. Appointments for Club Committees

Incoming club presidents-elect shall complete their appointments of club committee chairmen no later than 31 March. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.040.3. Annual Programs Fund Goal-Setting by Clubs

The club president-elect oversees the Annual Programs Fund goal for the club for implementation during his or her term as president. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

10.050. Club Officer Disputes

If there is a dispute within a club as to which members have been duly elected as the club's officers, the general secretary shall request the district governor to investigate the dispute. The governor shall notify the general secretary which of the members should be properly recognized as the club officers. Until the dispute is resolved, the general secretary may rely upon the findings of the governor as to which club members should be recognized as club officers for RI's administrative purposes. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98)*

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98



Article 11. Club Relationships with Rotarians and Others

11.010. Club Relationship to the Secretariat

11.020. Club Relationships with Other Clubs

11.030. Circularization

11.040. Rotary Clubs and Other Organizations

11.050. Club Relationship with Its Members: Membership Lists

11.010. Club Relationship to the Secretariat

11.010.1. Requests for Information from the Secretariat

It is recognized that the general secretary responds voluntarily to all inquiries from member clubs in good standing who request information considered by the general secretary to be reasonable and proper. In the event any question arises as to the reasonableness or propriety of any such request, the general secretary shall refer the matter to the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

11.010.2. General Secretary Provision of Information to Clubs

The establishment of preconditions for the furnishing of information requested by member clubs in good standing is justified only under exceptional circumstances. The general secretary as the managing officer of RI may ask clubs about the intended use of information as requested by any club. Clubs have a right to decline to provide information on the intended use of data, and such refusal in itself will not prevent such clubs from receiving information voluntarily provided by the general secretary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

11.010.3. Club Restraint in Requesting Information from the Secretariat

Clubs and individuals may request reasonable information from the Secretariat, but are requested to exercise restraint in their requests for information from the Secretariat in consideration of the burden placed on the staff and consequential distraction from the services to other clubs, committees and officers of RI. Clubs requesting information may not set deadlines for the furnishing of such information by the General Secretary. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: January 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

11.020. Club Relationships with Other Clubs

11.020.1. Club Memorabilia

Clubs and Rotarians exchanging memorabilia are urged to exercise discretion in making provision for such exchanges. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1959 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

11.030. Circularization

11.030.1. Rotary Clubs - Approval to Solicit Cooperation, Financial Aid, or Participation in Commercial Ventures, including Telemarketing

A club desiring to request the cooperation of other clubs or members of other clubs, in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her or their approval. This is applicable only in cases where a club desires to request the cooperation of more than one Rotary club or members of more than one club.

A Rotary club(s) engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotary club(s).

No club shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any other Rotary club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members unless and until it first secures an authorization from the RI Board.

The general secretary shall request the governors of any districts involved in unauthorized solicitations, including those by telemarketing, to take action to end such activities. Continued non-compliance with this policy shall be reported to the RI Board for possible discipline for cause, including termination of the club. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270*)

Source: January 1937 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; Amended by May 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 207; COL 80-102; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

11.030.2. Multidistrict Administrative Groups, Service Activities, and Projects – Approval to Solicit Cooperation, Financial Aid, or Participation in Commercial Ventures, including Telemarketing

A multidistrict entity desiring to request the cooperation of clubs or Rotarians, outside its own membership, in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

A multidistrict entity(ies) engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the multidistrict entity(ies).

No multidistrict entity shall solicit financial assistance or participation in any commercial venture from any Rotary club or from Rotarians other than its own members without authorization from the RI Board.

Multidistrict entities that are not in compliance with this circularization policy could lose their multidistrict status.

Even within the limits described above, it is not permissible for a Rotarian to circularize Rotary clubs or other Rotarians on matters affecting his or her individual business interests. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270)*

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

11.030.3. Global Networking Groups - Approval to Solicit Cooperation, Financial Aid, or Participation in Commercial Ventures, including Telemarketing

A Global Networking Group desiring to request the cooperation of districts, clubs or Rotarians outside of its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

Global Networking Groups engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Global Networking Group.

No Global Networking Group shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any Rotary district or club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members unless and until it first secures an authorization from the Board.

Even within the limits described above, it is not permissible for a Rotarian to circularize other Global Networking Group members on matters affecting his or her individual business interests. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32)*

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; *Amended by* November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

11.030.4. Telemarketing to the Public by Clubs, Districts, and other Rotary Entities

Rotary clubs, districts and other Rotary Entities, other than Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, desiring to use a commercial telemarketing, internet web hosting and/or email firm to solicit the public on their behalf shall:

- a. first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her or their approval;
- b. comply with existing Rotary circularization policy;
- c. include proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotary club(s), district(s) or other Rotary Entity(ies) to be represented.

The general secretary shall request the governors of any districts that are not in compliance with the above policy to take action to end such activities. Continued non-compliance with this policy shall be reported to the RI Board for possible discipline for cause, including termination. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

11.030.5. World Community Service Exception to Circularization Policy

Requests from districts or clubs for cooperation and assistance with a specific WCS activity are not subject to the limitation placed upon general circularization rules where such requests are directed to one or a limited number of districts or clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154; October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116

11.030.6. Use of Official Directories for Commercial Purposes or Circularization

No member of a Rotary club shall use the *Official Directory* or any other database or list of names compiled in connection with a Rotary-related project or activity for commercial purposes. The official directories of RI, its districts and clubs, as well as any other database or list of names compiled in connection with a Rotary-related project or activity shall not be made available by Rotarians or by clubs or districts for the purpose of circularization. This applies to directories in electronic and printed formats. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: June 1930 Mtg., Bd. Dec. I; Jan 1937 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59 and March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

11.030.7. Club and District Directories

Any club or district publishing a directory shall publish in that directory a notice to the effect that the directory is not for distribution to non-Rotarians nor may it be used as a commercial mailing list. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: June 1936 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

11.040. Rotary Clubs and Other Organizations

Clubs are encouraged to support and cooperate with other organizations for the purposes of carrying out and enhancing their own service activities. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213*)

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213

11.040.1. Clubs Not to Assume Membership in Other Organizations

A club should not become a member of or assume obligations of membership in any other organization. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: COL 80-102; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

11.040.2. Club Lists and Membership Lists Not to Be Furnished to Other Organizations

Lists of clubs, their officers or committee members, or Rotarians shall not be furnished to other organizations, except:

- a) to meet legal requirements of government agencies or
- b) by the assent of the Board or its Executive Committee; provided that the Board or its Executive Committee may not furnish such lists in violation of any applicable laws. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219*)

Source: January 1941 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103, January 1955 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87, October 1988 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 114; Amended by February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219

11.040.3. Joint Meetings with Other Service Clubs

Except on specific occasions approved by the club's board, Rotary clubs may not hold their regular meetings with other service clubs. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: June 1924 Mtg. Bd. Dec. IX (c). Amended by May 1943 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 221; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. See also February 1923 Mtg. Bd. Dec. IX (c)(2)

11.040.4. Club Officers and Committees Meeting with Other Organizations

A club's officers and committees may meet with officers and committees of other organizations, but may not bind the club without the club's consent. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: COL 80-102; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

11.040.5. Guidelines for Cooperation with Other Organizations Regarding Specific Projects and Activities

Clubs and districts may support and cooperate with other organizations in projects and activities provided that:

- a) such initiatives are consistent with Rotary ideals and purposes;
- b) the cooperative activity is approved by the club or district membership concerned;
- c) the cooperation involves direct participation and responsibility by a committee appointed by a club president or governor designated for the duration of the activity, with provision for annual review;
- d) club or district autonomy as an independent organization is preserved;
- e) appropriate recognition for club or district is obtained, to the extent that it is warranted by the nature of the cooperation, in the interest of keeping the public informed about Rotary and its service activities;
- f) the club or district and the cooperating organization share in the responsibility of communicating to the public the nature of the joint project;
- g) the club or district does not accept an ongoing obligation to participate in the joint project;
- h) the club or district does not accept an ongoing financial obligation to the organization, but provides opportunities for Rotary clubs in a district to review and decide upon continuing support of such projects or activities at district conferences or by other appropriate means; and
- i) the club or district does not become a member of the cooperating organization.
- j) such activity or cooperative agreement entered into by a club or district does not in any way bind or commit Rotary International to said activity or agreement. *(Feb 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213)*

Source: October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213

11.040.6. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship and Cooperative Relationship Purposes

1. These Guidelines govern the use of the Rotary Marks, including the Rotary International emblem (the "Rotary Marks" are defined in paragraph 6, below) by any Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or any other Rotary Entity when used in combination with the emblem of another organization for sponsorship or cooperative relationship purposes.

2. Sponsorships are considered to be short-term, event-specific relationships with another organization which benefit RI, TRF, Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) and other Rotary Entities in image-enhancing, promotional, monetary or other ways. Each sponsorship relationship should terminate with the completion of the sponsored event.
3. "Rotary Entities" includes Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, a Rotary club or group of clubs, a Rotary district or group of districts (including a multidistrict activity), a Rotary Fellowship, Rotarian Action Groups, RI Convention Host Committees and administrative territorial units of Rotary International. Entities not included in this definition are not permitted to enter into sponsorship or cooperative relationships which use the Rotary Marks without seeking prior Board approval. Individual RI Programs are not considered Rotary Entities.
4. Cooperative relationships are considered to be longer term relationships which may or may not be tied to specific events, with another organization which benefit RI, TRF, Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) and other Rotary Entities in image-enhancing, promotional, program-enhancing, membership, monetary or other ways.
5. The information in these Guidelines should be referenced in any agreement between any Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or any other Rotary Entity and a sponsor or cooperating organization, especially the information contained in paragraphs 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, below.
6. RI is the owner of numerous trademarks and service marks throughout the world, including, but not limited to, "Rotary," the Rotary emblem, "Rotary International," "RI," "Rotary Club," "The Rotary Foundation," the Rotary Foundation logo, "Rotarian," "The Rotarian," "Rotaract," "Rotaract Club," the Rotaract emblem, "Interact," "Interact Club," the Interact emblem, "Interactive," "Paul Harris Fellow," the image of Paul Harris, "PolioPlus," the PolioPlus logo, "Service Above Self," "He Profits Most Who Serves Best," and the Rotary Centers for Peace and Conflict Resolution logo (the "Rotary Marks"). RI extends the right to use these Marks to Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities under certain limited guidelines for specific authorized uses which are further set out in Chapter 17 of the *Manual of Procedure*, which is incorporated herein by reference.
7. For sponsorship and cooperative relationship purposes discussed herein, RI permits Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities to use the Rotary Marks in the following manner(s) and subject to the following provisions.
8. Sponsorships or cooperative relationships for the purposes contemplated herein, should be in furtherance of the Object of Rotary.
9. Nothing in the limited use granted herein will constitute an assignment or license of any of the Rotary Marks to any sponsor or cooperating organization.
10. In sponsorship or cooperative relationship situations involving Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities, RI will only allow the use of the Rotary Marks in

combination with the emblem of another organization for the limited and specific purpose of promotional materials for the event or project of, or cooperative relationship with, the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity, as further set out in paragraph 11, below.

11. When such a combined emblem use as discussed in paragraph 10, above, is desired, further identifying language of the name of the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity must also be used in close proximity to and in equal prominence with the Rotary Marks. (This is in concert with recent RI Board determinations that whenever the name, "Rotary," or any of the Rotary Marks are used by themselves, they normally refer to the entire organization, Rotary International. Therefore, whenever a Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity is using either the word, "Rotary," or any of the Rotary Marks, further identifying language must also be used of the name of the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity.)

12. Whenever any of the Rotary Marks are used in combination with the emblem of another organization for sponsorship or cooperative relationship purposes, including any advertisement or promotional materials directly related to a sponsored Rotary event or project (including, but not limited to, banners or signs) the emblem of the other organization must be of equal or lesser unit size to that of the Rotary emblem (or other Rotary Marks, at the sole discretion of the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s), other Rotary Entity or RI), unless the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark is part of a repetitive background screen. RI allows for overwriting of the Rotary emblem (or other Rotary Marks) (watermarked, printed, screened or embossed), provided the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark is not otherwise partially covered and/or obstructed. RI agrees that in cases where a sponsor might wish to highlight its role in sponsoring a Rotary event or project in conjunction with its regular advertising, the Rotary emblem may be smaller than the sponsor's logo.

13. Current RI policy mandates that, without altering the provisions set out in paragraph 12, above the Rotary Marks may not be altered, modified or obstructed in any way but must be reproduced in their entirety. There should be no overlap between Sponsor's or Cooperating Organization's logo and the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark; the two images should be clearly spaced so as to be two separate and distinct images.

14. The Rotary Marks may be reproduced in any one color, but if they are to be reproduced in more than one color, they must be reproduced in their official colors (royal blue and gold (PMS Blue 286; PMS Metallic Gold 871 or PMS Yellow 123 C or 115 U) for the Rotary emblem and the TRF logo; information available on other Marks, as necessary).

15. Current RI policy mandates that the Rotary Marks may only be reproduced by a vendor authorized to do so. Whenever, possible, therefore, reproductions of the Rotary Marks should be done by an officially licensed vendor. If the desired goods are not reasonably available from a RI licensee, a release must be obtained from the RI Licensing Section.

16. Each sponsorship or cooperative relationship use of any of the Rotary Marks in combination with the emblem of another organization should be subject to a pre-publication review and approval process on the part of the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity. Such use may also be subject to a pre-publication review and approval process on the part of RI's Intellectual Property counsel. RI, the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity should retain the sole right to specific denial or authorization or, in the case of alteration (of copy or layout), to be mutually agreed upon by the parties.

17. RI, the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity should retain control over where promotional materials are published in any medium, including where banners or signs are allowed to be displayed when any of the Rotary Marks are used in combination with the emblem of another organization in connection with the sponsorship or cooperative relationship contemplated herein.

18. RI, the Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity should reserve the right to approve publications or other media in which any sponsor wishes to advertise or otherwise promote the relationship using the Rotary Marks.

19. Membership lists, except by Board authorization, must not be used for sponsorship or cooperative relationship purposes and must stay within the control of RI, the district(s) and/or the club(s) involved. However, any determination to allow access to membership lists must respect the individual rights of Rotarians, including relevant legal restrictions.

20. No Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) or other Rotary Entity shall accept a sponsorship or a cooperative relationship that

- a. Conflicts with Rotary's ethical and humanitarian values
- b. Undermines internationally recognized standards for human rights
- c. Supports the use of addictive or harmful products and activities including but not limited to alcohol (when inappropriate in a specific cultural context), tobacco, gambling, and weapons or other armaments
- d. Promotes a particular political or religious viewpoint
- e. Involves abortion
- f. Unfairly discriminates based on race, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or birth or other status
- g. Weakens the autonomy, independence, reputation, or financial integrity of Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation, or the specific Rotary club, district or other Rotary entity
- h. involves any subject matter which is not in accord with the Object of Rotary

21. Individual Rotarians shall not benefit from sponsorships or cooperative relationships. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70)*

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86; Amended by August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 224; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 385; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70

Cross References

27.060.4. Public Relations with Clubs

33.010. Use of Emblem

33.010.11. RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations

35.010. General Guidelines for Joint RI and TRF Relationships with Other Organizations

36.010. Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs

11.050. Club Relationship With Its Members: Membership Lists

In accordance with Article 8, Section 2 of the RI Constitution, and Section 26.010 of this Code, RI will maintain a list of all members of Rotary clubs for the purposes of:

1. confirming the semiannual reports of membership from the clubs;
2. subscription lists for RI and TRF publications;
3. analyzing membership trends;
4. identifying Rotarians with special interests and skills for international Rotary appointments;
5. identifying Rotarians for international recognition;

All clubs shall provide this information to RI to the extent that such provision is not in violation of any applicable laws. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219*)

Source: June 1938 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E103; Amended by February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219

11.050.1. District Membership List

If a governor requests from the general secretary a list of all Rotarians in the governor's district, the general secretary will supply it to the governor. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: June 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E103; October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

Cross References

11.040.2. Club Membership Lists Not to be Provided to Other Organizations

31.030.11. Furnishing Club Officer Mailing Lists

49.030. Worldwide Directory



CHAPTER III

DISTRICTS

Articles

- 16. Multidistrict Activities**
- 17. Rotary Districts**
- 18. Extension of Rotary and New Clubs**
- 19. District Officers**
- 20. District Programs and Projects**
- 21. District Committees**
- 22. District Conferences**
- 23. District Meetings**

Article 16. Multidistrict Activities

- 16.010.** Guidelines for Multidistrict Service Activities and Projects
- 16.020.** Governor's Responsibility for Multidistrict Events and Activities
- 16.030.** Use of the Name, Emblem, or other Rotary Marks in Multidistrict Activities
- 16.040.** Multidistrict Administrative Groups

16.010. Guidelines for Multidistrict Service Activities and Projects

Rotary-sponsored service activities and projects involving clubs in two or more districts are encouraged subject to the following:

A) Multidistrict service activities and projects:

- 1) shall be, in nature and scope, within the capability of the clubs and Rotarians in the districts to undertake successfully without interfering with or detracting from the scope and effectiveness of club activities in furthering the program of Rotary at the club level;
- 2) shall not be undertaken initially unless each governor concerned has agreed to such a joint activity and then, only after approval of two-thirds of the clubs in each district;
- 3) shall be under the direct supervision of the governors concerned; the custody of all funds contributed or collected for such activities shall be the responsibility of the governors concerned, though a committee of Rotarians from within the districts involved may be appointed to assist in administering any such activity and related funds;
- 4) shall be undertaken only after the governors have jointly secured in advance the authorization of the general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, to undertake the activity;
- 5) shall involve participation by Rotary clubs and/or individual Rotarians on a voluntary basis, clearly presented as such; the cost of participation by a club or individual Rotarian, if any, should be kept to a minimum, and not implicitly or directly be made an obligation in the form of a per capita assessment or otherwise;

6) shall provide, through the governors of the districts concerned, in their "Report to RI," details of their districts' involvement in all multidistrict activities;

7) when desiring to request the cooperation of clubs or Rotarians outside its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the respective governor or governors and secure his, her, or their approval.

8) shall not solicit financial assistance or participation in any commercial venture from any Rotary club or from Rotarians other than its own members without authorization from the RI Board. Multidistrict service activities and projects that are not in compliance with this circularization policy could lose their multidistrict status.

B) The policy on this matter does not include projects involving cooperation between districts in World Community Service activities when one district serves as a "donor" and the other district a "sponsor" or "recipient";

C) Any participating district that seeks to terminate its participation in a multidistrict service activity or project must secure the approval of two-thirds of the clubs in the district to withdraw. The governor shall notify the general secretary and the governors of the other districts concerned of its decision within 60 days prior to the date of termination.

D) The governors of those districts initiating multidistrict activities that extend beyond a single Rotary year must develop operating guidelines in accordance with RI multidistrict policy for approval by the general secretary. The governors involved in any multidistrict activity shall also be responsible for ensuring that an audited financial statement of multidistrict finances is prepared for the activity or project and distributed to the participating clubs.

E) Multidistrict PETS organizations are exempt from these Multidistrict Guidelines. Rather, they are to be governed by the Multidistrict PETS Guidelines. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 237; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59 and March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

16.010.1. Form of Incorporation of Multidistrict Activities

In instances where multidistrict service activities and projects are incorporated, the members of the corporation should be the governors of the districts involved or their appointees. The board of directors of any such incorporated activity should be elected by the members of the corporation. Corporate structures not in harmony with these provisions will generally be considered as not in conformance with RI policy regarding supervision of multidistrict activities by the governors, unless evidence to the contrary is presented at the time that such projects apply for approval by the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279. See also May-June 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 356

Cross References

23.020.7. *Multidistrict PETS Guidelines*

16.020. Governor's Responsibility for Multidistrict Events and Activities

With the exception of a multidistrict PETS, which shall be under the direct authority and control of the governors-elect in cooperation with governors, the ultimate responsibility for multidistrict events and activities lies with the governors of the districts involved. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 308

16.030. Use of the Name "Rotary," the Rotary Emblem or other Rotary Marks in Multidistrict Activities

All club, district, multidistrict and other Rotary Entity activities must include identifiers of the club, district, multidistrict group or other Rotary Entity when using the name "Rotary," the Rotary Emblem or other Rotary Marks. Such identifier must be in close proximity to and in equal prominence with the Rotary Emblem or other of the Rotary Marks. The Rotary Marks must always be reproduced in their entirety. No abbreviations, prefixes or suffixes such as "Rota" are permitted. No alterations, obstructions or modifications of the Rotary Marks are permitted. Rotarians planning any club, district, multidistrict or other Rotary Entity projects or programs that are to include the name "Rotary," the Rotary Emblem, or other Rotary Marks without a further identifier must first secure the approval of the Board. Rotarians coordinating existing doctor banks and similar club, district, multidistrict and other Rotary Entity projects or programs should review and make necessary changes to the project or program names and materials, consistent with this policy. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 198; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 399; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

16.040. Multidistrict Administrative Groups

In circumstances in which two or more districts wish to provide joint administrative services to their clubs, other than multidistrict PETS, the Board has authorized districts to carry out such services jointly, provided that:

- a. such services enhance and support the activities of Rotary at the club level;
- b. such services do not usurp the duties and responsibilities of the governor or any other RI officers as provided in the constitutional documents of RI;
- c. the governors of each of the districts concerned (in the year in which the joint activity is initiated) have agreed in writing to provide services jointly, and have delineated in the agreement the specific services to be provided jointly;
- d. verification is submitted to the general secretary by each participating district governor that two-thirds of all of the clubs in their districts have approved their participation in the group;
- e. the provision of services are under the direct supervision of the current governors concerned (though a committee of Rotarians from within the districts involved may be appointed by the current governors to assist in providing such services);

- f. funds to cover the cost of such services shall not be obtained through any assessment to clubs in addition to the per capita levy for the district fund;
- g. the custody of all funds to cover the cost of such services are under the direct supervision of the current governors concerned;
- h. the governors of the districts concerned have jointly secured in advance the authorization of the general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, to jointly provide services to their clubs;
- i. proof of compliance with existing Board policy regarding multidistrict administrative groups shall be provided to the general secretary on a triennial basis, including verification by the district governor that two-thirds of all clubs in their district have approved their continued participation in the group;
- j. any participating district that wishes to discontinue such an agreement with another district(s) must first secure the approval of two-thirds of the clubs in the district, and then notify the general secretary and the governor(s) of the other district(s) concerned of its decision at least 60 days prior to the date on which the agreement will be terminated.
- k. when desiring to request the cooperation of clubs or Rotarians outside its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, the multidistrict administrative group shall first submit its purpose and plans to the respective governor or governors and secure his, her, or their approval.
- l. the multidistrict administrative group shall not solicit financial assistance or participation in any commercial venture from any Rotary club or from Rotarians other than its own members without authorization from the RI Board. Multidistrict administrative groups that are not in compliance with this circularization policy could lose their multidistrict status. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58 and 139

16.040.1. Multidistrict Administrative Services

Forums, councils, committees or similar entities or formal gatherings of governors, past governors or governors-elect are not recognized Rotary Entities except to the extent they may be providing multidistrict administrative services in compliance with the provisions of the *Rotary Code of Policies*. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220. See also July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27



Article 17. Rotary Districts

- 17.010.** Rotary Districts, General
- 17.020.** Incorporation of Districts
- 17.030.** District Organization and Administration
- 17.040.** District-Level Elections
- 17.050.** District Records
- 17.060.** District Finances
- 17.070.** District Publicity

17.010. Rotary Districts, General

17.010.1. Role of the District

A district is a group of clubs within a geographical boundary established by the RI Board pursuant to the bylaws for RI administrative purposes. The activities and organization of a Rotary district shall exist solely to help the individual club advance the object of Rotary and should not tend to diminish services provided by clubs and individual Rotarians on the local level. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 322*)

Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; Amended by March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199 and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 322

17.010.2. Size of the District

Because districts with a large membership base have distinct advantages over districts with a small number of clubs and Rotarians, and the continual proliferation of small districts has a detrimental effect on the administration and finances of RI, the Board encourages all districts with fewer than 75 clubs and 2700 Rotarians to strive to reach those numbers and encourages districts to merge with neighboring districts or form international districts, as appropriate, so that those minimums are met. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 173; February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 246; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80

17.010.3. Establishment of Districts within Zones

At its first meeting of each year, the RI Board shall establish the composition of the zones (currently 34) for that year, noting particularly any new districts and the possibility of any needed adjustments to the sections within certain zones. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 17

17.010.4. Districting Procedures

The procedures for districting, either to consolidate existing districts, or to establish additional districts shall be as follows:

1. The districting committee shall consider districting proposals at least annually during the International Assembly.
2. Districting proposals shall consider geographical boundaries, potential for district growth, and cultural, economic, language, and other relevant factors.

3. Proposals for districting will be considered for the establishment of additional districts, realignment of clubs within districts, or the consolidation of existing districts.
4. Proposals for the creation of additional districts with at least 60 clubs and/or 2,100 Rotarians that demonstrate a potential for growth to at least 75 clubs and 2,700 Rotarians in the next ten years will be looked upon with favor by the Districting Committee.
5. The governor(s) of the existing district(s) shall prepare a proposal for the general secretary. Districting proposals require ninety (90) days for preparation and review by the Districting Committee. The proposal shall include information from the governors of the existing district(s) and be evaluated by the committee based on the following guidelines:
 - a) the reasons for the districting request, including issues such as but not limited to cultural and ethnic factors, geographic distances, as well as financial and economic conditions encountered in administering the present district(s);
 - b) how districting will address the issues cited;
 - c) a map clearly showing the extent of the area, the boundaries of the existing and proposed districts and the location of clubs;
 - d) a list of existing clubs with their charter dates and number of members as of 1 July over the last five years, noting each club's continuous operation and good financial standing with RI for the past five years, and location of growth and extension possibilities in the proposed district(s);
 - e) charts of the district's(s') existing and new proposals for the districts' leadership plans, a map showing the clubs assigned to each assistant governor, and a description of the assistant governor responsibilities;
 - f) documentation illustrating that no more than 10% of clubs in each new proposed district have membership of 20 Rotarians or less;
 - g) a list of conference sites in the proposed district(s);
 - h) a description of the quality and ease of travel within the proposed district(s);
 - i) a statement signed by the governor(s) stating the proposal has been referred to clubs in the district(s), that the governor has communicated effectively the origin of the re-districting proposal and the necessity of each club to carefully consider the proposal for vote by the majority of club members, and a list of clubs that have approved the proposal (constituting the majority), and a list of clubs that have rejected the proposal; and
 - j) a list of past governors in each of the proposed districts, including their year of service as governor;
6. The governors-elect are asked to be thoroughly familiar with all elements of their districts' proposals in the event the committee wishes to consult them to provide additional information.
7. Upon study of the proposals, the committee shall report its recommendations to the RI Board for its consideration. If the Board approves a proposal for districting, under the provisions of section 15.010. of the RI By-laws, the president shall notify the clubs in district(s) concerned of the action taken and the date when the redistricting takes effect,

allowing districts with 30 or more clubs and 1,000 or more Rotarians 45 days for the clubs to register objections should they choose to do so.

8. In districts with 30 or more clubs and 1,000 or more Rotarians, if the majority of the clubs do not file objections within 45 days of mailing of notice from the office of the president, the general secretary shall notify the governor(s) and clubs concerned that the decision of the Board has become final. The board may eliminate or change the boundaries of any district with fewer than 30 clubs or fewer than 1,000 Rotarians in accordance with RI Bylaws section 15.010.

9. The RI Board will not consider any modification in the boundaries of any new district until one year following the promulgation and establishment of the boundaries of such district.

10. The general secretary shall be authorized to act on behalf of the Board to approve a minor district boundary modification, affecting the transfer of a single club, or an area containing no Rotary club, from one district to a neighboring district, provided that the districts involved are in the same zone. In districts with 30 or more clubs and 1,000 or more Rotarians, such action shall be taken if the majority of the clubs do not file objections. The notification timetable of such action shall follow the procedures outlined in points 7 and 8, and shall become effective 1 July following the decision. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

17.020. Incorporation of Districts

17.020.1. Definitions

For purposes of this section the following words shall have the following meanings:

1) “Corporation” shall mean a corporation, association, limited-liability company, or other similar entity recognized by a local jurisdiction.

2) “Incorporate” shall mean the process of establishing a corporation.

3) “Corporate Documents” shall mean the documents formally adopted by a corporation establishing its processes for governance and operation, including its articles of incorporation or association, bylaws and similar documents. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

17.020.2. Incorporation Process

It is recognized that for a variety of reasons districts may desire to incorporate. The decision to seek approval of the Board to incorporate is left to the discretion of the clubs in each district in light of local circumstances.

A district may seek the approval of the Board to incorporate upon the approval of at least two-thirds of the clubs in the district in a vote at a district conference, or in a ballot-by-mail. In either process, each club shall be entitled to one vote. Upon approval of the Board, the district may incorporate.

When a district is incorporated, the corporation and the former unincorporated district shall become one entity. The incorporated district shall, in all respects, possess all of the powers, rights and privileges, and shall perform all of the obligations and requirements of a district under the constitution, bylaws, and policies of RI.

Insofar as the provisions of the laws of the local jurisdiction shall permit, the corporate documents of an incorporated district shall be consistent with the constitution, bylaws, and policies of RI. In the event that there is any amendment to the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI that cause a district's corporate documents to be inconsistent with the amended constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI, the district shall immediately amend its corporate documents so that they shall again become consistent. District corporations shall act in accordance with the constitution, bylaws, and policies of RI, and shall not take any action inconsistent with the constitution, bylaws, and policies of RI.

A district shall immediately notify the general secretary if a provision of the laws of the local jurisdiction precludes the incorporated district from taking any action necessary or requires the incorporated district to take any action prohibited under the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI.

The district must submit to the general secretary on behalf of the Board the corporate documents required to be submitted to the local jurisdiction in order to incorporate. Upon completion of the incorporation process, subsequent amendments to these corporate documents need not be submitted to the Board for review. However, any amendments must be consistent with the constitution, bylaws, and policies of RI.

The district governor shall be responsible for supervising the incorporation process.

The incorporated district shall be structured in furtherance of the District Leadership Plan.

The corporate documents of each incorporated district shall include provisions assuring that the district corporations comply with the following requirements:

- 1) The name of the incorporated district shall be "Rotary International District (district number), (Inc., LLC, etc.)."
- 2) The corporation shall be a not-for-profit entity, and it shall pay no dividend and no part of its money, property or other assets shall be distributed to its members, directors, or officers.
- 3) Where any provision of the corporate documents of the incorporated district is not in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI, the terms of the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI shall prevail at all times.

- 4) All Rotary clubs in the incorporated district shall be members of the incorporated entity.
- 5) The initial membership of the district shall be the Rotary clubs in the district as of the time of the incorporation. The addition or removal of a club or clubs from a district pursuant to the RI bylaws shall immediately and automatically result in a corresponding change in the membership of the district corporation.
- 6) Only Rotary clubs in the district may be members of the incorporated district.
- 7) The district corporation shall immediately and automatically cease operations and begin dissolution upon directive of the RI Board or upon the approval of two-thirds of the clubs in a vote at the district conference or in a ballot-by-mail. The district governor shall provide the Board notice of a decision by the district to dissolve the corporation, and shall provide a final report upon the completion of the dissolution process.
- 8) The board of directors and officers of the district corporation shall be limited to Rotarians who are members of clubs in the district.
- 9) The directors of the district corporation shall include the current district governor, the district governor-elect, and the most recent past district governor who served in that district, and such other Rotarians, if any, as may be determined by the district. The number and terms of the directors shall be as required by local law and as provided for by the incorporated district's corporate documents.
- 10) The current district governor shall be the highest officer of the incorporated district and shall serve as chairman of the board of directors. The district may elect such other officers as required by local law and as provided for in its corporate documents.
- 11) The governor shall report annually to the clubs on the status of the district incorporation. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

17.020.3. Districts with Clubs in More Than One Jurisdiction

A district with clubs in more than one jurisdiction may incorporate in any of the jurisdictions and shall take such further steps to register in the other jurisdiction(s) as appropriate.

No district with clubs in more than one jurisdiction shall incorporate in a jurisdiction that would favor one club or Rotarian over another, or would place any limitations on the ability of any club or Rotarian to exercise all of the rights and privileges afforded them under the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

17.020.4. Tax Status of Incorporated Districts

An incorporated district may seek special beneficial tax exemption and status within its local jurisdiction. However, districts incorporated in the United States must utilize Rotary International's 501(c)(4) group tax exemption. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

17.020.5. Notice of Dissolution

A governor shall provide the Board immediate notice of any dissolution or other change in the status of the district corporation. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

17.020.6. Board Authority to Allow Variations for Good Cause

The Board may allow variations from the requirements of this policy for good cause. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

Cross References

31.050.4. General Secretary's Authority regarding Incorporation of Districts

17.030. District Organization and Administration

All districts are required to develop and adopt a District Leadership Plan (DLP) in conformity with sections 17.030.1.-17.030.6. of the *Rotary Code of Policies*.

The required components of the DLP are as follows:

- a. common terminology such as "assistant governor," "district trainer," "district committees," and "club leadership plan";
- b. defined responsibilities and duties for assistant governors, district trainers, district committee members, and club leadership;
- c. district committees that ensure continuity of leadership within the district;
- d. a clear statement of the duties and responsibilities that the governor cannot delegate;
- e. a defined plan for assisting clubs in the implementation of a corresponding club leadership plan. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 128*)

Source: February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 338. Amended by February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 261; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 128. Affirmed by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137. See also February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216

17.030.1. District Leadership Plan

The District Leadership Plan provides for the appointment by the governor of assistant governors to carry out much of the administrative work associated with club operations, thereby giving the governor more time to:

- a) emphasize the importance of membership development and retention through attendance at charter events, induction ceremonies, membership development seminars, and new member orientation programs;

- b) motivate Rotarians to participate in club and district activities and projects through attendance at specific events;
- c) encourage participation in Rotary Foundation seminars, the programs of The Rotary Foundation, and financial support of the Foundation through Foundation recognition programs such as those for Paul Harris Fellows, Foundation Benefactors, and Major Donors;
- d) recognize the work of *individual* Rotarians, through personal recognition, such as the Four Avenues of Service Citation, Service Above Self Award, Presidential Citations and district-level recognitions and awards;
- e) plan for the future of the district;
- f) address the long term development of the club through the Club Leadership Plan;
- g) undertake the duties set forth in section 15.090 of the RI Bylaws.

The District Leadership Plan strengthens Rotary at both the district and club level by providing:

- a) faster and more responsive support to clubs;
- b) a larger supply of well-trained leaders in the district;
- c) a larger and stronger field of district leaders;
- d) improved participation in Foundation programs and district-level RI activities;
- e) a more challenging role for the governor as an innovative leader.

To establish a District Leadership Plan in the district, the governor must work with current, incoming and past district leaders to develop an organized plan that addresses the following issues:

- a) The number of assistant governors appointed based on the needs of each district, taking into consideration factors such as geography, language, culture, the balance of strong and weak clubs in each area, and the number of clubs an assistant governor can reasonably be expected to support. (In order to meet the needs of clubs in the district, it is recommended that between four and eight clubs be assigned to each assistant governor, but in no case shall an assistant governor be responsible for only one club.)
- b) How the assistant governors will be trained;
- c) What committees the district will need;
- d) Communication procedures between the governor, assistant governors and the district committees;
- e) How the district will provide for continuity in leadership through the use of assistant governors;
- f) How the district will provide for continuity within committees as appropriate or necessary;
- g) Methodology used to appoint and/or remove assistant governors;
- h) A corresponding Club Leadership Plan for clubs in the district.

The current district governor, governor-elect, and governor-nominee should reach consensus on the following decisions relating to district administration:

- a) district's strategic plan
- b) district appointments that last more than one year
- c) district service projects that last more than one year. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306*)

17.030.2. Assistant Governors

Assistant governors are appointed by the governor-elect and are responsible for assisting the governor with respect to administration of designated clubs. Duties for assistant governors may include the following in order to support the clubs to which they have been assigned:

- a) Meet with and assist the incoming club presidents to promote, implement, or review annually the Club Leadership Plan, discuss the clubs' goals and to review the *Planning Guide for Effective Rotary Clubs* and section 2.010.1 “*Failure to Function*” of this Code
- b) Attend each club assembly associated with the governor’s official visit
- c) Visit each club regularly, preferably monthly with a minimum of one visit each quarter of the Rotary year, and meet with the club president and other club leadership to discuss the business of the club, resources available to them, and handling club funds in a businesslike manner
- d) Assist club leaders in scheduling and planning for the governor’s official visit
- e) Keep the governor informed on progress of the clubs and suggest ways to enhance Rotary development and address problems
- f) Encourage clubs to follow through on requests and recommendations of the governor
- g) Coordinate training at the club level with the appropriate district committee
- h) Promote the District Leadership Plan and Club Leadership Plan
- i) Advise the incoming governor on district committee selections
- j) Attend and promote attendance at the district conference and other district meetings
- k) Participate in district activities and events, as necessary
- l) Attend club meetings, assemblies, or events, as invited
- m) Participate in the district team training seminar
- n) Attend the presidents-elect training seminar and the district assembly

It is important that assistant governors assist in the development of the district goals *prior* to the appointment of committees. The objective is to reach a consensus for what the district wants to achieve, and to appoint committees only as necessary to achieve the district goals.

Minimum criteria in selecting assistant governors include:

- a) membership, other than honorary, in good standing in a club in the district for at least three years
- b) service as president of a club for a full term
- c) willingness and ability to accept the responsibilities of assistant governor
- d) demonstrated outstanding performance at the district-level
- e) potential for future leadership in the district

Assistant governors are to be appointed on an annual basis, with no assistant governor serving more than three one-year terms to provide continuity in the district leadership. It is recommended that no past governor serve as an assistant governor.

Districts are responsible for determining any financial support provided to assistant governors in performing their duties and responsibilities. Governors are eligible to receive limited funding from RI for the purpose of training and supporting assistant governors as outlined in section 68.030.8. of this Code. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201. Amended by July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 261; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 128; and November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104. Affirmed by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137.

17.030.3. District Committees

District committees are charged with carrying out the goals of the district as formulated by the governor with the advice of the assistant governors. The governor-elect, governor, and immediate past district governor should work together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning. The governor-elect is responsible for appointing committee members to fill vacancies, appointing committee chairs and conducting planning meetings prior to the start of the year in office. Committees shall be appointed to address on-going administrative functions, as follows:

- Membership Development
- Extension
- Finance
- District Programs (such as, Youth Exchange, Rotaract, etc.)
- Public Relations
- District Conference
- The Rotary Foundation
- RI Convention Promotion
- District Training

Additional district committees are appointed when they serve a *specific* function as identified by the governor and the district leadership team.

Committee Qualifications

The minimum recommended qualification for appointment to a district committee is membership, other than honorary, in good standing in a club in the district.

In addition, it is recommended that the chair selected be a past governor, a past assistant governor, or an effective past district committee member, and has had previous experience as a member of the district committee.

Training Requirements

District committee chairs shall attend the district team training seminar prior to serving as chair. District committee chairs shall attend the district assembly. Committee members should participate in district training meetings as outlined in Article 23 of this Code.

Relation to RI, Rotary Foundation or Presidential Appointees

District committees should work with relevant RI and Rotary Foundation committees or resource groups, as well as Rotarians appointed by the RI president or chairman of The Rotary Foundation Trustees to facilitate action at the district or club levels related to specific RI or Rotary Foundation programs or activities.

Reporting Requirements

District committees shall report to the governor on the status of their activities on a regular basis. District committees shall report successful activities to RI for possible publication in RI publications and on the RI Web site.

Committee Descriptions

The following outlines the purpose, additional qualifications, duties and responsibilities, and additional training requirements for district committees noted above.

A. Membership Development Committee

1. Purpose:

The committee will identify, market and implement membership development strategies within the district that are appropriate for the district and will result in membership growth. In order to accomplish this, the committee chair will serve as the link between the governor, the regional Rotary International membership coordinator or Rotary International membership zone coordinator, Rotary International, and the clubs in the district with respect to membership development issues. Consideration for chair should be given to past district governors or governors nominee.

2. Additional Qualifications of Members:

- a) Preference should be given to past district governors and district governors nominee who have been active and successful in inviting new members to join Rotary, and in implementing membership programs; or,
- b) Consideration should be given to those who have served as chairs of club committee(s) related to membership development.

3. Duties and Responsibilities:

- a) Plan, market, and conduct a district membership seminar in consultation with the governor and district trainer.
- b) Work with the governor and club leaders to ensure that the district achieves its membership goal.
- c) Coordinate district-wide membership development activities.
- d) Encourage clubs to participate in RI or presidential membership development recognition programs.
- e) Maintain communication with other district committees — such as the district extension committee and the district public relations committee — to coordinate activities that will aid membership development efforts.
- f) Identify committee members to all clubs and indicate that members of the committee are available to help them.
- g) Encourage clubs to develop and implement an effective membership recruitment plan.
- h) Assist club membership development chairs in carrying out their responsibilities.
- i) Visit clubs to speak about successful membership development activities; share information on successful activities.
- j) Ensure that each club committee has a copy of the *Membership Development Resource Guide*.

In addition, the chair of the committee shall attend a training session conducted by the regional Rotary International membership coordinator.

4. Additional Training Requirements:

In addition to the chair, as many committee members as possible should attend a training meeting conducted by the regional Rotary International membership coordinator, or Rotary International membership zone coordinator.

B. District Extension Committee

1. Purpose:

Under the direction of the governor, the district extension committee shall develop and implement a plan to organize new Rotary clubs within the district. Preference for the position of chair should be given to past district governors or district governor nominees.

2. Additional Qualifications of Members:

Preference should be given to past district governors who have been active and successful in establishing new clubs.

3. Duties and Responsibilities:

- a) Identify communities without Rotary clubs that have a population capable of meeting the requirements for chartering a new club.
- b) Identify communities where additional Rotary clubs could be established without detracting from service provided to the community by existing clubs.
- c) Assist in organizing and establishing new clubs.

In addition, the chair of the committee shall attend a training session conducted by the regional Rotary International membership coordinator or Rotary International membership zone coordinator.

4. Additional Training Requirements:

In addition to the chair, as many committee members as possible should attend a training meeting conducted by the regional Rotary International membership coordinator, or Rotary International membership zone coordinator.

C. District Finance Committee

1. Purpose:

The district finance committee shall safeguard the assets of the district fund by reviewing and studying the amount of the per capita levy and necessary expenses of district administration, and shall prepare an annual report on the status of the district's finances for the district assembly.

2. Structure:

The district treasurer shall serve as ex-officio member of the committee.

3. Additional Qualifications of Members:

- a) Preference should be given to those with previous service as club treasurer.

- b) Preference should be given to accounting/finance as a component of their vocation or profession.

4. *Duties and Responsibilities:*

- a) Prepare a budget of district expenditures in cooperation with the district governor to be submitted to the clubs at least four weeks prior to the district assembly and approved at a meeting of incoming club presidents at said assembly.
- b) Review and recommend the amount of per capita levy to be approved in accordance with RI Bylaws section 15.060.2.
- c) Assure that proper records of income and expenditures are kept.
- d) Prepare a yearly financial report to be presented at the district assembly.
- e) A member of the committee, preferably the treasurer, shall, together with the district governor, be a signatory on the bank account(s) of the district fund. Both signatures will be necessary for any withdrawal. The bank account shall be held in the name of the district.

D. District RI Program Committees

1. *Purpose:*

District RI program committees are responsible for promotion and administration of a RI program at the district-level and provide specific support and guidance to the clubs involved with the particular program in the district including:

- Interact
- Rotaract
- Rotary Community Corps
- Rotary Friendship Exchange
- Rotary Fellowships
- Rotary Volunteers
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- World Community Service
- Youth Exchange

2. *Additional Qualifications of Members:*

- a) Preference should be given to those with club-level experience with the particular RI program.

3. *Duties and Responsibilities:*

- a) Promote an understanding of and effective participation in the particular RI program through regular contacts with each club in the district and through district and inter-city meetings.
- b) Organize exhibits of effective implementation of RI programs at district or zone meetings, circulate these noteworthy examples among clubs in the district.
- c) Visit clubs within the district to speak about effective examples of the use of the particular RI program and provide information on the RI program to help strengthen club activities.
- d) Encourage and assist club RI program chairs in carrying out their responsibilities.
- e) Encourage clubs in the district to determine local needs that could benefit from the RI program.

- f) Identify areas for cooperation between club RI program activities and local non-Rotary service organizations, by sharing information and helping clubs to set goals.
- g) Administer district-wide efforts related to the RI program.
- h) Promote publication of RI program aims and achievements in all appropriate Rotary and non-Rotary communication media in the district.

E. Public Relations Committee

1. *Purpose:*

The district public relations committee should promote Rotary to external audiences and foster understanding, appreciation and support for the programs of Rotary. The committee should promote awareness among Rotarians that effective external publicity, favorable public relations and a positive image are desirable and essential goals for Rotary.

2. *Additional Qualifications of Members:*

- a) Preference should be given to those who have experience as a club public relations chair.
- b) Preference should be given to media, public relations or marketing skills as a component of their vocation or profession.

3. *Duties and Responsibilities:*

- a) Encourage Rotary clubs within a district to make public relations (PR) a priority.
- b) Promote Rotary to external audiences, such as the media, community leaders, and beneficiaries of Rotary's programs.
- c) Contact the media with newsworthy stories of district projects and events.
- d) Keep in touch with the governor and the chairs of key committees to stay informed about district projects and activities.
- e) Share RI public relations materials with clubs.
- f) Seek opportunities to speak to individual clubs about the importance of club public relations.

4. *Additional Training Requirements:*

- a) Attendance at public relations workshops held in conjunction with RI meetings, whenever possible.

F. District Conference Committee

1. *Purpose:*

Under the direction of the governor, the district conference committee shall plan, promote and implement the necessary arrangements to ensure maximum attendance at the district conference.

2. *Additional Qualifications of Members:*

- a) Preference should be given to those who have experience in the meeting coordination and/or hospitality industry.
- b) Preference should be given to media, public relations or marketing skills as a component of their vocation or profession.

3. *Duties and Responsibilities:*

Under the direction of the governor:

- a) Select the district conference venue and coordinate all related logistical arrangements.
- b) Coordinate the finances of the conference to ensure maximum attendance.
- c) Promote conference attendance with particular emphasis on:
 - new Rotarians;
 - all members of newly-organized clubs in the district; and
 - representation from every club in the district.
- d) Promote the district conference to external audiences, such as the media, community leaders, and beneficiaries of Rotary's programs.
- e) Coordinate, in cooperation with the district trainer, a district leadership seminar to be held in conjunction with the district conference.

G. Rotary Foundation Committee

Policy pertaining to the district Rotary Foundation committee is determined by the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation as outlined in the *Rotary Foundation Code of Policies*.

H. RI Convention Promotion Committee:

1. *Purpose:*

The committee shall promote attendance at the annual RI Convention to Rotarians throughout the district.

2. *Additional Qualifications of Members:*

- a) Preference should be given to Rotarians who have attended a minimum of one previous RI Convention.
- b) Preference should be given to Rotarians with marketing skills as a component of their vocation or profession.

3. *Duties and Responsibilities:*

- a) Attend club and district meetings to promote the convention.
- b) Serve as a local resource for convention materials and information;
- c) Create or expand a district Web site with links to RI's Web site.
- d) Translate important convention information into local language(s), if necessary.
- e) Identify and target potential registrants by e-mail, letters, and other methods of communication.

I. District Training Committee

1. *Purpose*

The committee is responsible for supporting the governor and governor-elect in training club and district leaders and overseeing the overall training plan for the district.

2. *Committee Chair*

The district trainer serves as the chair of the training committee and assigns responsibility for training meetings and functions as necessary.

3. Additional Qualifications of Members

Preference should be given to Rotarians with training, education or facilitation experience.

4. Duties and Responsibilities

- a) The committee must have a clear understanding that they are responsible to the convener of each meeting.
- b) The committee should work with the governor-elect on training needs in the district for the current Rotary year related to:
 - 1) PETS
 - 2) District assembly
 - 3) District team training seminar (which includes assistant governor training)
- c) The committee should work with the governor on training needs in the district for the current Rotary year related to:
 - 1) District leadership seminar
 - 2) Rotaract leadership training
 - 3) Club-level training
 - 4) Other training events in the district, as appropriate
- d) The committee may also have secondary responsibility for the district Rotary Foundation seminar and the district membership seminar. These meetings are the primary responsibility of other district committees. The training committee may consult on training related issues.
- e) Under the direction of the meeting's convener, the committee is responsible for one or more of the following aspects:
 - 1) Program content (in accordance with board-recommended curricula)
 - 2) Conducting sessions
 - 3) Identification of speakers and other volunteers
 - 4) Preparing training leaders
 - 5) Program evaluation
 - 6) Logistics
- f) If the district is part of a multidistrict PETS, the governor-elect, in accordance with the policies and procedures of that multidistrict PETS, will select an individual to develop and conduct training at PETS. This individual should be a member of the committee. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 261; Amended by June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 128; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 316; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

Cross References

Article 21. District Committees

17.030.4. The Official Visit

The governor's official visit, as required in the RI Bylaws section 15.090, is defined as the personal visit of the governor to each Rotary club in the district for the purpose of:

- a) focusing attention on important Rotary issues;
- b) providing special attention to weak or struggling clubs;
- c) motivating Rotarians to participate in service activities;
- d) personally recognizing the outstanding contributions of Rotarians in the district.

The governor and/or assistant governor should review the status of the Club Leadership Plan during the official visit. Such visits are to take place throughout the Rotary year for a specific purpose that maximizes the impact of the governor's skills, experience, and presence, including charter events, induction ceremonies, new member orientation programs, citation or award presentations, special programs, Rotary Foundation events or inter-city meetings. Multi-club or inter-city meetings should emphasize strong attendance from all participating clubs, not just the host club. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 128*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59 and 128

17.030.5. Leadership Training Cycle

The preferred sequence for Rotary leadership development should be as follows:

- a) Zone-level training of governors-elect in conjunction with Rotary institutes;
- b) International Assembly;
- c) District Team Training Seminar;
- d) Presidents-elect training seminar;
- e) District Assembly;
- f) District Leadership Seminar (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*)

Subject to the requirements set forth in the RI Bylaws for the International Assembly, Presidents-elect training seminar, and district assembly, the leadership training cycle should be flexible and allow for modification by Rotary districts and zones, including combining meetings where appropriate.

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

17.030.6. Club Leadership Plan

The purpose of the Club Leadership Plan is to strengthen the Rotary club by providing the administrative framework of an effective club. The elements of an effective club are to:

- a) Sustain and/or increase its membership base
- b) Implement successful projects that address the needs of its community and communities in other countries
- c) Support The Rotary Foundation through both financial contributions and program participation
- d) Develop leaders capable of serving in Rotary beyond the club level

To implement a Club Leadership Plan, current, incoming and past club leaders should:

- a) Develop a long-range plan that addresses the elements of an effective club

- b) Set annual goals using the *Planning Guide for Effective Rotary Clubs* in harmony with a club's long-range plan
- c) Conduct club assemblies that involve members in the planning process and keep them informed of the activities of Rotary
- d) Ensure clear communication between the club president, board, committee chairs, club members, district governor, assistant governors, and district committees
- e) Provide for continuity in leadership, including the concept of succession planning to ensure development of future leaders
- f) Amend bylaws to reflect the club committee structure and roles and responsibilities of club leaders
- g) Provide opportunities to increase fellowship among members of the club
- h) Ensure that every member is active in a club project or function
- i) Develop and implement a comprehensive training plan that ensures:
 - 1. Club leaders attend district training meetings as appropriate
 - 2. Orientation is consistently and regularly provided for new members
 - 3. Ongoing educational opportunities are available for current members
 - 4. A leadership skills development program is available for all members

Club leaders should implement the Club Leadership Plan in consultation with district leaders as described by the District Leadership Plan. The Club Leadership Plan should be reviewed annually.

Club Committees

Club committees are charged with carrying out the annual and long-range goals of the club based on the four Avenues of Service. The president-elect, president, and immediate past president should work together to ensure continuity of leadership and succession planning. Whenever feasible, committee members should be appointed to the same committee for three years to ensure consistency. The president-elect is responsible for appointing committee members to fill vacancies, appointing committee chairs, and conducting planning meetings prior to the start of the year in office. It is recommended that the chair have previous experience as a member of the committee. Standing committees should be appointed as follows:

I. Membership

This committee should develop and implement a comprehensive plan for the recruitment and retention of members.

II. Club Public Relations

This committee should develop and implement plans to provide the public with information about Rotary and to promote the club's service projects and activities.

III. Club Administration

This committee should conduct activities associated with the effective operation of the club.

IV. Service Projects

This committee should develop and implement educational, humanitarian and vocational projects that address the needs of its community and communities in other countries.

V. The Rotary Foundation

This committee should develop and implement plans to support The Rotary Foundation through both financial contributions and program participation.

Additional ad hoc committees may be appointed as needed.

Training Requirements

Club committee chairs should attend the district assembly prior to serving as chair.

Relation to the District Leadership Team

Club committees should work with assistant governors and relevant district committees.

Reporting Requirements

Club committees should report to the club board on the status of their activities on a regular basis and at club assemblies, as appropriate. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 128; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

Cross References

68.030.8. Funding for Assistant Governor Training

17.040. District-Level Elections

Districts are encouraged to use the nominating committee system for all district elections (with a ballot-by-mail in the event of a challenge to the selection of the nominating committee) provided however, that nominating committees need not be used to select the members of nominating committees. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324

17.040.1. Guidelines for District-Level Elections

The governor shall send the “Guidelines for Candidates for Elective Position in RI,” as adopted by the RI Board, as well as the following list of election guidelines to all clubs at the time of the official call for nominations:

Rotarians and election candidates shall:

1. learn and follow both the spirit and the letter of RI’s election guidelines.
2. consult with knowledgeable Rotarians if you have any concerns about a current assignment or a new assignment if it may give an appearance of campaigning.
3. not undertake personal initiatives to gain visibility, personal recognition, or favor.
4. not respond in kind to another candidate’s improper activities.
5. not communicate with or visit clubs involved in the applicable election except to fulfill necessary functions. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

17.040.2. Timetable for District Governor Elections

It is recommended that all districts adopt the following timetable for district governor elections. The RI Board may extend the date for selection of a nominee for governor pursuant to RI Bylaws section 13.010.

1 January	Completion of selecting members of the nominating committee for governor
15 January	Official call by the governor inviting clubs to submit suggestions for the office of governor for consideration by the nominating committee and announcing 15 March as the deadline for receipt of such suggestions by the nominating committee chair. Additional announcements inviting suggestions for the office of governor should be published in the January and February issues of the governor's monthly letter.
15 March	Deadline for the receipt by either the governor or the nominating committee chair of club resolutions suggesting candidates for the office of governor.
30 March	Deadline for selection of nominee for governor by the nominating committee. The nominating committee chair will promptly notify all candidates of the decision.
7 April	Deadline for governor to publish the name and club of the selected nominee and to announce 21 April as the deadline for receipt by the governor of challenges on behalf of previously suggested candidates.
21 April	Deadline for receipt by the governor of club resolutions naming previously suggested Rotarians as challenging candidates.
30 April	Deadline for the governor to publish notice to clubs of challenging candidates.
15 May	Deadline for receipt by the governor of club resolutions concurring with a challenge or challenges
1 June	Mailing of ballots by the governor for a contested election when there are valid challenges with the required number of clubs concurring with each original challenge or challenges.
21 June	Deadline for receipt by governor of ballots in a contested election.
30 June	Deadline for counting ballots by a balloting committee appointed by the governor. Following the count, the governor will promptly notify the candidates of the election results. The name of the elected candidate will be published in the July issue of the governor's monthly letter.

If resolutions of challenge are not submitted by clubs by the deadline, or they are subsequently withdrawn, or there are not a sufficient number of concurring clubs to a challenge, or concurrences are withdrawn, then the governor will declare the unchallenged nominee to be the official nominee and so notify all club presidents within 15 days thereafter. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

Cross References

19.030. *Governor-nominee selection*

17.050. District Records

The outgoing governor shall pass on to his or her successor any and all information, including all relevant records, documents, and financial information, to assist the incoming governor in carrying out the duties of governor no later than 30 days after the end of the Rotary year. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E25; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

17.050.1. Governor's Report to RI

Governors are required to submit the governor's report to the Secretariat prior to 1 April during the governor's term of office. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 186; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

17.060. District Finances

Note: The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, policy regarding "District Finances," which is as follows:

1. Establishment of a District Fund

The RI bylaws provide for the establishment of a district fund for the administration and development of Rotary. Care must be taken to ensure that (1) per capita levy approval is sought in accordance with the RI bylaws, (2) the funds are not under the control of a single individual, and (3) an annual statement and report of income and expenditure is presented to the following district conference as well as to the clubs.

2. Operation of a District Fund

A district finance committee shall be set up to review and study the necessary expenses of district administration. The governor shall appoint one member to serve one (1) year, one to serve two (2) years, and one to serve three (3) years, and thereafter, each succeeding year, the governor in office shall appoint one Rotarian for a period of three (3) years to fill the vacancy. Cooperating with the governor, this committee shall prepare a budget of district expenditures which shall be submitted to the clubs at least four (4) weeks prior to the district assembly and approved at a meeting of the incoming club presidents at such district assembly. The amount of any per capita levy on clubs for a district fund should be decided in accordance with the RI Bylaws.

One member of the district finance committee, named by the governor, shall act as treasurer and keep proper records of income and expenditure of the fund. The fund shall be held in a bank account in the name of the district and be supervised by the governor jointly with another member of the district finance committee, who should preferably be the treasurer when available. The governor must supply an annual statement and report of the district finances to each club in the district within three months of the completion of his year of service as governor. The annual statement and report shall be reviewed by a qualified accountant or a district audit committee and shall include details as prescribed by RI Bylaws section 15.060.4. This annual statement and report, shall be presented for discussion and adoption at the next district meeting to which all clubs are entitled to send a representative and for which 30 days notice has been given that the

statement of the district finances will be presented for adoption, or if no such meeting is held, by the following district conference.

The district (by a majority of votes at the district conference or through ballot-by-mail) may decide the operation of the district fund in another manner, provided it meets the requirement as mentioned under “Establishment of a District Fund.” In the absence of any decision of the district, the manner of operation of the district fund as mentioned hereinabove will apply.

Where funds are raised for a specific purpose such as a joint district youth exchange, a budget of expenditure shall be prepared and submitted to the governor and the finance committee for approval, and this shall then be included in the financial report submitted to the district assembly or conference by the finance committee. It is essential to maintain a separate bank account for such funds and to have the chair of the joint youth exchange committee or such other committee as may be involved as one of the signatories.

When appropriately established, payment of the per capita levy is mandatory on all clubs of a district. The Board of Directors of RI may, upon receipt of certification from the governor that a club has failed for more than six months to pay such levy, suspend the services of RI to the club while the levy remains unpaid (RI bylaws 15.060.3.), provided the district fund has been operated as herein prescribed. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 328, Appendix G; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

17.060.1. Status of Clubs with Services Suspended

Suspension of services to a club for non-payment of district financial obligations results in the discontinuance of the following services of the association until such time that the governor verifies to the RI general secretary that the club has remitted its district per capita levy:

- 1) club is removed from mailing lists
- 2) club does not receive any publications or periodicals
- 3) Secretariat services cease immediately, including services of The Rotary Foundation, such as the acceptance of new, or the processing of current program applications; and the recognition of clubs as sponsors or hosts of active Rotary Foundation program awards
- 4) club will not receive the following services from the governor: a monthly letter, inclusion on district mailing lists, and an official visit.

Clubs whose services have been suspended by RI continue to possess all the rights and privileges given to clubs in the RI constitutional documents.

District governors shall continue to provide minimum mailings to suspended clubs so as to allow clubs to

- a. submit suggestions to the nominating committee for governor
- b. vote in any authorized ballot-by-mail
- c. vote at the district conference and/or district assembly
- d. submit a proposed enactment or resolution to the Council on Legislation
- e. concur with any proposed legislation submitted to the Council on Legislation

- f. concur with a challenge to the nomination of a candidate for district governor
- g. take any other action allowed by RI's constitutional documents. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258*)

Source: June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 333; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236; *Amended by* November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258

17.060.2. Other Expenses

Districts are urged to support financially (in addition to expenses that may be covered by RI) the governor and governor-elect in performing the responsibilities of such offices. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 144

17.060.3. Club and District Activities Expenses

In addition to the official activities of RI within the district, there may be special club or district activities or functions which require or encourage the participation or attendance of the governor. The expenses associated with these additional activities are expenses incurred by the governor, club or district itself.

All expenses for special Rotary club or district activities or functions are the responsibility of the clubs or districts involved. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

17.060.4. Governor's Oversight of Club Finances

Governors should emphasize the businesslike handling of club funds during their official visits. The businesslike handling of club funds calls for a counter signature on disbursement checks and an annual audit. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 268

Cross References

- 18.030.2. *Governors' Expenses for Extension Work*
- 68.030. *Governor's Expenses*

17.070. District Publicity

17.070.1 District Publications

Rotary district publications exist to advance the object of Rotary in all its aspects. Rotary district publication shall meet the following criteria:

- 1) The publication serves one district.
- 2) All aspects of the publication must be under the direct supervision of the governor.

3) The governor, together with any Rotarian appointed to act as editor, shall be responsible for the editorial content of the district publication and it shall be in harmony with RI policy.

4) In addition to news of a local or district nature, the publication shall carry information about RI and shall present such information and specific text as the president may request. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60

17.070.2. District Promotion of Rotary Activities

Districts are encouraged to allocate an appropriate portion of the district's budget annually for the purpose of increasing public awareness of club and district Rotary activities within the district. Districts should consider engaging local public relations consultants, at no cost to RI, to assist clubs within the district in developing and implementing a strategy for increasing public awareness of Rotary activities within the district. Adjacent districts are encouraged to consider, when feasible, working together to conduct public awareness efforts emphasizing Rotary activities on a regional or national scale. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

17.070.3. Governor's Monthly Letters

The governor will be expected to send to the president and secretary of each club in the district a monthly letter. This letter should contain items of particular interest to clubs in the district such as items on organization of new clubs, the district assembly, the district conference, the convention, mention of unusual accomplishments of any of the clubs in the district, and matters requiring attention by the several clubs. Governors are strongly encouraged to promote RI district recognition programs in their monthly letters to Rotarians. Governors are also encouraged to send their monthly newsletters to Interact clubs. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88



Article 18. Extension of Rotary and New Clubs

18.010. District Extension Manual

18.020. Guidelines for Extension to Non-Rotary Countries and Geographical Areas

18.030. Rotarians Involved in Extension

18.040. Non-Districted Rotary Clubs

18.050. New Clubs

(Please note that this Article of the Code should be read in combination with Article 3)

18.010. District Extension Manual

RI shall have a district extension manual that shall be consulted by clubs before undertaking any extension activities. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

18.020. Guidelines for Extension to Non-Rotary Countries and Geographical Areas

A non-Rotary country or geographical area is defined as any location that has not been formally opened by the Board for extension. Rotarians, clubs, and districts shall not engage in any extension activities without prior Board approval.

The Board will consider requests for opening a location to extension upon the recommendation of the Extension of Rotary Committee, if the following criteria have been met:

1. Required approval for the organization of Rotary clubs has been obtained from the government
 2. The club is able to function freely as a non-political entity of an international organization
 3. The location has a sufficient number of business and professional people and community leaders to sustain a Rotary club
 4. The club is able to meet regularly as required by the Standard Rotary Club Constitution
 5. The club is able to meet the financial obligations prescribed by the RI Bylaws without outside assistance
 6. The club is able to sustain and increase membership, implement successful service projects, support the Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders capable of serving beyond the club level
 7. The club is able to promote the fellowship of Rotary between its own members and the members of other Rotary clubs
 8. The governor agrees to include the non-Rotary country or geographical areas into the district.
- (June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 331; November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 179; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325. Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

18.020.1. Extension to Isolated Communities

Extension to isolated places shall be undertaken only when a request is received from the community and a district in the geographic vicinity has been identified to assist in the new club's formation. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

18.030. Rotarians Involved in Extension

18.030.1. Extension of Rotary Committee

The Extension of Rotary Committee shall advise the RI Board on matters related to the development of Rotary in non-Rotary countries and geographical areas, including opening these locations for extension and establishing provisional and/or new Rotary clubs in these places. The committee shall coordinate all Rotary contact with governmental officials in non-Rotary countries and geographical areas as authorized by the Board. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

18.030.2. District Governor – Extension Activities

The governor is responsible for all extension efforts within the district and is responsible for serving as or appointing a special representative to coordinate such activities. RI reimburses governors for organizing new clubs and presenting their charters. The reimbursement is up to 50% of the new club admission fee paid by the new Rotary club. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97)*

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

18.030.3. Special Representatives – Extension Activities

A special representative is a Rotarian who represents the governor in the organization of a provisional club in a country or geographical area recognized by the RI Board as open to extension efforts. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97)*

Source: January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 200; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

18.030.4. Other Interested Parties – Extension Activities

Rotarians interested in extending Rotary to non-Rotary countries or geographical areas should contact the Extension Committee to offer their assistance. Rotarians interested in extending Rotary into an area that is open for extension should contact the district governor. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

18.040. Non-Districted Rotary Clubs

All clubs shall be part of a district, either within an existing district or a new district. In exceptional circumstances, the RI Board may charter a Rotary club without a district with the intent to include it into a district at an appropriate time in the future. Such clubs shall be directly administered by RI.

Each year the president is requested to appoint a current or past director to guide, by correspondence, the Rotary clubs designated as non-districted by the Board. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97)*

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

18.050. New Clubs

18.050.1. Formation of Clubs

Clubs shall be formed where the membership can be principally composed of business or professional persons and community leaders who are preferably indigenous to the locality or who represent the permanent, established residential, business or professional life of the community concerned. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

18.050.2. Requirements for Formation of a Provisional Club

Prior to recruiting any potential members for a possible new Rotary club, the following requirements must be met: a) the governor must file with the General Secretary an approved Organization of New Club Survey (extension survey); and b) New Club Sponsor Form (if applicable). Upon recruiting a sufficient number of charter members, a New Club Application Form must be received before a charter is granted. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

18.050.3. Name of Provisional Club

Each provisional club shall adopt as its name such term as will identify it with its locality and shall insert in its constitution the name chosen, subject to the approval of RI. The name should be one (or include some reference) that is easily identifiable on a map of the area, so that someone unfamiliar with the area can determine the general location of the club. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1939 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; May-June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 371

18.050.4. Diversified Classification in New Clubs

Clubs should have a balance of classifications among the club membership. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 132; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

18.050.5. Minimum Number of Charter Members

The minimum number of charter members for a new club shall be 20 unless there are special and sufficient reasons for the Board to waive this requirement. At least 50 percent of the charter members shall be from the local community in which the new club is established. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 332; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 288 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

18.050.6. Charter Membership List

The list of members submitted to the RI Board as part of the club's application for membership shall be considered the club's complete charter membership list. Pending

the action of the RI Board on an application, no other members shall be elected to the club. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55*)

Source: 1918 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 5

18.050.7. Minimum Number of Members in Sponsor Clubs

A club that wishes to sponsor a new club must have at least 20 members. Should there be two or more sponsor clubs, only one of the co-sponsors is required to have at least 20 members. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62

18.050.8. Club Charters in Non-English Speaking Countries

English is the official language of RI. All official documents including the club charter shall be issued in English. A charter issued to a club in a non-English-speaking country, where practicable, shall be accompanied with a translation of the charter in the language of the country in which the club is located. Such translation shall not bear the seal of RI or the signature of its officials. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 206. *Affirmed by* Jan 1972 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 147

18.050.9. Signature on Charters

All charters shall be signed by the RI president. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 170

18.050.10. Formation of New Clubs: Requirement of Regular Attendance

In organizing new clubs, it should be clearly understood by clubs that the regular club meeting is a fundamental requirement. Prospective members of such clubs should be fully informed of the fundamental requirements for admission to, and continuance of membership in a club including the attendance requirements. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1963 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E18

18.050.11. Formation of New Clubs: Costs

No new clubs shall be admitted to membership unless the Board is satisfied that its members have the means to pay independent of external assistance, and the capability to remit dues to the association. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180

18.050.12. Admission Fee for New Clubs

New clubs shall pay an admission fee of US\$15 per charter member. The admission fee is established to underwrite the cost to RI of chartering and serving the new club. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205. *Affirmed by* November 1990 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 114

18.050.13. Expenses of Charter Ceremony

The governor or his/her designated representative shall be present at the club's official chartering ceremony. Governors should take care to conserve the funds of RI by combining charter presentations with other duties such as official visits when a new club is a considerable distance from the home of the governor. In some cases, the special representative or some other member of the sponsor clubs should be called upon to present the charter for the governor. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1916 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26; November 1935 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E25; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

18.050.14. Per Capita Dues for Newly Admitted Clubs

Only clubs which have been admitted to membership in RI on or before the immediately preceding 15 May will be asked to certify to their membership on 1 July and pay per capita dues on that date. In like manner, only those clubs which have been admitted on or before the immediately preceding 15 November will be called upon to certify to their membership on 1 January and pay per capita dues as of that date. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297

18.050.15. Inaccurate Membership List

When a new club seeking a charter submits an inaccurate membership list the general secretary shall take the following action:

- a. withhold granting the new club charter;
- b. notify the district governor that the charter will not be released until all names on the new club membership list have been verified, and that all future new club applications from the district during the Rotary year will undergo scrutiny;
- c. notify the district governor that the submission of the inaccurate membership list has made him/her ineligible for any RI assignment for three years after his/her term as governor ends. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec 235

Cross References

31.030.1. *Waiver or Remittance of Charter Fee*



Article 19. District Officers

- 19.010.** Governor's Allocation—Eligible Expenses
- 19.020.** Governor's Specific Duties and Responsibilities
- 19.030.** Governor-nominee Selection
- 19.040.** Responsibilities of the Governor-nominee
- 19.050.** Governor-elect Training and Preparation
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- 19.070.** Assistant Governors
- 19.080.** District Secretary
- 19.090.** Past Officers

19.010. Governor's Allocation—Eligible Expenses

19.010.1. Governor-Elect and Governor-Nominee Expenses

Expenses incurred while serving as governor-elect and governor-nominee will be reimbursed through the RI district governor allocation as follows:

During the twenty-four month period prior to taking office as governor

1. Printing of district governor business cards and stationery (letterhead and envelopes)

During the twelve month period prior to taking office as governor

2. Mailing of the club officer kits sent by RI for use at PETS; customs duties on same
3. Necessary travel expenses to plan and conduct district team training seminar, district assembly and PETS. This includes transportation, lodging, meals, and registration fees
4. Necessary travel expenses while conducting site visits to determine location of district conference. This includes transportation, lodging, and meals.

During the six month period prior to taking office as governor

1. Telephone
2. Fax
3. Internet (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306

19.010.2. Governor Expenses

The following are the categories of eligible and ineligible expenses for reimbursement by RI to governors:

A. Printing and Multicopying

Eligible

1. District governor business cards, stationery – letterhead and envelopes
2. Production of Governor's Monthly Letter
3. District election materials

Ineligible

1. Handouts and promotional materials for district meetings including district team training seminar, district assembly, PETS and the district conference
2. Rotary Foundation materials
3. District directory
4. Creation of web site and web hosting
5. Greeting cards
6. Any Rotary International or Rotary Foundation publications

B. Postage

Eligible

1. Governor's Monthly Letter to club and district officers
2. Correspondence as governor to clubs, assistant governors, and district committees
3. Materials to RI
4. Custom duties on materials sent from RI
5. District level election materials

Ineligible

1. Rotary Foundation material
2. District directory
3. Promotional materials for district conference, PETS and district assembly
4. Greeting cards and gifts

C. Office Supplies

Eligible

1. General office supplies such as paper, envelopes, notebooks, pens, pencils, paperclips, staples, diskettes and CDs
2. Necessary and reasonable computer software for Rotary business use of governor (example: Microsoft Office Suite)
3. Toner and ink cartridges

Ineligible

1. Purchase or lease of office equipment (telephones, personal computers and laptops, printers, copiers, data projectors)
2. Lease or purchase of scanners and digital cameras
3. Greeting cards and gift wrapping

D. Telephone and Fax

Eligible

1. Monthly usage only for the following:
 - a) One Telephone Line
 - b) One Cellular Phone Account
 - c) One Internet Line
 - d) One Fax Line

2. Internet Access (AOL, MSN, Earthlink etc.)

Ineligible

1. Installation of high-speed Internet lines such as DSL, Cable, etc.
2. Installation of additional telephone line for internet, fax access, or for dedicated phone line
3. Repair of telephone and fax equipment

E. Official Duties – Automobile Travel Log

Eligible

1. Personal automobile mileage for one official visit to each club
2. Personal automobile mileage for planning, conducting, and attending district conference
3. Personal automobile mileage for attending membership seminar, PETS, district assembly, and district leadership seminar

Ineligible

1. Second or follow up visit to any club (unless authorized *in advance* by the general secretary)
2. Any Rotary Foundation related meeting
3. District committee meetings/seminars
4. Celebrations/parties (holiday parties, officer installation, visit of the RI President's representative, RI President meetings, etc)
5. Any travel outside of district other than for own district conference
6. Travel to Rotary institute, International Institute, RI conventions, or other district conferences
7. Travel associated with Rotaract, Interact, RCC, GSE, RYLA, etc.

F. Official Duties – Hotels and Meals

Eligible

1. All hotel/lodging expenses must include a receipt regardless of amount
2. Hotel/lodging and meal expenses for district governor while conducting official duties as follows:
 - a. One official visit to each club
 - b. Planning, conducting, and attending district conference
 - c. Attending membership seminar, PETS, district assembly, and district leadership seminar
3. Gift for home hospitality instead of hotel expense – may not exceed US\$25.00

Ineligible

1. Expenses not associated with official duties
2. Hotel and meal expenses for spouse, partner, or any other individual
3. Meals or refreshments for committee meetings, GSE, RYLA groups, etc.

G. Official Duties – Miscellaneous Expenses

Eligible

1. Airfare necessary to complete official duties
2. Ferry boats, taxi, and trains
3. Tolls and parking
4. Visas and official permits
5. Registration for district conference, PETS, district assembly, and the district team training seminar

Ineligible

1. Automobile repair costs, oil, fuel, and car washes, etc.
2. Dry cleaning or laundry
3. Registration for Rotary institute
4. Registration or any other expenses for RI convention or other RI and TRF meetings
5. Personal grooming or medical expenses

Other ineligible expenses not covered by RI:

1. Gifts and awards, including theme pins, banners, frames and plaques
 2. Rental of office space
 3. Office furniture (either rental or purchase)
 4. Secretarial/clerical services
 5. Translation services or equipment
 6. Computer “help desk” or computer service contracts, or any other equipment service contracts
 7. Computer or equipment repairs
- (June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; Amended by June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

Cross References

68.030.9. *Additional Funding for Training of Club Presidents and Assistant Governors*

19.020. Governor’s Specific Duties and Responsibilities

19.020.1. Governors’ Additional Meetings with Clubs

Governors and their assistant governors are encouraged to meet more than once with weak clubs in their districts. If such additional meetings are needed personally by the Governor, or in the event additional funds are necessary for activities related to Interact and other Rotary programs not provided for in the original allocation, such additional expenses are reimbursable, provided requests for such additional funds are submitted to the board through the General Secretary by the governor and approved in advance of such expenses being incurred. (November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; February 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-10; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

19.020.2. Substitute for Governor Who Is Unable to Make Club Visits

When regulations prevent the governor from securing entry into another country in the district, the president, after conference with the governor, is authorized to assign a RI director or some other qualified Rotarian to visit the clubs in such country on behalf of the governor. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1950 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 195

19.020.3. Resignation of Governor Who Moves from District

A governor residing outside of the district boundaries where he or she holds club membership is not in a position to participate fully and regularly and actively in the affairs of the club and district. Such Rotarian is not in a position to function effectively as governor. It is in the best interests of RI, that such governor tender his/her resignation from office to permit the election by the Board of a governor who is situated in the district and able to fulfill completely the duties of governor. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

19.020.4. District Records and Files

It is recommended that governors develop and maintain a district record book or manual to include information useful to the next governor in preparing for office, conducting district affairs, and carrying out other duties. The district record book should be kept up-to-date by the governor and handed over to the incoming governor. (*July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 20*)

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 110

19.020.5. Governors' Responsibilities to Rotary World Magazine Press

Governors shall remind clubs to pay the subscription costs of their magazine, and use it as a resource tool for public relations and membership, as well as to promote magazine month in April.

Governors and governors-elect that are in regions with Rotary Regional Magazines may be invited to serve (or designate a representative to serve) on the editorial board of the magazine. (*February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

19.020.6. Governors' Responsibilities to Club-level Training

Governors should ensure that Rotary clubs have a comprehensive training plan that addresses:

1. Club leaders attend district training meetings as appropriate
2. Orientation is consistently and regularly provided for new members
3. Ongoing educational opportunities are available for current members
4. A leadership skills development program for all members
5. Additional training needs (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

19.020.7. District Governor Code of Ethics

1. Governors will adhere to applicable laws and regulations in the conduct of Rotary business so as to further the mission of the association. In addition, in conducting their private lives, governors should adhere to applicable law in order to preserve and protect the positive image of Rotary.
2. Governors will adhere to the provisions of RI's constitution and bylaws. As officers of Rotary International, governors have an obligation to follow the provisions of RI's constitutional documents. Moreover, these documents embody the democratic will of Rotary's membership as represented at the triennial Council on Legislation. Through these documents the membership has established standards expected of Rotary officers. Adherence to their terms garners the trust of the membership and assures that actions are taken consistent with members' expectations.
3. Governors will adhere to the provisions of the policies established by the RI Board as documented in the *Rotary Code of Policies*. Over the years, the RI Board has established policies and procedures, documented in the *Rotary Code of Policies*, to further the aims of the association as well as to protect its mission. Many of these provisions are designed to assure good governance and promote an ethical image. Adhering to these policies demonstrates a commitment to these ideals while protecting the association.
4. Governors will serve for the benefit of Rotarians and the purposes of RI. Governors should put the interests of the district first and avoid even the appearance of any impropriety as to their actions and conduct.
5. Governors will not utilize their office for personal prestige and/or benefit or for the benefit of members of their family. With the authority inherent in an office of importance comes access to special privileges not available to other Rotarians. Taking advantage of such privilege distracts from critical responsibilities and calls into question the commitment to the Objects of Rotary.
6. Governors will exercise due care in the diligent performance of their obligations to the district. Governors should perform their responsibilities with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as ordinarily prudent persons in like positions would use under similar circumstances. Governors should inform themselves, prior to making a business decision, of all material information reasonably available to them.
7. Governors will take actions based on an essential fairness to all concerned. Governors are often faced with decisions that will significantly impact various Rotary clubs and individuals. Governors, in a manner consistent with the 4-Way Test, should weigh the potential impact of their decisions and treat equally all persons who will be affected.
8. Governors will promote transparency of important financial information. Governors are the stewards of the association acting on behalf of Rotary clubs and Rotarians. Rotarians have a right to access accurate information regarding the financial condition of the association. Transparency in financial operations encourages ethical behavior.

9. Governors will prohibit and restrict the disclosure, communication, and utilization of confidential and proprietary information. Governors should utilize this information only for intended purposes, never for personal ones, and take precautions against accidental disclosure.

10. Governors will comply with expense reimbursement policies. The RI Board has adopted a policy on the procedures for reimbursement of Rotary related expenditures. Following these procedures ensures compliance with applicable laws and precludes the appearance of impropriety.

11. Governors will adhere to this Code of Ethics. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266

19.030. Governor-nominee Selection

19.030.1. Selection of Governor-nominee

The selection by the clubs in a district of a governor-nominee should be conducted in a dignified, responsible manner in harmony with the principles of Rotary. Districts should seek out and nominate for the office of district governor the best qualified person.

District nominating committees are encouraged to interview all candidates for governor, whether they are suggested by clubs or by the nominating committee. Each interview of governor-nominee candidates should satisfy the following minimum needs:

- a. verify that each candidate meets the formal requirements for nomination, in accordance with RI Bylaws sections 15.070. and 15.080
- b. clarify the specific duties that a governor requires, including knowledge, experience, time, and fiscal resources
- c. allow an overall summary of each candidate's qualifications and suitability
- d. enable each candidate to reveal her or his intentions and ambitions. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107*)

Source: May-June 1965 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 256; January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-24; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107. Affirmed by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 410

19.030.2. Selection of Governor-nominee through Ballot-by-Mail Procedure

Information to be included in the biographical data to accompany ballots-by-mail for election of the governor shall be as follows:

- 1) name of candidate; name and location of Rotary club; number of years a Rotarian; classification or former classification; name of firm or former firm; position in firm or former firm; meetings attended in last five years; current position(s) and/or assignment(s) in Rotary (elective or appointed); former position(s) and/or assignment(s) (elective or appointed)
- 2) special Rotary services and/or particular Rotary activities in which candidate has been engaged, i.e. what candidate has done to advance Rotary

- 3) most significant honors or achievements in business and professional activities
- 4) most significant honors or achievements in civic and public service activities.
(November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55)

Source: February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 250

19.030.3. Selection of Governor-nominee in New Districts

When clubs in existing districts are regrouped into new districts, the new districts shall, if practical, select the governor-nominee in advance of the effective date of the new district by the same procedure used by those clubs before the regrouping occurred. When the aforementioned procedure is not practical, the Board, the president acting on its behalf, shall authorize a ballot-by-mail and shall designate a governor to conduct the ballot-by-mail. Once the new district becomes effective, the clubs in the district shall have an opportunity to adopt at the first district conference a procedure for future selection of the governor-nominee. (June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 282

Cross References

17.040. District-Level Elections

19.040. Responsibilities of the Governor-nominee

As an incoming officer of RI, the governor-nominee should

1. begin to prepare for the role of governor
2. foster continuity by working with past, current, and incoming district leaders to support effective clubs
3. begin analyzing the district's strengths and weaknesses with background material provided by the immediate past governor, governor, and governor-elect
4. review the district organization (District Leadership Plan) and club administrative framework (Club Leadership Plan)
5. attend district meetings when possible, at the invitation of the district governor or district governor-elect
6. participate in district committees or other activities, as may be suggested by the district governor or district governor-elect
7. attend district governor-nominee training if offered, or seek other training if available
8. attend training in leadership skills
9. select a site for the district conference held during the year of the governor-nominee's service, with the agreement of the majority of the current club presidents or majority of the club presidents serving in the governor-nominee's year

Assignments to the Governor-nominee

Recommend that the governor and governor-elect shall provide the governor-nominee

1. the opportunity to request specific responsibilities or assignments in connection with district committees or district organization
2. invitations to attend as an observer any or all district meetings
3. a proper introduction at the district conference and an opportunity to be part of the organizing committee as an observer

4. the opportunity to participate in all strategic planning efforts and long term appointments in the district. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306

19.050. Governor-elect Training and Preparation

(*See generally Sections 58.040. International Assembly Attendance and Participants' Responsibilities and 58.050. International Assembly Training, Programs and Sessions*)

19.050.1. Governor-elect Attendance at International Assembly

Each governor shall emphasize to all candidates for governor, and to all clubs of the district, the requisite that the governor-elect attend the International Assembly as necessary preparation for his or her year as governor and that the nomination should not be accepted unless the candidate can and will attend the International Assembly for its full duration pursuant to RI Bylaws. The president-elect may excuse attendance on behalf of the board in extenuating and mitigating circumstances, with the provision that the governor-elect shall attend alternate training as provided by the general secretary. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269*)

Source: April 1957 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 241; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269

19.050.2. Governor-elect Spouse Attendance at International Assembly

Attendance of the spouse of the Governor-elect at the International Assembly is encouraged. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

19.050.3. Zone Level Governor-elect Training (GETS) at Rotary Institutes

The Board has adopted a two-day training program for governors-elect at the zone level to be held in conjunction with Rotary institutes integrating topics approved by the Board and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation called the governors-elect training seminar (GETS).

The following topics will be addressed in such integrated training with a recommended minimum training time of nine hours:

- a) Role and Responsibilities
- b) District Organization
- c) Membership Development
- d) Developing Effective Leaders
- e) The Rotary Foundation
- f) Administration Requirements of RI (The Role of the Secretariat)
- g) International Assembly Preview

The recommended minimum training time for Rotary Foundation topics will be three hours and shall include an overview of the Rotary Foundation, its programs and fund development. The minimum training time for Administration Requirements of RI (The Role of the Secretariat) will be 45 minutes. A member of the RI staff should conduct the

session on Administration Requirements of RI (The Role of the Secretariat) in conjunction with the GETS training leader. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 311; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52. See also June 1999 Trustees Mtg., Dec. 204

19.050.4. Governor-elect Mandatory Attendance at GETS

Attendance at the governors-elect training seminar (GETS) held in conjunction with Rotary institutes shall be mandatory for governors-elect. Governors-elect are required to attend the GETS for the zone in which they were elected and in which they will serve. Upon request, the institute conveners may make an exception as to the location of the training. The convener may excuse attendance at GETS in extenuating and mitigating circumstances, with the provision that the governor-elect shall attend alternate training as provided by the general secretary. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213; February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260; *Amended by* June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 445; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269

19.050.5. Reimbursement of Expenses for Attendance at GETS

The general secretary shall, on an annual basis, obtain hotel and meal cost information from the conveners of Rotary institutes. Governors-elect will be reimbursed for the actual cost of three nights hotel and two days meals, not to be greater than the cost information provided by the institute conveners. Governors-elect must submit an expense report with supporting documentation after their attendance at GETS. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 445

19.050.6. GETS Training Team at Rotary Institutes

The Rotarians who conduct training at the governors-elect training seminar will be referred to as the GETS training team.

The GETS training team leader should

- a. be a recent RI training leader (preferably within the last 3-5 years)
- b. coordinate the GETS team members
- c. distribute the GETS training materials to the governors-elect, if necessary
- d. collect evaluations from the governors-elect and the GETS training team members and return them to RI
- e. monitor attendance of governors-elect and report it to RI

The GETS training team

- a) will be appointed by the convener
- b) should be comprised of a minimum of four members, including the training team leader
- c) a regional Rotary Foundation coordinator from within the zone(s) shall be one of the four members
- d) a regional Rotary International membership coordinator from within the zone(s) shall be one of the four members

- e) the selected regional Rotary International membership coordinator and the regional Rotary Foundation coordinator shall give informational presentations as assigned by the GETS training team leader
- f) the number of members of the training teams appointed may vary based on the number of governors-elect and their language needs
- g) the additional member(s) of the team should have extensive training experience
- h) RI will fund the expenses for participation in GETS of up to three members of the GETS training team, including the regional Rotary International membership coordinator, and will consider covering costs for additional members when the number of governors-elect and their language needs warrant
- i) the cost of the regional Rotary Foundation coordinator is provided by The Rotary Foundation. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; Amended by July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

19.050.7. Governor-elect Spouse Training at GETS

Rotary institute conveners are encouraged to conduct needs assessments among governors'-elect spouses in order to plan spouse training at GETS, if appropriate. *(May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324)*

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 280

19.050.8. Evaluation of GETS

The general secretary shall communicate training expectations effectively to all governors-elect at least 60 days prior to their attendance at GETS. Governors-elect shall complete an evaluation at the conclusion of the meeting, and completed evaluation forms shall be collected by the GETS training team leader and provided to RI. The GETS training team shall be asked to complete an evaluation that addresses the success of the training session, support from RI, logistical issues, as well as recommendations on how the training might be improved in the future. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 311)*

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 352; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 311

19.050.9. Assignments to the Governor-elect

The governor shall provide the governor-elect:

1. specific responsibilities in connection with district committees or district organization;
2. an invitation to attend as an observer all district meetings, in addition to meetings where he or she is not otherwise designated as a participant; and
3. assignments to participate in the program of the district conference. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: May 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 225; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

19.050.10. Governor-elect Attendance at District Conference

Governors-elect are encouraged to visit district conferences in other districts prior to the year in which he or she takes office in order to observe and evaluate procedures and

features whereby their own district conference may be improved and strengthened. The governor should be encouraged to invite governors-elect from other districts to attend and participate in the district conference of his or her district. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 241

19.050.11. Governor-nominee Training

Rotary institute conveners may offer governor-nominee training to meet the unique needs of the governors-nominee in their zones and to enhance the continuity of leadership within the districts. Such training shall not duplicate training for governors-elect. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

19.060. Vacancies in the Office of Governor or Governor-elect: Training

The following policy governs the filling of a vacancy in the office of governor or governor-elect:

- a) a past governor who has been selected to serve a second term prior to the International Assembly shall be invited to attend the International Assembly at the expense of RI;
- b) a past governor who has been selected to fill a vacancy in the office of governor that occurs between the International Assembly and 1 September shall receive, at RI's expense, one to two days of intensive training as determined by the general secretary;
- c) a past governor who has been selected to serve temporarily or to complete a term of office as governor between 1 September and the remainder of the Rotary year shall be provided support from secretariat staff as needed; and
- d) any past governor who serves more than an additional six months as governor or acting governor shall receive recognition from the president. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 377; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

19.070. Assistant Governors

19.070.1. Assistant Governor Term

Assistant governors shall serve no more than a total of three one-year terms. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

19.080. District Secretary

Governors may designate a district secretary. The secretary should be a Rotarian knowledgeable in Rotary, familiar with district meetings, who can assist the governor in making arrangements for district meetings, handling correspondence, compiling minutes of district meetings, and in keeping records. Such individual should not serve in the position of district secretary for more than a total of five years. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103; January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

19.090. Past Officers

19.090.1. Utilizing Services of Past Governors

Governors are urged to consider drawing upon past officers of RI for assistance in extension efforts, in informing incoming Governors, in promoting the convention, in Rotary information, and in direct assistance to weaker clubs, serving when invited by the president of the club and the Governor as ad hoc members of the board of directors of a club. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 262

19.090.2. Advisory Council of Past Governors

An advisory council of past governors shall be organized in each district. Such councils shall be composed of all past governors who are members of Rotary clubs within the district. Governors are urged to call a meeting of the council at least once a year within the month following the end of the International Assembly to allow the governor-elect to inform the current and past governors about the issues debated and presented at the International Assembly.

The authority and/or the responsibility of the governor shall in no way be impaired or impeded by the advice or actions of the past governors. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 195; COL 92-278. See also January 1942 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155



Article 20. District Programs And Projects

20.010. New Member Orientation

20.020. Continuity of District Programs and Projects

20.030. District-level Fellowship Activities

20.010. New Member Orientation

Districts are encouraged to hold a timely new member orientation as a separate event and/or as part of the district assembly or district conference. The new member's counselor or sponsor should be included in the orientation event. A district level program of orientation does not release any club from its primary obligation to provide new member orientation. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

20.020. Continuity of District Programs and Projects

District leaders should ensure that continuity exists from year to year in district projects and programs. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 349; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

20.030. District-level Fellowship Activities

District governors are encouraged to organize district-level fellowship activities with a view to advancing the Object of Rotary, similar to the purpose and goals of the Rotary Fellowships program, and in accordance with RI policies governing district activities. *(February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159)*

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86



Article 21. District Committees

- 21.010.** District Rules and Procedures Committee
- 21.020.** Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Subcommittee
- 21.030.** World Community Service (WCS) Committee
- 21.040.** Youth Activities Committee
- 21.050.** District Community Service Committee
- 21.060.** District Fellowship Activity Committees

21.010. District Rules and Procedures Committee

Districts are encouraged to form a district “Rules and Procedures” committee to advise and assist governors on nominations and elections and other matters involving RI’s constitutional documents. The committee shall consist of three members, each serving a staggered three-year term with the possibility of reappointment. Appointments to the committee are made by the governor at the conclusion of his or her year in office. Members should be knowledgeable about RI’s constitutional documents and election procedures.

Governors with questions concerning RI election policies and procedures that they cannot resolve within their districts with the assistance of their Rules and Procedures committee should contact their Club and District Administration representative, Rotarians in neighboring districts familiar with RI election procedures and guidelines, or the RI director from their area for assistance. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 323

21.020. Rotary Community Corps (RCC) Subcommittee

The RCC Program is an activity of clubs within the avenue of community service. Governors are encouraged to assign responsibility for promotion and administration of the RCC Program at the district level to the district community service committee, and consider appointment, within the district community service committee, of an RCC subcommittee, with continuity in membership, to provide specific support and guidance to the club sponsors of RCCs in the district. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 329; April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283

21.030. World Community Service (WCS) Committee

It is recommended that districts and clubs establish International Service Committees to include World Community Service subcommittees, with the objective of promoting greater awareness, direct lines of communication and accountability for all types of international service. Where appropriate, club presidents and governors are encouraged to appoint their WCS subcommittee chairs as *ex-officio* members of their community service committees. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84. Amended by October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116; June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 264

21.030.1. Guidelines for WCS Committees

Following are guidelines for district WCS committees:

- 1) Encourage each club in the district to link itself with a club in another country for WCS purposes. It is recommended that this linkage be coordinated through the district WCS committee.
- 2) Promote an understanding of and participation in the WCS Program through regular contacts with each club in the district and through district and intercity meetings.
- 3) Encourage clubs in the district to determine local needs that qualify for WCS help from clubs in other countries.
- 4) Where appropriate, screen WCS projects reported by clubs within the district and report them to the governor and assist with the registration of projects in the RI WCS projects exchange.
- 5) Encourage clubs in the district to locate resources in their communities through which assistance can be offered for WCS activities.
- 6) Publicize WCS aims and achievements in all appropriate Rotary and non-Rotary communication media in the district.
- 7) Administer district-wide WCS projects.
- 8) Maintain records of WCS activities in the district and report periodically to the governor and the RI Secretariat.
- 9) Encourage funds to be made payable to RI and sent to the World Headquarters in Evanston for forwarding. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116

21.040. Youth Activities Committee

Provision shall be made for a youth activities chair at the district level. Governors are encouraged to observe a three-year limitation on the consecutive length of service of the district Youth Exchange chair, while recognizing that the special technical knowledge and experience required by the Youth Exchange program may sometimes necessitate the continuation of the chair's length of service for a longer period in order to provide for an adequately trained successor. Governors are encouraged not to change more than 50 percent of the Youth Exchange committee at any time in order to ensure the continuity of the program. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-6; February 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 312; February-March 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 267

21.040.1. Youth Exchange Committees and Officers

To promote the Youth Exchange Program as an opportunity for the development of international understanding, governors are encouraged to appoint Youth Exchange

officers or committees, and to provide to the general secretary early in the year the names and addresses of such officers or committee chairs. The general secretary shall publish annually a list of all Youth Exchange officers or district exchange committee chairs serving one district, more than one district or all districts in one country. This list shall be revised and distributed annually to governors and to those who are included in the list.

The district Youth Exchange officers or committees are under the supervision of their respective governors. Each governor is urged to do everything possible to foster Youth Exchange activities in the district, while retaining authority and ensuring that no personal financial profit is being made from such activities. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355

21.040.2. Youth Exchange Alumni Groups

Districts and clubs are encouraged to establish Youth Exchange Alumni Groups. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

21.040.3. New Generations Subcommittees

District governors are encouraged to appoint New Generations subcommittees. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159*)

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

21.050. District Community Service Committee

All governors are encouraged to appoint a district Community Service committee. The role and responsibilities of this committee are to:

- 1) help identify new trends, issues or problems within the district that clubs may want to address;
- 2) visit clubs within the district to speak about successful Community Service projects and provide information on Rotary programs and emphases to help strengthen their projects;
- 3) encourage and assist club Community Service chairs in carrying out their responsibilities;
- 4) encourage clubs to organize a Rotary Community Corps (RCC) if appropriate, and encourage district-level RCC meetings to exchange project development ideas;
- 5) maintain intercommittee communication with other district committees;
- 6) organize district-level club Community Service chair meetings, in connection with the district conference, district assembly and other meetings, to exchange ideas and promote projects;

- 7) identify areas for cooperation between club Community Service projects and local non-Rotary service organizations, by sharing information and helping clubs to set goals;
- 8) request regular reports on successful Community Service projects from club Community Service chairs, for promotion through the governor's monthly letter, and report to RI for possible publication;
- 9) organize exhibits of outstanding Community Service projects at district and zone meetings;
- 10) organize district-wide Community Service activities. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260

21.060. District Fellowship Activity Committees

It is recommended that governors appoint a district fellowship activities committee with a chair and at least three members to be responsible for the various organized fellowship activities among the clubs of the district and for contacts with other districts conducting similar activities and with related international fellowship activities. At no expense to RI, such subcommittees should have the opportunity to meet once during the Rotary year to discuss ways and means of enhancing membership and activities of the fellowship groups. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 173; October-November 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

Cross References

17.030.3. District Committees



Article 22. District Conferences

22.010. District Conference Scheduling, Location and Participants

22.020. District Conference Program

22.030. President's Representative at Conference

22.040. Joint District Conferences

22.010. District Conference Scheduling, Location and Participants

22.010.1. Location of the District Conference

Districts are encouraged to hold district conferences at a location that encourages maximum participation and that limits undue financial burden. Locations should be chosen with regard to maximizing attendance and enabling a broad base of attendance. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

22.010.2 Purpose of the District Conference

The purpose of the conference is to further the Object of Rotary through fellowship, inspirational addresses, and the discussion of matters related to the affairs of clubs in the district and RI generally. The conference gives consideration to any special matters submitted to it by the Board or matters originating within the district. The district conference should showcase the programs of Rotary and recognize successful district and club activities. The conference should encourage interaction and dialogue among clubs. Recognizing that the district conference is an opportunity to sustain and grow the membership base within the district, the information should be presented in an inspirational fashion and in an atmosphere of Rotary fellowship. *(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275)*

Source: January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

22.010.3. Duration of District Conference

a) It is recommended that the district conference be not less than two days' duration with a suggested maximum of three days duration. Governors are requested to prepare conference programming so that Rotary topics predominate. In instances where non-Rotarian speakers appear on the program, their presentations should be directly associated with the objects of Rotary. *(February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164)*

Source: May 1943 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216; January 1949 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E12; January 1970 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 93; October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 110; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55

b) Governors are urged in planning the program for the district conference to provide a total of nine hours of Rotary content to be devoted to plenary sessions and group discussions, exclusive of luncheons, banquets and the meeting for incoming presidents and secretaries. *(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275)*

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E21; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

c) The president-elect shall consider meeting at the International Assembly with the governors-elect of all districts in which conferences are not in full compliance with RI policies regarding district conferences. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55

22.010.4. Participants

The district conference should be designed to appeal to all Rotarians in the district. New Rotary club members are particularly encouraged to attend. The Board encourages governors to invite spouses, family members, Rotaractors, Interactors, Youth Exchange participants, Rotary Foundation alumni, and other Rotary program volunteers to participate in district conference activities. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

22.010.5. Timeframe

The Board encourages districts to hold district conferences at a time most convenient, provided that the conferences are not scheduled at the same time as the Rotary institute for that district's zone. A district conference may not be held eight days prior to the opening day of the International Convention, nor until eight days after the closing day of the International Convention. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 429 and February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275. *Affirmed by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 411

Cross References

57.180.1. District Conference within Convention Area

22.020. District Conference Program

The planning and development of the program of the district conference is the responsibility of the governor who alone should retain complete control of the program, including presiding at the district conference. The message of the president's representative to the district is most important. Accordingly, this message should be given the most important place on the program. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: January 1949 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E14; October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 110; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

22.020.1. Requirements for the District Conference

The district conference must

- a) provide the representative of the RI president with the opportunity to address the conference a minimum of two times: one of the two times is to deliver a major address of 20-25 minutes at the conference session with the maximum attendance, including spouses; in addition to the two primary addresses, representatives should be provided with an opportunity to make remarks at the conclusion of the conference to demonstrate appreciation to the host district

- b) discuss and adopt the annual statement and report of the district finances from the previous Rotary year if it has not been adopted at a previously held district meeting as prescribed by RI Bylaws 15.060.4.
- c) approve the per capita levy, if not approved previously at the district assembly or district presidents-elect training seminar
- d) elect the member of the nominating committee for the RI Board of Directors, as appropriate
- e) elect the district's representative to the Council on Legislation during the Rotary year two years prior to the Council on Legislation, if the district chooses not to utilize the nominating committee procedure. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275. See also March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 215, June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 295 & 298. Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45 and 55; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

22.020.2. Recommendations for the District Conference

The district conference should

- a) be not less than two entire days and no more than three days in duration
- b) include discussion groups to increase participation by members
- c) include a balanced program in which the majority of the content is focused on Rotary and Rotary Foundation subjects
- d) consider district resolutions
- e) extend a specific welcome to new Rotarians, Rotarians attending the district conference for the first time, club presidents and others as appropriate
- f) maximize the use of volunteers who have participated in Rotary and Rotary Foundation activities in the program
- g) include promotion of the next conference, encouraging pre-registration
- h) maintain an affordable cost in order to encourage maximum attendance
- i) avoid scheduling conflicts between the conference, holidays and other events
- j) encourage the attendance of every registrant at plenary sessions by scheduling spouse and other events at non-conflicting times
- k) promote exhibitions of club and district projects, perhaps in a "House of Friendship"
- l) recognize the representative of the RI president's experience and involve the representative in group discussion sessions and other sessions accordingly
- m) provide a special orientation event for new Rotarians
- n) include a district leadership seminar for interested Rotarians who have served as club president, or have served for three or more years in a leadership role in the club, for one full day immediately prior to or after the district conference (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275. See also March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 215, June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 295 & 298; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55

22.020.3. Role and Responsibilities of the Governor

To achieve a successful district conference the governor will

- a) be responsible for the planning, organizing and conducting of the conference
- b) develop a comprehensive and well-balanced program within the Board-recommended guidelines

- c) ensure that hospitality and courtesy appropriate to the RI president is given to the representative of the RI president and his/her spouse
- d) ensure maximum representation from every club in the district by involving them in conference programs and activities
- e) encourage the involvement of the local community by conducting a well-planned public relations effort - that includes media relations - before, during and after the conference
- f) invite representatives of the local community to participate in the program as appropriate
- g) make a special effort to have the entire membership of all newly organized clubs attend the conference
- h) appoint an aide to the president's representative. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275. See also March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 215; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295; June 1999 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 298

22.020.4. Compliance with Minimum Standards

Each year directors should receive copies of district conference reports for districts in the appropriate zone(s) and a summary report by zone indicating any districts that have been rated on the "Report of the President's Representative to the President of Rotary International" as "fair" or "weak" for three consecutive years. The director, after consultation with the general secretary, will develop a strategy to provide appropriate mentoring for incoming governors of designated districts for a period of two years. The director should initiate contact with the governors-elect of these districts as appropriate. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55

22.020.5. Rotary Theme at District Conference

District conferences that take place after the International Assembly should highlight the current year theme while suitably bridging to the theme and emphases of the next Rotary year. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 185

22.020.6. District Conference Displays

Governors should arrange for exhibits at the site of the district conference and invite all clubs in the district to provide a display of at least one club project with special recognition to be given to outstanding displays, as space permits. Such exhibits shall also include district-wide projects. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106. *Amended by* June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298 and February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

22.030. President's Representative at Conference

22.030.1. Qualifications and Selection of President's Representatives

The role of the president's representative is a working assignment and is not to be considered solely as an honor. The president is requested to consider carefully the past

performance of individuals when making president's representative assignments to district conferences. It is recommended that the president appoint as many recent past governors as feasible and consider the cost-effectiveness of all appointments. The president should provide background material well in advance of conferences to representatives. President's representatives should be appointed at least three months in advance of the conferences. Whenever feasible, the personal representatives of the RI president should be experienced in the language of the district where they will serve. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47; July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; *Amended by* November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 175; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 250

22.030.2. Role of the President's Representative at Conference

In representing the RI president and his spouse, the president's representative and his/her spouse should, if possible

- a) meet personally as many Rotarians and spouses as possible
- b) inspire and motivate district conference participants through formal presentations and participation in all aspects of the conference
- c) stay within the scheduled program time for his/her presentations;
- d) provide information on the RI president, the RI theme for the year, and special RI programs and emphases for the year, as well as providing continuity to the following year's theme and emphases as appropriate
- e) report on RI
- f) stress the importance of membership development and retention
- g) promote the programs and development of The Rotary Foundation
- h) demonstrate and reflect the internationality of Rotary
- i) meet personally the governor-elect, governor-nominee and their spouses
- j) meet with past RI officers and spouses, if feasible
- k) evaluate the governor, governor-elect, and other Rotarian participants for future responsibilities
- l) evaluate past governors in attendance, who should be considered for future assignments
- m) assist the governor, as requested and appropriate
- n) give appropriate recognition to the district and/or governor
- o) visit government officials, if invited
- p) visit Rotary clubs and Rotary service projects before or after district conference, if feasible
- q) meet with media representatives, as required
- r) attend all scheduled district conference meetings, as requested
- s) refrain from involvement in district disputes

In so performing the above responsibilities, the president's representative and his/her spouse should reflect the dignity and courtesy associated with the highest office in RI. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149. *Amended by* June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 206 & 207 and February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

22.030.3. Role of the President's Representative with Regard to Future Conferences

The president's representative is strongly encouraged to meet with the governor-elect and his or her district conference chair at the conclusion of the current conference to discuss effective planning in meeting conference requirements and implementing recommendations that would enhance the overall effectiveness of the conference for the following year.

In districts with particularly weak conferences, the Board recognizes that the president's representative can play a vital role in improving future conferences in the district to which the representative has been appointed. Specifically, president's representatives to districts that have been identified as having weak conferences should serve as mentors to governors-elect and clarify how district conference requirements and recommendations can be effectively implemented. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55)*

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55

22.030.4. The Role of President's Representatives' Spouses

The spouses of president's representatives have a responsibility to promote the ideals and programs of Rotary, in addition to supporting the president's representatives in the performance of their duties. Involvement in the activities of the conference is required, including attendance at spouses' meetings, social gatherings, and plenary sessions. *(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 207; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

22.030.5. President's Representative's Speech at Conference

President's representatives at district conferences shall make two major addresses, one relating to the theme of the president, and one reporting on Rotary worldwide. The message of the president's representative to the district is most important. Accordingly, this message should be given the most important place on the program. However, before scheduling the address of the president's representative, the governor should consult with the representative as to his/her desires in connection with such presentation. *(June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298)*

Source: January 1949 Mtg. Bd. Dec. E14; January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151; October-November 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109; October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 110; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298

22.030.6. President's Representative Evaluation

The president's representative should complete and transmit to the president the report on the conference promptly following the conference. The president is requested to ensure prompt and appropriate follow-up to the reports of the president's representatives. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 240; July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47

22.030.7. Expenses of President's Representative

Rotary International will pay the travel expenses of the president's representative and spouse to a district conference but it is expected that the district conference assume the hotel and other conference expenses of the president's representative and spouse during their attendance at the conference. The account of the president's representative for

expenses incurred in attending a district conference shall not be closed nor shall the representative receive final reimbursement for his or her travel and other expenses in connection with his or her attendance at the district conference until he or she has transmitted to the president his or her report of the conference. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106; February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 240; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

22.030.8. President's Representatives' Reports as a Resource for Future Representatives
The president's representatives should be sent copies of the available reports submitted by the representatives assigned in the previous three years to that district, excluding any material related to individuals in the district, at the time other materials are mailed. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 209; Affirmed by July 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 21

22.040. Joint District Conferences

22.040.1 Holding of Joint District Conferences

The holding of district conferences of two or more districts conjointly, where feasible, is encouraged, provided the participating districts obtain Board approval to do so and such joint district conferences are not held two years in succession. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: July 1943 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41; January 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 110; July 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 37; January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203



Article 23. District Meetings

- 23.010.** District Assemblies
- 23.020.** Presidents-Elect Training Seminars (PETS)
- 23.030.** District Leadership Seminar
- 23.040.** District Team Training Seminar
- 23.050.** District Membership Seminars

23.010. District Assemblies

23.010.1. Purpose of the District Assembly

The purpose of the district assembly is to

- Prepare incoming club leaders for their year in office and build their leadership team;
- Give the district governor-elect, and incoming assistant governors and district committees the opportunity to motivate club leadership teams and build their working relationship. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.010.2. District Assembly Participants

The participants in the district assembly shall be club presidents-elect and the members of Rotary clubs assigned by the club president-elect to serve in key leadership roles in the upcoming Rotary year. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

23.010.3. District Assembly Components

The following components will be included in the district assembly for each functional group participating in the training:

- RI theme
- Roles and responsibilities
- Policies and procedures
- Selecting and training your team
- Developing annual and long-range plans
- Resources
- Case study exercise
- Team building exercise: finalizing club goals
- Problem solving exercise

The functional groups participating in the training include

- Club administration
- Club public relations
- Membership

- Service projects
- The Rotary Foundation
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- President-elect (Note: Presidents-elect will focus on public speaking and motivating Rotarians so as not to repeat the training they receive at PETS.) (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.010.4. District Assembly Time Frame

The district assembly should consist of a one full-day seminar preferably to be held during the month of April or May. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

23.010.5. District Assembly Leaders

The governor-elect is responsible for the overall program of the district assembly. The district trainer is responsible for planning and conducting the assembly. The district chairs related to the functional areas are responsible for leading the related breakout sessions. For the presidents-elect sessions, past governors and assistant governors should be used as appropriate. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

23.010.6. Attendance at District Assembly

a) Members of Rotary clubs assigned by the club president-elect to serve in key leadership roles in the upcoming Rotary year, before accepting office, should be required by their respective clubs to pledge themselves to attend the district assembly. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

b) Each club shall adopt a policy of paying the expenses of the president-elect to the district assembly without diminishing the importance of other designated participants in the district assembly. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-13; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

23.010.7. Scheduling of District Assembly

Where circumstances require, if the district conference is held during April, consideration may be given to holding the district assembly and the district conference as consecutive meetings, provided that, in any such scheduling of the meetings the district conference is held as the second such meeting. Such consecutive meetings should be scheduled without reducing the time required for each such meeting and with due regard for the essential features of each. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 126. Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

23.020. Presidents-elect Training Seminars (PETS)

23.020.1. Guidelines for PETS

The Board has established the following guidelines for PETS and encourages governors-elect to adhere to the PETS program content recommended by the Board. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59. Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

23.020.2. Purpose of PETS

The purpose of the presidents-elect training seminar (PETS) is to

- Prepare incoming club presidents for their year as president
- Give district governors-elect and incoming assistant governors the opportunity to motivate incoming presidents and build their working relationship. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.020.3. Program of PETS

To achieve the stated purpose of the program, the following components will be included in the presidents-elect training seminar:

- RI theme
 - Role and responsibilities of club president
 - Goal setting
 - Selecting and preparing club leaders
 - Club administration
 - Membership
 - Service projects
 - The Rotary Foundation
 - Public relations
 - Resources
 - Annual and long-range planning
- (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.020.4. Participants

All club presidents-elect in the district shall attend the PETS as required by Article 10, Section 5 of the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. Other participants should include the governor-elect, assistant governors, and the district trainer.

Assistant governors shall assist the governor-elect with team building among the presidents-elect to whose clubs they are assigned, the governor-elect, and themselves.

The district trainer shall work with the governor-elect in developing training materials and conducting the training session for the PETS Seminar Leadership Team. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

23.020.5. PETS Leaders

The governor-elect is responsible for the PETS. The district trainer is responsible for planning and conducting the Seminar under the direction and supervision of the governor-elect. The Seminar leadership team consists of qualified past governors and district committee chairs.

Governors-elect are encouraged to utilize the members of the district Rotary Foundation committee in developing and delivering Foundation topics in appropriate sessions. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43

23.020.6. PETS Time Frame

PETS should consist of a minimum of a one and a half day seminar preferably to be held during the month of March. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

23.020.7. Multidistrict PETS Guidelines

Multidistrict PETS organizations are exempt from *Rotary Code of Policies* Section 16.010. Multidistrict Guidelines. Rather, they are to be governed by these Multidistrict PETS Guidelines. Multidistrict PETS organizations are to develop and maintain operating guidelines, in accordance with the Multidistrict PETS Guidelines, that has been approved by all districts involved.

A. Program

For governors-elect conducting multidistrict PETS, at least three hours of the program must be allocated to meetings between governors-elect and their incoming club presidents, with assistant governors, if applicable.

B. Administration

The governors-elect are responsible for developing and approving the final program and selecting the training leaders and plenary speakers. The district trainer, or a designee selected or approved by the governor-elect, is responsible for planning and conducting the training at the seminar.

The governors-elect involved in a multidistrict PETS are responsible for ensuring that policies and procedures exist to appropriately administer all funds collected for the multidistrict PETS. The governors-elect shall also be responsible for ensuring that an audited financial statement of multidistrict PETS finances is prepared.

Any participating district that seeks to terminate its participation in a multidistrict PETS must secure the approval of two-thirds of the clubs in the district to withdraw. The governor-elect shall notify the general secretary and the governors-elect of the other districts concerned of its decision within 60 days prior to the date of termination.

C. Transition to Multidistrict Format

Governors-elect shall initially conduct a multidistrict PETS only after approval of two-thirds of the clubs in the district. The multidistrict PETS shall be undertaken only after the governors have jointly secured in advance the authorization of the general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. Affirmed by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142

23.020.8. Administration of PETS

All PETS, whether single or multidistrict, shall be under the direct authority and control of the governors-elect in cooperation with governors in order to foster unity and promote communication among the district leadership team. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304

23.020.9. Form of Incorporation of Multidistrict PETS

In instances where multidistrict PETS are incorporated, the members of the corporation should be the governors-elect of the districts involved or their appointees. The board of directors of any such incorporated activity should be elected by the members of the corporation. Corporate structures not in harmony with these provisions will generally be considered as not in conformance with RI policy regarding supervision of multidistrict PETS by the governors-elect, unless evidence to the contrary is presented at the time that such projects apply for approval by the Board. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: May 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. See also May-June 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 356

Cross References

34.030.7. Education of Rotarians Regarding RI's Licensing System

23.030. District Leadership Seminar

23.030.1. Purpose of the District Leadership Seminar

The purpose of the district leadership seminar is to motivate Rotarians in the district to serve Rotary beyond the club level. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59 and November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.030.2. Participants in the District Leadership Seminar

Interested Rotarians who have served as club president, or have served for three or more years in a leadership role in the club may participate in the District Leadership Seminar. *(February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

23.030.3. District Leadership Seminar Components

To achieve the stated purpose of the program, the following components will be included in the district leadership seminar:

- Leadership and motivational skills
- International service projects
- District meetings
- Program electives
- Leadership opportunities *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.030.4. District Leadership Seminar Time Frame

One full day District Leadership Seminar should be held immediately prior to or after the district conference. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

23.030.5. District Leadership Seminar Leaders

The governor is responsible for the overall program of the District Leadership Seminar. The district trainer is responsible for planning and conducting the Seminar. The Seminar leadership team shall include qualified past governors appointed by the governor. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

23.040. District Team Training Seminar

23.040.1. District Team Training Seminar Purpose

The purpose of the district team training seminar is to

- Prepare incoming assistant governors and incoming district committee members and chairs for their year in office
- Give district governors-elect the opportunity to motivate and build their district leadership team to support clubs. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104)*

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.040.2. District Team Training Seminar Participants

Participants in the District Team Training Seminar shall include Rotarians appointed by the governor-elect to serve as assistant governors, and as district committee chairs and members in the next Rotary year. *(February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

23.040.3. District Team Training Seminar Components

To achieve the stated purpose of the program, the following components will be included in the district team training seminar:

- RI theme
- District administration
- Role and responsibilities
- Working with your clubs under the Club Leadership Plan
- Resources
- Annual and long-range planning
- Communication (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.040.4. District Team Training Seminar Time Frame

One full-day District Team Training Seminar should be held during the month of February. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

23.040.5. District Team Training Seminar Leaders

The governor-elect is responsible for the overall program of the District Team Training Seminar. The district trainer is responsible for planning and conducting the Seminar. The Seminar leadership team shall include qualified past governors. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

23.040.6. District Team Training Seminar — Preliminary Training

In order to help assistant governors and district committee members gain the most benefit from their participation in the district team training seminar, as well as to establish contact between incoming assistant governors, district chairs, and the RI Secretariat, RI will annually distribute an orientation kit to assistant governors and district committee chairs. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 261*)

Source: February 1999, Dec. 214, Appendix I

23.050. District Membership Seminars

23.050.1. District Membership Seminar Purpose

The purpose of the district membership seminar is to prepare club and district leaders to support membership activities at the club and district levels. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.050.2. District Membership Seminar Participants

Participants in the District Membership Seminar shall include club presidents, club-level membership committee members, district membership development committee members, district extension committee members, assistant governors, and all interested Rotarians. (*July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26*)

Source: July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26

23.050.3. District Membership Seminar Components

To achieve the stated purpose of the program, the following components will be included in the district membership seminar:

- Membership overview
- Retention
- Recruitment
- Organizing new clubs
- Roles and responsibilities
- Resources (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104*)

Source: July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26; Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

23.050.4. District Membership Seminar Time Frame

One half to one full-day District Membership Seminar should be held annually, preferably following the district assembly. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113*)

Source: July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 316; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113

23.050.5. District Membership Seminar Leaders

The governor is responsible for the overall program. The district membership development committee is responsible for planning and conducting the seminar in consultation with the governor and the district trainer. The seminar leadership team consists of qualified past district governors and/or those Rotarians active and successful in membership development activities. Consideration should be given to involving the regional Rotary International membership coordinator and Rotary International membership zone coordinator. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55*)

Source: July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55

Note: The above guidelines are provided for a stand-alone district membership seminar. Some districts may wish to conduct the district membership seminar in conjunction with another Rotary training meeting, such as the district assembly. If this is the case, the approval of the governor-elect (or convener of the meeting) is required.

Cross References

11.040.6. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship, and Cooperative Relationship Purposes



CHAPTER IV

ADMINISTRATION

Articles

- 26. Rotary International**
- 27. RI President**
- 28. RI Board of Directors**
- 29. Other Current and Past Officers of RI**
- 30. RI Committees**
- 31. RI General Secretary**
- 32. RI Secretariat**
- 33. Rotary Marks**
- 34. Licensing**
- 35. Joint RI and TRF Policy on Relationships with Other Organizations**
- 36. RI Guidelines for Sponsorship and Cooperation**
- 37. Territorial, Regional, and Sectional Groupings**

Article 26. Rotary International

- 26.010.** Mission of RI
- 26.020.** The Object of Rotary
- 26.030.** RI Administration
- 26.040.** RI and Politics
- 26.050.** RI and Religion
- 26.060.** Rotary's Dream for the Future
- 26.070.** Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators
- 26.080.** RI Anthem
- 26.090.** RI Protocol
- 26.100.** Election Guidelines and Campaigning
- 26.110.** Election Complaint Procedures
- 26.120.** RI Collection and Use of Personal Membership Data
- 26.130.** Membership Statistics

26.010. Mission of Rotary International

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary by:

- Fostering unity among member clubs;
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world;
- Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary; and
- Providing a system of international administration. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272*)

26.010.1. Strategic Goals for Rotary International

The Board has approved the following seven strategic goals for Rotary International:

1. Eradicate Polio
2. Sharpen Program Focus
3. Select New Corporate Program Focus
4. Refine Governance/Leadership Structure
5. Improve Training and Education at all Levels
6. Expand and Integrate Membership Globally
7. Enhance Public Image

(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 63. *Affirmed by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 360

26.010.2. Rotary International Vision for 2010

Rotary will be recognized for its leadership and success in the eradication of polio.

Rotary will have a strong and visible presence worldwide.

Rotary will achieve enhanced capacity for friendship and service through a strong organization with increased and diverse membership.

Rotary will advance its ideals of high ethical standards, international understanding, goodwill and peace, through a membership united in service. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 246

26.020. The Object of Rotary

The four explanatory statements in the “Object of Rotary” (RIC Art. IV) are of great and equal significance and they are actions that must be taken simultaneously. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62

26.030. RI Administration

The administration of RI is important only in so far as it advances the Object of Rotary through the application of the ideal of service by member clubs and individual Rotarians.

A fundamental principle underlying the administration of RI is the substantial autonomy of the member clubs.

The constitutional and procedural restrictions on the administration are kept to a minimum necessary to preserve the fundamental and unique features of Rotary. Within that provision there is the maximum flexibility in interpretation and implementation of RI policy, especially at the local level.

The advancement of the ideal of international understanding, good will, and peace through Rotary requires general recognition of the vital importance of preserving and promoting the international fellowship of member clubs throughout the world, based not upon the grouping of clubs in national and multinational areas, but upon the direct relationship and common responsibility of the member clubs to RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.040. RI and Politics

Because its world-wide membership includes persons of many facets of political opinion, no corporate action or corporate expression of opinion shall be taken or given by Rotary International on political subjects. However, freedom of speech and freedom of association are essential for the healthy development of Rotary in any given country. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99*)

Source: November 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99

26.050. RI and Religion

Rotary is a secular organization whose membership includes persons of all faiths, religions, and beliefs. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 49*)

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 49

26.060. Rotary's Dream for the Future

The Board has adopted the following 18-point document *Rotary's Dream for the Future*.

1. HEALTH CARE - ROTARY FOR A HEALTHY WORLD

- Rotary clubs and districts are encouraged to undertake projects which will improve and enhance the health and lives of people of the world in projects related to preventable and controllable diseases and health issues.

2. DISASTER RELIEF

- Rotary clubs are encouraged to expand their unique role in providing rapid response relief to those people and communities involved in large scale disasters, using techniques such as Rotary identified "emergency boxes and aqua boxes"; the worldwide network of Rotary clubs; and the resources of the RI Web site;
- Rotary International is encouraged to seek assistance at the highest levels of the United Nations to encourage national governments to permit the timely processing and transportation of disaster relief goods and supplies to areas needing emergency humanitarian aid without delays of customs fees or other official policies.

3. HUNGER

- Rotary clubs are encouraged to be the actively involved in helping people become self-sufficient in food and preventing food waste.

4. CLEAN WATER FOR EVERY COMMUNITY

- Rotary clubs are encouraged to commit to “Clean Water for Every Community” through projects which address the specific water needs of each community.

5. CHILDREN – CARE AND EDUCATION

- Rotary clubs are encouraged to commit to projects that directly implement the Rights of Children, so that all children have opportunities for basic education, health, food, and growth to meaningful adulthood;
- Both Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation are encouraged to have a specific focus on providing children of the world with access to primary education;
- A Children’s Trust should be established within the Permanent Fund to attract financial contributions to support future projects meeting the fundamental needs of children worldwide;
- Rotary clubs are encouraged to reach out to orphaned and abandoned children by encouraging their adoption and providing for their needs.

6. THE ENVIRONMENT AND ENERGY SOURCES

- Rotary clubs are encouraged to continue their focus on environmental concerns.

7. USE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND NEW TECHNOLOGY

- Rotary clubs and Rotary International are encouraged to increase their use of new technologies;
- RI World Headquarters should establish a center to support global communications between clubs and districts during conferences, conventions, institutes and training activities.

8. YOUTH AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Rotary clubs are encouraged to develop programs for the benefit of young people.

9. PEACE, GOODWILL AND UNDERSTANDING

- Rotary clubs around the world are strongly encouraged to foster peace through international friendships and humanitarian service, thus reaffirming the Object of Rotary.

10. ENHANCING ROTARY CLUB MEETINGS

- Rotary clubs around the world should seek new vitality through
- more interesting formats;
- the elimination of outdated formalities and procedures;
- greater membership participation;
- creative programs and discussions to regenerate and improve interest in Rotary club meetings among the younger generation;
- positive training programs for club leaders to offer revitalized weekly club operations;
- inclusion of Rotary information in weekly meetings;
- enhancing the image of club presidents as important Rotary leaders;
- requiring all club presidents to attend president-elect’s training as a condition for holding the office.

11. ROTARY CLUB MEMBERSHIP OPTIONS

- Types of membership in Rotary should be simplified and creative new options for membership should be developed.

12. THE COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION

- Conveners of Rotary institutes in the year prior to a Council on Legislation should be requested to include a program of training for Council representatives to ensure that all representatives fully understand the rights and responsibilities of a Council representative, the Council's policies and procedures, and the importance of change to the future success of Rotary.

13. PUBLIC IMAGE OF ROTARY

- Rotary clubs are encouraged to insure that their projects and programs in the community are of sufficient quality that they would command the attention of the community;
- Rotary International should take every opportunity to portray Rotary's image to the public.

14. INVOLVEMENT OF WOMEN ROTARIANS

- Women Rotarians should receive the full, international acceptance in an environment which supports the dignity, respect and opportunities afforded to all Rotarians.

15. ROTARY VOLUNTEERS

- The benefits of The Rotary Foundation should be expanded to provide opportunities for Rotary Volunteers to use their talents and experience in both short (10 days) and long (one month to 2 years) through
 - special consideration of grant applications which utilize Rotary Volunteers;
 - a Rotary International system to seek out both volunteers and volunteer opportunities to arrange for successful volunteer matches.

16. ANNUAL PROGRAMS FUND FOR THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

- All Rotarians should be encouraged to make a voluntary financial contribution of \$100 per capita to The Rotary Foundation each and every year with a goal of total annual support to the Annual Programs Fund to reach US\$100 million by the year 2005.

17. THE PERMANENT FUND OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

- A target of building the Permanent Fund to at least US\$ 1 billion by the year 2025 should be established, and preparations should be made to take the necessary steps to reach this target which will enable Rotary to achieve new heights of service;
- Fund development capabilities of Rotary International and its Foundation should be expanded to maximize its fund raising potential to serve Rotary's long term interests.

18. MEMBERSHIP

- A dynamic five-year action plan should be implemented beginning in the year 2000 to retain and expand Rotary's membership to assure Rotary International remains a vigorous, energetic service organization. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236*)

26.070. Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators

26.070.1. Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators

Regional Rotary International Membership Coordinators (RRIMC): A network of 64 Rotarians appointed to promote membership growth and coordinate membership development efforts for assigned zones or geographic areas. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)*

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.2. Purpose

The purpose of the regional Rotary International membership coordinator program is to provide a viable, long-term, strategic approach to promoting membership development by establishing a network of well trained Rotarians - knowledgeable about membership development strategies and techniques – to support districts and clubs in achieving membership growth. *(August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84)*

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

26.070.3. Functions

The Board recognizes the importance of coordinated and consistent efforts in providing support to districts and clubs in their efforts to increase the number and quality of members in Rotary clubs around the world. Regional Rotary International membership coordinators serve as key volunteer resources on membership issues, and serve as a vital link between Rotary clubs and the Secretariat. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)*

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.4. Responsibilities

Specific regional Rotary International membership coordinator responsibilities include:

- a) Identify, market and implement membership development strategies within the assigned zones or geographic areas that are appropriate for the assigned part of the Rotary world that will result in membership growth
- b) Plan, market, and conduct an annual regional-level membership seminar or multidistrict seminars preferably between 1 January and 30 June, in cooperation with district governors
- c) Establish written goals set by each regional Rotary International membership coordinator in conjunction with the RI president-elect and the RI Membership Development and Retention Committee. These goals will reflect the current reality of Rotary, as well as economic and social conditions in the regional Rotary International membership coordinator's specific region and districts
- d) Be prepared to serve as one of the four mandatory members of the GETS training team and conduct a motivational and informational membership session at GETS as assigned by the GETS training team leader along with the RRFC
- e) Conduct, when invited to do so, special sessions on membership development at Rotary institutes

- f) Assist district governors in holding a district membership seminar no later than 31 October. The regional Rotary International membership coordinator should serve as a training leader for the seminar
- g) Actively support district leaders to achieve their membership goals by conducting informational training sessions on membership development when requested, and monitoring progress toward goals throughout the year
- h) Serve as a membership development and retention information resource for Rotary leaders at the district and club levels through regular communication, such as emails, newsletters, bulletins, etc.
- i) Promote participation in membership development recognition programs of RI and/or the RI president
- j) Complete reports as necessary and forward them to World Headquarters in a timely manner
- k) Initiate and maintain contact with designated pilot clubs and participants in their region, monitor progress, receive reports from such clubs, and submit the appropriate reports to RI in a timely manner
- l) Perform other duties as designated by the RI Membership Development and Retention Committee as well as other RI committees. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90*)

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; *Amended by* July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 316; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.5. Selection and Appointment Process

Previous Experience

Regional Rotary International membership coordinators should have the following experience before appointment as a coordinator:

- a) Outstanding and credible past district governor with demonstrated or documented success implementing membership development and retention strategies at the district and club level.
- b) Fluent in the major language(s) of the zones/districts appointed to serve.
- c) Strong motivational skills.
- d) Strong organizational skills.
- e) Effective communicator in front of a group with strong presentation and facilitation skills.

Selection

- a) Letters of solicitation are sent in June to the RI president, president-elect, president-nominee, directors, directors-elect, Trustee chairman, Trustee vice-chairman, Trustees, for zones indicated, RI Membership Development and Retention committee members, and key Rotary International staff as selected by the president.
- b) Names of the recommended Rotarians with respective backgrounds are presented to the president-elect in September.
- c) The president-elect reviews the information and makes the selections in October.
- d) Letters of appointment are sent from the president-elect in November.
- e) Acceptance of the appointment is requested of the candidates by 30 November.

Term of Appointment

The term of appointment for each regional Rotary International membership coordinator shall be three years, subject to an annual performance review or evaluation.

Evaluation

The performance evaluation of regional Rotary International membership coordinators shall be conducted annually by RI general secretary through information gathered in accordance with the evaluation process established by the RI Membership Development and Retention Committee. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)*

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 316; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.6. Performance Review or Evaluation

All regional RI membership coordinators should be evaluated during their first term. This evaluation will occur prior to reappointment for the second year. The evaluation will be submitted to the RI president-elect for review prior to selections and appointments being decided. The evaluation may include the following criteria:

- a) Achievement of goals established at the beginning of the year with the president-elect, RI Membership Development and Retention Committee, and regional RI membership coordinator
- b) Overall membership activity and trends for the overall association, as well as within the respective regional RI membership coordinator's region
- c) Performance of a specific area or zone compared to the average of all zones
- d) Timely submission of RI quarterly reports, as well as reports on presentations and meetings attended
- e) Communication with RI membership zone coordinators and district leadership, including governors, governors-elect, district membership chairs, Rotary institute conveners, and current and past RI directors
- f) Communication throughout the region, including newsletters, articles, Web site, etc.
- g) Participation at GETS, PETS, Rotary institutes, and other district- and zone-level meetings as invited
- h) Performance at these meetings based on feedback from GETS organizers, Rotary institute conveners, RI directors, past directors, past RI presidents, governors-elect, governors, and district membership chairs
- i) Overall performance of responsibilities as outlined in Code section 26.070.4. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.7. Training

All regional Rotary International membership coordinators will receive annually appropriate orientation and instruction at a training session dedicated to regional Rotary International membership coordinators, to be conducted as soon as possible after the International Assembly. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)*

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 316; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.8. Funding

Funds shall be provided annually to cover expenses approved by the Board for regional Rotary International membership coordinators.

For regional Rotary International membership coordinators, these funds cover reasonable expenses that are associated with the following activities and are in compliance with Rotary International's travel policy:

- a) participating in the regional Rotary International membership coordinators training session;
- b) conducting a Rotary International Membership Seminar annually at the regional level, participating as a member of the GETS training team;
- c) promoting membership development in assigned zones or geographic areas. (November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 316; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.9. Rotary International Membership Training Seminars at the Regional Level

Purpose

The purpose of the membership training seminars at the regional level is to develop district leaders who have the necessary skills, knowledge, and motivation to support their clubs in developing, sustaining, and/or growing the membership base.

Participants

Governors-elect, incoming district membership development chairs and committees, district trainers, officers/appointees as well as current and past district governors and officers.

Timeframe

Seminars should be conducted annually between 1 January and 30 June, preferably during the third quarter prior to the district assembly.

Seminar Components

To achieve the stated purpose of the program, the following components will be included:

- a) Examination of specific regional membership development issues and challenges;
- b) Review of resources available to support membership development efforts, including the regional RI membership coordinator program;
- c) Overview of the importance of membership development and extension within the organization;
- d) Highlights of the RI membership development recognition programs;
- e) Brainstorming of strategies appropriate to the zones/geographic area;
- f) Encouragement to hold district membership seminars during the district assembly when possible.

Seminar Leaders

The regional Rotary International membership coordinator is responsible for the overall program and planning of the membership seminar at the regional level. The leadership team that will conduct the seminar consists of regional Rotary International membership

coordinators, designated former regional Rotary International membership coordinators, as well as qualified district and club-level Rotarians in the geographic areas who have been active and successful in identifying and implementing strategies for retention, recruitment and the organization of new clubs. When appropriate, members of the RI Membership Development and Retention Committee may be included as seminar leaders, at no cost to RI. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)*

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 316; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.070.10. Organization

Regional RI membership coordinators should be appointed by zones. There should be no more than one zone per coordinator. The appointment of regional RI membership coordinators should include adequate regional coverage to include geographical, language and cultural considerations. Where necessary, especially where there are extreme travel problems, or cultural or linguistic considerations, flexibility should be allowed. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123)*

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123

26.070.11. Evaluation of RRIMC Program

The overall RRIMC program shall be monitored each year taking into account the following criteria:

- a) Membership statistics, including activity relating to new members, terminated members, new clubs, terminated clubs, retention rates, and net growth for the overall association, as well as in the area or region (districts) assigned to individual RRIMCs and RIMZCs;
- b) Total number of governor-elect training Seminars (GETS), district membership seminars, regional zone membership seminars, Rotary institutes, president-elect training seminars (PETS), and other district or zone functions in which RRIMCs and RIMZCs participated;
- c) Progress on the goals established for the individual RRIMCs;
- d) Overall membership communication throughout the association, including articles, newsletters, websites, best practices, seminars, presentations, etc.;
- e) Utilization of RRIMCs to assist with district and club membership development plans and strategies by other RI committees.

The General Secretary shall submit an annual status report of the RRIMC program to the Board at its October meeting. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

26.080. RI Anthem

An arrangement from the “march” of the Overture to “Egmont” by Ludwig van Beethoven is the official Rotary anthem that can be played at appropriate occasions, such as flag ceremonies. *(February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 222; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 209

26.090. RI Protocol

The following order of protocol shall be used to introduce, present and seat all current, past, and future officers of RI and its Foundation, committee members, and their spouses at all RI meetings, functions, and receiving lines, and in all RI publications:

President (or President's representative)

President-elect

Vice-President

Treasurer

Other Directors

Past Presidents (in order of seniority)

Trustee Chairman

Trustee Chairman-elect

Trustee Vice-Chairman

Other Trustees

President, Immediate Past President, Vice-President, Honorary Treasurer of RIBI

General Secretary

President-nominee

Past RI Vice Presidents or Past Directors (in order of seniority)

Past Trustees (in order of seniority)

Past General Secretaries (in order of seniority)

Directors-elect

District Governors

RI and TRF Committees, Advisors, Representatives, Training Leaders and Resource Groups
(including RRIMCs and RRFCs)

Directors-nominee

Past Governors (in order of seniority)

Incoming Trustees

Governors-elect

At Rotary functions, officers should be addressed according to protocol only once. The current order of protocol places current officers and committee members above past and incoming positions. The Rotarians' current position shall take precedence over past positions; past positions shall take precedence over future positions; individuals holding more than one position shall be ranked by the highest office; accompanying spouses have the same rank.

At the international convention, international assembly and council on legislation, the president and appropriate committee will use the official protocol as a guide but may make alterations as deemed necessary by the physical constraints of the space and the program itself. At the convention reserved seating will not be provided for district governors, governors-elect, past governors, RI and TRF committees, Advisors, Representatives, Training Leaders and Resource Groups (including RRIMCs and RRFCs) as a group. As an operational aspect, reserved seating for the voting delegates will be provided for delegates only during the business session at the convention.

At the International Assembly, district governors-elect will be seated in the sections closest to the presenter, accommodating all governors-elect before other official participants are seated. The president-elect has the authority to make appropriate operational changes to assembly seating assignments as needed and deemed appropriate.

At the Council on Legislation, the delegates will be seated in the sections closest to the presenter, accommodating all delegates before other official participants are seated. The Council chair has the authority to make appropriate operational changes to the council seating assignments as needed and deemed appropriate.

The governor shall plan, promote, and preside at all official district meetings except as otherwise expressly provided.

After the required order of protocol above, the following order of protocol is recommended and should be modified to fit local customs and practice:

Regional and zone-level committees members

Assistant governors

District secretary/treasurer

District committee members

Club presidents

Club presidents-elect

Club vice-president

Club secretary

Club treasurer

Club sergeant-at-arms

Other club board members

Club committee chairs

Past assistant governors

Rotarians

TRF alumni

Rotarian's families

At district meetings, Rotarians visiting from a foreign country may be placed before local Rotarians of the same rank, as a courtesy toward guests.

High-ranking non-Rotarians may be given precedence in ranking according to local custom. Clubs and districts are encouraged to advise guests if protocol places Rotarians before non-Rotarians. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 23; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103; February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

26.100. Election Guidelines and Campaigning

26.100.1. Board Approved Statement of Guidelines

A single statement of guidelines for RI elections should apply to the entire Rotary world. All candidates for elective office should be advised in writing of the RI election policies and procedures by the person responsible for administering the election. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

26.100.2. Official Report of Nominating Committee

After confidential discussion in committee, all nominating committees for RI offices, including nominating committees for governor, shall state in writing on official reports to the general secretary that the selected nominee, to the best of the committee's knowledge, has not violated any of the rules against campaigning, electioneering or canvassing in the RI Bylaws. The report of all nominating committees shall also contain the names and signatures of all committee members in attendance. Such report should be forwarded to the general secretary along with the name of the nominee of the committee. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

26.100.3. Balloting Procedures for Selection of Directors-nominee

Ballots sent to clubs to select Directors-nominee shall be accompanied by return envelopes, pre-addressed to the balloting committee, with instructions that the ballot must be returned in the pre-addressed envelope.

Ballots returned in the pre-addressed envelopes shall be delivered unopened for safe-keeping to a member of the staff as designated by the general secretary. With the approval of and at the instruction of the chair of the balloting committee, the general secretary may open the envelopes before the committee's meeting in order to sort ballots and verify the number of votes to which clubs are entitled, without tabulating the votes, and taking all necessary steps to safeguard the confidentiality of ballots. Ballots for directors-nominee cannot be duplicated and only returned original ballots shall be counted.

If a club does not return a ballot in the pre-addressed envelope, that ballot shall be delivered to the designated staff member for transmittal to the committee along with a written explanation of why the ballot was not enclosed in the official return envelope. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: November 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 264; November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; Amended by June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

26.100.4. Announcement of Nominations and Elections

Members of RI nominating committees shall refrain from issuing independent statements announcing the committee's nomination without the prior authorization of the Board, pursuant to RI bylaws section 10.060. Editors of the Rotary World Magazine Press shall ensure that all articles and announcements of Rotary nominations and elections accurately reflect the Rotary election process, including the opportunity to challenge. *(October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41)*

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362

26.100.5. Rules Regarding Campaigning, Canvassing and Electioneering

It is a fundamental principle in Rotary that the best qualified candidate should be selected for service in Rotary's elective offices. Therefore, any effort to influence the selection process in a positive or negative manner by campaigning, canvassing, electioneering or otherwise is prohibited under the RI Bylaws.

The following rules shall be followed concerning campaigning, canvassing and electioneering for any Rotarian considering election to the office of president, director, Governor, or representative to the Council on Legislation, or the nominating committee for any such office. These rules are designed to ensure that the best qualified candidate is selected for office:

- 1) Rotarians should at all times conform to the prohibitions of the RI Bylaws concerning campaigning, canvassing or electioneering. All Rotarians should observe both the letter and the spirit of the bylaws and refrain from any activity whose purpose or effect is to influence others by promoting or soliciting support for a candidate's or another Rotarian's candidacy. Such activity is repugnant to the spirit of the bylaws and the principles of Rotary and will be grounds for disqualification of a candidate.
- 2) Campaigning, canvassing or electioneering is any action seeking to promote, attack, support, or oppose a candidate, either directly or indirectly, in any medium, including, but not limited to, any action seeking votes, requesting support in a forthcoming election, distribution of literature or promotional materials or other overt actions intended to promote one's candidacy for an elected Rotary office.
- 3) The periods of candidacy for elective office begin when individual Rotarians begin to give serious consideration to submitting their names for a position covered by the RI rules for nominations and elections. Commencing at that time, candidates should be particularly careful to avoid any actions designed to publicize their names or achievements, to call attention to the applicable nominations or elections, or to give candidates an unfair advantage over other candidates for the same position.
- 4) The normal performance of duly-assigned Rotary activities would not be considered to be a violation of the policies related to campaigning, canvassing or electioneering.
- 5) Should a candidate become aware of any campaigning or electioneering activities which are undertaken on the candidate's behalf, the candidate shall immediately and in writing express disapproval to all concerned and instruct them to terminate such activity.
- 6) Contacting clubs to inform them to request their concurrence for a proposed challenge or election complaint is not prohibited provided that such contact is limited to the exchange of factual information. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149*)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 135, App. E; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; and February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149

26.110. Election Complaint Procedures

The following procedures for review of RI elections shall be followed whenever a complaint is made and filed in accordance with the applicable sections of the RI Bylaws:

26.110.1. Advising the Parties of a Complaint

After receiving any election complaint, the general secretary shall inform the party in question of the allegation, request a written response with documentation by a certain date, and notify the parties of the proper procedure to be followed. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. Amended by November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326

26.110.2. Methods of Resolution

The president, or the general secretary acting on the president's behalf, shall resolve an election dispute in the following situations:

- a) there has been a misunderstanding about the requirements of the relevant constitutional documents;
- b) information has been received and certified by the general secretary that a candidate has appealed to a "non-Rotary agency" prior to completing the RI election review procedures. In such instances the president shall, in accordance with RI Bylaws 10.060.5. and on behalf of the Board, disqualify the candidate for the election in question, without referral to the RI election review committee.

In all other situations, the president shall, in consultation with the chair of the election review committee, select three members of that committee (one of whom shall come from the area of the complaint and one of whom shall be designated as convener) to serve as a panel to evaluate the complaint. Any member of the committee, however, may disqualify himself or herself from considering a particular complaint, even if this means that there cannot be a member on the panel from the area concerned. Any vacancy on the panel shall be filled in the same manner. The election complaint will be administered in accordance with the procedures set forth below. (*July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. Amended by November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 301; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326; July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

26.110.3. Requirement for Cash Bond

At the time a club files a complaint with the General Secretary, such club shall pay to Rotary International a cash bond. If such complaint addresses a district level office, e.g., governor, council on legislation representative, member of a nominating committee for governor or director, the amount of the cash bond shall be US\$1000. If such complaint addresses the election of an individual to any other position, the amount of the cash bond shall be US\$2,500. The General Secretary shall take no action with respect to any such complaint until the cash bond is paid. No complaint shall be considered as received by the General Secretary until the cash bond is paid. In the event that it is determined that the proper election procedures were followed and that no improper campaigning, canvassing, or electioneering occurred, the cash bond shall be forfeited and retained by Rotary International. Otherwise, the General Secretary shall cause the cash bond to be refunded without interest. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; Amended by February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149

26.110.4. Summary and Analysis of Complaint

The general secretary shall prepare and convey to the panel of the election review committee a summary and analysis of the complaint (and response, if one has been received by the set date), with copies of all documents submitted. Any document submitted by the parties to the complaint may be made available to all parties upon request. *(July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. *Amended by* November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 301; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326; July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

26.110.5. Consideration of Bylaws, Board Decisions and Other Information

In considering a complaint, the panel of the election review committee shall take into account the relevant RI Bylaws provisions and the policies established by the Board in the interpretation and application of those Bylaws provisions. The committee may request the general secretary to obtain additional evidence or information from the complainant, the candidate or any other concerned party. The committee may also, on behalf of the Board, grant a waiver of any Board-imposed confidentiality requirements to the extent it believes is necessary to ascertain additional information. *(February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149. *Amended by* November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326; July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

26.110.6. Review of Elections for President and Director

The panel of the election review committee shall evaluate a complaint by correspondence. However, should the election be for the general offices of president or director, the president (or the general secretary acting on the president's behalf) may, upon the recommendation of the committee and after consultation with the chair of the election review committee, authorize a meeting of the panel at a time and place determined by the general secretary. At such a meeting, the committee may grant a personal appearance to any party directly concerned in the election under review, at that party's expense. However, there shall be no disqualification of a candidate for election as a general officer of RI without there having been an opportunity offered to the candidate to appear personally before the committee, at the candidate's expense. *(July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. *Amended by* November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326; and July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

26.110.7. Committee's Report to Board

Based on its review of the available information, the panel of the election review committee shall report to the Board its findings of fact, its conclusions and recommendations and reasons therefor. Prior to making its recommendation to the Board, the panel must reach a consensus. A copy of the report shall go to the chair of the election review committee, if the chair is not a panel member. *(July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. *Amended by* November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 126; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 374; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326; and July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

26.110.8. Board Options

After having received this report, the Board may take such action as permitted by the applicable section of the RI Bylaws. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. Amended by November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; and June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326

26.110.9. Board Consideration of Election Review Committee Report

Election complaints referred to the Board pursuant to Board policy shall be considered no later than at the Board's final meeting in the Rotary year in which the complaint is filed. The Executive Committee is authorized to act on behalf of the Board to take any action permitted by RI bylaws section 10.060.3. with regard to complaints that cannot be reviewed by the Board at its final meeting. The Executive Committee must reach its decision prior to 15 September. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169

26.110.10. Report of Board Decision

The Board's decision shall be reported to all parties concerned and to all members of the election review committee. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. Amended by November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81 and February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174

26.110.11. Election Procedural Issues

In the event that the general secretary or president become aware of alleged irregularities within the election process that require immediate resolution, but that are not the subject of an election complaint, including, but not limited to, such matters as the certification of votes by the district governor, the operational procedures utilized by a nominating committee or balloting committee, such issues shall be directed to the chair of the RI Election Review Committee, or his or her designee, for examination and decision. All such decisions made pursuant to this paragraph shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265

26.120. RI Collection and Use of Personal Membership Data

As part of its effort to assist clubs and districts and facilitate communication with Rotarians, Rotary International collects personal information about Rotary club members to be used solely for the purpose of conducting the following core business activities:

- Billing
- Supporting The Rotary Foundation
- Identifying prospective candidates for presidential and Foundation appointments to conferences, RI and TRF committees, resource groups, and other assignments
- Tracking membership trends, developing membership characteristics, producing demographic analyses, and supporting membership retention
- Identifying Rotarians who have specific language and/or professional skills
- Providing information and updates to district chairs and others involved in RI programs and service projects

- Supporting *The Rotarian* and the regional magazines
- Providing guidance to clubs and districts in their public relations efforts
- Communicating key organizational messages and information to district leaders for dissemination at the club level
- Facilitating convention and special event planning
- Communicating information to Rotary clubs, districts and district leaders by officially licensed vendors under RI's licensing system

At the direction of the RI Board of Directors, RI may occasionally participate in special advertising and/or marketing initiatives that involve the release of membership information. RI will notify Rotarians about these initiatives and give them the opportunity to decline to participate. Rotary International may also disclose information as required by law or if pertinent to judicial or governmental investigations. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

26.130. Membership Statistics

The development and continuation of activities and programs addressing membership must remain the association's highest priority. The association and its clubs must remain focused on all aspects of membership.

The general secretary shall:

- a. communicate a consistent membership figure to the media reflecting 1 July paid membership to be calculated by 1 July semiannual reports returned by 30 September;
- b. use the 30 June membership figure as the basis for statistical and historical analysis;
- c. continue to develop all efforts with respect to membership retention, recognition, organizing new clubs, communication, and training. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 261



Article 27. RI President

- 27.010.** Regulations Governing Candidates for RI President and the Nominating Committee for President
- 27.020.** Official Activities
- 27.030.** Authority to Act on Behalf of Board
- 27.040.** Additional Activities
- 27.050.** RI Theme and Program Emphasis
- 27.060.** Travel and Appearances
- 27.070.** Staff Support
- 27.080.** Finances
- 27.090.** President's Advisory Committee

27.010. Regulations Governing Candidates for RI President and the Nominating Committee for President

27.010.1. Declaration of Duties and Responsibilities of President

Each candidate for president shall be provided with a summary of the duties and responsibilities of the president as set out in the RI Bylaws and in the *Rotary Code of Policies*. The prescribed form used by candidates for president shall include a signed declaration by the candidate that he or she has read, understands, and is willing to comply with such duties and responsibilities as they may be amended from time to time. (November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38

27.010.2. Procedures for the Functioning of the Nominating Committee for President

The RI board has adopted procedures for the functioning of the Nominating Committee for RI president as follows:

Confidentiality

Members of the nominating committee, prior to and following the meeting of the committee, shall not discuss with other members of the committee or any other person the work of the committee, and shall at no time discuss or divulge any of the deliberations or discussions of the committee, except as they may participate in the deliberations of the committee at the time of its meeting. This confidentiality may be waived solely by the Board, or the RI Election Review Committee acting on its behalf, in order to investigate any duly filed election complaint.

Preparation for the Committee Meeting

1. The general secretary will assign a member of the Secretariat staff to work with and for the committee with instructions that all aspects of the work of the committee are to be kept in strict confidence.
2. The assigned staff person shall open all communications addressed to the committee and will tabulate submissions and assemble background information.

3. If for any reason a communication addressed to the nominating committee is not received in a sealed envelope or should such communication be inadvertently opened because it was not properly addressed to the nominating committee or otherwise, such communication shall be sealed immediately and be placed with other mail for the committee.

4. The assigned staff person shall prepare:

a. an alphabetical list of past directors who have notified the general secretary that they wish to have their names listed as being willing and able to serve as president with the name of the Rotary club in which each holds membership being indicated in capital letters, to be forwarded to committee members at least one week prior to the committee meeting;

b. for each eligible candidate, the Rotary and general biographical data on record in the Secretariat will be combined with biographical data supplied by the candidate. Information provided by each candidate shall be limited to one page;

c. one set of pictures for the committee of each eligible candidate, preferably taken within the past year. If date of picture is available it will be noted on the back.

d. for each eligible candidate, a statement on their vision and goals for Rotary not to exceed 300 words.

These materials shall be placed in separate sealed envelopes for delivery by the general secretary the night before the meeting.

5. All original submission forms and correspondence shall be placed in a single sealed container, to be delivered to the committee for disposition.

6. If requested, the general secretary shall schedule an optional and informal fellowship dinner for members of the committee to dine as a group on Sunday evening preceding the committee meeting.

At the Committee Meeting

7. The members of the nominating committee shall be seated in alphabetical order.

8. The general secretary shall inform the committee that RI bylaws (section 11.050.1.) provide that "The committee shall meet and nominate from among the list of past directors who have indicated they are willing to serve as president the best qualified Rotarian available to perform the functions of the office."

9. The committee shall elect a member of the committee as its chairman. Another member shall be elected as secretary. The election of the chairman and secretary shall be conducted under the direction of the general secretary, who shall prepare and distribute a ballot listing each member of the nominating committee. Each member of the committee shall cast one vote for the chairman. The general secretary, or a member of his staff, shall count the votes and announce the results. If 18 votes are not received by any

member of the committee, a second ballot shall be held. Voting shall continue on successive ballots until 18 votes are received. After the election of the chairman, the procedure outlined above shall be used to select a committee secretary.

10. Following the election of the chairman and secretary, no one is to be in attendance during the meeting of the committee other than the duly elected members of the nominating committee, except that the general secretary or his assigned staff member may be called into the meeting upon the request of the chairman or other member of the committee. This staff person shall assist the committee during the course of its meeting, should any assistance be required, and shall work under the direct supervision of the chairman of the committee.

11. Before the committee begins its deliberations, the chairman shall inquire whether any member of the committee has been contacted by or on behalf of any candidate, or is aware of any effort to influence members of the nominating committee, either directly or indirectly, and, if so, to bring these to the attention of committee at this time.

12. Before conducting a ballot for president, the nominating committee shall discuss the qualifications of each candidate. Following the discussion of all of the candidates, the chairman shall distribute ballots prepared by the general secretary containing an alphabetical list of candidates and instruct each member of the committee to vote for six candidates. All voting conducted under this paragraph shall be conducted by secret ballot. The secretary shall tabulate the results and announce the six highest vote-getters. Each of these candidates shall be discussed further by the committee, and the secretary shall distribute another set of ballots with the names of all but the remaining candidates crossed out. Each member of the committee shall be instructed to vote for four candidates. After the secretary announces the results of this ballot, similar steps shall be followed to reduce the number of candidates to two and, finally, to one. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a candidate eliminated during a previous round of balloting may be reconsidered at any point if requested by at least six members of the committee. Voting must continue until there are two candidates remaining and one of the final two candidates receives at least twenty votes, regardless of whether any candidate received twenty or more votes in a previous round of voting. The committee shall not select an alternate, and the candidate who finishes second in the final vote shall not be considered to be an alternate.

13. The RI bylaws (section 11.050.3.) provide that "Twenty-four members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The transaction of all business of the committee shall be by majority vote, except that in the selection of the committee's nominee for president, the votes of at least twenty members of the committee shall be cast in favor of such nominee."

14. The report of the committee naming its nominee shall be signed by the chairman on behalf of the committee and be delivered and certified to the general secretary. (In the past, this has been done before the committee adjourned.) This report is to be the only formal record of the committee. The general secretary will notify each club of the contents of the report and the names of the nominating committee in accordance with the RI bylaws.

15. The RI bylaws (section 11.050.4. and subsections 1. through 4.) further provide that

11.050.4. Resignation of Nominee for President and Procedure for New Selection.

Where the nominee for president is unable to serve or submits a resignation to the president, such nominee shall no longer be eligible for nomination or election to the office of president in such year. The president shall so notify the chairman of the committee and the committee shall select another qualified Rotarian as nominee for president. In such circumstances, the following procedure shall be utilized.

11.050.4.1. Procedures for Committee.

At its meeting, the committee shall authorize the chairman to act on its behalf to initiate promptly the procedures for meeting such contingency.

11.050.4.2. Committee Voting Procedure.

Such procedures could include a ballot-by-mail or other rapid means of communication, or an emergency meeting of the committee to be held as determined by the president on behalf of the board.

11.050.4.3. Challenging Candidates.

Where the committee must select another nominee as hereinbefore provided, the clubs shall to the extent possible be given a reasonable period as determined by the board to submit challenging candidates. Such challenges shall be in accordance with section 11.070., except with reference to specified filing dates.

11.050.4.4. Contingency Not Provided in Bylaws.

Where a contingency arises that has not been provided for by the committee, the board shall determine the procedure to be followed by the committee.

16. Should the selection of another nominee for president be necessary, the general secretary shall contact those past directors who previously indicated to the general secretary that they wished to be considered by the nominating committee. The names of the candidates who still wish to be considered shall be considered by the committee. The procedures to be used at any emergency meeting of the committee shall follow these procedures as closely as possible.

17. The committee shall assemble all materials, place them in a sealed container, and transmit them by letter to the general secretary for safe keeping until 1 July, at which time they may be destroyed by him within ten days unless there are circumstances which require that the materials be retained. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 264*)

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec.97; Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; July 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 13; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 54; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 264

27.010.3. Selection of Nominee for President by Nominating Committee

The selection of a nominee for the office of RI president is solely the responsibility of the nominating committee for president. Any efforts from persons not on the committee to influence, either directly or indirectly, the decision of the committee in this respect are

prohibited. The foregoing shall be included in appropriate RI literature to be brought to the attention of clubs and individual Rotarians. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149*)

Source: January 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; Amended by February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149. Affirmed by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93

27.010.4. Campaigning, Canvassing and Electioneering

Members of the nominating committee shall agree not to make any efforts to influence other members of the committee, on behalf of or against any candidate, either directly or indirectly, in advance of the committee meeting. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149

27.010.5. Meetings and Visits on Date of Meeting of the Nominating Committee for President

RI Presidents and Foundation chairmen should not permit RI or Foundation committees to meet in Evanston on the date of the meeting of the Nominating Committee for RI President. Present and past Rotary general officers who are not members of the Nominating Committee for RI President should not visit World Headquarters on the date of the meeting of the Nominating Committee for RI President. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182

Cross References

26.100.5. *Rules Regarding Campaigning, Canvassing and Electioneering*

27.020. Official Activities

As the highest officer of the organization, the RI president shall perform the following activities.

27.020.1. President as RI Representative

The president is the chief representative of Rotary to heads of state, governmental and civic leaders, news media, and the general public. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

27.020.2. President's Promotion of RI Activities and Work

The president promotes and facilitates, in consultation with the general secretary, the service work and activities of RI. (*August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 293

27.020.3. President's Review of Governors

The president reviews, as appropriate, the performances of governors and arranges for any necessary counseling and guidance. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

27.020.4. President's Representatives at District Conferences

The president may be represented at district conferences by Rotarians appointed by the president. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

27.020.5. President's Theme

The president is authorized and encouraged to select an appropriate motivational theme to be observed throughout RI during the president's year in office. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

27.020.6. President's Aide

The president is authorized to appoint an aide to provide personal assistance in any way, in connection with the president's duties. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

27.020.7. Delegation of President's Powers

The president may delegate any of the president's powers to other Directors and the general secretary upon such terms as the president may determine. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

27.020.8. President to Act as Spokesman

The president is the international and principal spokesman of RI, providing motivation and inspiration for all Rotarians. (*July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 20*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

27.020.9. President as Chair of Meetings

The president chairs all meetings of the Board, and is the presider of the convention, presidential conferences, and International Institute, and, in conjunction with the president-elect, International Assemblies. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

27.020.10. President as Liaison Between Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation

The president and the president-elect shall serve as Board liaison with the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation by communication, or otherwise, with the chairman of The Rotary Foundation Trustees and/or such other trustee as the chairman or the Trustees may wish to designate. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71

27.030. Authority to Act on Behalf of Board

27.030.1. Emergency Matters

The president is authorized to act in emergency matters of the Board, subject to the provisions of the constitutional documents, when the Board or its Executive Committee is not in session or cannot be called into session or contacted. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

27.030.2. Requests for Excuse from Qualification for Service as District Governor

The board authorizes the president to act on its behalf in excusing Rotarians, for appropriate reasons, from any of the qualifications for a district governor specified in the RI Bylaws. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85

27.030.3. Filling Vacancies in Office of Governor

The President is authorized to act on behalf of the Board in electing a Rotarian to fill a vacancy in the office of governor or governor-elect where such action is required by the RI bylaws. The board requests the president to consult with the member of the Board resident in the area in which the vacancy has occurred prior to making a selection. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106*)

Source: June 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

27.030.4. Ballot by Mail to Elect Governor-Nominee in New District

The board, the president acting on its behalf, shall authorize a ballot-by-mail, and shall designate a district governor to conduct the ballot-by-mail, to select the governor-nominee in a new district when it is not practical to select the governor nominee in advance of the effective date of the new district by the same procedure used by those clubs before the regrouping occurred. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 282

27.030.5. Extension of Rotary to Non-Rotary Countries and Geographical Areas

The president shall act for the board in granting explicit approval to the extension of Rotary to countries or geographical regions where there are no Rotary clubs. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: May 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 234

27.030.6. Disqualifying Candidates for Elective Office

The president shall, in accordance with RI Bylaws 10.060.5. and on behalf of the Board, disqualify a candidate for election, without referral to the RI election review committee,

when information has been received and certified by the general secretary that a candidate has appealed to a "non-Rotary agency" prior to completing the RI election review procedures. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 301; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

27.030.7. Disposition of Ballots Relating to Election of Members of the Nominating Committee for RI President and Selection of Directors-Nominee

The president is authorized to act on behalf of the Board on recommendations to the Board from balloting committees with reference to disposition of ballots relating to election of members of the nominating committee for president of RI and to selection of directors nominee. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: May 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 212; July 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25

27.030.8. Organization of a Regional Conference

The Executive Committee and the president, or the president, are authorized to act on behalf of the Board in discharging any responsibilities placed upon the Board in connection with the organization of a regional conference. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

27.030.9. Election of Member of Nominating Committee for Director in a Ballot-by-Mail

The board, the president acting on its behalf and pursuant to RI Bylaws section 12.020.8., may authorize a district to select its member and alternate member of the director nominating committee in a ballot-by-mail. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

27.030.10. Alteration of Dates for Selecting Director-Nominee

The president is authorized, on behalf of the Board, to alter the dates for selecting a director-nominee. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

27.030.11. Election of Governor Nominee After Annual Election of Officers at Convention

The board authorizes the president to act on its behalf to elect a Rotarian to the office of governor where the governor nominee is not selected in time to be placed on the ballot for the annual election of officers at the convention. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

27.040. Additional Activities

27.040.1. Presidential Appointments

The president appoints members to RI committees, after consultation with the RI Board, Trustees of the Rotary Foundation of RI, officers of a Council on Legislation, and others, in order to carry out the Program of Rotary. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; *Amended by* June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

27.040.2. Appointing Committees and Resource Groups

It is suggested that presidents not appoint both a committee and a resource group in one year to address the same topic. Presidents may decide whether a committee or a resource group is more appropriate, depending on the task to be accomplished.

Presidents are urged to evaluate the overall number of resource groups established in any given Rotary year so that competition among resource groups for the time and attention of district leaders is reduced, and the desire on the part of district leaders to work with resource group members is enhanced by recognition that the number of resource groups established is reasonable.

Prior to making resource group appointments, presidents are encouraged to assess the relevant skills, expertise, and interest in the work of the resource group of each Rotarian considered for appointment.

It is recommended that presidents ensure that a mutual understanding exists between the volunteer leadership structure of the resource groups and the governors serving during that Rotary year as to the purpose of each resource group and how it will be utilized in coordination with the leadership structure of each district. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 165; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

27.040.3. Committee Chairs

It is recommended that the president appoint as chair of a RI committee a Rotarian who has served on that same committee during the preceding year. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 13; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

27.040.4. Convention Committees

It is recommended that the president in each year appoint the chairs of RI Convention committees and international conference committees in consultation with the president-elect for the year in which the convention or international conference for which such committee is appointed is to be held. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

27.040.5. RI President's Role in Membership Growth

RI presidents are requested to

- a. establish specific, achievable, and measureable goals for organizing new clubs, and for membership recruitment and retention that can be communicated to and used by district governors and club presidents;
- b. suggest to the Board that membership be a topic for discussion at all Rotary institutes. *(February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137)*

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100; February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137

Cross References

30.040. Committee Appointments

61.030.5. Role of the President at Regional Conferences

27.050. RI Theme and Program Emphasis

The annual RI theme is of great importance in furthering the program of Rotary in that year, and all Rotarians are encouraged to present and emphasize only this theme at district conferences, at other district meetings, in printed materials, and during "official visits" by RI officers. The RI theme is the only theme which should be utilized, and the use of other themes should be discouraged. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 379

27.050.1. Confidentiality of Annual Theme and Blazer Color

The annual theme and song will not be distributed for translation or preparation without previous consultation with and approval from the president-elect. All necessary steps are to be taken to assure the maximum confidentiality of the annual theme and blazer color. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190

27.050.2. Program Emphasis

It is the prerogative of the president to announce a program for the president's year, placing emphasis on such aspects of the overall RI program as the president may determine, for study and implementation by clubs and Rotarians. The strategic planning committee reviews and counsels the president-elect on the program for the upcoming year to determine whether such program is consistent with the strategic plan in accordance with RI Bylaws section 16.100. Continuity of emphasis in presidents' programs in successive years facilitates implementation of the president's programs each year. Such continuity also strengthens continuing expression of the RI program by clubs and Rotarians. The general secretary shall refer the foregoing to the president-elect each

year for consideration in formulating the president-elect's program. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: January 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76; January 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

27.050.3. Importance of Program Emphasis

The president is the highest officer of RI during the year of service in that capacity. The president's program emphasis for the year is of paramount importance, as are personal visits to clubs, districts and Rotary functions in various parts of the world, in the furtherance of that program. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79

27.060. Travel and Appearances

27.060.1. President's Travels and Time at World Headquarters

Commensurate with the President's responsibilities and duties, the President is expected and encouraged to undertake a program of worldwide visitation within the limits of the budget and policies fixed by the Board. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

27.060.2. President's Attendance at District Conferences

The president may accept invitations to attend a number of district conferences, rather than naming personal representatives to attend such conferences in the president's place. To provide the widest possible contact with the president, it would be preferable for the president to attend joint conferences of two or more districts. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

27.060.3. Proposed Presentations to Heads of State

The matter of the presentation of a gift or memento to heads of state or others by the president shall be left to the discretion of the president in each year. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166

27.060.4. Public Relations with Clubs

In travels to clubs, the president is requested to consider encouraging clubs to create long-term community service activities with a clear Rotary identification to enhance Rotary's public image. The president also is requested to encourage clubs to work together as partners with other clubs in a city or metropolitan area to develop and maintain long-term service activities, or with other service organizations, providing that all participating clubs receive identifiable recognition in joint service efforts. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 210

27.070. Staff Support

27.070.1. Administration of President's Office

The following plan shall guide the administration of the office of the president:

- a) The general secretary shall be responsible for the efficient functioning of the office of the president, which includes the president-elect and, as appropriate, the declared president-nominee.
- b) The general secretary shall consult the president in the organization and administration of the office of the president.
- c) If the president is not satisfied with the support provided to the Office of the president, the president shall explain any needs to the general secretary so that they may be satisfied.
- d) The general secretary, in administering the office of the president, shall promote continuity and stability.
- e) The Board may approve a request from the president and/or president-elect for additional funds for secretarial assistance if necessitated by concerns about language or distance from Evanston. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245 and 249

27.070.2. President's Support from General Secretary and Senior Managers

The president shall

- 1) be informed by the general secretary as to the respective roles, functions and responsibilities of senior staff, present or proposed plans for the management of their departments, and of any changes in the status of their employment;
- 2) be informed by the general secretary of any significant changes that are contemplated in any major RI publications;
- 3) be informed by the general secretary and/or the controller, of any significant changes in the revenues and expenses as set forth in the budget;
- 4) periodically be informed by the general secretary of the work and activities of RI at such times as the president shall desire but not less than once each month. The general secretary shall immediately inform the president of any unusual event affecting the president's Office or any of Rotary's programs. The general secretary shall further inform the president of the exercise of any power specifically granted by the Board;
- 5) receive directly from senior staff such reports and information as the president may require in the performance of the president's duties;
- 6) arrange a schedule to provide ample time during the first part of the term to be at the World Headquarters to organize the president's office and all related matters, with the objective that all such organization be fully completed prior to engaging in other areas of Rotary responsibility;
- 7) exercise any other supervision which may have been or may be defined by the Board, but not specifically enumerated herein.

8) seek the approval of the Board prior to requesting the general secretary to begin any new initiatives that will diminish the ability of the Secretariat to implement decisions of the Board. (*November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 110*)

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 234; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85

27.080. Finances

27.080.1. Review of Payments to President and President-Elect

In order to assure compliance with United States' income tax statutes, the Board shall, in a manner consistent with United States Treasury Regulation Section 53.4958-6, or any successor regulations that may be in effect from time to time, review any amounts paid to the president and president-elect, so as to assure that such payments are "reasonable," as that term is defined in the regulation. This matter shall be reviewed annually at the Board's final meeting of each year, and each time the Board considers changing the amount of any payments.

The president and president-elect, each, shall not participate in either the Executive Committee's discussion, drafting and approval of its report in regard to this matter as it pertains to each of them respectively, or in the discussion and adoption of the Executive Committee's report by the Board as it pertains to each of them respectively. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 450; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

27.080.2. Travel for Club Visits

Districts and clubs which extend invitations to the RI president shall be informed that the financial obligations covered by expense allocations in the annual RI budget are: travel expense to and from the district for the president and spouse; travel expenses within the district for an aide if specifically requested by the president; and personal expenses.

The financial obligations of the clubs and/or districts issuing invitations for visits by the president and president-elect are hotel accommodations, surface transportation and meal expenses. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 452. Amended by July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 2

27.080.3. Pre- and Post-Term Expenses of the President

The general secretary shall notify the president-elect each year that all necessary and reasonable expenses in preparing to enter upon the duties of office as president will be reimbursed by the general secretary.

The general secretary is authorized to advise the president each year that whatever necessary and reasonable expenses the president may have subsequent to his term of office, in connection with terminating in an orderly and satisfactory manner his or her services as president, will be charged to the appropriation for the president's office during the Rotary year in which such president served. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: January 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

27.080.4. Payment of Expenses by RI of an Adult Member of the President's Family If There Is No Spouse

In all instances where payment is authorized for the expenses of the president and spouse and the president has no spouse, payment is then authorized for an adult member of the president's family at the discretion of the president. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 10

27.080.5. Payment of Expenses of the Families of the President and the President-elect for Travel to the International Convention

RI will pay the expenses – that is, round trip economy airfare (business class airfare for any parents of the president or president-elect), per diem costs for hotel and meals, and fees for general registration and other Convention-related functions – incurred by the president and president-elect in bringing members from each of their immediate families to the convention – provided that the expenses of no more than twenty such members are paid by RI over a two year period for family members of the same officer serving first as president-elect and then as president at two consecutive Conventions. This cost shall not be part of the convention budget. Immediate family includes only the parents, grandparents, children, step-children, grandchildren, step-grandchildren and siblings, and the spouses of each, of the president, president-elect and their respective spouses. The president and president-elect shall provide the list of persons for whom expenses are to be paid to the general secretary, who shall confirm eligibility hereunder. The expenses include any taxes payable by the recipient with respect to the costs reimbursed in this section (not to exceed 46% of the above listed items). (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 330*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 330; *Amended by* November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154; February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

27.080.6. President's Recommendation of District Liability Insurance Coverage

During International Institutes, the president is requested to recommend that all districts obtain professional counsel on liability insurance issues and initiate programs of insurance, where advisable and cost-effective. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269

27.090. President's Advisory Committee

The president may select a small advisory committee of independent highly experienced Rotarians, which may consist of or include past presidents, to provide counsel to the president. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325



Article 28. RI Board of Directors

- 28.005.** Policies Relating to the Board
- 28.010.** Selection Methods for Directors
- 28.020.** Directors-elect
- 28.030.** Meetings
- 28.040.** Travel and Appearances
- 28.050.** Spouse Training and Attendance at Rotary Meetings
- 28.060.** Relationship Between Directors and Governors
- 28.070.** Relationship Between Directors and Trustees of The Rotary Foundation
- 28.080.** Conflict of Interest Policy
- 28.090.** Code of Ethics
- 28.100.** Indemnification of RI Directors and Officers
- 28.110.** Information Provided to the Board

28.005. Policies Relating to the Board

The Board has adopted policies governing its work that are set forth in this Article 28.005. These policies should be reviewed at the Board's first meeting each Rotary year and are as follows:

A. The Structure of Rotary International

Rotary International is a not-for-profit association of member clubs. The association represents, protects, encompasses, and promotes the interests of its membership, and it exists to serve the membership. The association belongs not to its leaders, but to its members, who determine through a democratic process who the leaders will be and who will represent them at the association level.

The leaders in turn make policy and financial decisions that affect and best serve the interests of the membership. In RI, these leaders are the general officers of the organization -- the president, other members of the Board of Directors, and the general secretary. The Board receives advice and guidance through the committee structure of RI, and it is assisted in the implementation of its decisions by the general secretary and his staff.

The staff, organizationally, is not a part of the policy-making or decision-making structure of RI. Rather, it represents the operational structure of the association, directed by the general secretary, who is the chief operating officer of the association. The staff nevertheless has a role to play in assisting the decision-making process by providing background to, and serving as a resource for, the decision-makers, and by making observations, suggestions, or recommendations, as appropriate.

Good management practice requires that the policy-making or decision-making structure should be differentiated from the operating structure, as each fulfills a different purpose and role in the administration. The best interests of the association are served when the two structures do not overlap or conflict. Indeed, the administration of the association runs most smoothly when each level of its structure functions as intended. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

B. The Role of the Board of Directors of RI

The Constitution and Bylaws of RI place certain duties and responsibilities on the Board of Directors of the association, and give to the Board certain powers to carry out those duties and responsibilities:

The affairs and funds of RI, shall be under the direction and control of the Board, in conformity with the constitution and bylaws and the Illinois General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act of 1986, and any amendments thereto. (RI Constitution, art. 6, sec. 2).

The Board of Directors of Rotary International shall be responsible for doing whatever may be necessary for the furtherance of the purposes of Rotary International, the attainment of the Object of Rotary, the study and teaching of its fundamentals, the preservation of its ideals, its ethics, and its unique features of organization and its extension throughout the world. In order to fulfill the purposes of Article 3 of the RI Constitution, the Board shall adopt a strategic plan. The Board shall review the strategic plan every three years. The Board shall report on the progress of the strategic plan at each meeting of the Council on Legislation. (RI Bylaws section 5.010.)

The Board directs and controls the affairs of RI by: (a) establishing policy for the organization; (b) evaluating implementation of policy for the organization; (c) exercising such other powers conferred upon the Board by the constitution, by these bylaws, and by the Illinois General Not-for-Profit Corporation Act of 1986, and any amendments thereto. (RI Bylaws section 5.040.)

The Board shall exercise general control and supervision over all officers, officers-elect, and officers-nominee, and committees of Rotary International. (RI Bylaws section 5.040.)

The Board elects the general secretary, who is the chief operating officer of the association (RI Bylaws section 6.030.)

The administration of clubs shall be under general supervision of the Board. (RI Constitution, art. 8, sec. 2.)

In fulfilling its duties and responsibilities, the Board functions in a number of ways.

1. The Board functions as a policy maker for the association. While the Council on Legislation and the convention may consider and act on proposed legislation, and thus constitute the legislative arm of the association, it is the Board of directors that more often is called upon to develop and establish new policy, review existing policy, and modify policy where appropriate.
2. The Board functions as the program planning body for the association. It establishes goals and objectives -- both short-range and long-range -- and it considers proposals for new programs or changes in current programs. It may establish new programs, review existing programs, or may discontinue programs that have served their purpose or are no longer viable.
3. The Board controls the finances and adopts the annual budget of the association (with per capita dues being determined by the member clubs through the Council on Legislation).

4. The Board serves as an advocate for the association in promoting the ideals and programs of Rotary. It not only creates policy and programs, it has a responsibility for serving as a spokesman for the association in promoting and extending the fundamental ideals and object of the association and in gaining acceptance for its programs.
5. The Board, and its individual members, also have a responsibility to motivate the leaders of the association, its officers and committees, the member clubs and Rotarians generally in furtherance of the purposes of the association. The Board, in this role, becomes an initiator of action.
6. The Board identifies problems or trends in Rotary that may warrant the attention of the Board.
7. The Board discharges responsibilities as may be assigned by the president.
8. The general secretary shall be responsible to the president and the Board for the implementation of its policies and for management and administration, including the financial operation of RI. The general secretary and the Secretariat staff provide necessary support to assist the Board in fulfilling its duties and responsibilities. The performance of the general secretary shall be reviewed by the Board with him at least once each year.
9. In the interest of motivation and communication, the president is encouraged to inform the staff periodically on the work of the Board and the progress of RI.
10. Action by the Board shall be subject only to appeal through a ballot-by-mail submitted to the district representatives of the most recent Council on Legislation under rules to be established by the board. (RI Bylaws 5.030.) (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 9; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 46; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

C. The Board of Directors and the Legislative Process of RI

As provided in the RI Bylaws, RI Directors are non-voting members of the Council on Legislation. A director cannot serve on the Council as the representative of the clubs of his district. A director's primary responsibility is as a member of the Board (see section 59.030.1.).

1. It is the responsibility of the Board of Directors of RI to make its leadership effective in the legislative process of RI in harmony with the function of the Board as the policy-making body of RI.
2. Legislation offered by the Board shall be limited to subjects that:
 - a. are administrative in nature and relate either to the functioning of the Board or to the organization of Rotary International, or
 - b. have broad impact on the program of Rotary.

3. The Board shall take steps to further in the deliberations of the Council proposed legislation the Board has offered.
4. The Board may establish a position or organize members of the Board to speak in the Council on behalf of the Board, for or against pending legislation, when:
 - a. items of proposed legislation are offered by the Board, and
 - b. items are offered by others on matters which the Board considers to be of concern to the interests of the organization.

The Board shall actively participate in the deliberation of the Council with respect to such matters.

5. Participation by Directors in the deliberations of the Council will be on behalf of the Board, rather than a reflection of individual views. Moreover,
 - a. if the chair of the Council on Legislation feels that an item of proposed legislation from the Board requires clarification, the president may designate a director to speak on behalf of the Board;
 - b. in the event a criticism of the Board is made during a session of the Council on Legislation, the Board may reply to such criticism through a designated spokesperson;
 - c. in the event the Board withdraws its proposal from consideration by the Council, an explanation of the Board's reasons for such withdrawal may be provided by a designated spokesperson.
6. With respect to proposed legislation offered by the Board at the instruction of a Council, the Board shall make clear that it is offering such proposed legislation in compliance with such instruction.
7. Proposed enactments and proposed resolutions offered by the Board as emergency legislation shall be limited to those matters which are clearly emergencies, and the Board shall provide to the Council on Legislation information with respect to the need for such emergency legislation. *(May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325)*

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 9; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

D. Criteria for Items Coming to the Board

The primary role of the Board of Directors is to determine policies for RI and to evaluate their implementation by the general secretary, who shall be responsible to the Board for the implementation of its policies and for management and administration.

The Board functions most effectively when it is able to devote its time and attention to policy and program matters at the association level, and is not called upon to devote considerable time to matters of a routine, administrative character where authority has been delegated to the General Secretary as the chief operating officer of the association. To enable the Board to focus only on

matters that require its attention, criteria exist to aid in determining items that may be included on a Board meeting agenda.

1. Items submitted for consideration by the Board may emanate from the following sources:

- a. Individual Rotary clubs (by memorial)
- b. Rotary District Conferences
- c. Rotary institutes for present, past, and incoming officers of RI
- d. Councils on Legislation
- e. RI committees
- f. Trustees of The Rotary Foundation
- g. General Council of RIBI
- h. Current RI general officers, including the general secretary
- i. Current RI officers
- j. Past RI general officers
- k. Any committee of the Board

Other than the above-named persons, individuals may not submit items for the agenda of Board meetings.

2. The Board considers items on the basis of written presentations and background statements, including, when appropriate, proposals and recommendations for action by the Board. Except in cases where the president may determine that a personal presentation will be beneficial to the Board's consideration of a matter, the Board does not receive groups or individuals who may wish to appear personally before the Board.
3. Items on which the president, or the Executive Committee, or the general secretary is authorized by the Board to act on behalf of the Board shall be reported to the Board.
4. Items included in the agenda for consideration at a meeting of the Board shall normally be limited to those that involve or relate to:
 - a. duties and responsibilities placed on the Board by statute and that have not been delegated by the Board;
 - b. establishing new policy or modifying or terminating existing policy;
 - c. short-range and long-range planning for the international association;
 - d. establishing a new program of RI, modifying an existing program, or terminating a program previously established by the Board;
 - e. authorizing an expenditure not provided for in the RI budget as adopted by the Board, or modifying a budget appropriation as previously approved by the Board;
 - f. a change in RI policy, procedures or programs that would require action by a Council on Legislation;
 - g. programs and expenditures of The Rotary Foundation;
 - h. internal audit matters.
5. All matters of an administrative nature that can properly be considered to fall within the duties and responsibilities of the general secretary, shall be referred to the general secretary for attention and, as needed, for decision, thus relieving the Board of the task of dealing with such matters and preserving to the Board the time at its meetings to consider and act on those

matters of a policy-making nature that by statute or otherwise require consideration by the Board of Directors of the international association.

6. Program proposals from clubs or individuals requiring Board approval should be referred to appropriate advisory committees by the general secretary for consideration and report to the Board. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 9; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

E. Decisions Made by the Board of Directors

In the consideration of any subject, RI Directors may consider themselves as individuals until a decision is reached by the Board, after which time the decision is to be deemed, reported, and discussed as a decision of the entire Board. The vote and utterances of individual Directors in arriving at the decision shall remain confidential and shall not be made public. Staff attending the Board meeting shall also be expected to maintain confidentiality as above. A director, however, may have his vote recorded upon request, except when the vote has been taken by a secret ballot. On any motion to provide for a secret ballot, a director may record his opposition to having such secret ballot.

All decisions, unless specified otherwise, take effect immediately upon the adjournment of the meeting at which they are made. (*August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 9

F. Consent Items at Board Meetings

At each meeting of the Board for which an advance memorandum is prepared and which includes a listing of items for consideration at the meeting, the Board may take action on one or more agenda items by general consent, i.e., by agreeing to a draft decision without general discussion on an item.

The purpose of consent items is to enable the Board to act expeditiously on matters on which there is general agreement, making discussion of such items unnecessary.

The consent items procedure shall operate in the following manner:

1. Prior to each meeting, the general secretary or a designated member of the staff will develop from the list of agenda items a suggested list of items that might be acted on by the Board by consent. This list must be approved by the president and sent to Directors with the advance memorandum.
2. The list of consent items will be presented early in the Board meeting, at which time any director may ask to have an item removed. If a director wishes to ask for clarification of an item on the list, and if clarification can be provided without general discussion, the item need not be removed from the consent list. Items removed from the list are assigned to the appropriate committee of the Board for discussion and recommendation to the Board.

3. Items may be referred by the president to committees of the Board for discussion and recommendation to the Board. For each item considered, the committees should prepare for the Board a recommended draft decision.
4. Recommended drafts from the committees will be provided to the Board in advance of the Board coming together for consideration of such drafts. A second list of consent items from such recommended drafts will be prepared by the general secretary for consideration by the Board. Any director may ask to have one or more of the recommended decisions removed from the list for full discussion and decision by the Board.
5. On recommendation of the president or any other director, the Board may defer to a subsequent meeting any item or items for which it is felt that the Board does not have sufficient time to consider, or that additional information is needed by the Board before a decision can be taken. (*August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 9

G. Board Agenda Procedures

1. Recommendations from RI committees that are received by the general secretary less than 30 days before a Board meeting shall not be considered by that meeting, unless the president, taking into consideration the expressed views of the liaison director to that committee or any other member of the Board, determines that the subject matter is too urgent to wait until the next meeting of the Board.
2. Approximately 45 days before the beginning of a Board meeting, the president shall meet with the general secretary to review all items suggested to be considered by the Board at that meeting.
3. All advance memorandum items presented for RI Board consideration which have any financial impact on capital or operating budgets of Rotary International must be submitted to the Finance Division through the Chief Financial Officer no later than 30 days prior to the Board meeting for analysis of that impact. (see section 67.030.6.)
4. The general secretary shall establish a deadline for the submission of items for consideration by the Board at a particular meeting. Not less than 21 days before the beginning of a Board meeting, the general secretary shall see that the entire advance memorandum, in the form approved by the Board, is e-mailed to each director, or sent by hard copy or CD upon request, except for those few items which for good reason could not be prepared earlier and will be provided later.
5. The president shall refer all items for the Board's consideration to the Administration, Finance, Programs, or Executive Committee of the Board for review, provided that the president may direct that an item be considered only by the full Board.
6. The committees shall recommend a draft decision for each item for the Board's consideration. If the recommendation of the committee is less than unanimous, the recommendation shall state the vote of the committee.

7. The Board's meeting agenda shall be established by the president or a person designated by the president. Agenda items may be suggested by individual directors, the general secretary, and any group or individual listed under paragraph D.1. of *Rotary Code* section 28.005. A director may place an item on the agenda during the course of a meeting. Every effort shall be made to distribute such late item(s) to the Board a day before its consideration or, at the request of any director, its consideration may be delayed until after a recess of at least one hour.
8. The president shall establish the order of consideration of agenda items, subject to revision by the Board.
9. A Board meeting committee shall make every effort to finish its consideration of its assigned items within the specified time period; items not considered by that time shall go to the full Board without a committee recommendation.
10. A director's primary responsibility is to his own committee. However, he is encouraged to attend other committee meetings when his interest or expertise on a particular subject would assist the committee in its deliberations.
11. Unless there is a matter deserving extended consideration by all, or unless a director has some information which was not available to the committee during its consideration of the matter, Directors should normally be content with a brief discussion of items that have already been fully considered by a committee of their peers.
12. The general secretary shall provide an action report on those Board decisions which require implementation or follow-up, such report shall be provided at each meeting of the Board.
13. So that each director shall be informed of the items that will probably be discussed by the Board in the near future, the advance memorandum shall also include a tentative agenda for the next meeting of the Board. (*July 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 10*)

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 9; Amended by August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 37; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 247; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 37; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41; July 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 10

28.010. Selection Methods for Directors

The selection of a director should be conducted in a dignified, responsible manner in harmony with the principles of Rotary. Activities in support of a Rotarian suggested to the nominating committee for director in a zone as a candidate for director should be limited to the submission of the official suggestion form, required photograph and biographical data by the proposing club.

If the nominating committee for director believes that efforts on behalf of a suggested candidate for director exceed the scope of a dignified, responsible suggestion of the candidate, it is the prerogative of the committee to disregard the proposal of such suggested candidate. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85

28.010.1. Declaration of Duties and Responsibilities of RI Directors

Each candidate for director, and conveners of director nominating committees, shall be provided with a summary of the duties and responsibilities of Directors as set out in the RI Bylaws and in the *Rotary Code of Policies*. The prescribed form used in suggesting candidates for director shall include a signed declaration by the candidate that he or she has read, understands, and is willing to comply with such duties and responsibilities as they may be amended from time to time. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 318; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53

28.010.2. No Eligible Past Governor Available to Serve on Nominating Committee

Where there is no past governor available for election in a district who meets the qualifications provided in RI Bylaws section 12.020.2., a past governor who is not otherwise ineligible for membership on the committee may serve if the current governor certifies to the general secretary in writing that there are no past governors available for election from that district who meet the qualifications of RI Bylaws section 12.020.2. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 313

28.010.3. Expenses of Nominating Committee

The general secretary shall budget US\$1,500 for each convener of a director nominating committee, which may be used to offset costs of meeting room rental, coffee breaks, and one meal for the committee during its meeting, as well as for out-of-pocket postage, copying, telephone and miscellaneous expenses incurred in making arrangements for the committee meeting, and which may be reimbursed upon submission of an expense report form.

RI will not reimburse the expenses of nominating committee members other than the convenor. Each district is encouraged to meet expenses of nominating committee members. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 16; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 57; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

28.010.4. Guidelines for the Functioning of the Nominating Committee

A. Prior to the Meeting

1. The convener shall make the necessary arrangements for the committee to meet at the time (which shall be between the fifteenth and thirtieth days of September) and place decided by the Board of Directors of RI.
2. As soon as possible following the final date (1 September) for receipt by the convener of forms from clubs submitting the names of suggested candidates for consideration by the nominating committee, the convener shall send to the other members of the committee copies of the suggestion forms filed with the convener.

3. There should be no other communication or exchange of information between members of the committee regarding a suggested candidate, prior to the meeting of the committee.
4. Prior to the time of the meeting, members of the committee, in reviewing the qualifications of a suggested candidate, should consider only the information provided in the official suggestion form. So that candidates may be considered on an equal basis, the nominating committee, and the individual members of the committee, should not take into consideration supplementary brochures, circulars, statements, etc., which may be attached to the official suggestion form or otherwise received by the members of the committee.
5. Personal interviews of candidates are not required. However, if the majority of the committee determines that interviews should be offered to all candidates at their expense, they shall be so notified no later than two weeks before the scheduled meeting of the nominating committee. If the committee decides to interview candidates, it must take care that no candidate is disadvantaged because of an inability to come for an interview.

B. The Meeting

1. After the convener has called the meeting to order and reviewed the responsibility of the committee and the work at hand, the first order of business should be the selection of a chair from among the members of the committee. It shall be the duty of the committee chair to ensure that the following criteria are carefully observed and adhered to by the committee.
2. The committee should thoroughly review the qualifications of each candidate. Committee members are encouraged to share their personal knowledge of candidates with one another. The chair, or a committee member appointed by the chair, may contact a candidate to ascertain correct information concerning the candidate's qualifications.
3. The committee should consider, but is not limited to, the following criteria in selecting its candidate:
 - a. Is the candidate a good speaker and able to communicate well?
 - b. Has the candidate demonstrated good leadership ability and relate well to others?
 - c. Do family or work responsibilities prevent the candidate from giving the time necessary to serving effectively as a member of the Board of Directors of RI?
 - d. Is the candidate in good health so as to serve ably as a RI director?
 - e. Has the candidate been active in Rotary beyond the district level and continued to serve Rotary at all levels?
 - f. Has the candidate demonstrated a broad knowledge of Rotary and a strong commitment to the total program of Rotary?
 - g. If married, has the candidate's spouse been supportive of Rotary activities?
 - h. What ideas does the candidate have for changes and improvements in Rotary?

4. A majority of the members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The transaction of all business shall be by majority vote, except that in selecting the committee's nominee for director, the nominees for director and alternate must receive at least the same number of votes as the number which constitutes no less than a 60 percent majority of the committee.
5. The committee should select an alternate candidate, in the event the candidate who is the first choice of the committee subsequently is unable to serve. The name of the alternate candidate shall be kept confidential.
6. Prior to the adjournment of the meeting of the committee, the chair, on behalf of the committee, should contact by telephone the candidate selected by the committee to determine that person's willingness and ability to serve as director of RI if nominated and elected.

C. Subsequent to the Meeting

1. Immediately following the meeting of the committee, the chair shall notify by telephone or fax all the candidates suggested by clubs for consideration by the committee of its selection of the candidate for nomination as director of RI.
2. As soon as possible following the adjournment of the meeting of the committee, the chair shall telephone or telefax to the general secretary the name and address and acceptance of the nominee. The chair shall later file with the general secretary of RI the written report of the committee naming its selection of a candidate for nomination as director of RI, including an indication that the named candidate has been contacted by the committee and has indicated willingness and ability to serve as director of RI if nominated and elected. The report should also state that, to the best of the committee's knowledge, the selected candidate has not violated RI's rules against campaigning for office. In accordance with provisions of the Bylaws of RI, the written report of the nominating committee must be filed so as to be in the hands of the general secretary no later than ten days following the meeting of the committee.
3. The proposal forms for the candidate selected and the alternate selection shall be transmitted to the general secretary together with the committee's report of its selection; and the proposal forms for the remainder of candidates proposed shall also be transmitted to the general secretary to be destroyed not earlier than the second day of December. The name of the alternate candidate shall otherwise be kept confidential.
4. Members of the committee are not to discuss with anyone their deliberations within the committee at any time or reveal the name of the nominee until after all candidates have been notified. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

28.020. Directors-elect

28.020.1. Director-elect Orientation

During the year before they begin their term of service on the Board, RI Directors shall receive informative mailings from the Secretariat and receive an orientation at the World Headquarters, supervised by the president-elect and general secretary. Directors-elect shall also attend as observers the last meeting of the Board prior to taking office.

As part of the annual orientation for Directors-elect, information regarding the role and responsibilities of the Board should be emphasized. The general secretary should include information regarding the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of members of a non-profit board, and update Directors as necessary throughout the year.

The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation are requested to consider giving the Directors-elect an orientation on the Foundation and the operations of the Trustees during each International Assembly. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47*)

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 334; November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 63; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 318; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47

28.020.2. Directors-elect on RI Committees

Incoming RI Directors should not serve on any RI standing committees during their year as director-elect. However, the president for that year may waive this requirement as appropriate. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 13

28.030. Meetings

28.030.1. Location of Board Meeting

Board meetings shall normally be held at the World Headquarters or in the vicinity of the site of the International Assembly or International Convention. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 363. See also May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 458 and August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43

28.030.2. Dates and Places of Board Meetings

The Board shall review and determine the dates and places of meetings of the Board annually at its November meeting preceding the Rotary year in which the meetings will be held. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194*)

Source: February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 267

28.030.3. Duration of Board Meeting

Each meeting of the Board shall be arranged for a week, two days to be devoted to Board committee meetings and the remaining days to be devoted to the sessions of the Board. Such schedule will provide further time for the consideration of the larger issues of Rotary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1925 Mtg., Bd. Dec. VII(b)

28.030.4. Voting by Mail Ballot

The use of the ballot-by-mail method of voting by the members of the Board should be restricted to those cases of extreme urgency that do not involve the establishment of any new policy, and that cannot be delayed until the next meeting of the Board. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310)*

Source: June 1933 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27

28.030.5. Prior Review of Board Items By Committee

- The Administration, Finance, Programs, and Executive Committee of the Board shall consider all items referred to it by the president in accordance with section 28.005. G. 5. and 6.
- A Board committee shall make every effort to finish its consideration of its assigned items within the specified time period. Items not considered by that time shall go to the full Board without a committee recommendation.
- After completing their committee work, Directors are encouraged to attend other Board committee meetings as observers.
- Unless there is a matter deserving extended consideration by all, or unless a director has some information which such director is reasonably certain was not available to the committee during its consideration of the matter, Directors should normally be content with a brief discussion of items that have already been fully considered by a committee of their peers. *(November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61)*

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61

28.030.6. Deadlines for Board Consideration of Committee Recommendations

Recommendations from RI committees that are received by the general secretary less than thirty (30) days before a Board meeting shall not be considered by that meeting, unless the president, taking into consideration the expressed views of the liaison director to that committee or any other member of the Board, determines that the subject matter is too urgent to wait until the next Board meeting. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168

28.030.7. Open Forum

If possible, the president shall hold an open forum of the Board at each Board meeting when, in his opinion, there are any issues that merit informal discussion. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310)*

Source: July 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

28.030.8. Closed Sessions at Board Meetings

The Board shall have a closed session at each of its regular meetings, unless the Board specifically decides not to have one at a particular meeting. All such sessions are to be

attended by all members of the Board and, when requested, the general secretary, who may, with the permission of the Board, be accompanied by such senior staff persons as the general secretary deems necessary for all or part of a session. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254

28.030.9. Manual of Information for the Board of Directors

The Board has recommended several procedures for handling its business at its meetings, with the understanding that the recommendations are not intended to limit or inhibit the right and responsibility of each director to submit relevant matters to the agenda of each Board meeting or through the president to each Board committee meeting. The general secretary is requested to include these procedures in the “Manual of Information for the Board of Directors of Rotary International,” modifying or revising similar or related material in the “Manual,” as need be, to create a unified, coherent policy statement on this matter. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168

28.030.10. Board Interaction with Staff

The following plan shall be followed in an effort to continue the good and productive relationship between the Board, the general secretary and the staff.

If feasible, at each meeting in Evanston of the Executive Committee, time will be allotted for an informal discussion of items of mutual interest between the committee and the general secretary and those senior managers who report to the general secretary.

Once each year, if feasible, the president will arrange with the general secretary to hold an informal meeting in Evanston of the Board and the general secretary and all senior managers, as defined by the general secretary, to discuss matters of mutual concern.

The president, in consultation with the general secretary, shall determine the items to be discussed at each meeting, after each has conferred with all Directors and senior staff respectively.

It is understood that other persons may be added to the meetings referred to above, as appropriate, at the discretion of the president and the general secretary.

If feasible, Directors should consult the appropriate Senior Manager before bringing to the Secretariat staff new assignments or requests for information or assistance. This procedure will maintain staff priorities, responsibilities and accountability. However, this procedure is not necessary when a regular working relationship on a similar matter has been previously established between a director and a staff member. A director may continue to use the corporate services division to convey the new request to a senior manager. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136

28.030.11. Post-Board Meeting Activities

The general secretary shall ensure that all decisions taken by the Board at its meetings are distributed to Directors for confirmation prior to the adjournment of the meeting. The general secretary shall provide printed minutes of Board meetings, within 60 days following each meeting of the Board. Appendices to the minutes shall be filed only with the official copy of the minutes only if the decision of the Board to which such appendix relates specifically states that such appendix is to be filed only with the official copy of the minutes. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 282; June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 404; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 120; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

28.030.12. Effective Date of Board Decisions

Board decisions shall become effective immediately upon adjournment of each Board meeting, with the exception of the first meeting of the Board, decisions from which are effective on or after 1 July. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 404

28.030.13. Implementation of Board Decisions

The general secretary shall provide an action report on those Board decisions which require implementation or follow-up, such report shall be provided at each meeting of the Board. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405

28.030.14. Board “Highlights” on RI Web site

After each Board meeting, highlights of Board decisions that significantly affect RI policy shall be included on the RI Web site. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

28.030.15. Board Minutes on RI Web Site

Board minutes shall be placed on the RI Web site within 60 days of the meeting, except for those appendices that are designated “to be filed only with the official copy of the minutes,” which shall be made available to Rotarians upon request, in accordance with RI Bylaws section 5.020. Minutes posted prior to their approval by the Board shall contain notice that the minutes are in draft form only, subject to approval by the Board. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

28.030.16. Parliamentary Procedures for Board Meetings

The Board has adopted the following parliamentary procedures for the conduct of its meetings. The current edition of *Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised* shall be the Board’s parliamentary authority on matters not addressed below:

Simplified Chart of Parliamentary Motions

Motion	Requires Second	Debatable	Amendable	Vote
Adjourn	Yes	No	No	Majority
Recess	Yes	No	Yes	Majority
Close Debate	Yes	No	No	2/3
Defer (or Postpone Definitely)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Refer to Committee	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Amend the Amendment	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Amend or Substitute	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Withdraw (or Postpone Indefinitely)	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Main Motion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority
Reconsider	Yes	Yes	No	Majority
Rescind	Yes	Yes	Yes	Majority

Motions Dealing with the General Conduct of the Meeting				
No Order of Precedence				
Parliamentary Inquiry	No	No	No	None
Point of Order	No	No	No	None
Withdraw or Modify a Motion	No	No	No	Majority
Divide the Motion	No	No	Yes	Majority

(November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55

28.030.17. Computer Training and Electronic Communication

Computer hardware, software, and training shall be provided to members of the Board at their request. Such hardware and software may be retained by such senior leaders after their terms of service for use in support of the association's activities.

Upon request and when feasible, Directors shall be furnished with published Rotary manuals, learning aides or information that has been prepared for use by the Board, such as advance memoranda, draft decisions, reports and similar information, in electronic form. Directors may receive training at the World Headquarters in the use of electronic mail. *(June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245)*

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229; *Amended by* February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 351

28.040. Travel and Appearances

The general secretary is instructed to prepare and confirm appropriate arrangements to receive and recognize the officers and members of the Board at any meetings, gatherings or receptions to which they may be invited. Such arrangements include, but are not limited to, appropriate seating arrangements, translation service, assistance in conformity with local customs and similar matters. Extreme care should be taken not to schedule events that may affect the time required for the Board to transact its business.

General officers and incoming general officers shall be appropriately informed by the president with respect to events they may be required or expected to attend, as well as those at which their attendance would not be appropriate, with such information to be clearly provided to each such person in order to avoid possible embarrassment. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

28.040.1. Invitations to Speak

Travels and speaking engagements by members of the Board need not be specifically approved by the president but should not conflict with the president's travel plans. To avoid conflicts in speaking engagements, Board members shall keep the general secretary informed of their travel plans and shall obtain from the general secretary information on the president's travel plans and those of other Board members. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76

28.040.2. Expenses for Club and District Visits

RI does not reimburse Directors or past Directors for unlimited travel and housing. Therefore, when clubs and districts invite Directors to an event, such clubs and districts should pay the reasonable travel and lodging expenses of the Directors. However, clubs and districts should not otherwise be expected to contribute, or be asked by any person or group to contribute, to the personal or program expenses of Directors, but may contribute on a voluntary basis toward the operating costs of Rotary institutes. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

28.040.3. Group Travel by Officers and Board of Directors

Whenever current or incoming Directors travel as a group, they shall travel in more than one group, each group to be transported separately. Except when the president deems it to be not practicable, he shall not be transported together with the president-elect or the vice-president. (*August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47*)

Source: May 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 10; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47

28.050. Spouse Training and Attendance at Rotary Meetings

Spouses of Directors must be informed of current developments in the international association, including the operations of the Secretariat, and therefore, the general secretary is requested to develop a program for directors' spouses who attend Board meetings in Evanston which includes, but is not limited to, instructional sessions, seminars, public service programs, and presentations from senior managers and other relevant staff as determined by the general secretary regarding developments in Rotary programming, events, meetings and Secretariat operations, which programs should constitute a substantial portion of the spouse's activities at such meetings. Where such spouses do not attend such sessions, the general secretary is

requested to treat the travel expenses of such spouses as personal expenses. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 337*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 337

Cross References

57.150. Role of RI Board and Spouses at the International Convention

58.040.9. Responsibilities of Board of Directors at the International Assembly

58.040.10. Responsibilities of Spouses at International Assembly

59.030.1. Board of Directors Role at Council on Legislation

61.030.5. Role of the RI Board at Regional Conferences

28.060. Relationship Between Directors and Governors

Directors represent all clubs in the administration of Rotary. Governors are under the general supervision of only the Board. However, because of the director's place of residence and familiarity with the zone, a special relationship exists between the director and the governors of districts in the zone from which the director has been nominated or the zone that alternates with it. Consistent with the basic roles of RI officers, the special relationship between Directors and governors can enhance the program of Rotary. Individual Directors should advise the Board in matters coming to the Board for which familiarity with the associated locale, its customs, practices and individuals would be helpful. Directors and governors should exchange information on district activities and Board action. Governors should consult informally with appropriate Directors about such matters as interpretation of Board action, serious district or inter-district problems or possible future formal communication to the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 267

28.070. Relationship Between Directors and Trustees of The Rotary Foundation

The Board and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, recognizing the powers and duties of each body without relinquishment of any such powers, duties and responsibilities, approve the following statement of relationship between the Board and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation as a means of establishing mutual understanding and cooperation between both bodies. A joint committee of the Board and of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation is established composed of a minimum of three and a maximum of five directors and an equal number of trustees, appointed respectively by the president and the Foundation chairman. The committee shall serve until 30 June of the year for which it is appointed. The president and the Foundation chairman shall have the power to fill any vacancy occurring by death, resignation, disability, removal or otherwise. Members of the committee may be re-appointed. The committee, by agreement of the president and the Foundation chairman, shall meet to consider matters of mutual interest, and shall report and submit its recommendations to the Board and Trustees for their decisions. Proposed programs, projects or activities of The Rotary Foundation may be initiated by the Board or Trustees, with the Trustees having the primary responsibility for developing such programs, projects or activities.

By agreement, the Board and the Trustees may concur on a specific Foundation program, project or activity to be implemented by the Board, as agent of the Trustees, or by the Foundation, or by both in cooperation.

Proposals to amend Article 12 of the Constitution and Article 22 of the RI Bylaws as well as resolutions related to The Rotary Foundation will not be offered by the Board without prior agreement of the Trustees. Proposed enactments or resolutions of the same kind offered by others than the Board will be the subject of joint consideration by the Board and the Trustees, prior to the meetings of the Council or the convention.

As the policy-making body of RI, the Board shall be responsible to:

- sponsor or approve the programs, projects or activities of The Rotary Foundation proposed by the Trustees, before their promulgation or funding, for the furtherance of any philanthropic, charitable, educational or eleemosynary purpose, object, movement or institution sponsored or approved by RI;
- approve by resolution expenditures from The Rotary Foundation income for such Foundation programs, projects or activities and approve by resolution expenditures from the corpus of the Foundation, in all cases after such expenditures have been approved by the majority of the Trustees. This is not required where specific use of the assets has been prescribed by the donors;
- encourage RI officers and all Rotarians to support the Foundation's programs, projects and activities through personal involvement and financial contributions, and to promote Foundation programs, projects and activities through club, district and international meetings, leadership development and educational programs and publications. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 410

28.070.1. Future RI General Officers Serving as Trustees

It is not appropriate for a future General Officer of Rotary International to serve at the same time as a Trustee of The Rotary Foundation and, therefore, the Board has strongly encouraged Trustees who have been declared by the RI president to be the RI president-nominee or a director-nominee to resign from the TRF Board of Trustees effective immediately following the president's declaration. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136

28.070.2. Liaisons at Board and Trustees Meetings

The RI president is requested to appoint a liaison director to Foundation Trustees' meetings. The Board shall invite a liaison trustee appointed by the trustee chairman to attend all Board meetings. (*February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295; *Affirmed by* November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

28.080. Conflict of Interest Policy

The RI Board has adopted a "Conflict of Interest Policy" for general officers as follows:

I. Statement of Policy

A. No member of the Board of Directors of Rotary International shall use his or her position, or the knowledge gained therefrom, in such a manner that a conflict between the interest of Rotary International and his or her personal interest arises.

B. Each Board member has a duty to place the interest of Rotary International foremost in any dealings with the organization and has a continuing responsibility to comply with the requirements of this policy.

C. The conduct of personal business between a member of the Board or of a committee and Rotary International is prohibited.

D. Loans or indirect extensions of credit by Rotary International to a member of the Board or of a committee are prohibited.

E. If a Board member has an interest in a proposed transaction with Rotary International in the form of any personal financial interest in the transaction or in any organization involved in the transaction, or holds a position of trustee, director, or officer in any such organization, he or she must make full disclosure of such interest to the President (or in the case of the President, to the Executive Committee Chairman) before any discussion or negotiation of such transaction. If a director is aware that another director has an undisclosed potential conflict of interest in a proposed transaction with Rotary International he or she must inform the President (or if the other director is the President, to the Executive Committee Chairman) as soon as possible.

F. Any member of the Board or of a committee who is aware of a potential conflict of interest with respect to any matter coming before the Board or a committee shall not be present for any discussion of or vote in connection with the matter. The existence and nature of the potential conflict of interest shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

G. Each member of the Board must disclose any family or business relationship that he or she has with another member of the Board, Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, key employees or highest compensated independent contractors of Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation as those individuals or firms are identified annually by the general secretary.

II. Disclosure

To implement this policy, Board members of Rotary International will submit annual reports on the attached form entitled "Potential Conflict of Interest Statement" and, if not previously disclosed, will make disclosure of all potential conflicts of interest prior to any relevant Board or committee action. These reports will be reviewed by the Executive Committee, which will attempt to resolve any actual or potential conflicts and, in the absence of resolution, refer the matter to the Board of Directors. A potential conflict of interest will be deemed to exist upon an affirmative vote of a majority of the directors voting in the decision. The director with the potential conflict of interest shall not be present for the vote. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53*)

28.090. Code of Ethics

1. Directors will adhere to applicable laws and regulations in the conduct of Rotary business as well as in their personal lives. As a corporate business entity, Rotary International is subject to the laws of the various jurisdictions in which it conducts business. The Board should adhere to applicable law in order to protect the assets and mission of the association. In addition, in conducting their private lives, directors should adhere to applicable law in order to preserve and protect the positive image of Rotary.
2. Directors will adhere to the provisions of RI's constitutional documents. Board members have a legal obligation to follow the provisions of RI's constitutional documents. Moreover, these documents embody the democratic will of Rotary's membership as represented at the triennial Council on Legislation. Through these documents the membership has established standards expected of the Board. Adherence to their terms garners the trust of the membership and assures that actions are taken consistent with members' expectations.
3. Directors will adhere to the provisions of the policies established by the Board as documented in the *Rotary Code of Policies*. Over the years, the Board has established policies and procedures, documented in the *Rotary Code of Policies*, to further the aims of the association as well as to protect its mission. Many of these provisions are designed to assure good governance and promote an ethical image. Adhering to these policies demonstrates a commitment to these ideals while protecting the association.
4. Directors will serve for the benefit of Rotarians and the purposes of RI. Directors will follow the requirements of the Board's Policy on Conflicts of Interest. Directors have a duty of loyalty to RI. They should put the interests of the association first. The Board has adopted a Conflicts of Interest Policy that is designed to preclude even the appearance of any impropriety as to Board action. This assures continued confidence by Rotarians in their Board.
5. Directors will not utilize their office for personal prestige and/or benefit. With the authority inherent in an office of importance comes access to special privileges not available to other Rotarians. Taking advantage of such privilege distracts from critical responsibilities and calls into question the commitment to the Objects of Rotary.
6. Directors will exercise due care in the diligent performance of their obligations to the association. By law, directors have a duty of care to the association. Directors should perform their responsibilities with such care, including reasonable inquiry, as ordinarily prudent persons in like positions would use under similar circumstances. Directors should inform themselves, prior to making a business decision, of all material information reasonably available to them.
7. Directors will take actions based on an essential fairness to all concerned. Directors are often faced with decisions that will significantly impact various Rotarian groups and individuals. So as to maintain the confidence of Rotarians that the Board acts fairly and in the best interests of the association, Directors, in a manner consistent with the 4-Way Test, should weigh the potential impact of their decisions and treat equally all persons who will be affected.
8. Directors will promote transparency of important financial information. Directors are the stewards of the association acting on behalf of Rotary clubs and Rotarians. Rotarians have a

right to access accurate information regarding the financial condition of the association. Transparency in financial operations encourages ethical behavior.

9. Directors will prohibit and restrict the disclosure, communication, and utilization of confidential and proprietary information. In fulfilling their responsibilities as members of the Board, directors necessarily have access to confidential and proprietary information. As part of their duty of loyalty, directors should utilize this information only for intended purposes, never for personal ones, and take precautions against accidental disclosure.

10. Directors will comply with expense reimbursement policies. The Board has adopted a policy on the procedures for reimbursement of Rotary related expenditures. Following these procedures ensures compliance with applicable laws and precludes the appearance of impropriety.

11. Directors will interact with RI and TRF staff in a professional and respectful manner and shall understand and abide by Rotary International's non-harassment policy. Directors come into regular contact with RI and TRF staff. Maintaining a professional and harassment free work environment is essential for staff to successfully perform their responsibilities in providing service to Rotarians. Moreover, harassment in the workplace can put the assets of the organization at risk. The General Secretary has developed a policy for prevention of harassment in the workplace. What constitutes acceptable interaction may vary among the different cultures represented on the Board and in the Secretariat. The harassment policy provides guidance on what is proper interaction with staff. Board members should be familiar with and adhere to the policy so as to avoid even unintentional improper interaction.

12. Directors will adhere to this Code of Ethics, encourage other board members to do so as well and report any suspected or potential violations to the General Secretary or the President. The efficacy of this Code of Ethics is dependent on compliance of the Board. By self-monitoring and encouraging other Board members to comply with the Policy, the Board can assure that the goals of the Policy will be accomplished. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272

28.090.1. Implementation

The Code of Ethics shall be distributed to and reviewed with directors-elect as part of their orientation session. It will also be provided to directors at least annually. Each director will annually acknowledge that he has read the Code and understands and will comply with his responsibilities hereunder.

The Code of Ethics will be made available to all Rotarians upon request and will be published on RI's Web site. Additionally, the Code will be published in RI's annual report, or alternatively, the annual report may refer readers to the version published on RI's Web site. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272

28.090.2. Interpretation and Enforcement

When made aware of a potential or alleged violation of the Code of Ethics, the General Secretary and the President will provide available details to the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee will then obtain all relevant information and take such action as it deems appropriate, including providing counsel to the alleged violator and providing recommendations to the Board for corrective action. Only the Board may take disciplinary action against a director, consistent with RI's constitution and bylaws and the *Rotary Code of Policies*. (June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272

28.100. Indemnification of RI Directors and Officers

The Board has adopted the following statement pursuant to its authority under Article 23 of the RI Bylaws:

Rotary International shall indemnify all of its present and former directors and officers to the full extent permitted by the Illinois General Not for Profit Corporation Act of 1986, or any successor legislation adopted by the State of Illinois of the United States of America, the relevant indemnification provisions of which act are hereby incorporated herein by reference. In addition, Rotary International may, upon approval of the directors, indemnify any committee member or agent of Rotary International to the full extent permitted under the said General Not for Profit Corporation Act. Rotary International shall also cause to be purchased insurance for such indemnification of its officers and directors to the full extent determined from time to time by the directors of Rotary International. (March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 206

Cross Reference

71.050. Liability Coverage for RI Directors and Officers

28.110. Information Provided to the Board

The general secretary will provide to each RI Board member at the first meeting of the new RI Board of Directors the following:

- a. A summary of the key management positions and incumbents within the Secretariat including the general secretary, assistant general secretary, general managers, Foundation general manager, chief legal counsel and at least one level below each of these key personnel, such summary to include the reporting characteristics of the positions (who they report to and who reports directly to them)
- b. An executive summary of employee compensation and benefits
- c. A summary of strategic goals and objectives and performance measures established for each general manager and/or department for the ensuing year
- d. A summary of the strategic goals and objectives for the general secretary for the ensuing year
- e. The terms and provisions of the general secretary's employment contract and any pertinent addendums on request (June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 267)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 267



Article 29. Other Current and Past Officers Of RI

- 29.010.** President-elect
- 29.020.** President-nominee
- 29.030.** Vice-President
- 29.040.** Treasurer
- 29.050.** Past Presidents
- 29.060.** Definition of Past Officer of RI
- 29.070.** Improper Conduct by Current or Past Officers
- 29.080.** Guidelines for Aides to RI Officers

29.010. President-elect

29.010.1. Duties

The president-elect of RI:

- 1) should work closely and harmoniously with the president and president-nominee to maintain the stability and continuity of the leadership of the president;
- 2) should be prepared to accept assignments from the president, including participation in as many Rotary institutes as feasible;
- 3) has the responsibility to devote appropriate time and effort in preparing himself for his year of leadership of the organization;
- 4) moves into the president-elect's office at the World Headquarters;
- 5) shall be provided with appropriate financial and staff support;
- 6) shall be responsible for the direction, planning and supervision of all aspects of the International Assembly, including the assembly budget;
- 7) shall assist in the preparation of the RI budget for the year he or she is president;
- 8) shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of the Finance Committee of RI;
- 9) meets with general secretary to begin the process of formal planning of his or her term as president and begins work with members of the staff to carry out this planning;
- 10) attends all Board meetings;
- 11) begins planning his convention;
 - a) meets with the general secretary to determine staff who are to assist with convention planning;
 - b) determines committee meeting dates for convention planning;

- c) may include in the International Assembly program specific directives for the governors-elect to promote the convention in their year as governors.
- 12) By careful appointment of a moderator, ensures that incoming district governors are properly instructed at the International Assembly.
- 13) excuses governor-elect attendance at the International Assembly.
- 14) discusses with the Board which committees should continue to be appointed in his or her year of office. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107. *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 284; June 2006 Mtg., Dec. 269. *See also* October 1993 Mtg., Bd., Dec. 48

29.010.2. Attendance at Institutes

The president-elect is encouraged to participate in some institutes each year in order to enhance knowledge and experience of the world of Rotary, and to provide opportunities for Rotary leaders at the zone level to gain greater knowledge and insight into the current and future directions of Rotary. It is, however, recognized that, given the president-elect's many duties and commitments, the president-elect may only be able to attend portions of institutes. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

29.010.3. Advance Committee Meetings

To prepare for the ensuing year, to effect a smooth transition from one president to another and to enhance the continuity of one Rotary year with the next, the president-elect may schedule committees which are to function during the next Rotary year to meet up to three months in advance of that year, which will allow for advance planning of the next year's program of emphasis. Such meetings should not interfere in any way with the current year's programs and meetings. The expenses of such meetings shall be charged to the succeeding fiscal year's budget. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 12; November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

29.010.4. President-elect's Travel Expenses

In all instances where payment is authorized for the expenses of the president-elect and spouse and the president-elect has no spouse, payment shall be authorized for an adult member of the president-elect's family at the discretion of the president-elect. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 10

29.010.5. Appointments to Rotary Foundation Trustees

The president-elect shall submit to the RI Board for approval no later than at its November meeting each year the names of the individuals he intends to appoint as Rotary Foundation Trustees, such appointments, as approved by the Board, to be formally

ratified by the president and the Board at the Board's first meeting of the next Rotary year. (*July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 8*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 309; Amended by July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 8

29.010.6. Appointment of Vice-President and Treasurer

Prior to appointing the vice-president and Treasurer for the ensuing year, the president-elect shall consult privately with individual Directors regarding the selection. The vice-president and Treasurer of the Board shall be selected from those individuals currently serving as first-year directors. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

Cross References

19.040.1. Governor-elect Attendance at International Assembly

27.050. RI Theme and Program Emphasis

29.020. President-nominee

29.020.1. Office Space

The president-nominee shall be provided with office space at Secretariat Headquarters, the International Assembly, and International Convention (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

29.020.2. Secretarial Support

Secretarial support shall be provided to the president-nominee, once he or she is officially declared president-nominee, and that such support shall be provided by existing staff at the Secretariat, to be determined by the general secretary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25

29.020.3. President-nominee Expenses

The expenses of the president-nominee of RI incident to his attendance at the final meeting of the Board, the International Assembly and the convention will be paid by RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 179

29.020.4. Orientation at International Assembly

One or two past presidents as selected by the president shall provide the president-nominee with orientation at the International Assembly regarding the authority and responsibility of the president. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317

29.030. Vice-President

The vice-president shall:

- 1) perform such assignments as may be requested by the president;
- 2) keep informed of major aspects of the office of president in preparation to assume the office;
- 3) assume chairmanship of the Board at any time by request of the president or in the event the president is unable for any reason to serve;
- 4) assist the president in Board meetings as directed by the president;
- 5) inform the president about the vice-president's whereabouts at all times including how the vice-president can be reached;
- 6) serve at the International Convention in such roles as may be determined by the president. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

29.040. Treasurer

29.040.1. Meetings with the General Secretary and Senior Financial Managers

The general secretary is requested to continue to arrange regular meetings between the Treasurer, the general secretary and senior financial managers at the World Headquarters at least three times a year, perhaps incident to the meetings of the Board. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156

29.040.2. Reports from the General Secretary

The general secretary shall keep the Treasurer informed on a monthly basis of the financial condition of RI and advise the Treasurer concerning those financial matters which require special attention. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

29.040.3. Preparing Five-Year Budget Forecast

The Treasurer shall cooperate in the preparation of a five-year budgetary forecast of income and expenditures. The general secretary shall be prepared to recommend responses to budget trends and indicated fiscal actions for consideration by the Finance Committee and the Board.

The Treasurer and the Finance Committee are expected to advise the Board based on the five-year budgetary forecast goals and alternative actions for achieving such goals. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

29.040.4. Convention Report

The Treasurer shall provide a report to the convention, noting that a) the auditor's report cannot be made until after the close of the RI fiscal year; b) a copy of the auditor's condensed report will be sent to each club; and c) additional copies will be available through the Secretariat. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129

29.040.5. Ex Officio Member of the Executive Committee of the Board

The Treasurer in each year shall be named as an *ex officio* member of the Executive Committee of the Board. (*July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 20*)

Source: June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

29.040.6. Reports to the Board

The Treasurer shall report on the status of finances at all Board meetings. (*August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: October-November 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 445

29.050. Past Presidents

All past presidents are encouraged to continue their active interest in Rotary. All possible courtesy and respect shall be extended to past presidents in connection with their attendance at the International Assembly and the International Convention in each year. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25

29.060. Definition of Past Officer of RI

Terms such as "past president," "past director," and "past governor" identify those who have served full terms in those offices except where the RI Board has, on the merits of individual cases, decided that something less than a full term may be deemed to have been a full term for purposes of these definitions and for purposes of qualifying to hold higher office in RI under provisions of the RI Bylaws. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: April-May 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 327

29.070. Improper Conduct by Current or Past Officers

If an allegation of wrong-doing or claim of improper conduct is received by any officer, member of the Board or the general secretary against any current or past officer, it must be referred to the president who will follow these procedures:

- 1) the president will acknowledge receipt of the allegation to the individual making the complaint, within 30 days of receipt;

- 2) the president will refer the allegation to the Executive Committee, if appropriate, for investigation of any wrong-doing or improper conduct. Every effort will be made to conduct such an investigation in confidence;
- 3) such investigation should include an interview of both the individual making the allegation and the individual who is the subject of the allegation;
- 4) the Executive Committee will determine if the allegation is valid and, if so, will recommend to the Board through the president a course of action for final action by the Board;
- 5) the final outcome of the investigation will be communicated by the president to both parties at the end of the investigation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155

29.080. Guidelines for Aides to RI Officers

The RI Board has adopted “Guidelines for Aides to RI Officers.” RI presidents, Directors, or Foundation Trustees may develop guidelines that are specific to their special travel needs and that vary from these guidelines.

The duties will vary depending on the duration of the stay and the type of activities planned. The overall responsibility is to be sure that the officer is comfortable, arrives on time for all events, and enjoys the visit.

The following guidelines are to be followed by the aide(s):

1. Before arrival, the aide’s responsibilities are to:

- a. Send information to the officer giving details about himself/herself, such as address, telephone and fax numbers, and name of spouse and photos, if possible;
- b. Inform officer of any special dress obligations (formal wear, etc.) during the time of the visit; ask for any specific requests from officer;
- c. Send the officer, or confirm that event organizers have sent, complete program for the entire time of the visit, including information on all presentations or speeches the officer will be expected to make and any other commitments, visits or activities in which he/she will be expected to participate, as well as general background on the host club(s) and/or district(s);
- d. Have information on hand as to medical help (hospital, doctor, dentist) for emergencies;
- e. Inquire about any special accommodation needs or preferences the officer may have (type of beds, smoking/non-smoking, etc.) and any dietary restrictions or allergies;
- f. Check hotel arrangements
 - 1) Pre-register officer (and spouse, if appropriate);
 - 2) Have key to deliver to the officer personally;
 - 3) Check room to make sure that it is ready for occupancy;
 - 4) Check billing instructions, so there are no problems with checkout. Be sure that arrangements for payment are clear. If the officer is expected to pay directly, be sure the officer is aware of this prior to check-in. Review the hotel bill on behalf of the officer;

- g. If there are registration materials and/or badges for the event, secure that material in advance and check to be sure names are spelled correctly and that all necessary material and information is included in the materials.

2. During the officer's stay, the aide's responsibilities are to:

- a. Meet the officer at the airport (or other point of arrival), assist with baggage as needed and provide transportation, as needed, throughout the visit;
- b. Be sure the officer knows how to contact you at all times during his/her stay;
- c. Be sure the officer knows the exact time he/she is to be picked up for any activity;
- d. Escort the officer and his/her spouse to each activity and stay with them at the activity. If possible, know the seating arrangements in advance and have your seats as close to them as possible;
- e. Introduce the officer to other participants and provide as many opportunities as possible for the officer to interact with other Rotarians and guests. However, it may also be necessary to be available to help move the officer through a crowd or prevent one person from monopolizing the officer;
- f. Be attentive to any need of officer and spouse during the activity; be protective and helpful, but not overbearing or intrusive;
- g. Handle any gifts or literature the officer may receive. If possible, make sure a business card is attached to these items. If necessary, send gifts to the officer's home or office following the event. Please also send a list of the gifts received with the complete name and address of the giver;
- h. Keep the event organizer(s) informed about any needs or desires of the officer;
- i. Do not plan any activities other than those already planned by the coordinator of the event, unless specifically asked to do so by the officer;
- j. Be ready for the unexpected; to the extent possible, anticipate situations; do not be afraid to ask officer what her/his wishes are;
- k. Be prepared to carry out various "ad hoc" responsibilities. For example, you may be called upon to serve as "photographer" for those wishing to have photos taken with the officer.

3. Following the event, the aide's responsibilities are to:

- a. Provide (or arrange) transportation back to the airport (or other point of departure) for the officer and spouse, including assistance with baggage;
- b. If needed, ship large gifts or mementos to the officer. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159*)

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60

29.080.1. Guidelines for the Selection of Aides to RI Officers

The RI Board has adopted "Guidelines for the Selection of Aides to RI Officers." RI presidents, Directors, or Foundation Trustees may develop guidelines that are specific to their special travel needs and that vary from these guidelines.

The role of the aide to the RI president or other RI officer is to provide assistance and information to the officer before, during and after the visit of the officer. The selection of

the aide should be based on the ability of the individual(s) to fulfill the responsibilities of the assignment. Please take the following guidelines into consideration when appointing a Rotarian to serve as the aide to a visiting RI officer.

The aide must

1. be a knowledgeable and experienced Rotarian, preferably a past district governor or past director, with an understanding of Rotary protocol, and be well-versed in host club/district activities and information;
2. be available to the officer throughout the visit/event;
3. have the stamina to maintain the demanding schedule of the event;
4. be well organized, punctual and patient;
5. be fluent in the language of the officer and able to provide interpretation if the officer is not conversant in the language used in the host area;
6. provide/arrange transportation for the officer, if needed;
7. be fully informed on the officer's schedule and needs;
8. be able to carry out all duties outlined in the "Guidelines for Aides to Rotary International Officer."

If the officer is bringing a spouse/partner, the spouse/partner of the aide should also be available for the entire event and willing to serve as aide to the officer's spouse/partner. *(February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159)*

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60



Article 30. RI Committees

- 30.010.** Purpose of Committees
- 30.020.** Types of Committees
- 30.030.** Meetings of Committees
- 30.040.** Committee Appointments
- 30.050.** Liaison Directors to Committees
- 30.060.** Executive Committee
- 30.065.** Standing Board Committees
- 30.070.** Finance Committee
- 30.075.** Operations Review Committee
- 30.080.** Audit Committee
- 30.090.** Annual and Ad Hoc Committees
- 30.100.** Committee Reports
- 30.110.** Committee Finances
- 30.120.** Resource Groups

30.010. Purpose of Committees

There should be a variety of resource groups, committees, work groups and similar action-oriented groups to address particular needs, obtain certain information, carry out specific tasks, or implement a definite Board policy within a set time. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

30.010.1. Advisory Role of Committees

Committees are, by their nature, solely advisory to the RI Board with no administrative function, except as their prescribed terms of reference may otherwise provide. RI committee and resource group chairs and members shall not approach other organizations on behalf of Rotary International to seek cooperative relationships or funding. RI committee and resource group chairs and members shall not organize or conduct regional or international meetings on behalf of Rotary International without written authorization from the president. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 206; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

30.020. Types of Committees

Following are three types of RI committees:

30.020.1. Standing Committees

A "Standing Committee" is a committee mandated in section 16.010. of the RI Bylaws.

30.020.2. Ad Hoc Committees

An "Ad Hoc Committee" is a non-mandatory committee established by the RI Board that shall continue in existence until its tasks are completed.

30.020.3. Special Committees

A "Special Committee" is a non-mandatory committee that shall continue in existence until the end of each Rotary year in which it is appointed. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 160*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 160

30.030. Meetings of Committees

Except as may be otherwise provided for in the RI Bylaws, or by specific action of the Board - such as in a committee's terms of reference - each committee of RI shall meet at such times and place as may be authorized and designated by the President, with due regard to the amount appropriated for contemplated meetings of the committee. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: May-June 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 269; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

30.030.1. Frequency and Length of Meetings

The frequency and length of committee meetings should be established annually by the president and the Board in consideration of available funds and the committees' responsibilities. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84

30.030.2. Venues for Committee Meetings

Meetings of RI committees shall normally be held at the World Headquarters. However, the president may authorize a committee to hold a meeting elsewhere. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: January 1946 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

30.030.3. Meetings by Correspondence

When a committee meets by correspondence, the report of such committee must be circulated to the entire committee, including the liaison director, if there is one. A majority of members must agree to the report before such report is forwarded to the Board for consideration. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 286

Cross References

27.010.5. Meetings and Visits on Date of Meeting of the Nominating Committee for President

30.040. Committee Appointments

30.040.1. President's Appointments

All appointments shall be made by the president, with the exception of appointments made by others pursuant to the constitutional documents of RI, the Foundation Bylaws,

or decisions of the Board. In addition, all volunteer appointments, regardless of the person making the appointment, should be made only after consultation with the president. When naming past RI officers to serve in volunteer positions, the president shall consult with the Directors in the areas from which such appointments are made. The president and members of the Board are strongly encouraged to consult with each other on such appointments and to offer advice and assistance whenever possible. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178*)

Source: November 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

30.040.2. President-elect's Appointments

The RI president-elect shall make appointments which become effective during the president-elect's presidency. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

30.040.3. Multi-Year Appointments

For appointments which become effective in one Rotary year and continue into one or more subsequent years, the president should consult with the successor(s) before making such appointments. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

30.040.4. Recommendations for Appointments

It is appropriate for the president and the president-elect to solicit and consider suitable appointees recommended by current, past, and incoming RI general officers, as well as by others. The following procedures and timetable should be followed for presidential appointments:

- a. the president-elect should solicit recommendations at the earliest possible time for individuals to be considered for appointments to serve during the year he/she is president;
- b. the deadline for submission of such recommendations should be 31 August of the year prior to the year in which the appointments are effective;
- c. the president-elect is requested to prepare a list of all names suggested for appointment and to send a list for each zone to the appropriate director for that zone for review at least 30 days in advance of the October/November Board meeting;
- d. each director will respond within fourteen days of receipt of the list, providing to the president-elect, on a confidential basis, his/her advice concerning those individuals who in his/her opinion are inappropriate to receive an appointment for the following year and information, when known, on the skills and experiences of the individuals listed;
- e. in order to comply with RI Bylaws sections 16.010. and 16.020., the president-elect shall submit the proposed committee structure for the following year to the Board for review at its October/November meeting. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 44; November 1999 Mtg., Dec. 208; *Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*

30.040.5. Terms of Appointment

RI committees (other than standing) shall have six members who shall serve staggered three-year terms, with exceptions to be determined by the president. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

30.040.6. Internationality and Diversity of Committee Appointments

The president is encouraged to make appointments that reflect the internationality of Rotary insofar as they are consistent with the purpose of the appointments. RI presidents should consider diversity in terms of age, gender, ethnicity, and geographic area in making the following appointments: RI committee members, RI committee chairs, RI training leaders, Rotary Foundation Trustees. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

30.040.7. Consideration of Expertise or Skills

The president is requested to consider appointing to RI committees Rotarians with specialty or technical skills, whether they have served as a governor, and to ensure that all presidential appointments take into account the professional expertise or skills that are needed for each of the assignments. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91

30.040.8. Appointments of Rotarians with Financial Obligations to RI

Any Rotarian who has been notified by the general secretary that he or she has a financial obligation to RI or TRF in excess of US\$100 that has been outstanding for more than 90 days

- a) shall be ineligible for any Rotary appointments or assignments that require the approval of the Board until these obligations have been met to the satisfaction of the RI Audit Committee;
- b) shall be ineligible to have any payments made on their behalf by RI or TRF or to receive reimbursement for expenses incurred on RI or TRF business until such financial obligation has been repaid.

It is recommended that those Rotarians who have an outstanding financial obligation to RI in excess of US\$100 for more than 90 days, not receive any RI presidential appointments or assignments, or any Rotary Foundation appointments or assignments, until all outstanding financial obligations have been resolved to the satisfaction of the Board. It is also recommended that a Rotarian who has outstanding financial obligations in excess of US\$100 for more than 180 days be removed from any current appointment or assignment by the responsible appointer. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 296; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218. Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 422; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 336; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

30.040.9. Notification to Directors of Appointments

Each director shall be provided with a list of Rotarians appointed to any committee or other assignment in his or her zone. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec 72

30.040.10. Appointments of Governor with Outstanding Financial Reports

Upon receiving notice that a governor has failed to submit the annual statement and report required by RI bylaws 15.060.4., the general secretary shall notify the governor that unless the statement and report are received by the general secretary within 90 days, the governor shall be ineligible for future RI and TRF appointments and assignments until the statement and report are submitted. The general secretary shall notify the RI president and chairman of the Trustees of those governors who are not in compliance with the above requirement. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 336; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

30.050. Liaison Directors to Committees

The president's appointment of a Board member to serve as liaison director to a particular RI committee provides a necessary channel of communication between the Board and the committees. Thus, when the president deems it advisable, the liaison director should attend the appropriate committee meetings. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96. Amended by May-June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321

30.050.1. Involvement in Meetings

There shall be only one liaison director assigned to a particular committee. When authorized by the president, the liaison director shall attend the meeting of the committee strictly in the capacity of a liaison and generally, as an observer. While the director may respond to requests for information, the director shall not debate any matter before the committee or participate in forming of decisions. The liaison director shall ensure that the deliberations and recommendations of the committee fully comply with the committee's terms of reference.

No meetings to which a liaison director is assigned shall be held when a Board meeting is being held. Dates of such committee meetings shall not be changed without the approval of the president and in consultation with the liaison director. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96. Amended by May-June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321. See also November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 66

30.050.2. Committee Reports

Liaison Directors shall present the committee report to the Board. The liaison director may be expected to communicate the committee's thinking and deliberations as contained in the formal written report or as otherwise known in the capacity as liaison director. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96. Amended by May-June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321

30.050.3. Liaison Directors' Expenses

Appropriation shall be made in the annual RI budget to cover all expenses of the liaison director in traveling to and from the committee meetings. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96. Amended by May-June 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321

30.050.4. Liaison Directors' Letter of Appointment

It is recommended to the president that when a liaison director is appointed to a committee, the letter of appointment includes in full the text of the *Rotary Code of Policies* Section 30.050., a copy of which shall also be sent to the chair of the committee. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 407

30.050.5. Director and Trustee Liaisons to Committees

The RI president and the chairman of the Trustees should consider appointing both a liaison director and a liaison trustee to all committees of mutual interest to Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. The general secretary shall ensure that the liaison director and trustee receive all meeting materials and committee reports and be given an opportunity to submit comments whether or not they attend the meeting. The chairman of the Trustees shall consider on a case-by-case basis the benefit and expense of having the liaison trustee actually attend the meeting of the various committees. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

30.060. Executive Committee

30.060.1. Meetings of the Executive Committee

To give the Board more time to consider matters of major importance in the advancement of the program of RI and the successful administration of RI, the Executive Committee is authorized and directed to meet in advance of each regular meeting of the Board to consider and make decisions on behalf of the Board on all items on the agenda within the terms of reference of the Executive Committee. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236*)

Source: May-June 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270; Amended by June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

30.060.2. Membership on Executive Committee

At the first meeting of the Board in each year, the Board shall establish the number of members of the Executive Committee if one is to be appointed for such year in accordance with the RI Bylaws. The president, the president-elect, the vice-president, and the Treasurer shall be appointed members of the executive committee. The balance of the executive committee, including its chair, shall be appointed by the Board through election by secret ballot utilizing the single transferable ballot system. Thereafter, the Board shall conduct a separate secret ballot utilizing the single transferable ballot system to elect the chair of the committee from among the newly elected members of the committee. Any member of the Board may nominate a director or Directors for

membership on the committee. The president, president-elect, the vice-president and the Treasurer shall not be appointed as chair.

Consideration should be given to including on the Executive Committee one or more members of the Board who served on the committee in the preceding year. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 95; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

30.060.3. Miscellaneous Communications

As part of the opening procedures for the Board, the Executive Committee shall consider all miscellaneous communications together with suggested responses and refer to the Board those deemed necessary for Board attention. All such communications (and responses wherever possible) shall be provided to all Board members. Any director may request that a miscellaneous communication be considered by the full Board. (*July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 7*)

Source: October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 7

30.060.4. Decisions on Behalf of Board

The Executive Committee shall make decisions on behalf of the Board between meetings of the Board in matters where the policy of RI has been established. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 3

30.060.5. Terms of Reference for the Executive Committee

The Board, in accordance with the RI Bylaws, has prescribed the following terms of reference under which the Executive Committee shall function:

- a) Make decisions on behalf of the Board where the policy of the Board or of RI has been established or where an emergency exists, or as otherwise may be determined by the Board;
- b) Make decisions when necessary relative to expenditures for which appropriations have been made by the Board and make emergency appropriations necessary to implement action taken by the Board;
- c) Make appropriations, from funds not otherwise appropriated, of such additional amounts as may be recognizable as emergency requirements;
- d) Explore matters requiring the attention of the Board and offer recommendations thereon to the Board and, when appropriate, refer a Board agenda item to the appropriate Board committee when the matter is outside the terms of reference of the Executive Committee;
- e) Review reports of committees and, when necessary, take action upon matters contained therein subject to the provisions in item a) of these terms of reference;

- f) evaluate the performance of the general secretary at least annually and report its findings to the board as prescribed by the General Secretary Evaluation Policy and as further described herein;

The following steps will be taken in the evaluation process:

1. Forty-five (45) days prior to the end of the term of the current RI Board of Directors, the general secretary will present to the RI president and chair of the Executive Committee a summary of the strategic goals and objectives that were established for the year and an analysis of the progress that has been made on each of the goals and objectives detailed in the submittal.
2. Upon receipt of the submittal from the general secretary, the chair of the Executive Committee will provide a copy of the General Secretary Evaluation Policy and the strategic goals and objectives transmittal from the general secretary to all members of the Executive Committee and to the chair of The Rotary Foundation. The chair of the Executive Committee will request that all performance evaluations be completed and returned to the chair no later than 14 days prior to the final meeting of the Executive Committee.
3. After the performance evaluations have been reviewed by the Executive Committee, a review of the performance evaluations will be conducted with the general secretary in closed personnel session.
4. Any conclusions, directions, notes of progress and improvement, or any other related issue concerning the performance evaluation will be documented in a confidential memorandum to file signed by the chair of the Executive Committee and the president of RI and placed in the permanent general secretary personnel file retained in the Human Resources office.
5. At the conclusion of the performance evaluation process, the Executive Committee will review and evaluate the compensation of the general secretary and will recommend any adjustments that may be appropriate to the RI Board of Directors.
6. Any adjustments or modification to compensation or benefits for the general secretary must be approved by the RI Board of Directors.

Subsequent Year procedures

7. Thirty (30) days prior to the commencement of the new term of the incoming Board of Directors, the general secretary will present to the president-elect and the chairman of the Executive Committee (proposed or appointed) a summary of the strategic goals and objectives established for the prior year, the summary of progress, and the strategic goals and objectives proposed for the ensuing year.
8. The president-elect and/or chair of the Executive Committee should provide a copy of the strategic goals and objectives for prior and ensuing year to members of the RI Board and The Rotary Foundation chair.

- g) Act as a personnel committee for the Board in all matters relating to the staff and their organization within the Secretariat of RI and as such to
1. counsel the general secretary in the appointment or dismissal by him of all general managers, provided that the general secretary shall also consult the chairman of the Foundation Trustees if such action applies to any general manager assigned to work full time for The Rotary Foundation of RI;
 2. determine, on the recommendation of the general secretary, the salary range of all general managers.
 3. review annually compensation paid to “disqualified persons” of RI to determine whether such compensation is reasonable under the circumstances. Disqualified persons include any person, with respect to any transaction, who is in a position to exercise substantial influence over the affairs of the organization within five years prior to the date of the transaction. Disqualified persons include officers and certain senior staff.
 4. review and approve the level of proposed cost of living adjustments, compensation, and benefit improvements for the employees of the Secretariat. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 46)*

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 3; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. *Amended by* August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 49; June 2001 Mtg., Dec. 450; July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 3; July 2004 Mtg., Dec. 3; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 267; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 46

Cross References

29.070. Improper Conduct by Current or Past Officers
57.030. International Convention Dates
61.030.5. Role of Executive Committee at Regional Conferences

30.065. Standing Board Committees

30.065.1. Establishment and Terms of Reference for Standing Board Committees

The Board has established the Administration Committee and Programs Committee as standing committees of the Board, the members of which are to be appointed annually by the president. Standing Board committee members shall be members of the Board other than the president, president-elect, vice-president, and treasurer. The terms of reference for each standing committee are as follows:

Administration: This committee shall consist of five to seven members of the Board, appointed at the discretion of the president, and shall act in an advisory capacity to the full Board. This committee shall consider such matters of an administrative or legal nature as are referred to the committee by the president or the Board.

Programs: This committee shall consist of five to seven members of the Board, appointed at the discretion of the president, and shall act in an advisory capacity to the full Board. This committee shall consider such matters involving RI programs, international meetings, and membership issues as are referred to the committee by the president or the Board. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 397; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92; July 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 13; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 340; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 120; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

30.070. Finance Committee

30.070.1. Finance Committee Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the RI finance committee to counsel the Board on all finances of RI, including recommending and monitoring the annual budget and the five-year financial forecast, reviewing books of account and accounting methods, recommending investment policies and monitoring the performance of investment managers, and review, prior to publication, any RI literature (or reprints thereof) relating to the committee's work. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 5

30.070.2. Meetings of the Finance Committee

The Finance Committee shall hold two meetings in each Rotary year, once in the first part of the year for up to three days, and a second meeting, for up to four days, when the committee develops the budget it will recommend for the ensuing year. It is recommended that Board meetings be arranged to provide for the report of the first meeting of the Finance Committee each year to be brought to the attention of the Board annually at its second meeting. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; May-June 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 467; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

30.070.3. Attendance of Incoming Members of Finance Committee at Meetings

The general secretary shall include funds in budgets, as required, for new Finance Committee members to observe the meeting immediately prior to their joining the committee. *(February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139)*

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 119

30.070.4. President-elect's Attendance at Meetings

The president-elect of RI shall serve as an ex-officio voting member of the RI Finance Committee. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May 1972 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217; November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107

30.070.5. Foundation Finance Committee Chair Attendance at RI Finance Committee

The chair of the Foundation finance committee shall attend, or appoint another member of the finance committee to attend, the semiannual RI Finance Committee meetings. *(February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137)*

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295

30.070.6. Treasurer-elect Attendance at RI Finance Committee

The treasurer-elect shall be invited to attend the meeting of the RI Finance Committee when it reviews the budget for the following Rotary year. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 449

30.070.7. RI Finance Committee Review of Cost Allocation to The Rotary Foundation

The RI Finance committee is requested to review at its first meeting each year the actual and budgeted RI cost allocation to The Rotary Foundation for consistency and compliance with the approved methodology. *(February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137)*

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295

30.070.8. Communication Between RI and Rotary Foundation Finance-Related Committees

The general secretary shall take steps to ensure that all relevant financial information is shared by the RI Finance Committee and the Finance Committee of The Rotary Foundation. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260

30.075. Operations Review Committee

The terms of reference for the Operations Review Committee shall be as follows:

Reporting Responsibilities

The Operations Review Committee reports to the Board of Directors. Following each meeting of the committee, the chair of the committee (or a member of the committee designated by the chair) shall report in person to the Board of Directors at the Board's next available meeting. A written report summarizing the committee's deliberations and stating the committee's recommendations taken at each meeting regarding financial or operational matters shall be provided to each member of the Board of Directors and the general secretary within sixty days following the conclusion of such meeting. The chair of the committee may send such report to each member of the Board of Directors directly rather than through the general secretary. If applicable, any of the committee's deliberations and recommendations taken at each meeting regarding confidential personnel or operational matters shall be presented orally to the Board at the Board's next available meeting, with the general secretary present when required.

The Operations Review Committee maintains lines of communication with the president, president-elect, general secretary, management, the independent (external) auditor and the internal auditor (including the authority to conduct private meetings with the internal auditor).

The chair of the committee (or a member of the committee designated by the chair) shall attend each meeting of the RI Audit Committee, as liaison to the committee.

Qualifications for Membership

Each member of the committee shall be experienced in either management, leadership development, or financial management.

No member of the committee shall be a past president or a current member of the Board of Directors or The Rotary Foundation Trustees. Furthermore, no member of the committee shall be:

- a) a member of any other standing committee of Rotary International, as identified in section 16.010. of the RI Bylaws;
- b) a member of any standing committee of The Rotary Foundation;
- c) nominated as a general officer of RI;
- d) appointed to serve as a TRF Trustee.

The term of any member of the committee shall cease immediately upon meeting any of the criteria listed in a) through d) above.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, a member of the committee may serve as a president's representative to a district conference, serve as a representative to a Council on Legislation, serve on a non-standing RI committee or RI resource group, and serve in or on any club-, district-, or zone-level position or committee.

Responsibilities

I. Effectiveness and Efficiency of Operations

- Monitors the effectiveness and efficiency of operations, including management structure, work practices and productivity measures.
- Monitors the effectiveness, efficiency and implementation of all internal systems.
- Performs other oversight functions as requested by the Board, including those related to RI's responsibilities as the corporate member of The Rotary Foundation.

II. Compliance with Applicable Laws and Regulations

- Monitors compliance with the code of conduct and conflict-of-interest policy of the organization and the Board of Directors.
- Reviews any legal matters that could have a significant effect on the organization's financial statements.
- Reviews the status or findings of any examinations by regulatory agencies.
- Monitors the expected effects of new tax laws and other regulations on the organization.

Continuing Effect

These terms of reference shall remain in effect unless amended with specific reference to the decision adopting these terms of reference in May 2000.

Meeting Dates

The Committee should set its meeting dates at least 90 days in advance of the meeting so as to ensure the availability of RI's chief financial officer. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 395; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 143; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 340; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

30.080. Audit Committee

This committee shall consist of six members, including three members of the Board and three non-director Rotarians, appointed by the president. All members of the committee shall be independent and shall be financially literate. At least one member shall have financial expertise — one who has financial knowledge and ability sufficient to understand, analyze, and reasonably assess generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) and the financial statements of Rotary International, the competency of the independent (external) audit firm, and Rotary International's internal controls and procedures for financial reporting. The three non-director members shall each be appointed for staggered six-year terms, with the initial three non-director members appointed for two, four, and six year terms respectively.

This committee shall act in an advisory capacity to the full Board. This committee shall consider RI financial reports, the external audit, the system of internal control, internal audit, and operational matters connected therewith as are referred to the committee by the president or the Board, or that otherwise come to the attention of the committee.

This committee shall meet from one to three times per year for two to three days at such times and places and upon such notice as may be determined by the president, the Board, or the chairman of the committee and, if deemed necessary by the president or the chairman of the committee, additional times during the year at such times and places and upon such notice as may be determined by the president or the chairman of the committee. One member of the RI Operations Review Committee shall attend each committee meeting as liaison to the committee. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 397; Amended by August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92; July 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 13; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 340; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 120; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

30.090. Annual and Ad Hoc Committees

Reserved

30.100. Committee Reports

With the guidance of the committee's chair and assistance of the staff (except in preparing the reports of the RI Audit Committee and the Operations Review Committee), each RI committee shall prepare and include, as part of the committee's minutes or report, its specific recommendations to the Board (or to the general secretary), with a brief rationale for each recommendation. Such recommendations should be arranged in order of priority. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 342; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 340; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

30.110. Committee Finances

The general secretary is requested to inform each RI committee, in advance of its meeting, of the current RI budget for the particular committee. When submitting recommendations to the Board, all RI committees shall include a summary statement detailing the total costs and other financial implications of their recommendations. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171

30.120. Resource Groups

The Board has adopted the following description of a RI resource group:

A resource group is an action group of Rotarians, appointed by the president, that carries out specific activities to help clubs and districts achieve their operational and service objectives. There are two categories of resource groups:

- a) a service resource group to help clubs and districts address issues and concerns such as literacy, hunger, children at risk, and the environment;
- b) an operational resource group to help clubs and districts operate more effectively in areas such as membership development and retention, training, and public relations;

The duties of resource groups are as follows:

- 1. provide information
- 2. offer specific and practical ideas
- 3. make presentations at club and district meetings
- 4. conduct workshops and seminars
- 5. facilitate the activities of the relevant Rotarian Action Group
- 6. report to the RI president on resource group activities. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32



Article 31. RI General Secretary

- 31.010.** Chief Operating Officer of RI
- 31.020.** Authority to Act on Behalf of Board
- 31.030.** General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Clubs
- 31.040.** General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Convention and Council on Legislation
- 31.050.** General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Districts
- 31.060.** General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Finance
- 31.070.** General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to General Administration
- 31.080.** General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Rotary Literature, Documents and Translation
- 31.090.** General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Programs
- 31.100.** Additional Responsibilities
- 31.110.** Travel and Transportation

31.010. Chief Operating Officer of RI

The general secretary is the chief operating officer of RI and The Rotary Foundation and is responsible for the day-to-day management of RI under the direction and control of the Board and the Foundation Trustees as outlined in the constitutional documents of RI and The Rotary Foundation. As the chief operating officer, the general secretary shall implement the policies of RI, its Board of Directors, and its Foundation Trustees. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. Affirmed by June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 293

31.010.1. Supervision of Secretariat

The general secretary shall provide general supervision of all operations of the Secretariat, including but not limited to those functions related to finance, programs, communication, planning, The Rotary Foundation, and administrative matters. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124. Affirmed by June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 293

31.010.2. Long-Range Planning and Policy Formation

The general secretary shall assist the Board and the Foundation Trustees in long-range planning and policy formation. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

31.010.3. Execution of Legal Documents

The General Manager of the division substantially involved in the contract, or the general secretary, shall execute all legal documents and contracts on behalf of the association and its Foundation. Changes to contracts must be approved by the general secretary or the General Manager. *(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194)*

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87. Affirmed by June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 293

31.010.4. Cooperation With President

The general secretary shall work in close cooperation with the president in carrying out the responsibilities of the general secretary's office. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124. *Affirmed by June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 293*

31.010.5. General Secretary Employment Tenure

The maximum length of the initial employment contract for a general secretary shall be three years. However, the employment contract for a general secretary who has served a term of at least three years may be extended by up to five years. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; *Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279*

31.010.6. Procedures For Selection/Resignation/Termination of General Secretary

The Board of Directors of Rotary International shall be the sole body which is authorized to employ, review, terminate or accept the resignation of the general secretary. Pursuant to its authority under the RI Constitution, RI Bylaws, and laws of the State of Illinois, the Board has adopted the following "Procedures for the Selection/Termination of the general secretary." These steps must be handled sequentially.

Selection

1. One year prior to expiration of the contract, the general secretary will notify the Executive Committee of the Board in writing as to whether or not he/she wishes to renew the contract as general secretary.
 - a. If a renewal is desired, the Executive Committee shall review the performance of the general secretary, including past performance reviews. The Executive Committee shall then report to the full Board who will decide whether to extend the contract. Before reaching a decision, the Board also may decide to open the position to a search;
 - b. If the Board agrees to extend the contract with the general secretary, the Executive Committee shall negotiate the new agreement as directed by the Board.
2. If the general secretary decides not to seek renewal of the contract, or if the Board does not extend the contract or desires to consider other candidates, the Executive Committee shall serve as a Search Committee. A member of The Rotary Foundation Board of Trustees may be invited to serve as a member of the Search Committee.
 - a. Human Resources will provide a job description to the committee for review and revision;
 - b. Candidates will be solicited through an advertisement in the Rotary World Magazine Press. Major newspapers and other media may also be used. The committee will review the copy. An internal posting also will be made with copies to all RI international offices;

- c. Resumes will be sent to and collected by Human Resources. All resumes will be forwarded to the Executive Committee along with an analysis and recommendation of each candidate;
- d. The Executive Committee will determine which candidates will be interviewed. Such candidates' expenses associated with the interview process will be covered pursuant to the RI Travel Policy;
- e. Working with the committee chair, Human Resources will schedule interviews with no fewer than three candidates. Each candidate will be sent an employment application to complete prior to the interview;
- f. The Executive Committee shall review the candidates' resumes, interview the candidates, and through its chair, present no fewer than three candidates to the Board. These three or more candidates shall be invited to appear before the full Board. The chair of the Executive Committee shall chair the interview process in full Board session;
- g. The full Board elects a new general secretary prior to 31 March pursuant to RI Bylaws 6.030. The Executive Committee or a sub-group of the Executive Committee, plus other Directors as determined by the Executive Committee, shall form a committee to negotiate the contract. The General Counsel will work with the Executive Committee to engage a U.S. labor attorney to assist the committee in its negotiations with the new general secretary. After negotiation, the contract shall be shared with the full Board.
- h. The contract must be signed by 30 April and becomes effective the following 1 July.

Resignation

In the event that the general secretary tenders his/her resignation from office, the letter of resignation shall be addressed and forwarded to all members of the Executive Committee of the Board. The Executive Committee shall then forward such resignation letter to the members of the Board. The Board shall direct the Executive Committee pertaining to such resignation. The Executive Committee shall represent the Board in all matters pertaining to the resignation, and report its actions to the Board.

Termination

(Illinois is an "at-will" state in which an employee can be terminated or resign without reason or notice. However, employment contracts may define procedures for termination by either party.)

1. Any member of the Board can make a written recommendation to the Executive Committee Chair to terminate employment of the General Secretary. The Chair must pass the recommendation(s) to the Executive Committee.
2. The Executive Committee may or may not invite the writer to meet with it.

3. If the Executive Committee decides not to act upon the recommendation for termination, it will inform the member of the Board of its decision in writing.
4. If the Executive Committee decides to seek termination, it shall, in accordance with procedures outlined in RI bylaws section 5.040., invite the General Secretary to appear before the full Board. If the Board subsequently concurs by majority vote to terminate employment, the President will inform the General Secretary in writing.
5. The Executive Committee shall finalize any details regarding termination and report back to the Board. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 46; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

Cross References

30.060.5. Executive Committee Performance Evaluation of General Secretary

31.020. Authority to Act on Behalf of Board

The general secretary, as the chief operating officer of RI, is authorized by the Board to make decisions on behalf of the Board when necessary. All such decisions shall be reported to the Board for ratification at each meeting. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: January 1933 Mtg., Dec. VI(a); Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. Affirmed by June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 293. See also November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

31.030. General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Clubs

31.030.1. Waiver or Remittance of Charter Fee

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may waive or remit any part or all of the charter fee of any provisional club. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1937 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

31.030.2. Submission of Club Semiannual Reports

The general secretary may send to clubs semiannual report forms or, at the general secretary's discretion, withhold such report from clubs which, because of emergency conditions, are so situated that there is a certainty or reasonable probability that the report forms will not or cannot be received by the officers of the club or clubs concerned.

The general secretary may excuse clubs from submitting semiannual reports when, in the general secretary's judgment, the recommendation of the governor and other circumstances in the case warrant such action. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 170; January 1940 Mtg., Dec. of Exec. Comm. E-20

31.030.3. Ballots for Directors-Nominee

The general secretary may extend the time specified in RI Bylaws 12.030. for the selection of Directors-nominee if, in the general secretary's opinion, such is necessary to ensure that original ballots are received by clubs and returned to the general secretary in adequate time. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80(2)

31.030.4. Excusing Club Indebtedness

In duly justified cases, the general secretary may excuse clubs from payment of a portion of their indebtedness to RI. In duly justified cases, the general secretary may excuse clubs from payment of all indebtedness to RI when, in the general secretary's judgment, the recommendation of the governor and other circumstances in the case warrant such action. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1933 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19; January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 170; July 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19

31.030.5. Club Termination and Reinstatement

a) The general secretary may delay, for a specified period, the termination of membership in RI of clubs which have failed to function pending the outcome of efforts to reorganize.

b) The general secretary may terminate membership in RI of clubs where it is obvious that further effort to rehabilitate the club is futile.

c) The general secretary may terminate the membership of any club that fails to pay its dues or other financial obligations to RI or approved contributions to the district fund, pursuant to RI bylaws section 3.030.1.

d) The general secretary may cancel club charters in an emergency.

e) The general secretary may reinstate the membership of any former club whose membership in RI was terminated because the club did not meet its financial obligations to RI, if such obligation has been met or satisfactory arrangements for payment have been made.

f) the general secretary may terminate clubs for failure to function according to the criteria established in section 2.010.1. of this Code. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283*)

Source: July 1933 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; January 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100; March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244; July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 17; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 283

31.030.6. Amendments to Club Constitutions

The general secretary may approve amendments to club constitutions in the following circumstances:

- when such amendments tend to bring the document into closer harmony with the Standard Rotary Club Constitution. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1922 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 2(b)

- where necessary to comply with local laws when such amendments are in accordance with general principles previously agreed to by the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117

- to amend Article 3 of the constitutions of such clubs to amend their locality in accordance with the provisions of RI Bylaws 2.020. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: February 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 246; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

31.030.7. Changes in Club Names and Locality

The general secretary may approve changes in a club's name and/or locality. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: October 1922 Mtg., Bd. Dec.(b); Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

31.030.8. Suspension of Meetings

The general secretary may authorize clubs in predominantly Muslim communities to suspend meetings during the month of Ramadan. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205

31.030.9. Incorporation

The general secretary may pass upon all applications from clubs for incorporation which are in conformity with the general provisions for articles of incorporation as adopted by the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

31.030.10. Magazine Subscription Requirements

The general secretary shall implement a system of warnings to clubs that do not fulfill their magazine subscription requirements. The general secretary may also excuse clubs from complying with the provision of the Standard Club Constitution that requires all members of clubs to subscribe to the official magazine or to an approved and prescribed regional magazine, where the members of such clubs are not literate in the languages of the official magazine or the approved regional magazine as prescribed for such clubs. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159*)

Source: November 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204(d); November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 148; June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 386; Amended by October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141

31.030.11. Furnishing Club Officer Mailing Lists

Except where the distribution of membership lists is otherwise addressed by a section of this Code, including Section 35.010., the general secretary may furnish mailing lists of club officers to various agencies and organizations, provided that: a) the purposes for which such lists may be provided must be clearly identified by the general secretary as being for the benefit of Rotary programs; and b) the recipients agree to use the lists only

for the purpose provided and not to provide such lists to any third party or to use them for any commercial purpose. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219*)

Source: June 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 401. *Affirmed by February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235; Amended by February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219*

31.030.12. Merger of Rotary Clubs

The general secretary may act on behalf of the Board to approve applications for the merger of clubs submitted pursuant to RI Bylaws section 2.050. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136

31.030.13. Suspension of Services to Clubs for Non-payment of District Dues

The general secretary is authorized to suspend the services of RI to a Rotary club upon certification by a district governor that the Rotary club in question is more than six months in arrears of district per capita dues. The general secretary shall report suspensions of services to Rotary clubs at each Board meeting. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137

31.030.14. Extension Matters

The general secretary shall have the responsibility for acting on behalf of the Board in admitting Rotary clubs to membership in RI. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: November 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

31.030.15. Use of Name "Rotary"

The general secretary may act on behalf of the Board in authorizing Rotary clubs to use the name "Rotary" in incorporating club or district foundation activities. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: May-June 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

31.030.16. Requests for Amendment of Club Constitution

The general secretary is authorized to act on behalf of the board to consider an application from a club seeking to amend its constitution to provide authorization for the club to raise funds, where such constitutional provision is required by law. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

Cross References

2.010.1. Club Failure to Function

17.060.1. Status of Clubs with Services Suspended

33.020. Use of Name "Rotary"

50.010.2. Special Public Relations Problems

31.040. General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Convention and Council on Legislation

31.040.1. Selection of Council Representative in Ballot-By-Mail

The general secretary may act on requests from districts to select the representative and the alternate to the Council on Legislation in a ballot-by-mail in accordance with the provisions of RI Bylaws 8.070. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

31.040.2. Approval of Convention Contracts

In consultation with the chair of the convention committee when appointed, the general secretary may act for the Board in approving all contracts not to exceed 5% of the total convention budget as may be necessary or desirable. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: July 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 8; Amended by July 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 18

31.040.3. Examining Proposed Legislation

The general secretary may advise proposers of enactments of any defects noted in the text of their respective proposals, pursuant to the provisions of RI Bylaws 7.050., on the advice of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: May-June 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; Amended by March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

Cross References

- 57.020. *Host Organization Committee*
- 57.040. *Convention Guidelines*
- 57.050. *Convention Site Selection*
- 57.060.4. *Attendance of Spouses of Deceased Past RI Presidents*
- 58.020. *Scheduling of International Assembly*
- 59.020.4. *Financial Impact Statement at Council*
- 60.050.1. *Institute Site and Date Approval*
- 61.030.5. *Role of the General Secretary at Regional Conferences*
- 61.030.7. *Duties of the General Secretary at Regional Conferences*

31.050. General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Districts

31.050.1. Selection of Governor-Nominee in Ballot-By-Mail

The general secretary may authorize a district to select its nominee for governor in a ballot-by-mail, in accordance with RI Bylaws 13.040. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 17; January 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100

31.050.2. Joint District Conferences

The general secretary may act on behalf of the Board to authorize governors to hold their conferences conjointly. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: July 1938 Mtg., Dec. 23; Amended by January 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 100 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

31.050.3. District Conferences in Conflict with International Convention Dates

The general secretary may act on behalf of the Board to authorize governors to hold district conferences within eight days prior to the opening day of the International Convention or within eight days after the closing day of the International Convention on an exceptional basis. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 33

31.050.4. Incorporation of Districts

The general secretary is authorized to act on behalf of the Board on all matters relating to incorporation of districts, including reviewing and accepting any application for incorporation. In the event of unusual circumstances requiring further statements of policy, the general secretary shall refer the issue to the Executive Committee. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

31.050.5. Extension of Time to Select Governor-Nominee

The general secretary may extend the time specified in RI Bylaws 13.010. for the selection of a district governor-nominee if, in the general secretary's opinion, there is a good and sufficient reason to do so. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154

31.050.6. Multidistrict Service Activities and Projects

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the board, is authorized to approve multidistrict service activities and projects (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272

31.050.7. Modification of District Boundary Descriptions

The general secretary is authorized, acting on behalf of the Board, to approve all district boundary description changes where the district boundaries remain the same.

The general secretary shall be authorized to act on behalf of the Board to approve a minor district boundary modification, affecting the transfer of a single club, or an area containing no Rotary club, from one district to a neighboring district, provided that the districts involved are in the same zone. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

31.060. General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Finance

31.060.1. Revision of RI Budget Appropriations

With the approval of the president and the treasurer and when circumstances require, the general secretary may revise the appropriations for subdivisions of the following items, provided such revisions do not increase the total appropriated for any of these items:

Board meetings, travel, International Assembly, International Convention and president's Office. When circumstances require, the general secretary also may revise the details for the item and Secretariat international offices provided such revisions do not increase the total appropriated for such item. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1944 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244; July 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 19; November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; July 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 8. See also February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235.

31.060.2. Safeguarding RI Funds and Financial Obligations

In emergency situations and after prior consultation with the treasurer and/or the chair of the finance committee whenever feasible, the general secretary may make arrangements to safeguard the funds and financial obligations of RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78. Affirmed by February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235.

31.060.3. Fiscal Agent Systems

When a country's financial conditions warrant, the Board may direct the general secretary to establish a fiscal agent system with attendant bank accounts, and provide periodic reports to the Finance Committee and the Board. When so directed, the general secretary shall have the authority to appoint and remove the fiscal agent. The general secretary is requested to consult with the director resident in the zone on proposed appointments. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: January 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; Amended by July 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; July 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 54; November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; and November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172

31.060.4. Officer and Committee Member Expense Statements

The general secretary may authorize payment of all normal final expense statements of officers and committee members even when they slightly exceed the budget appropriations made for them, provided such excess amounts are not, in the opinion of the general secretary, unreasonably excessive. When the general secretary determines that the amounts are excessive, the general secretary is instructed to withhold payment and bring the matter to the attention of the Executive Committee or Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1932 Mtg., Bd. Dec. XIV (a) 4. Affirmed by February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235.

31.060.5. Adjustment of Advertising Rates for *The Rotarian*

The general secretary may adjust advertising rates of *The Rotarian* to ensure the continued profitability of the magazine. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227

31.060.6. RI Travel Service

The general secretary may make any changes required in the relationship of RI staff with the approved travel agency staff to improve service levels and economies in the RI Travel Service. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 288. Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196

31.060.7. Changing the Payment and Receipt of Money to US Dollars

The general secretary may approve any requests for changing the payment and receipt of money from the local currency to US dollars. (*August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 338

31.060.8. Increases in Governors' Budgets

a) The general secretary may authorize increases in governors' budgets, when, in the general secretary's opinion, all or part of such increase requested by the governor is justified and reasonable.

b) the general secretary is authorized to increase the budgets of governors to provide for reimbursement of additional expenses requested by governors in advance of such expenses being incurred, for additional visits to weak clubs, and activities related to Interact and other Rotary programs, and to such extent as the general secretary considers warranted in the circumstances, with such adjustments to be charged to the reserve for revisions in the budgets of the district governors. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38*)

Source: January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192; January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178. See also July 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 8

31.060.9. Revising Governors' Budgets

The general secretary is authorized to make revisions in the appropriations for governors as may be necessary due to districting or changes in the number of clubs in any district.

The general secretary shall be authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Board relative to increases in governors' budgets, when, in the opinion of the general secretary, all or part of such increase requested by the governor is justified and reasonable.

The general secretary shall be authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Board relative to reimbursement of governors for expenses incurred in excess of their budgets, when, in the opinion of the general secretary, all or part of such reimbursement as may be requested by a governor is justified and reasonable. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: April-May 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 212; January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192

31.060.10. Extension of Deadline for Receipt of Expense Reports from Governors

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, upon receipt of a petition explaining extenuating circumstances, may extend the deadline for receipt of expense reports from district governors documenting the use of budget allocations to no later than 30 September. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 409; Amended by June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

31.060.11. Disbursement of Budget to Governors

The general secretary is authorized to disburse less than 70% of the budget available to governors if he considers this necessary to maintain appropriate controls and stewardship over large total allocation amounts. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 396; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 329

Cross References

27.080.3. *Pre- and Post-Term Expenses of the President*
66.040. *Financial Emergencies*
66.050. *Contracts*
66.070. *Annual Report*
66.090.2. *Exchange Rates for Payment to RI*
67.040. *Authority to Exceed RI Budget*
68.030.4. *Schedule of Reimbursement to Governors*
68.030.6. *Procedure for Revising Governors' Budgets*

31.070. General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to General Administration

31.070.1. Delegation of Duties to Senior Managers

As appropriate and with the approval of the president, the general secretary may delegate in writing to a senior manager (division manager and above) all or any of the general secretary's powers relating to the affixing of the corporate seal to certificates of membership in RI which have been duly approved by the Board, and to all other documents requiring the seal which have been duly signed by the proper RI officer or officers.

As advisable and necessary, the general secretary may delegate to a senior manager (division manager and above) any authority delegated to the general secretary by the Board to make decisions on behalf of the Board in certain matters and certain circumstances. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; May-June 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324; November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 82. *Amended by* November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113 *and* July 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 16

31.070.2. Emergency Committee Recommendations

Within existing policies, the general secretary may act with the president on emergency recommendations of any committee, in the event the Board or Executive Committee is not to meet within reasonable time after the committee meeting. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1946 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156

31.080. General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Rotary Literature, Documents and Translation

31.080.1. Responsibility for Official Directory

The general secretary shall exercise responsibility for the content and format of the RI *Official Directory*. The general secretary also shall determine whether paid advertising should be included in the *Official Directory*. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216*)

Source: January 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; *Amended by* February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216

31.080.2. Publication Production

Except where publication of a pamphlet has been authorized by specific decision of the Board or the convention, the general secretary shall make the following decisions: when a new pamphlet shall be published, the language in which it shall be published, and when the publication of any existing pamphlet shall be discontinued. *(February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216)*

Source: June 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 308; May-June 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292; *Amended by* February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216

31.080.3. Publications Priority List

The general secretary shall remove publications from or add publications to the priority list in order to keep the list current and in harmony with the importance of RI programs. *(February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216)*

Source: March 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 207. *Amended by* November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113 and February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216

31.080.4. Ownership of Original Work

a) The copyright to any original work of authorship created by a Rotarian, who is not an employee of Rotary International, is owned by that Rotarian, unless agreed upon otherwise between such Rotarian and Rotary International.

b) Notwithstanding the above, the copyright to any original work of authorship created by a Rotarian, who, although not an employee of Rotary International, has created the work as an agent of Rotary International, is owned by Rotary International. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 175)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 175

31.080.5. Translations of Rotary Literature

The general secretary is authorized, on behalf of the Board, to approve translations of Rotary literature.

The general secretary is authorized, where it appears necessary or advisable to modify text in order to make a publication generally more useful to clubs within a district or a group of districts, to approve the full text of any such changes, in English, prior to such changes being made. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: April 1930 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV(p); January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; *Amended by* January 1974 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149. *Reaffirmed by* November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

Cross References

48.020.1. *Role of General Secretary in Translation of RI Literature*

48.020.2. *Use of Rotarian Volunteers in Translating*

49.040. *Official Directory*

31.090. General Secretary Authority to Act on Behalf of Board on Matters Relating to Programs

31.090.1. Rotaract Clubs

The general secretary may grant approval to hold leadership meetings for members of Rotaract clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255

31.090.2. Interact Clubs

The general secretary may grant approval to hold leadership meetings for members of Interact clubs.

The general secretary is authorized to approve multidistrict Interact meetings on behalf of the Board. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 276*)

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 276

31.090.3. Club Policies Regarding Rotaract and Interact Clubs

The general secretary may grant authority to organize an Interact or Rotaract club outside the locality of the sponsoring club when, in the general secretary's opinion, such action is warranted and in order. The general secretary may also approve requests to hold international Rotaract meetings. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: May-June 1965 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272; October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

31.090.4. INTEROTA Conference

The General Secretary is authorized to approve on the Board's behalf requests to host the triennial Rotaract conference known as INTEROTA. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217

31.090.5. Global Networking Groups

The general secretary may approve applications to incorporate global networking groups. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 161; *Amended by* June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

31.090.6. Service Above Self Award

The general secretary is authorized to rescind an individual's Service Above Self Award if requested by the nominator and in consultation with the director of the zone, provided the award has not been presented or announced publicly and there are extraordinary circumstances that warrant such action. The general secretary shall notify the president whenever a Service Above Self Award is rescinded. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 301

31.090.7. Termination of Rotary Fellowships

The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotary Fellowship when a group has not communicated with the general secretary for a one-year period, as required by the Rotary Code of Policies, or in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78

31.090.8. Termination of Rotarian Action Groups

The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotarian Action Group when a group has not communicated with the general secretary for a one-year period, as required by the Rotary Code of Policies, or in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78

31.090.9. Recognition and Termination of Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organizations

The general secretary is authorized to recognize and terminate Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organizations on behalf of the Board. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74

31.090.10. Participation in Rotaract Multidistrict Service Projects

The general secretary is authorized to approve, on behalf of the Board, Rotaract Multidistrict Service Projects. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229

31.090.11. Use of Rotary Emblem by Rotary-Sponsored Programs

The general secretary is authorized to approve, on behalf of the Board, specific insignia for Rotary-sponsored programs that incorporate the Rotary emblem for use by program participants, provided that such actions meet the requirements of the RI Constitution (article 13) and Bylaws. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205

31.090.12. Services and Suspension of Fellowships

The General Secretary may suspend services provided to a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. These services include use of the Rotary Marks, listing in the Official Directory, program publications, and on the RI Web site, and provision of a booth at the International Convention, on a space available basis. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

31.090.13. Services and Suspension of Rotarian Action Groups

The General Secretary may suspend services provided to a Rotarian Action Group, with or without the consent of the group's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. These services include use of the Rotary Marks, listing in the Official

Directory, program publications, and on the RI Web site, and provision of a booth at the International Convention, on a space available basis. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

31.090.14. Youth Exchange

The Board delegates authority to the general secretary to

- a. grant certification waivers to districts that meet Youth Exchange certification requirements for outbound students only;
- b. certify specific countries within a multi-country district;
- c. grant provisional certification when new districts are created;
- d. grant provisional certification to a limited number of districts in exceptional circumstances. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 274

31.090.15. Multidistrict Youth Exchange

The general secretary is authorized, acting on behalf of the Board, to approve participation by districts in multidistrict youth exchange activities or projects.

The general secretary may remove a district from a multidistrict Youth Exchange activity upon notice that they have failed to comply with the district certification program with or without the consent of the district governor. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

Cross References

33.010.6. Use of the Rotary Emblem with Other Rotary Designs

41.080.4. Multidistrict Youth Exchange Program

43.010.6. Incorporation of Fellowships

43.010.16. Policy Compliance: Termination of Rotary Fellowships

43.020.18. Policy Compliance: Termination of Rotarian Action Groups

31.100. Additional Responsibilities

31.100.1. Contact With President

The general secretary should keep the president informed about all significant activities of the Secretariat staff. The general secretary should consult with the president on all matters of importance or on those in which the president has indicated a special interest. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 73; October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

31.100.2. Contact With Directors

The general secretary should ensure that the Board receives advance notice of any important matter that is being communicated to the governors or club presidents of the Rotary world, particularly if it relates to a Board decision or policy. Insofar as possible,

the general secretary also should ensure that Directors are informed about major developments in their zone(s) that are known to the Secretariat. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 73

31.100.3. Rotary Countries

The general secretary should maintain a list of the countries (sovereign, independent states) and the geographical areas (autonomous areas, colonies, constituent members, dependencies, protectorates, territories, etc. of some sovereign independent state) in which there are Rotary clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 239

31.110. Travel and Transportation

31.110.1. Automobile For General Secretary

The general secretary is to be provided with an automobile for use in functioning as general secretary. Related expenses are reimbursable by RI on an annual basis. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1952 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 134

31.110.2. Travel By the General Secretary

Each incoming president should confer with the general secretary to discuss the general secretary's possible travel to parts of the Rotary world which the general secretary has not recently visited. Such visits should complement the travels of the president. The visits of the general secretary are not to be of a social nature but are intended to give the general secretary first-hand information regarding the activities, problems and accomplishments of the clubs visited. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1950 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29



Article 32. RI Secretariat

32.010. Nomenclature of Secretariat Central Office

32.020. Secretariat Services

32.030. Secretariat Staff Policies and Benefits

32.040. Staff Outside Involvement with Rotary

32.050. Secretariat International Offices

32.060. Secretariat Strategic Plan

32.010. Nomenclature of Secretariat Central Office

The central office of the Secretariat shall be known as the "World Headquarters of Rotary International." (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74

32.020. Secretariat Services

32.020.1. Administrative Service

Rotary International administrative service is to be provided to all governors and clubs throughout the Rotary world as equitably as possible. This service should be performed by an internationalized staff at the Secretariat. As necessary the general secretary shall report to the Board on the need for change in the Secretariat to permit the best possible worldwide service. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114

32.020.2. Deadlines for Receipt of Documents as Provided in Constitutional Documents

In relation to the receipt of various kinds of documents as specified in the constitutional documents of RI by specified deadline dates, the general secretary shall accept as valid all documents received on the first day on which his office is open for business after a specified deadline date, if the office is not open for business during the actual day of the deadline. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194*)

Source: February 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 284

Cross References

49.030. Worldwide Directory of Rotarians

32.030. Secretariat Staff Policies and Benefits

32.030.1. Equal Opportunity Employment

The Board adopted the following statement of policy relating to equal opportunity employment and affirmed that this has been, is and shall continue to be, the policy of RI with respect to its employment practices.

Rotary International is an equal opportunity employer, and, accordingly, in its employment and personnel practices and procedures, does not discriminate because of race, color, religion, national origin, ancestry, sex, marital status, veteran status, handicap, or age, and is in full compliance with Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, the Illinois Human Rights Act, the Illinois Fair Employment Practices Act of 1975 as amended, and all other applicable federal, state and local laws.

The general secretary is responsible for implementing this policy. The general secretary shall inform the Board thereon, from time to time but not less often than annually. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

32.030.2. Open Recruitment Policy

RI shall operate an open recruitment policy which requires the internal communication of all vacancies and, in the event that such vacancy is not filled from staff, there shall be public advertising of such vacancies regardless of other recruitment means being employed. However, nothing in this decision shall limit the transfer, promotion or posting of staff within a re-organization scheme or individual planned career development program. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 8

32.030.3. Employment Contracts for RI Staff

Any employment contracts or agreements must be entirely reviewed and specifically approved by the Board. Such authority is not delegated to the Executive Committee or to any officer. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238

32.030.4. Employee Assistance Program

An employee assistance program shall be maintained at RI expense. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 305

32.030.5. Retirement Plan

The Rotarian non-staff member appointed by the president as Trustee of the RI Retirement Trust should be a Rotarian who is not employed by RI; who is not necessarily a member of the Board; who has no business relationship with RI; who possesses experience and knowledge with retirement plans and, in particular, with retirement plans in the USA and subject to the provisions of ERISA; and who resides in relatively close proximity to Evanston to facilitate participation in meetings of the Trustees. The term of such trustee shall be three years from the time of appointment or reappointment. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 386; November 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104(c)

32.030.6. Retiree Life Insurance Contribution

The amount to be paid by current and future retirees for life insurance shall be increased as follows:

- a) effective 1 August 1994: 25% of the cost of the actual premium.
- b) effective 1 July 1996: 50% of the cost of the actual premium.
- c) effective 1 July 1998: 75% of the cost of the actual premium.
- d) effective 1 July 2000: 100% of the cost of the actual premium. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

32.030.7. Staff Group Insurance Plan

Participation by World Headquarters staff in a health insurance plan shall be on a voluntary basis provided the employee has health insurance coverage by some other source. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 49

32.030.8. Rotary Holiday Memento

The Rotary holiday memento shall be based on the annual formula as determined by the Board for all employees. In the case of an employee in an international office, the memento shall be given in the equivalent currency of the country in which the international office is located, based on then existing exchange rates. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 358

32.030.9. Automobile Reimbursement Policy

For all those authorized to travel at the expense of RI, reimbursement for travel by automobile shall be at the established current mileage rate, plus actual en route stopover expenses. The total of such reimbursement shall not exceed the amount of round-trip air fare calculated in accordance with the established policy for reimbursement of air transportation expense. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 403

32.030.10. Dental Insurance Plan for Staff

Dental insurance coverage shall be included as a part of the World Headquarters employees' health insurance program. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 455

32.030.11. Recognition Dinner for Staff

A recognition dinner for staff having been employed at RI for specified periods will be held annually. An appropriate amount shall be included annually in the RI budget to cover the cost of such dinner. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1983 Mtg. Dec. of Exec. Comm. E-13

32.030.12. Recognition for Outstanding Staff Community Service

The Board has established an annual recognition for Outstanding Staff Community Service. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304

32.030.13. Staff Tuition Reimbursement Program

An employee tuition reimbursement program shall be maintained at RI expense. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203

32.030.14. RI Support for Evanston

RI shall support appropriately all employees who, as citizens of the City of Evanston, participate actively in the political, cultural and civic life of the City of Evanston. On a reasonable basis, the general secretary shall make available the facilities of One Rotary Center that can be utilized by the citizens of the City of Evanston and the Chicago area to promote cultural, educational, or other civic activities that are consistent with the purposes and programs or objectives of RI or its Foundation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 360

32.030.15. Employee Health Insurance Coverage

After a RI employee has been receiving long-term disability benefits for six months, the staff member's employment will be terminated and he or she will be responsible for all benefit plan costs. Prior to termination, the staff member may elect to continue in the RI group health plan for 18 months as a direct pay member provided by the US Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA) regulations. After 18 months as a direct pay member under COBRA regulations, the person may convert to individual coverage at individual rates. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114

32.030.16. Insurance

RI shall provide personal injury and property damage liability insurance for staff members on Rotary business trips. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248

32.030.17. 401(k) Match

Effective 1 July 1997, there shall be a 401(k) match of US\$.50 per US\$1.00 up to 6% of annual salary for all persons employed by RI on 30 June 1998. (*October. 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 398

32.030.18. Computer Skills Required of RI Employees

The general secretary shall implement a computer skills testing program for new and current employees, as appropriate, and a remedial training program for current employees whose computer skills do not meet the RI minimum standards, and shall distribute the test to incoming Directors at the time of their orientation. All new RI employees are required to possess the computer skills required by the Board . (*October. 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 416

32.030.19. RI Meetings Staff

The general secretary shall ensure that staff arrangements within the meetings division are adequate to allow for major meetings planning to be done on a continual rather than sequential basis, with appropriate time-lines to ensure the unhurried planning of these events. The general secretary shall also develop work schedules and packages for staff attending meetings, including details of the work to be done and the number of staff in attendance. (*October. 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 417

32.030.20. Employee Vacation Pay For Time Not Taken

The general secretary may authorize, under certain circumstances and where allowed by local laws, employee vacation pay for time not taken. (*August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271

32.030.21. Review of Compensation to General Secretary and General Managers

In order to assure compliance with United States income tax statutes, the Executive Committee, in a manner consistent with United States Treasury Regulation Section 53.4958-6, or any successor regulations that may be in effect from time to time, shall review the amounts paid to the general secretary and the senior staff of the Secretariat, so as to assure that such payments are "reasonable," as that term is defined in the regulation.

This matter shall be reviewed annually at the Board's final meeting of each year as part of the general review of the compensation to be paid to the general secretary and the senior staff. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 450

32.030.22. Use of the RI Boardroom

The use of the 18th floor Boardroom at One Rotary Center should be reserved for Directors and Trustees meetings and official meetings of RI and Foundation committees duly called by the president or trustee chairman. Meetings of the Board and Trustees shall take precedence over all other requests. All computer and electronic equipment shall remain set up in the Boardroom. The general secretary shall assign office services to handle the scheduling of all meeting space except the 18th floor, which will be scheduled by the president's office, which will ensure coordinated use of the space. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 46*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 408; Amended by October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 46

32.040. Staff Outside Involvement with Rotary

32.040.1. Rotary Club Membership and Reimbursement of Expenses

The RI Board of Directors encourages qualified RI staff members to become Rotarians. With the prior approval of the General Secretary, RI will reimburse to those staff Rotarians who hold a position of discretionary authority at the supervisory level and above, the cost of the annual dues charged by a Rotary club and all meals connected with attendance at regular club meetings, including makeup of attendance at meetings of other clubs. In exceptional circumstances, the General Secretary may authorize reimbursement of additional expenses. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255

32.040.2. Attendance of Staff at Rotary Events

The policy for staff attendance at Rotary events is as follows:

All invitations for RI staff members to attend any Rotary institute, club or district function or any other Rotary meeting or event shall be sent to the general secretary, who shall determine whether such invitations should be accepted and which staff member(s) should attend which meeting or event. In making such determinations, the general secretary shall be satisfied that the requested attendance could enhance the work of the staff member(s) assigned or that the meeting or event itself is of such significance that staff representation could be considered complementary to the public relations, field service or other program objectives or the association.

For Rotary institutes, RI normally will pay the expenses of only one staff member to such institute, except for staff attending to conduct seminars or other events arranged by RI, or when the attendance of additional staff is consistent with the achievement of any authorized program activity for which funds have been appropriated and are available. The expenses of other staff invited and assigned by the general secretary to an institute shall be borne by that institute. Staff attendance at club or district functions shall be at no or minimal expense to RI.

Where practical, staff attendance at all club, district, regional/zone or other Rotary meetings or events shall be combined with other official travel by such staff. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

32.040.3. RI Staff Assignments to Meetings

The general secretary shall ensure that lists of all staff attending meetings and other functions are discussed with the president prior to those lists being published. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 418

Cross References

68.020.10 *RI Staff Travel*

32.050. Secretariat International Offices

32.050.1. Purpose of International Offices

The purpose of RI International Offices is to provide quality Secretariat services on a timely basis to Rotarians, clubs and districts in all areas of the Rotary world. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 376*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 376

32.050.2. Establishment of Additional International Offices

Before implementation, proposals for any new International Offices shall be reviewed by the Finance Committee for recommendation to the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 256

32.050.3. Support From International Offices

The general secretary shall apply progressive management techniques to improve the operation of all International Offices consistent with the resources available for such operations.

The general secretary also shall monitor the operation of the International Offices and make necessary adjustments in the allocation of responsibilities assigned to the respective International Offices so that the services provided to clubs and districts are rendered in the most cost-effective manner possible.

Because a significant part of the work of international offices relates to The Rotary Foundation, TRF should be involved in all discussions and decisions regarding changes and operational performance in international offices. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310*)

Source: July 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47; February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 276

32.050.4. Report on International Office Operations

The general secretary shall provide an annual detailed report on International Office operations to the Board and The Rotary Foundation Trustees. (*August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 376

32.050.5. Audit of International Offices

The Audit Services division shall conduct or oversee an audit or limited review of each international office as necessary, based on a risk assessment approach supervised and authorized by the general auditor, general secretary, and the RI Audit Committee. All offices should be audited not less than once every seven years, with interim limited reviews as necessary. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 276; Amended by June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

32.060. Secretariat Strategic Plan

32.060.1. Secretariat Strategic Plan

The Board has adopted a Secretariat Strategic Plan. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 237



Article 33. Rotary Marks

33.005. Definition of Rotary Marks

33.010. Use of Emblem

33.020. Use of Name

33.030. Use of Stationery

33.040. Program Emblems

33.050. Reproduction of the 4-Way Test

33.060. Rotary Mottos

33.005. Definition of Rotary Marks

The "Rotary Marks" are "ROTARY," "ROTARY CLUB," "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL," "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL and Design" (the ROTARY Emblem), "RI," "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE," "RITS," "ROTARY.ORG," "ROTARIAN," "THE ROTARIAN," "ROTARY WORLD," "REVISTA ROTARIA," "SERVICE ABOVE SELF," "HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST," "INTERACT," "INTERACT CLUB," "I INTERACT CLUB and Design" (the INTERACT Emblem), "INTERACTIVE," "ROTARACT," "ROTARACT CLUB," "R ROTARACT CLUB and Design" (the ROTARACT Emblem), "PAUL HARRIS FELLOW," "PAUL HARRIS FELLOW and Design" (the Image of PAUL HARRIS), "POLIOPLUS," the POLIOPLUS Logo, "THE ROTARY FOUNDATION," "THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL," "THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL and Design" (the TRF Logo), "TRF," "FREEDOM FROM HUNGER," "ANNUAL PROGRAMS FUND and Design," "ANNUAL PROGRAMS FUND FOR SUPPORT TODAY," "THE PERMANENT FUND and Design," "THE PERMANENT FUND TO SECURE TOMORROW," "YOUTH EXCHANGE," the YOUTH EXCHANGE Logo, "PRESERVE PLANET EARTH" "PRESERVE PLANET EARTH and Design" (the PRESERVE PLANET EARTH Logo), "RYLA," "RYLA and Design," the Rotary Fellowships logo, among numerous others. These marks are trademarks and service marks owned by Rotary International and used by Rotary clubs, Rotary districts, and other Rotary Entities under guidelines promulgated by the Board, which is entrusted with authority to maintain, preserve and otherwise protect the use of RI's intellectual property marks under section 18.010 of the bylaws of the association. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 399; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

33.010. Use of Emblem

33.010.1. Rotary Emblem Specifications

The official emblem of RI is a gear wheel of six spokes or arms, 24 teeth or cogs and a keyway; one tooth is placed on the center line of each arm and three in between the center lines of arms. The wheel is designed in accordance with the proportions given in the table below. The two words "Rotary International" appear in depressed spaces in the rim. With the wheel standing on edge, the word "Rotary" appears in the depression at the top which occupies a space of about five teeth, and the word "International" appears in the depression at the bottom which occupies the space of about nine and one-half (9 1/2) teeth. On each side and between these two depressions are two other depressions without

lettering. The space between any two of these four depressions is about two units in accordance with the proportions given below and the space between the depressions and either edge of the rim is one and one-half ($1\frac{1}{2}$) units. The arms are tapered and elliptical in cross-section. When the wheel is standing on edge with the word "Rotary" at the top, the center lines of two opposing arms form a vertical diameter of the wheel, and bisect the keyway which has reached the highest point in its revolution. The sides of the teeth are slightly convexed outward, so that the space left between teeth is approximately mechanically correct. The proportions for the correct design are:

Overall diameter 61 units
Center to base or root
of teeth 26 units
Width of rim (inside
edge to base of teeth) $8\frac{1}{2}$ units
Hub diameter 12 units
Shaft diameter 7 units
Arms or Spokes
Width where they join the
rim (sides projected) 5 units
Width at center of shaft
(sides projected) 7 units
Vertical section of keyway
Width $1\frac{3}{4}$ units
Depth $\frac{7}{8}$ units
Teeth or cogs
Width at base $4\frac{1}{4}$ units
Width at tip $2\frac{1}{4}$ units
Height $4\frac{1}{2}$ units
Lettering
Width of depressed
space $5\frac{1}{2}$ units
Height of letters 4 units

It should be noted that in order to make the wheel more emblematic of service, a keyway has been added to the above description. In a one-dimensional reproduction, the hub of the gear wheel should be demarcated by a circle surrounding the keyway. If it is a three-dimensional reproduction, the hub should be raised. And furthermore, the position of the spokes has been established.

The Rotary emblem may be reproduced in any one color. If it is reproduced in more than one color, it should be reproduced in its official colors of royal blue and gold. Gold can be represented as a metallic color or as a yellow. The following specific PMS colors should be used: PMS 286 Blue; PMS 871 Metallic Gold or PMS 123 C or PMS 115 U Gold (yellow). The Rotary colors should be worked into the emblem as follows: The entire wheel should be of gold, with the four depressed spaces in the rim of royal blue. The words "Rotary" and "International" in the depression should be of gold. If it is a one-dimensional reproduction, the circle demarcating the hub should be of blue. The shaft opening, keyway, and areas between the arms/spokes should be left blank, as should the areas between the spokes. To allow for more clarity of the emblem against certain

backgrounds, an outline around the outer perimeter of the emblem may be added. In such instances, the outline of the outer perimeter of the emblem should be of blue. (In a black reproduction of the emblem, a black line around the outer perimeter is a necessary feature of the mark.) (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: January 1924 Mtg., Bd. Dec. VIII-(a); COL 80-102, Art. I, Sec. 1; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 380; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

33.010.2. Authorized Use of the Rotary Emblem

The Use of the Rotary Emblem is authorized

- a) On all stationery and printed matter issued by RI or member clubs thereof
- b) In the official Rotary flag
- c) On badges, banners, decorations and printed matter of Rotary conventions and all other official Rotary functions, and on furniture or furnishings (including rugs and carpets) of RI or member clubs
- d) On road signs of member Rotary club
- e) As a lapel button to be worn by Rotarians

The following constitute improper usage:

- a) As a trademark or special brand of merchandise
- b) When used in combination with any other emblem or name, except in accordance with RI's sponsorship and cooperative relationship policies and under the provisions of RI's licensing system
- c) On business stationery or business cards of individual Rotarians
- d) When used for any commercial purposes

The following use of the emblem, while not authorized, is permissible: On articles for personal use of or greetings from Rotarians and their families.

The following use is discouraged: On doors or windows of Rotarians' business premises. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: COL 80-102, Art. I, Sec. 2; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381 *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32. *Affirmed by* February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172

33.010.3. Use of Name and Emblem on Personal Cards and Stationery

Rotarians are encouraged to use the Rotary name and emblem on personal cards and stationery. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172

33.010.4. Use of the Rotary Emblem or other Rotary Marks by Rotary Entities

When used by itself, the word “Rotary” or the Rotary Emblem normally refers to the entire organization, Rotary International. It also means the ideals and principles of the organization. As a general rule, all club, district, multidistrict and other Rotary Entity activities must include identifiers of the club, district, multidistrict group or other Rotary Entity when using the Rotary Emblem or other Rotary Marks. Such identifier must be in close proximity to and in equal prominence with the Rotary Emblem or other of the Rotary Marks. The Rotary Marks must always be reproduced in their entirety. No alterations, obstructions or modifications of the Rotary Marks are permitted. The Rotary Marks may be reproduced in any one color, but if they are to be reproduced in more than one color, they must be reproduced in their official colors: royal blue and gold (PMS Blue 286; PMS Metallic Gold 871 or PMS Yellow 123 C or 115 U) for the Rotary Emblem, the TRF logo and the Interact emblem; red and gold (PMS Red 201; PMS Metallic Gold 871 or PMS Yellow 123 C or 115 U) for the Rotaract emblem. Rotarians planning any club, district, multidistrict or other Rotary Entity projects or programs that are to include the Rotary Emblem or other Rotary Marks without a further qualifier, must first seek Board approval. Rotarians coordinating existing projects and programs should review and make necessary changes to the project or program names and materials, consistent with this policy. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32)*

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 399; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

33.010.5. Permit to Use Rotary Marks

The Board has adopted the following regulations and conditions for use of the Rotary Marks by those seeking to do so:

- 1) All dies, stamps, mold, cuts or other impressions of the Rotary Marks shall conform exactly to the description and specifications of the official emblems authorized and adopted by RI. The Rotary Marks shall not be mutilated in any way nor shall they have anything superimposed upon them.
- 2) The Rotary Marks when printed in more than one color may be printed only in the official, Rotary colors; namely, royal blue and gold for the Rotary emblem, the TRF logo and the Interact emblem; and red and gold for the Rotaract emblem.
- 3) The emblem shall not be manufactured or used in combination with any other emblem or name except in accordance with RI’s sponsorship and cooperative relationship policies and under the provisions of RI’s licensing system.
- 4) The Rotary emblem shall not be printed or used in any manner on the business stationery or business cards of any person, firm, or corporation (except RI and the member clubs of RI which may make such use of the emblem).
- 5) The Rotary emblem shall not be used by any person, firm or corporation as a trademark, nor shall the word "Rotary" be used as a trade name or brand or as descriptive of any article of merchandise. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32)*

Source: January 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94; Amended by November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

33.010.6. Use of the Rotary Emblem with Other Rotary Designs

The Rotary emblem can be incorporated in insignia which include names or other emblems descriptive of a Rotary program, provided that the insignia are under the exclusive control of the Board and that no such insignia will be used in a pin that can easily be mistaken for the RI emblem lapel pin reserved for Rotarians.

The general secretary is authorized to approve, on behalf of the Board, specific insignia for Rotary-sponsored programs that incorporate the Rotary emblem for use by program participants, provided that such actions meet the requirements of the RI Constitution (article 13) and Bylaws. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 332; March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

33.010.7. Deviation from Official Emblem

No deviation from the official RI emblem shall be authorized. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1950 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190

33.010.8. Official Flag

The Official Flag of Rotary consists of a white field with the official emblem of the organization emblazoned in the center of the flag. The entire wheel should be of gold, with the four depressed spaces in the rim of royal blue. The words "Rotary" and "International" in the depressions should be of gold. The hub and the keyway white.

A Rotary club displaying this flag as a club flag may use in large blue letters above the wheel the words "Rotary Club" and below the wheel the names of the city and State [state], or province, or country. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: COL 80-102, Art. I, Sec. 4

33.010.9. Official Colors

The official colors of RI are royal blue and gold. (*Note: Gold can be represented as a metallic color or as a yellow. The following specific PMS colors are used when printing the Rotary International Emblem and the TRF logo: PMS 286 Blue; PMS 871 Metallic Gold; PMS 123 C or 115 U Gold [yellow].*) (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: COL 80-102, Art. I, Sec. 3; Amended by November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

33.010.10. Commercialization of the RI Name and Emblem

Sponsorship and cooperative relationships are not commercialization of the RI emblem and other Rotary marks. The second sentence of RI Bylaws section 18.020. is sequential to the first, and hence would not prohibit,

- a) for sponsorship purposes, the use of the RI emblem and other Rotary Marks with the mark of another organization;
- b) for cooperative relationship purposes, the use of the RI emblem and other Rotary Marks with the mark of another organization.

Each sponsorship relationship should terminate with the completion of the sponsored event.

Any contract with a sponsor or cooperating organization of RI or TRF must contain restrictive language in concert with current Board policy regarding the use of the Rotary Marks. (*Aug 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194. *Affirmed by* October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; *Amended by* Aug 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64

33.010.11. RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations

1. For the limited use granted herein, Rotary International (hereinafter "RI") (or The Rotary Foundation (hereinafter "TRF")) [~~strike out whichever does not apply~~] recognizes that [name of sponsor or cooperating organization] (hereinafter "Sponsor") may use the Rotary Marks, as defined below, in the following manner(s) and subject to the following provisions.
2. Sponsor recognizes that RI is the owner of numerous trademarks and service marks throughout the world, including, but not limited to, "Rotary," the Rotary emblem, "Rotary International," "RI," "Rotary Club," "The Rotarian," "The Rotary Foundation," the Rotary Foundation logo, "Rotarian," "Rotaract," "Rotaract Club," the Rotaract emblem, "Interact," "Interact Club," the Interact emblem, "Interactive," "Paul Harris Fellow," the image of Paul Harris, "PolioPlus," the PolioPlus logo, the convention logo, the Presidential Theme logo, "Service Above Self," "He Profits Most Who Serves Best," the Rotary Centers for Peace and Conflict Resolution logo (the "Rotary Marks").
3. Nothing in the limited use granted herein will constitute an assignment or license of any of the Rotary Marks by RI to Sponsor.
4. Sponsor recognizes that RI (or TRF) retains control over where recognition materials are allowed to be displayed in the various venues of RI authorized meetings, RI or TRF events or publicly displayed otherwise in connection with the sponsorship, partnership or alliance.
5. Sponsor recognizes that RI (or TRF) reserves the right to pre-approve publications and other media in which Sponsor wishes to advertise using the Rotary Marks, and to approve all uses of the Rotary Marks in any materials connected with the sponsorship or partnership in any and all media, including, but not limited to, for publicity and promotional purposes. Sponsor further recognizes that each use contemplated herein will be subject to a pre-publication review and approval process by Rotary or Rotary's legal counsel. RI retains the sole right to specific denial or authorization of such use or, in the case of alteration (of copy or layout), to be mutually agreed upon by the parties.
6. Sponsor agrees that any use of its logo in any advertisement or promotional materials directly related to a sponsored Rotary event or project (including, but not limited to, recognition materials such as banners or signs) must be of equal or lesser unit size to the Rotary emblem (or other Rotary Marks, at the sole discretion of RI (or TRF)), unless the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark is part of a repetitive background screen. RI allows for overwriting of the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark (watermarked, printed,

screened or embossed), provided the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark is not otherwise partially covered and/or obstructed. RI agrees that in cases where the sponsor might wish to highlight its role in sponsoring a Rotary event or project in conjunction with its regular advertising, the Rotary emblem may be smaller than the sponsor's logo.

7. Sponsor recognizes that, without altering the provisions set out in paragraph 6, above, the Rotary Marks may not be altered, modified or obstructed but must be reproduced in their entirety. There should be no overlap between Sponsor's logo and the Rotary emblem or other Rotary Mark; the two images should be clearly spaced so as to be two separate and distinct images.

8. The Rotary Marks may be reproduced in any one color, but if they are to be reproduced in more than one color, they must be reproduced in their official colors (royal blue and gold (PMS Blue 286; PMS Metallic Gold 871 or PMS Yellow 123 C or 115 U) for the Rotary emblem and the TRF logo; information available on other Marks, as necessary).

9. Sponsor recognizes that the Rotary Marks may only be reproduced by a vendor authorized to do so. Whenever, possible, reproductions of the Rotary Marks should be done by an officially licensed vendor. If the desired goods are not reasonably available from a RI licensee, a release must be obtained from the RI Licensing Section. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86; Amended by August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

33.010.12. RI Emblem or Name Restriction

It is improper for the Rotary Marks to be used on a pamphlet, on a Web site, or in any other promotional materials issued by anyone other than RI or another Rotary Entity, except in accordance with RI's sponsorship and cooperative relationship policies and under the provisions of RI's licensing system. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June, 1930 Mtg., Bd. Dec. I; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

Cross References

- 11.040.6. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship or Cooperative Relationship Purposes*
- 33.020.3. Use of Rotary Marks by RI Officers in Publications*
- 33.020.4. Use of Rotary Marks on Web sites of RI Officers*
- 34.010. General RI Licensing Principles*
- 35.010.2. Criteria for Cooperation with Other Organizations*
- 36.010. Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs*
- 51.010.5. Use of Emblem in Magazine Advertising*
- 52.020.1. Guidelines for Rotary Club, District, and other Rotary Entity Electronic Publications*

33.020. Use of Name

33.020.1. Use of Name for Political Means

Clubs shall not use the Rotary name for the purpose of furthering political campaigns. Any use of Rotary fellowship to gain political advantage is foreign to the spirit of Rotary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February-March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289

33.020.2. Use of Rotary Marks in Connection with Buildings and Other Permanent Structures

The use of the Rotary Marks without the further identifying language of the Rotary club, Rotary district or other Rotary Entity involved in connection with any project implies financial or moral RI obligation in connection with such project. Therefore, to avoid any future RI involvement, either directly or by implication, any Rotary club, Rotary district or other Rotary Entity which contemplates the construction or acquisition of a building or other permanent structure:

- a) should ensure that neither the name of such venture nor any legal documents in connection therewith reference either the name, "Rotary," without the further identifying language of the Rotary club, Rotary district or other Rotary Entity involved or the name, "Rotary International."
- b) should not affix any of the Rotary Marks thereto in any permanent manner, such as etching the Rotary name or emblem into the facade of a building or inlaying the Rotary name or emblem into a floor. The Board will not require the removal of any Rotary Marks which have been permanently affixed to a building prior to 2001 where the removal of such would cause permanent and irreparable damage to the building, and/or incur unreasonable costs to a Rotary club, Rotary district or other Rotary Entity. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 68*)

Source: July 1944 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 68

33.020.3. Use of Rotary Marks by RI Officers in Publications

Incoming, current, and past officers of RI and those Rotarians appointed by the president or the Board to serve in various capacities are authorized to use the Rotary Marks in publications, printed or electronic, in connection with their roles as RI leaders. In each such instance, the use shall include a clear indication of the capacities in which they have served and the years of such service to RI. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77*)

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77

33.020.4. Use of Rotary Marks on Web sites of RI Officers

Incoming, current, and past officers of RI and those Rotarians appointed by the president or the Board to serve in various capacities are authorized to use the Rotary Marks on Web sites developed in connection with their roles as RI leaders. In each such instance, the use shall include a clear indication of the capacities in which they have served and the

years of such service to RI. Every consideration shall be made to ensure that it is clear that the Web site is that of the Rotarian and not a RI site, so as to avoid confusion among Rotarians and potential liability for RI. If necessary, the general secretary may require a disclaimer to be placed on such Web sites. Use of the Rotary Marks in domain names should comply with Board policy set forth in section 52.020.1. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77*)

Source: October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77

33.020.5. Use of Name "Rotary" in Connection with Club or District Foundations

A Rotary club or group of clubs may use the name "Rotary" in connection with club or district foundation activities, provided:

1. such use relates the activity to the club or clubs concerned and not to RI;
2. the word "international" is not used in connection with or in the name of a club or district foundation activity;
3. the name of the club or district foundation activity begins with the name of the club or the district designation;
4. the words "Rotary" and "foundation," when used in connection with a club or district foundation activity, be separated in the name of the activity;

The general secretary may act in behalf of the Board in authorizing Rotary clubs to use the name "Rotary" in incorporating club or district foundation activities in accordance with the foregoing. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

33.020.6. Use of Name "Rotary," or other Rotary Marks by Rotary Entities

When used by itself, the word "Rotary" or the Rotary Emblem normally refers to the entire organization, Rotary International. It also means the ideals and principles of the organization. As a general rule, all club, district, multidistrict and other Rotary Entity activities must include identifiers of the club, district, multidistrict group or other Rotary Entity when using the name "Rotary," or other Rotary Marks. Such identifier must immediately follow or precede "Rotary." Such identifier must be in close proximity to and in equal prominence with the Rotary Emblem or other of the Rotary Marks. The Rotary Marks must always be reproduced in their entirety. No abbreviations, prefixes or suffixes such as "Rota" are permitted. No alterations, obstructions or modifications of the Rotary Marks are permitted. The Rotary Marks may be reproduced in any one color, but if they are to be reproduced in more than one color, they must be reproduced in their official colors: royal blue and gold (PMS Blue 286; PMS Metallic Gold 871 or PMS Yellow 123 C or 115 U) for the Rotary Emblem, the TRF logo and the Interact emblem; red and gold (PMS Red 201; PMS Metallic Gold 871 or PMS Yellow 123 C or 115 U) for the Rotaract emblem. Rotarians planning any club, district, multidistrict or other Rotary Entity projects or programs that are to include the name "Rotary," or other Rotary

Marks without a further qualifier, must first seek Board approval. Rotarians coordinating existing projects and programs should review and make necessary changes to the project or program names and materials, consistent with this policy. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32)*

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 198; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 399; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 368; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

33.020.7. Use of Word "Rotary" by Other Groups

Except as concerns provisional Rotary clubs, the use of the word "Rotary" by any group in such manner as to indicate or imply status as a Rotary club or as an affiliate of a Rotary club or of RI is not authorized and shall not be permitted. Therefore, the Board instructs the general secretary to take such steps as may be practicable or necessary to stop any such unauthorized use of the word "Rotary." *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

33.020.8. Use of Name "Rotary " and Rotary Emblem by Former Rotarians

Except as concerns provisional Rotary clubs, the use of the word "Rotary" by any group in such manner as to indicate or imply status as a Rotary club or as an affiliate of a Rotary club or of RI is not authorized and shall not be permitted.

Inasmuch as the constitution and bylaws contain no provisions to cover the situation, it is manifestly impossible for the Board to recognize an organization of involuntary past Rotarians as a body having any connection with RI and particularly it is impossible for the Board to permit or encourage the use of any name by an organization which would indicate connection with RI which does not exist and cannot exist until such time as the constitution and bylaws of RI are amended so as to provide for it.

Notwithstanding its sympathetic understanding and appreciation of the interest and motives which may prompt former or involuntary past members of Rotary clubs to associate themselves in fellowship groups or other groups, the Board instructs the general secretary to call the foregoing policies to the attention of any group of former or involuntary past members of Rotary clubs, which may be making use of, or wish to use, the name "Rotary, " "Rotarians," and/or the Rotary emblem, advising that the group does not have official status and that its use of the Rotary name and/or emblem is not authorized and further, calling upon such group not to use or to discontinue immediately use of the name "Rotary," "Rotarians," and/or the Rotary emblem. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1925 Mtg., Item IV(k); January 1948 Mtg., Item 108; January 1950 Mtg., Item 81; June 1962 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; May-June 1963 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188

33.020.9. Use of Rotary Name and Emblem by Other Organizations

No matter how worthy may be the purposes of such organizations or groups or the ambitions of such individuals, RI cannot permit them to appropriate the name or emblem of Rotary without thereby endangering the preservation of the name and insignia of Rotary for the exclusive use and benefit of Rotarians. RI does not seek to discourage

organizations or groups desiring to emulate the example of Rotary clubs but believes that suitable names and insignia can be devised by such organizations and groups without infringing upon the terminology and insignia of Rotary, and all Rotarians are encouraged to give their sympathetic assistance and encouragement to any group seeking to emulate the example of Rotary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1939 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26

33.020.10. National Designations for RI

No club or group of clubs should adopt and operate under any name other than that under which it or they are organized under the RI Constitution. Every district should use the name “Rotary International,” thereby indicating the universality of the ideals, principles and objects of Rotary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1934 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

33.020.11. Use of Name “Rotary” in Connection with Club Activities

Use of the word “Rotary” in connection with or in the name of an activity of a club or group of clubs must relate the activity directly to such club or group of clubs and neither directly or indirectly to Rotary International. Use of the word “Rotary” is not authorized in connection with or in the name of an activity that is not under full control of a Rotary club or group of Rotary clubs or in connection with or in the name of any organization, the membership of which includes non-Rotarian individuals or organizations. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: March 1961 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 206. *Affirmed by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 383*

33.020.12. Use of the Word “Rotarian” in Club Publications

Clubs shall not use the word “Rotarian” as part of the name of the local club publication. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: COL 80-102

Cross References

16.030. Use of Name “Rotary” in Multidistrict Activities

52.020.1. Guidelines for Rotary Club, District, and other Rotary Entity Electronic Publications

33.030. Use of Stationery

33.030.1. Use of Official Stationery

All Rotary International business should be conducted on stationery bearing the name and emblem of the association. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1919 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 3

33.030.2. Use of Rotary Marks by RI Officers on Letterhead Stationery of RI and Other Organizations, or for Commercial Purposes

The use of the RI letterhead is restricted to incoming, current and past officers of RI, or those Rotarians appointed by the president or the Board to serve in various capacities, with the understanding that, as to such capacities as may be listed, the years of service to RI should be clearly indicated. RI letterhead may only be used for Rotary-related business. No incoming, current, or past RI officer nor any Rotarian appointed by the president or the Board to serve in various capacities is authorized to use the Rotary Marks in conjunction with the trademarks or on the letterhead of any other organization or for any commercial purpose. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77*)

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77

33.040. Program Emblems

33.040.1. Use of Logo With RI or TRF Programs

The general secretary is, when reviewing future proposed logos for a program or activity of RI or its Foundation, to consider including the Rotary emblem in the logos if such can be done without lessening RI's legal trademark rights or creating a badge that could be understood to identify a non-Rotarian as a Rotarian. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136

33.040.2. Rotary Program Logos and RI Emblem

The design of Rotary program logos that do not in some manner incorporate the RI emblem weakens and impedes the communication to the public of the association of Rotary with successful programs and projects. Therefore, all program logos currently in use by RI and its Foundation, and all such logos deemed necessary in the future, should include the Rotary emblem. The public relations value of incorporating the Rotary emblem with program logos of RI and its Foundation outweighs the possible misidentification of a non-Rotarian as being a Rotarian. The general secretary is requested to re-emphasize to all licensed vendors of Rotary emblem merchandise that the creation of lapel pins which incorporate the design of the Rotary emblem with any Rotary program logo is forbidden.. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103

33.050. Reproduction of the 4-Way Test

All reproductions of The 4-Way Test should be in the following form:

THE 4-WAY TEST

Of the things we think, say or do

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The sole purpose of the reproduction should be the development and maintenance of high ethical standards in human relations. Any reproduction should not be a direct part of any advertisement intended to increase sales or profits. It may, however, be used in a letterhead or literature, if done in a way to explain that a sincere attempt is being made to have all of the human relations of the firm, organization or institution conducted along the lines of the 4-Way Test. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1955 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138. See also January 1943 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142

33.060. Rotary Mottos

Service Above Self and They Profit Most Who Serve Best are the official Rotary Mottos. Service Above Self is the principal motto of Rotary. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271*)

Source: COL 50-11, COL 51-9, COL 89-145, COL 01-678, COL 04-271

Cross References

41.010.6. Interact Emblem

41.020.9. Rotaract Emblem

41.030.4. Use of RCC Name and Emblem



Article 34. Licensing

- 34.010.** General RI Licensing Principles
- 34.020.** Granting of an RI License
- 34.030.** General Secretary's Responsibilities
- 34.040.** Use of Rotary Marks by Rotarians
- 34.050.** Specific Limitations on Use of Rotary Marks
- 34.060.** Advertising and Marketing Limitations
- 34.070.** Miscellaneous Licensing Matters

34.010. General RI Licensing Principles

Rotary International shall maintain a modern, effective multi-tier licensing system that will provide high quality products and service to Rotarians worldwide, protect the integrity and authorized use of its intellectual property, as well as increase royalty revenue for RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.010.1. Reproduction of the Rotary Marks

When produced by licensees, the Rotary Marks must conform to the description, color and proportion specifications adopted by the Board. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133*)

Source: COL 80-102; January 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; Amended by November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133

34.010.2. Prohibition Against Altering Rotary Marks

Note: "Rotary Marks" are any emblems or names registered and owned by Rotary International. (See Section 33.005.)

The Rotary Marks should not be altered, modified or obstructed in any way, or reproduced other than in their complete form. The general secretary should strictly enforce the prohibition of licensing products that alter, modify or obstruct the Rotary Marks, including situations where the general secretary becomes aware of products that do not reproduce the Marks in their entirety. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April 1929 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV. q; January 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.010.3. Lapel Pins

RI licenses lapel pins that alter the RI emblem in the following approved manner: A precious stone at the hub and/or designations of office or membership categories may be added only for use by club members and only when specifically authorized and listed as licensed products in the license agreement. Such alterations shall be made so as not to deface the Rotary emblem or detract from its essential dignity. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1962 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.010.4. Watches and Clocks

RI may license watches and clocks containing the Rotary emblem as the entire face of the watch or clock, provided that the keyway is accurately reproduced thereon, even though the watch or clock hands may cause minor obstructions of the emblem from time to time, and even if the hands originate from the center of the emblem, provided that the emblem, including the keyway, is otherwise reproduced in its entirety. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.010.5. Limitation on RI Merchandise Solicitation

Individuals or companies who are not licensed to sell merchandise bearing the Rotary Marks may not solicit districts, clubs or Rotarians to purchase merchandise bearing the Rotary Marks. Only vendors properly licensed by Rotary International may solicit districts, clubs or Rotarians to purchase merchandise bearing the Rotary Marks.

On occasion, Rotarians will need to produce customized merchandise bearing the Rotary Marks for a specific event or purpose. All Rotarians should always first seek out licensed Rotary vendors for such customized merchandise. In the event that such customized merchandise is not reasonably available from a RI Licensee at a competitive price, RI shall issue a one-time release to a non-licensed vendor, provided that those goods are subject to the equivalent review and pre-approval process as Licensed Products. In each case, the non-licensed vendor must obtain the specific approval of RI to use any of the Rotary Marks. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 239; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 252

34.010.6. Control of Piracy of RI's Intellectual Property

Rotary International will continue to enhance its efforts to control piracy of the Rotary Marks. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.010.7. Registration of Rotary Marks

The general secretary shall monitor and protect RI's intellectual property according to established policy. As often as practicable, the general secretary shall make efforts to register the Rotary Marks as trademarks and service marks in countries in which RI has a presence. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 225

Cross References

34.040.1. *Districts and Clubs Purchasing Merchandise Bearing the Rotary Marks*
70.040. *Revenues from Publications*

34.020. Granting of an RI License

34.020.1. Licensee Types and Royalty Rates

Type 1

An entity which manufactures and/or sells merchandise bearing Rotary Marks *only* to other RI licensees or to Rotary International, and which is not interested in marketing licensed merchandise directly to the Rotarian Market. A Type 1 licensee pays RI a 2% royalty on total gross sales, makes a one-time application fee of US\$100, makes annual royalty payments and has no annual minimum royalty payment obligation.

Type 3

An entity which supplies fundraising programs/products. A Type 3 licensee pays RI a 5% royalty on total gross sales to the Rotarian Market, and a 2% royalty on total gross sales to other RI licensees. A Type 3 licensee makes a one-time application fee of US\$1000, makes semiannual royalty payments and has an annual minimum royalty payment obligation of US\$1000.

Type 4A

An entity which manufactures and/or sells an unlimited portfolio of merchandise bearing Rotary Marks and other goods to the Rotarian Market and/or other RI licensees. A Type 4A licensee pays RI a 10% royalty on total gross sales to the Rotarian Market, and a 2% royalty on total gross sales to other RI licensees. A Type 4A licensee makes a one-time application fee of US\$1000, makes semiannual royalty payments and has an annual minimum royalty payment obligation of US\$1000.

Type 4B

An entity which manufactures and/or sells a limited portfolio of merchandise bearing Rotary Marks and other goods, not to exceed five products, to the Rotarian Market and/or other RI licensees. A Type 4B licensee pays RI a 10% royalty on total gross sales to the Rotarian Market, and a 2% royalty on total gross sales to other RI licensees. A Type 4B licensee makes a reduced one-time application fee of US\$250, makes semiannual royalty payments and has a reduced annual minimum royalty payment obligation of US\$250.

Type 4C

A Rotary Entity that manufactures and/or sells a limited portfolio of merchandise bearing Rotary Marks and other goods, not to exceed five products, to the Rotarian Market and/or other RI licensees and donates 100% of the proceeds (as defined in the license agreement) from the sale of said merchandise to The Rotary Foundation or its Associate Foundations. A Type 4C licensee pays RI a reduced 1% royalty on total gross sales to the Rotarian Market and/or to other RI licensees. A Type 4C licensee makes a reduced one-time application fee of US\$250, makes semiannual royalty payments and has no annual minimum royalty payment obligation. Any royalty fees received by Rotary International from this license type shall be transferred to The Rotary Foundation Annual Programs Fund.

(See Section 70.020.3. for additional policies regarding sales promoting the PolioPlus Campaign.)

Type 5

A large international entity with brand name recognition which manufactures and/or sells merchandise bearing Rotary Marks through retail outlets worldwide. A Type 5 licensee pays RI a 10% royalty on total gross sales to the Rotarian Market, and a 2% royalty on total gross sales to other RI licensees. A Type 5 licensee makes a one-time application fee of US\$2000, makes semiannual royalty payments and has an annual minimum royalty payment obligation of US\$2000. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157*)

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; *Amended by* June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 297; and February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

34.020.2. Criteria for Granting a RI License

The criteria which RI considers when granting/denying a RI license include, but are not limited to the following:

1. specifically approved merchandise (samples)
2. RI specific catalog
3. ready stock in a warehouse
4. fax and/or regular order number
5. customer service component
6. credit to clubs and governors
7. acceptance of credit cards
8. quality control by RI
9. merchandise guarantee by the licensee to the buyer
10. willingness to display and sell merchandise at RI meetings
11. financial stability
12. experience in the business
13. import/export capability
14. willingness to network with other licensees

The meeting of any or all of these standards does not guarantee a license from RI. RI maintains, in its sole discretion, the right to grant or deny any license application. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.020.3. Selection of Licensees Under RI's Licensing System

In granting licenses, RI will give preference to those entities which can support the overall goals of modernizing RI's licensing system. RI will use appropriate marketing techniques to encourage companies which can comply with RI licensing requirements to obtain licenses from RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.030. General Secretary's Responsibilities

34.030.1. Assurance of Supplies to Rotarians

The general secretary should maintain appropriate sources of merchandise for clubs, districts and Rotarians. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 296; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.030.2. Licensing Budgets and Targets

The General Secretary shall set and monitor annual licensing targets and budgets, and make related regular reports to the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.030.3. Enforcement of Licensing Agreements

The general secretary shall enforce the minimum requirements of the RI licensing agreement, including royalty payments and reporting requirements. However, the general secretary shall allow licensees who have not been fulfilling requirements an opportunity to reconcile for past years before terminating such licenses. Where appropriate, the general secretary shall decline to enter into new agreements with licensees who are not in compliance with their existing agreements. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 296; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.030.4. Termination of Licensees For Non-Compliance with Agreements

The general secretary shall take all necessary action when dealing with licensees who have not complied with their agreement with RI, including, where appropriate, termination of existing agreements. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 296 ; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69. See also October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56

34.030.5. Audits of Licensees

As necessary, the Secretariat staff is urged to vigorously pursue audits and the payment of unpaid royalties. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 246; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.030.6. Licensee Presence at International Meetings

Where appropriate, the general secretary shall decline to enter into agreements with licensees for space at the International Assembly, International Convention and other relevant meetings, where such licensees are not in compliance with their agreements. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 296; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.030.7. Education of Rotarians Regarding RI's Licensing System

The general secretary shall publish in each *Official Directory* the name and relevant information of all current licensees who are up-to-date with their royalty payments at the time such publication goes to print.

The general secretary also shall promote the purchase of merchandise bearing the Rotary Marks from official licensees through: the *Rotary World* newsletter; the Rotary World Magazine Press; mailings to all clubs as part of RI's regular mailings; mailings to all incoming governors; and training at the International Assembly and PETS. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 242; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; Amended by June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

34.040. Use of the Rotary Marks by Rotarians

34.040.1. Districts and Clubs Purchasing Merchandise Bearing the Rotary Marks

All districts and clubs are encouraged to purchase merchandise bearing the Rotary marks only from authorized licensees of RI. If the desired merchandise is not available from a licensee, specific approval must be sought from RI for the use of any Rotary marks. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65; June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 239; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.040.2. Event Specific Uses of the Rotary Marks.

Clubs and districts may sell merchandise bearing the Rotary Marks without a license when they are promoting club or district projects. Merchandise sold in conjunction with such special projects must include, in addition to one of the Rotary Marks, the club or district name, and reference the fundraising project and its duration or date. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 56 ; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.040.3. Use of the Rotary Emblem in Programs and Projects

All program logos currently used by RI and its Foundation, and all such logos deemed necessary in the future, should include the Rotary emblem. The RI emblem may be incorporated into insignia which include the names and other emblems descriptive of a Rotary program, provided that the insignia are under the exclusive control of the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 332; October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103; March 1994, Bd. Dec. 205; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.040.4. Rotary Fellowships

Rotary Fellowships need not be licensed by RI for the sale of merchandise at RI mandated meetings so long as the fellowship meets the following requirements:

- a) The products sold by the fellowship shall either carry the fellowship logo, or be event-specific.
- b) The fellowship shall submit a list of items and descriptions to the general secretary for review in time to allow production for the convention.

c) The fellowship shall agree to purchase its goods from Official Licensees whenever reasonably available, or otherwise to get specific RI authorization, in accordance with Board policy.

d) Consistent with Board policy, the fellowship shall ensure that revenue gained from such sales will be to promote the activities of the fellowships and not be generated from a motive of profit. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 79; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; *Amended by* June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394

34.040.5. Use of Distinctive Regalia to Indicate Position in Rotary

The use by Rotarians of distinctive badges, jewels, ribbons, etc., indicative of official position in Rotary is not in harmony with an organization of business and professional people and community leaders. Accordingly, the use of such regalia is disapproved except in those countries where local custom dictates otherwise, with the understanding that the simple and temporary nameplates and ribbon badges used at Rotary conventions and conferences are not included in this disapproval. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: April 1929 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV(q); *Amended by* January 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98, June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

Cross References

34.010.5. Limitation on RI Merchandise Solicitation

57.140.6. Display and Sale of Commercial Items

34.050. Specific Limitations on Use of Rotary Marks

34.050.1. Accurate Reproduction of the Rotary Marks on Merchandise

Merchandise bearing the Rotary emblem and other Rotary Marks may be licensed or otherwise authorized regardless of size and in any medium, provided the Rotary emblem or other of the Rotary Marks can be accurately reproduced including, but not limited to, silk screening, embroidery, engraving, laser engraving, casting, printing, stamping, etc. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70*)

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70

34.050.2. Lapel Pins

Lapel pins may not incorporate the design of the Rotary emblem with any Rotary program. Lapel pins may be licensed regardless of size, as long as the RI emblem is correctly reproduced. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 332; October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103; March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.3. Business Stationery and Business Cards of Rotarians

The Rotary emblem may not be included on the business stationery or business cards of individual Rotarians. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: COL 80-102; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.4. Use of the Name "Rotary" in Describing a Specific Product

When used by itself, the word "Rotary" normally refers to the entire organization, Rotary International. It also means the ideals and principles of the organization. Use of the word "Rotary," by itself, is limited to those uses approved in the constitutional documents or as authorized by the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1928 Mtg., November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69. See also February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 198

34.050.5. Prohibition Against "Rotary" as a Brand Name

Except as permitted under RI's licensing procedures, none of the Rotary Marks may be used as trademarks or special brands of merchandise. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: COL 80-102; January 1956 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 94; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.6. A Genuine Rotary Tartan

The tartan designed by the Rotary Club of Glasgow (Scotland) may be sold as A Genuine Rotary Tartan consistent with the principles governing RI's licensing system. The general secretary is authorized to enter into non-exclusive licensing agreements to manufacture, use, sell or market A Genuine Rotary Tartan consistent with RI's licensing practices. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.7. The Rotary Orchid

The orchid developed by the Singapore Botanic Gardens as "Dendrobium Rotary International" shall be referred to, marketed, and sold as the "Rotary Orchid." (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 135

34.050.8. The Rotary Marks in Combination with the Mark of Another Company or Organization

Except as specifically allowed under RI's licensing system and under the provisions of RI's sponsorship and cooperative relationship policies, the use of the Rotary Marks in combination with any other name or emblem for any commercial purpose is not recognized by RI. None of the Rotary Marks may be combined with or incorporated into the logo or insignia of another organization or for any program not under the exclusive control of RI, no matter how worthy. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: July 1939 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 26; November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32. See also March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; March 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 332; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.9. Use of the Rotary Marks for Endorsement Purposes

It is not within the scope of RI or its member clubs to endorse programs or activities of any other organization. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1955 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.10. Licensing of Software

RI does not authorize any further licensing of software or other materials based on RI and/or TRF materials. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 234. See also June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 299; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.11. Licensing of “Paul Harris” Items

Licensees are not authorized to sell recognition items using the likeness of Paul Harris or the terms “Paul Harris Fellow,” “Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member” or “Benefactor.” (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.12. Licensing of Services

RI does not license services. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.050.13. Licensing of Alcoholic Beverages

RI does not license alcoholic beverages. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

Cross References

- 11.040.6. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship or Cooperative Relationship Purposes*
- 33.010.2. Authorized Use of the Rotary Emblem*
- 33.010.5. Permit to Use Rotary Marks*
- 33.010.10 Commercialization of the RI Name and Emblem*
- 33.010.11. RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations*
- 34.010. General RI Licensing Principles*
- 35.010.2. Criteria for Cooperation with Other Organizations*
- 36.010. Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs*

34.060. Advertising and Marketing Limitations

34.060.1. Advertising of Customized Merchandise

Vendors who seek to customize merchandise that is in competition with merchandise provided by official licensees must apply for a license from RI when seeking to sell such merchandise through advertising in the Rotary World Magazine Press. Alternatively, vendors seeking to advertise in the Rotary World Magazine Press to sell goods which may be customized and which may compete with officially licensed products shall be required to use the following disclaimer in any of their advertising: “Not licensed to

reproduce the Rotary Marks,” or other such disclaimer as the general secretary finds appropriate. The general secretary reserves the right to determine which advertisements shall require a disclaimer. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

Cross References

51.010.7. RI Cause-Related Marketing Policy

34.070. Miscellaneous Licensing Matters

34.070.1. Telephone Cards

In accordance with overall RI policy, RI does not license, or permit the Rotary Marks to be used on, telephone cards. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324

34.070.2. Affinity Cards

In accordance with overall RI policy, RI does not license the use of the Rotary Marks on affinity cards.

The use of the Rotary Marks in any affinity card program by RI is prohibited without the prior approval of the general secretary. Only the general secretary is authorized to solicit proposals on behalf of the Board.

Prior to approval by the general secretary, all RI affinity card proposals must conform to the following guidelines:

- a. RI approval of all means of solicitation including providing Rotarians the opportunity to request that they not be solicited for an affinity credit card
- b. The affinity credit card interest rates must be competitive
- c. After subtracting all expenses incurred by RI related to the affinity credit card program, all revenue received by RI from the program, except for revenue noted in point (d) below, shall be distributed to The Rotary Foundation
- d. The US\$75,000 amounts received for each 20,000 cards issued through the MasterCard sponsorship agreement shall be allocated to the RI convention budget
- e. RI pre-publication review and approval of any use of the Rotary name and emblem including the card design and all promotional materials associated with the program
- f. Restrictions on use of RI's mailing list including that such a list must not be sold, rented or otherwise used by others without the permission of RI. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 416*)

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 240; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 400; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 416

34.070.3. Use of Rotary Name and Emblem on Vehicle License Plates

A Rotary club or district may collaborate with a government monopoly to offer a vehicle license plate bearing the Rotary name and emblem as a public relations and charitable

fundraising mechanism, such project to be exempt from a licensing royalty obligation, provided the project meets the following criteria:

- 1) the plate must be issued by a government monopoly;
- 2) no commercial venture may be involved;
- 3) all governors within the designated area(s) must approve of the project;
- 4) the plate must meet all RI specifications regarding the reproduction of its intellectual property and a prototype of the plate must be submitted to the general secretary for approval; and
- 5) a revenue sharing formula should be developed, under the guidance of the general secretary, to ensure that the revenue from any fundraising aspect of such project shall benefit the clubs in the designated area(s) and The Rotary Foundation, subject to the approval of the governors in the designated area(s) and the general secretary. (*November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 131*)

Source: November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 131

34.070.4. Use of Rotary Marks on Postage Stamps, Postmarks and Related Postal Items

A Rotary club or district may collaborate with a government monopoly to offer a postage stamp, postal cancellation mark (postmark), or related postal item bearing the Rotary name and emblem as a public relations effort and, where appropriate, as a charitable fundraising mechanism. Such projects shall be exempt from a licensing royalty obligation, provided the project meets the following criteria:

- 1) the postage stamp, postmark, or related postal item must be issued by a government monopoly;
- 2) no commercial venture may be involved;
- 3) all governors within the designated area(s) must approve of the project;
- 4) the postal item must meet all RI specifications regarding the reproduction of its intellectual property and a prototype of the postal item and any promotional materials, such as the first day cover, must be submitted to the general secretary for review and approval;
- 5) a revenue sharing formula should be developed, under the guidance of the general secretary, to ensure that the revenue from any fundraising aspect of such project shall benefit the clubs in the designated area(s) and The Rotary Foundation, subject to the approval of the governors in the designated area(s) and the general secretary. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69*)

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

34.070.5. Information Cards

RI does not approve Information Cards for Rotary clubs, Rotary districts or other Rotary Entities or as licensed products (as defined in the RI license agreement) to be sold by RI licensees, whether or not they bear the Rotary Marks. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89. *Affirmed by* August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60

34.070.6. Other Symbolic Representations of Rotary

No statue, icon or other permanent symbolic representation purporting to express or interpret the spirit of Rotary shall be adopted, accepted, authorized or recognized. Only the established official emblem of Rotary International shall be recognized. All other efforts to express the spirit of Rotary in symbolism should be and are discouraged. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1921 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 5

34.070.7. Use of Interact/Rotaract Emblems

The Interact and Rotaract emblems are for the exclusive use of the respective clubs bearing those names and the members of those clubs:

- a. When displayed by individual club members, the emblems may be used without further information.
- b. When the emblem is used to represent a club, the name of the club should appear with the emblem.
- c. Where an Interact or Rotaract district exists, it may use the respective emblem but only in conjunction with reference to the district and its number.

No publication may bear the Interact or Rotaract emblem without the name of the club or number of the district except those published by or under the authority of Rotary International for the use of Rotary, Interact or Rotaract clubs in establishing or carrying out the affairs of one of the sponsored clubs.

No other use of the emblems is permitted by Rotary International which has legal control of those emblems. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295

Cross References

9.030.2. *Telephone Cards*

9.030.3. *Affinity Cards*

36.030.3. *Inner Wheel*



Article 35. Joint RI and TRF Policy on Relationships with Other Organizations

35.010. General Guidelines

35.020. Types of Cooperation

35.030. Invitations to Attend Meetings of Other Organizations

35.010. General Guidelines

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary by fostering unity among member clubs, strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world, communicating worldwide the work of Rotary, and providing a system of international administration.. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. This support should ensure Rotary's continuing relevance, help enhance the quality of life and human dignity, and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, as well as further international understanding and peace. To accomplish this, it is sometimes appropriate for Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation to cooperate with other organizations that have a shared vision and common goals. All such cooperation with non-Rotary organizations shall be in accordance with the procedures and criteria that follow. *(February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158)*

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145. Amended by February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158

35.010.1. Oversight of Cooperative Relationships

1. Authority of president and Trustee chairman. Recognizing that the president is the principal person to speak on behalf of RI and that the Trustee chairman is the highest officer of TRF, the president and the Trustee chairman shall be the principal representatives in establishing and maintaining cooperative relationships between RI and TRF and other organizations. No officer or individual shall contact or solicit any other organization on behalf of RI or TRF without the prior written consent of the president, in consultation with the Trustee chairman. In addition, the general secretary maintains a "no contact list" of individuals, foundations, corporations, governments and other entities with which Rotary International or its Foundation is working to develop relationships and obtain funding at an international level. No representative of any Rotary entity other than Rotary International or its Foundation shall contact or solicit any organizations on the "no contact list" for the purpose of obtaining funds or cooperation for their projects without prior written consent of the president in consultation with the Trustee chairman. This should not be construed as prohibiting clubs, districts and multidistrict groups from developing cooperative relationships with local organizations on behalf of their own projects.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, cooperative relationships between RI and TRF and other organizations shall be established as specified in section 35.010. of the *Rotary Code of Policies* and section 1.060. of *The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies*.

2. Role of the General Secretary. The general secretary shall support the president and the Trustee chairman in the establishment and maintenance of cooperative relationships with other organizations. Specifically, the general secretary shall designate one or more

members of the Secretariat staff to provide such assistance. In providing such assistance, the general secretary or his designee shall accompany authorized representatives when visiting other organizations. The general secretary shall also coordinate the activities of representatives to other organizations. The general secretary shall provide an annual report, including a summary and duration of RI's and TRF's commitments, to the Board and the Trustees at their October/November meetings on the status of all existing and proposed agreements or formal cooperation with other organizations. In addition, the general secretary shall provide an update at each meeting of the Board and the Trustees with respect to new commitments and changes to existing commitments. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158

35.010.2. Criteria for Cooperation

1. The Board and the Trustees seek to enter into cooperating relationships with other organizations for the purpose of enhancing the ability of RI and TRF to provide quality humanitarian service. RI and TRF shall pursue and be receptive to appropriate cooperative relationships with reputable organizations where such relationships meet one or more of the following criteria:

- a. enhance without detracting from Rotary's Structured Programs, Menu of Service Opportunities or programs of TRF
- b. provide financial assistance for the programs of RI or TRF
- c. provide additional service opportunities of interest to Rotarians or support current service initiatives of Rotary clubs and districts
- d. enhance the public image of Rotary
- e. attract potential members and assist in retaining current members
- f. would promote a common program or goal
- g. where Rotary's intended goal or objective could be better served by the participation and eventual assumption of the activity by another organization

2. Criteria for evaluation: In the evaluation of any proposed relationship, the following factors shall be considered by the appropriate approving authority:

- a. the financial impact on RI or TRF, including both revenue and expenses
- b. the effect on the autonomy of clubs, and the operation of districts
- c. the reputation and financial health of the other organization and any associated organizations or relationships, as evidenced by annual audited accounts to be provided to RI
- d. the willingness of the proposed organization to make full and continuing financial and operational disclosure
- e. the effect on any existing program of RI or TRF
- f. the duration of the proposed relationship
- g. the potential for RI to obtain public recognition
- h. compliance with existing RI and TRF policy
- i. potential conflicts of interest
- j. size, scope and status of the proposed organization, including compatibility with RI's structure of autonomous Rotary clubs and geographic areas where each organization operates

- k. record of service
 - l. risk of legal liability
 - m. level of participation expected of clubs, districts, RI, TRF and individual Rotarians
 - n. number of Rotarians, clubs and districts likely to participate or benefit
 - o. noninterference with TRF's ability to raise funds
 - p. proper recognition of RI, TRF, and the other organization
3. Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation shall not form cooperative relationships that
- a. Conflict with Rotary's ethical and humanitarian values
 - b. Undermine internationally recognized standards for human rights
 - c. Support the use of addictive or harmful products including but not limited to alcohol (when inappropriate in a specific cultural context), tobacco, gambling, and weapons or other armaments
 - d. Promote a particular political or religious viewpoint
 - e. Involve abortion
 - f. Unfairly discriminate based on race, ethnicity, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, or birth or other status
 - g. Weaken the autonomy, independence, reputation, or financial integrity of Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation
 - h. Reduce the effectiveness of Rotary's structured programs or humanitarian service efforts
4. Any cooperative relationship must comply with pertinent national governments' existing rules concerning not-for-profit organizations.
5. Cooperative relationships shall not be legal partnerships.
6. All uses of the Rotary Marks for the purpose of cooperative relationships, in materials promoting cooperative relationships, either produced by the cooperating organization or by RI or TRF, in any media, must be governed by the "RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations." A copy of these Guidelines must be attached to and incorporated in any memorandum of understanding between RI or TRF and any other organization.
7. Individual Rotarians shall not directly or indirectly benefit from cooperative relationships with other organizations.
8. The general secretary and the Board or Foundation Trustees are responsible for administering these guidelines and making the final decision on questions of acceptance. No officer of Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation shall enter into any agreement on behalf of the organization unless approved by the appropriate authority and any non-approved agreement shall be null and void. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70*)

35.010.3. Required Provisions in Memoranda of Understanding with Other Organizations

The following are the minimum provisions that should be included in any Memorandum of Understanding:

1. Statement of purpose
2. The specific commitments made by all parties to the agreement including financial, personnel and other resources
3. Statement on joint action
4. Criteria for review and approval of public statements on Web sites, publications and all other written materials
5. Language on exchange of information
6. Requirements for periodic reporting
7. Length of agreement
8. Provisions for amending, renewing, or terminating the agreement
9. Provisions relating to the use of Rotary Marks, including approval of all documents that use the Marks
10. Signatures of the leadership of both organizations

Given that the nature of every agreement may be slightly different, other provisions may also be necessary, such as indemnification, dispute resolution, and financial risk. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279*)

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213; Amended by February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279

35.010.4. Services Provided to Other Organizations by RI or TRF

Other organizations that have entered into memoranda of understanding with RI or TRF are eligible for the following:

- a. discounted rental of booth space at the RI convention and attendance at plenary and group discussion sessions
- b. promotion of joint activities through fact sheets, stories in the Rotary World Magazine Press, and on the RI Web site
- c. information about organization shared with relevant group of Rotarians at the district and zone level by RI or TRF
- d. additional cost-neutral services as approved by the general secretary
- e. additional services with costs as approved by the Board or Trustees

RI and TRF will not provide the following to other organizations:

- a. membership data, including lists of Rotary clubs, officers, or Rotarians
- b. donor data
- c. an endorsement of the other organization or its programs
- d. support of fundraising initiatives of such other organizations
- e. guarantees or commitments on behalf of individual Rotary clubs or districts to participate or support the other organization or its programs (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158

35.010.5. Representatives to Other Organizations

The president, in consultation with the Trustee chairman as appropriate, may appoint an experienced Rotarian to act as a representative to organizations with which RI or TRF have cooperative relationships. Representatives shall serve for the term of the relationship or a maximum of three years, renewable for a further three years. Representatives will act as liaison between the cooperative organization, the president, the Trustee chairman and the general secretary, attending meetings as requested, monitoring progress on the relationship and communicating with the cooperating organization on policy, programs and activities of RI and TRF relevant to the cooperative relationship. Representatives shall receive initial orientation and ongoing briefings as necessary to fulfill their responsibilities. Expenses shall be reimbursed to the extent of approved budgeted amounts and in accordance with RI policy. The president, in consultation with the Trustee chairman as appropriate, may remove a representative at any time. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158

35.010.6. Use of RI Officers' Titles

No current or past officer of RI shall use or permit the publication of his or her title as such officer in connection with an official position or membership in any other organization, except with the consent of the RI Board. No current or past officer of TRF shall use or permit the publication of his or her title as such officer in connection with an official position or membership in any other organization, except with the consent of the Trustees. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158*)

Source: COL 80-102; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158. Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

Cross References

33.010.11. RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations

36.010. Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs

35.020. Types of Cooperation

Both the geographic and cultural distribution of Rotary clubs, and the vast scope of their service activities and interests create a need for different types of cooperative relationships. As long as the criteria outlined in 35.010. of the *Rotary Code of Policies* and 1.060. of *The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies* are met, eligible organizations need not be of a minimum or maximum size, or serve a minimum number of countries or regions where there are Rotary clubs. Cooperation shall not exceed three years without the express consent of the RI Board and/or TRF Trustees, as appropriate.

Following are types of cooperation and approvals required for each:

1. Information sharing—approved by the general secretary

Information is shared with groups of Rotarians who would have interest in the activities of the organization.

- a) May target a single country or geographic area
- b) May include information about projects of the other organization that seek funding as long as the primary emphasis of collaboration is not fundraising
- c) Does not include memoranda of understanding or additional services from RI

2. Service Opportunities—approved by the Board of Directors

Cooperation with the other organization will provide service opportunities, expertise and non-financial resources for interested Rotary clubs. Information is shared with groups of Rotarians who would have an interest in the activities of the organization. A memorandum of understanding is drafted to outline scope of cooperation between RI and the other organization, with a focus on local implementation. Clubs and districts are encouraged to cooperate with the organization, and staff support is provided to facilitate cooperative activities.

- a) May target a single country or geographic area
- b) May include information about projects of the other organization that seek funding as long as the primary emphasis of collaboration is not fundraising
- c) May include invitations to attend RI meetings as speakers at the discretion of the president

3. Funding—approved by the Board of Directors and/or The Rotary Foundation Trustees, as appropriate

Other organization provides funds for Rotary club service activities through RI or TRF. It is anticipated that such funds will be received, invested and disbursed by The Rotary Foundation. A memorandum of understanding is required.

- a) May target a single country or geographic area
- b) May include a commitment by participating Rotary clubs to provide matching funds, in-kind support, or volunteer hours in order to obtain funds from the other organization, so long as autonomy of individual clubs is not disrupted
- c) May include the development of a special program outside of current RI and TRF programs that would exist for the duration of the agreement

Any funding proposal must:

- 1) Have potential for club involvement
- 2) Address one of the following issues:
 - a. improvement of health
 - b. support of education
 - c. alleviation of poverty
- 3) Meet one or more of the criteria provided for in section 35.010.2., point 1
- 4) Comply with section 35.010.2., point 3

The general secretary shall review the reputation, financial health, and acceptability of the other organization and its expectations of Rotary, to include the division of costs. The general secretary will share this information with the RI president and Trustee chair who will determine whether to study the feasibility of the proposed relationship.

If the president and chair agree to proceed, the general secretary will conduct a feasibility study that includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1) Consideration of the criteria in section 35.010.2., point 2

- 2) Consideration of the following additional criteria:
 - a) capacity of clubs/districts in the region to be served
 - b) interest of clubs/districts and initial commitment
 - c) capacity and interest of NGOs and governments in the region to be served, if necessary
 - d) potential support from Rotary clubs outside the region to be served
 - e) requirements/restrictions of the other organization
 - f) staffing and resource requirements and capabilities of both organizations
 - g) ability to ensure adequate stewardship, reporting, and transparency for the relationship
 - h) expected results
 - i) impact of socio-economic and cultural issues

The feasibility study will be presented to the RI Board and Rotary Foundation Trustees for their consideration at their earliest possible meetings.

4. Corporate Project

A corporate project is defined as a project undertaken by Rotary International and its Foundation, and approved by the Council on Legislation, in which all clubs worldwide are encouraged to participate. As outlined in section 40.040.1. of the *Rotary Code of Policies* and section 11.030. of *The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies*, no new corporate projects will be considered until the PolioPlus program is completed. (June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277

35.020.1. Amendment of Guidelines

To ensure a unified approach by RI and TRF to contacts and cooperative relationships with other organizations, this amendment and subsequent amendments to the guidelines for relationships with other organizations as set forth in sections 35.010. through 35.030. of the *Rotary Code of Policies* and section 1.060. of *The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies* shall be effective only upon approval by both the Board of Directors of Rotary International and the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. Such guidelines shall be included in both the *Rotary Code of Policies* and *The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies*. (February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158

35.030. Invitations to Attend Meetings of Other Organizations

The general secretary shall respond to invitations for RI or TRF to attend meetings of other organizations in the following manner:

- 1) Evaluate the meetings in terms of both potential program information and Rotary visibility;
- 2) Identify Rotarians -- such as general officers, members of RI resource groups and committees, as well as other Rotary leaders -- who both live in or near the meeting city and who are knowledgeable about Rotary activities relating to the subject of the meeting and to include this information in the data base being developed for the president, president-elect, president nominee, TRF chairman, and TRF chairman-elect;

3) Following consultation with the president and/or TRF chairman (as appropriate), invite the selected Rotarians to attend the meeting and to:

- a. act as observers, collecting and recording information pertinent to Rotary, unless invited in a specific capacity as a speaker, panelist or to collect an award on behalf of RI or TRF as otherwise instructed;
- b. make written reports, after the meeting, to the president or TRF chairman, who through the general secretary will relay them to relevant committee or resource group chairs;
- c. be reimbursed for expenses, if any, in connection with their attendance at meetings as outlined in the invitation letter. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 280*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98; *Amended by* February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 280



Article 36. RI Guidelines for Sponsorship and Cooperation

36.010. Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs

36.020. Cooperation with United Nations

36.030. Cooperation with Other Organizations and Groups

36.010. Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs

The Board, acknowledging that RI meetings, events, projects and programs are supported in part through sponsorships by business entities and governmental agencies, has adopted the following terms for acceptance of sponsorship of RI meetings, events, projects and programs:

1. Sponsorships are considered to be short-term, event-specific relationships with another organization which benefit RI, TRF, Rotary club(s), Rotary district(s) and other Rotary Entities in image-enhancing, promotional, monetary or other ways. Each sponsorship relationship should terminate with the completion of the sponsored event.
2. Sponsorships for any RI meeting, event, project or program, either by RI or by a local organizing entity, should be in furtherance of the Object of Rotary.
3. Cultural and legal variances in business practices among nations should be identified and honored whenever possible in matters of RI meeting, event, project and program sponsorship. In realization that business practices are not universal, ethical guidelines appropriate to a given culture should be developed, published, and applied by those responsible for the solicitation and/or acceptance of RI meetings, events, projects or programs-related sponsorship.
4. Any sponsorships must comply with pertinent national governments' existing rules concerning not-for-profit organizations.
5. Any sponsorship revenue or donations-in-kind (the value thereof, see paragraph 7, below) received will be subject to the terms of any agreement between RI and any local organizing entity.
6. Sponsorships that would appear in revenue projections for RI meetings, events, projects or programs of necessity shall be guaranteed in writing by the intended sponsor. Moreover, such written intent shall clearly state what, if anything, the sponsor expects in return for its assistance.
7. Donations-in-kind shall be considered as sponsorship to the extent of their lowest reasonable fair market financial value.
8. Recognition for sponsorships shall occur--primarily during the actual meeting, event, project or program--in the form of published attribution and acknowledgment of thanks, verbal expression of gratitude, signage anywhere within meeting facilities, and to the extent that the planning committee for that meeting, event, project or program finds acceptable. In no instance, shall a sponsor name be included in the name, title or logo of any meeting, event, project or program. Sponsors of specific events or projects of Rotary may be identified in the following manner "[Rotary event or project name] presented by [sponsor's name]"

9. All sponsorship proposals, whether obtained by RI or by a local organizing entity, shall require the approval of the general secretary in consultation with the president. Such approval shall include but not be limited to the following aspects of each sponsorship proposal:

- a) appropriateness of the sponsor;
- b) nature of the sponsorship plan;
- c) extent of the sponsorship relationship;
- d) share of the sponsorship revenue between RI and any local organizing entity;
- e) nature of the sponsorship recognition.

10. Each RI sponsorship relationship should terminate with the completion of the sponsored meeting, event, project or program.

11. Membership lists, except by Board authorization, must not be used for sponsorship purposes and must stay within the control of RI. However, any determination to allow access to membership lists must respect the individual rights of Rotarians, including relevant legal restrictions.

12. All uses of the Rotary marks for the sponsorship purposes contemplated herein must be governed by the "RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations." A copy of these Guidelines must be attached to and incorporated in any contract entered into between RI or any local organizing entity and any Sponsor.

13. Individual Rotarians shall not benefit from sponsorships. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86. Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 237; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 71; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213

Cross References

11.040.6. Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship or Cooperative Relationship Purposes

33.010.11. RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations

35.010.2. Criteria for Cooperation

66.010.2. Contributions to and Support For Other Organizations

36.020. Cooperation with United Nations

Rotary International holds the highest (Category 1) consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

36.020.1. Rotary and The United Nations

Rotarians are encouraged to acquaint themselves with the activities of the United Nations directed to the advancement of world peace. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1952 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98; June 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 393

36.020.2. Membership in UN and its Agencies

RI shall not take membership in any of the organizations related to the United Nations or its specialized agencies. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28

36.020.3. Support For RI Principal and Alternate Representatives to UN

RI principal and alternate representatives to the three UN offices should have the best possible orientation and support which should include, at a minimum, basic tools such as business cards and stationery. RI shall provide annual reimbursement of their allowable expenses upon receipt of appropriate invoices. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 278*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 278

36.020.4. Orientation For RI Representative to UN

The official RI representative should receive extensive and continuing orientation and guidance by visits to RI world headquarters in Evanston and participation in such meetings as the International Assembly and/or convention, when invited by the president, and should work in cooperation with the staff person responsible for the UN relations (including non-government organizations) in Evanston to establish operational procedures, reporting mechanisms and identification of opportunities for RI to advance its programs and increase its visibility at the UN and its agencies as a world-class service organization which, in turn, will enhance Rotary's image with governments, world leaders, and the general public. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 350; March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196

36.020.5. Terms of Reference for RI Representatives to UN

Principal representatives shall be experienced Rotarians who have interest and expertise in the organization(s) to which they are assigned and who shall live in proximity to these organizations' offices.

At the request of the president, principal representatives shall serve for at least three years and shall receive initial and ongoing orientation and training as to their responsibilities; the operations of their assigned organization(s) or agency(ies) and the policies, programs and activities of RI and its Foundation.

Principal representatives shall provide regular reports to the general secretary regarding attendance at meetings, achievement of RI program and public relations objectives, and opportunities for enhancing RI visibility through their assigned organization(s) or agency(ies) and contacts with other Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

Representatives shall monitor their assigned organization(s) or agency(ies) and other NGOs, relaying to RI those matters which relate to RI's missions and activities. Representatives shall not have the authority to make or change RI policy and programs, but should communicate established policy, programs and activities as reflected in official Rotary material or as developed and approved by the Board, the president or the general secretary.

Within the framework of an approved budget, representatives shall conduct activities to further communication between RI and their assigned organization(s) or agency(ies). These activities must be authorized by the president and coordinated by the general secretary. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

36.020.6. Alternate RI Representatives

Alternative representatives shall be experienced Rotarians who have interest in and expertise about the organization to which they are assigned and who live in proximity to that organization's offices.

At the request of the president, alternative representatives may be appointed in both New York and Geneva for terms of at least three years on a staggered basis consistent with the appointment of principal representatives, and shall receive initial and ongoing orientation and training as to their responsibilities.

If asked to serve, alternate representatives may receive direction from the principal representatives and should provide regular reports to them regarding attendance at meetings, achievement of RI program and public relations objectives, and opportunities for enhancing RI visibility through the UN system and contacts with other NGOs. Alternate representatives shall not have the authority to make or change RI policy and programs, but should communicate established policy, programs and activities as reflected in official Rotary material or as developed and approved by the Board, the president, or the general secretary. *(February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201. *Amended by* October 1998 Mtg., Dec. 140

36.020.7. Volunteer Representatives to UN

The president shall appoint suitable volunteer representatives to UN agencies in other locations. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140

36.020.8. Publicity for Cooperation With UN

The general secretary shall arrange for periodic publication of articles in the Rotary World Magazine Press on the UN, its agencies, and the work of RI's UN representatives. *(November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138

36.020.9. Club Cooperation With UN

All clubs should explore every opportunity for cooperation with local units of the United Nations Associations and at local offices of the United Nations and affiliated agencies, provided that such does not contravene RI's Constitution and Bylaws. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140

36.030. Cooperation with Other Organizations and Groups

36.030.1. RI Representatives to Other Organizations

The system of RI representatives to the United Nations community and to non-governmental organizations shall be expanded to include the following organizations:

- 1) UN Food and Agricultural Organization, Rome, Italy
- 2) UN World Food Program, Rome, Italy
- 3) Organization of African Unity, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- 4) UN Centre for Human Settlements in Nairobi, Kenya
- 5) UN Environment Programme, Nairobi, Kenya
- 6) World Bank, Washington, D.C.
- 7) Organization of American States, Washington, D.C.
- 8) UN International Fund for Agricultural Development, Rome, Italy

The president should consider appointing qualified Rotarians to serve as representatives to these organizations in accordance with the guidelines established by the Board. RI representatives to other organizations should have the best possible orientation and support which should include, at a minimum, basic tools such as business cards and stationery. RI shall provide annual reimbursement of their allowable expenses upon receipt of appropriate invoices. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 118*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 243; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 278; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 118

36.030.2. Council of Europe

In its consultative status with the Council on Europe, Rotary International is not to be interpreted as endorsing a particular regional structure or plan, but rather as pursuing its goal of advancing international understanding, goodwill and peace.

As appropriate, the president shall appoint a past governor or higher ranking Rotarian to serve as RI representative to the Council of Europe, reporting through either the UN liaison advisory committee, an equivalent committee or the general secretary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

36.030.3. Inner Wheel

Although RI and Inner Wheel share some of the same service goals, they are separate organizations and have no official affiliation. RI's policy concerning "Relationships with Other Organizations" (*See section 35.010.*) clarifies and governs the relationship between RI and Inner Wheel.

The general secretary shall maintain an agreement with International Inner Wheel concerning its emblem, consistent with RI's obligation to protect and preserve the RI emblem. (*August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 54; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 410

36.030.4. PROBUS Clubs

PROBUS is not a program of Rotary International. However, Rotary clubs may, at no cost to RI, organize and support PROBUS clubs as a worthwhile community service activity. As appropriate, the general secretary shall share information about PROBUS clubs with Rotary clubs through existing RI publications. The general secretary shall refer clubs interested in sponsoring PROBUS clubs to the PROBUS center in their area. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326; March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221; March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171; November 1996 Mtg., Dec. 103

36.030.5. Groups of Former Rotarians

Groups of former Rotarians organized to promote acquaintance and fellowship and to further their individual active interest in service to others are looked upon with favor. No objection will be offered to the establishment of any such group provided it is organized and functions as follows:

- a. The organization of a group of former Rotarians shall be undertaken by the interested former Rotarians concerned.
- b. The group shall determine the method of ascertaining the eligibility and qualifications of its members and shall not include in its membership members of clubs or those who have never been Rotarians.
- c. Members of the group may identify themselves as “former Rotarians” or “past Rotarians” individually and in the name of the group.
- d. The group shall not use the words “Rotary,” “Rotary club,” “Rotarian” (except as established above) or “Rotary International” in its name or publications, nor shall such group or its individual members use the Rotary emblem or any modification of the emblem or any other similar emblem.
- e. There shall be no direct or indirect implication that the group is an affiliated club of RI or in any other way officially a part of or recognized by RI.
- f. The purposes of the group shall be to develop acquaintance and fellowship among its members and to provide opportunities for participation in service activities, and its program and activities shall be consistent with such purposes.
- g. The group shall not take corporate action or give corporate expression of opinion on political subjects or on the organization, administration and functioning of RI or its member clubs.
- h. The group may not circularize Rotary clubs or Rotarians on any matter whatsoever.
- i. Members of the group do not inherently have the right to attend Rotary club meetings or RI meetings and do not otherwise by right have access to RI or its officers or to Rotary clubs and their officers or to RI publications, including the *Official Directory*.

j. RI shall not provide financial assistance to any group of former Rotarians, nor shall such group seek financial assistance from RI or its member clubs.

k. A meeting of the group shall not be the basis for attendance credit for Rotarians.

l. Former Rotarians are encouraged to organize in groups in accordance with the foregoing procedure and conditions, provided that such encouragement does not constitute sponsorship or official recognition of any such group. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1965 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 247

36.030.6. Rotaserv and Rotatio

Governors are urged to encourage clubs in their districts to allow former Rotaserv and Rotatio clubs to become Rotary clubs if appropriate. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 409; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76



Article 37. Territorial, Regional and Sectional Groupings

37.010. Territorial Units-RIBI

37.020. Limitations on Administrative Units

37.030. Intercountry Committees Guidelines

37.010. Territorial Units-RIBI

37.010.1. Relationship Between RI and RIBI

RI fully recognizes and respects the integrity of the resolution of the 1927 Convention that authorizes RIBI to operate as the sole territorial unit form of administration within RI, and will continue to do so unless requested by the General Council of RIBI or a majority of the member clubs of Great Britain and Ireland to dissolve or modify the territorial unit of RIBI.

37.010.2. Description of RIBI in the Official Directory

The *Official Directory* of RI shall contain an explanatory note to give a clear and adequate description of the unique territorial unit of RIBI and its status as a distinctive and historical administrative structure of Rotary International.

37.010.3. RIBI Officers' Attendance at International Assembly and Convention

The annual invitational list of official RI participants in the International Assembly and International Convention would not include the officers of RIBI in view of the fact that such expenses are fully reimbursed by RIBI. These officers shall be invited to the International Assembly and Convention and participate in the same capacity as the chairs of committees of RI, who are invited at no expense to RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60; *Affirmed by* March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

37.020. Limitations on Administrative Units

It is not in the best interest of RI to consider any future or additional form of administrative structure or specific geographic areas of the world that would be parallel to or similar to the RIBI territorial unit. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1984, Mtg. Bd. Dec. 60

37.030. Intercountry Committees Guidelines

Intercountry committees promote contact between districts and clubs in two or more countries and increase fellowship and intercultural understanding among the people of various nations. Rotarians are encouraged to create new intercountry committees to foster stronger ties between Rotarians, clubs, and districts from different countries and establish networks across borders, continents, and oceans. Intercountry committees should be promoted at RI, district and club meetings. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.1. Mission of Intercountry Committees

The mission of an intercountry committee is to build a force that will encourage Rotarians to visit each other's countries and homes, to strengthen friendships and projects so formed by encouraging clubs and districts to connect with clubs and districts in other countries, and to contribute to world peace.

Recommended activities:

- sponsor new Rotary clubs
- develop a sister or twin club network between participating countries
- conduct Friendship Exchanges between the two countries
- initiate or carry out World Community Service projects
- initiate or carry out Vocational Service projects (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.2. Establishing an Intercountry Committee

Intercountry committees should involve districts in two or more countries and act only in an advisory capacity to the governors. Qualified Rotarians in each interested country should form a planning committee to establish an intercountry committee. The responsibilities of the planning committee include inviting district governors from each district in the country to participate, identifying potential projects, and organizing a planning meeting. After the planning committee has completed these tasks, a national section should be developed in each participating country with the approval of the national coordinator and at least one district governor. The name of an intercountry committee shall be taken from the names of the participating countries. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192; June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.3. National Sections

An intercountry committee is comprised of the national sections that represent the districts in each participating country. National sections coordinate the activities and projects of the intercountry committee within one country. National sections are autonomous and representatives from each shall meet during a general assembly to be held once a year, alternating from country to country. Leadership of the intercountry committee should rotate among the national section chairs on an annual basis. National sections must abide by the rules governing organizations in their country and should have officers including a chair, secretary, and treasurer. The chair of national sections should serve for three years.

While only districts may form and join intercountry committees, individual Rotarians, their spouses, Rotaractors, and Rotary clubs may participate in their activities. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.4. National Section Chair

The national section chair must be a Rotarian, preferably a past district governor, and should be selected by the governor or group of governors representing the districts

located in that country. In an advisory role to participating districts, the national section chair should assist the governor(s) in supervising and promoting the activity and projects of the committee, including the arrangement of contacts between clubs and districts in the partner countries. The national section chair appointment term should be three years to ensure continuity in the work of the intercountry committees. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.5. National Coordinator

In countries that participate in more than one intercountry committee, a national coordinator should be appointed to oversee these activities and the individual national section chairs. The national coordinator collects reports from each national section chair in the country to forward the executive council each year. The national coordinator must be a Rotarian, preferably a past district governor, and should be selected by the governor or group of governors representing the districts located in that country. The national coordinator appointment term should be three years to ensure continuity in the work of the intercountry committees. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.6. Relationships with Districts

Intercountry committees shall function under the direction and with the close cooperation of the respective governors. Districts participating in intercountry committees should appoint a Rotarian to serve as the district liaison to the national section chair. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.7. Finances

Intercountry committees shall function without financial support from Rotary International. Modest fees may be collected from participating districts to cover operating costs of the intercountry committee. Participating districts should fund the costs of national sections and intercountry committee activities in their district. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.8. Executive Council

An executive council is comprised of national coordinators representing each country that participates in intercountry committees. The president, two vice-presidents, secretary and treasurer of the executive council should be elected by the national coordinator members. The president of the executive councils serves a three year term. The president of the executive council serves as the liaison between intercountry committees and Rotary International and should submit an annual report to RI in July each year that provides contact information for national coordinators, a list of participating districts in each national section, and a summary of major projects and activities. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

37.030.9. Relationship with Rotary International

The organization and functioning of intercountry committees is the independent activity of individual districts and is not a part of the program of RI. However, intercountry committees undertaking ongoing service activities, such as a World Community Service project, which extend more than one year in length should comply with RI's policy for multidistrict service activities. Clubs and districts are encouraged to use established intercountry committee relationships to enhance their participation in Rotary Foundation programs, especially in the development of Matching Grants.

Activities of and information about intercountry committees will be published on the RI Web site and in the Rotary World Press. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*)

Source: January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; *Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281*



CHAPTER V

PROGRAMS

Articles

- 40. General Provisions**
- 41. Structured Programs of RI**
- 42. Menu of Service Opportunities**
- 43. Global Networking Groups**
- 44. RI Awards**

Article 40. General Provisions

- 40.010.** Program Terminology
- 40.020.** RI Structured Program and Menu of Service Opportunities Evaluations
- 40.030.** New RI Structured Programs
- 40.040.** RI Projects
- 40.050.** New Generations
- 40.060.** Women's Issues
- 40.070.** Family and Community

40.010. Program Terminology

The following terminology and definitions shall be used for RI Programs:

Special Program of RI - PolioPlus is a special program of Rotary International and has highest priority over all other programs until the certification of eradication is achieved.

Structured Programs – organized activities recommended by the RI Board for clubs and districts that include a recommended framework and guidelines;

Menu of Service Opportunities - issues and concerns identified by RI as recommended service priorities for clubs and districts for a specified period of time;

Global Networking Groups – groups of individual Rotarians organized to focus on shared topics of interest on an international basis.

The following are recognized as *Structured Programs*:

- Interact
- Rotaract
- Rotary Community Corps
- Rotary Friendship Exchange
- Rotary Volunteers

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
World Community Service
Youth Exchange

The following are considered as the *Menu of Service Opportunities* for clubs and districts:

Children at Risk
Disabled Persons
Health Care
International Understanding and Goodwill
Literacy and Numeracy
Population Issues
Poverty and Hunger
Preserve Planet Earth
Urban Concerns
PolioPlus (completion)
(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 406; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394

40.020. RI Structured Program and Menu of Service Opportunities Evaluations

All Rotary structured programs and the Menu of Service Opportunities should be evaluated on a triennial basis by the general secretary. (May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 404)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 187; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61. Affirmed by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 404

40.020.1. Plan for Evaluation of RI Structured Programs and Menu of Service Opportunities

Evaluation Cycle: Triennial

- a) A comprehensive survey to yield information on all RI Structured Programs will be sent to all Rotary clubs every 3 years.
- b) A comprehensive survey to yield information on the RI Menu of Service Opportunities will be sent to all Rotary clubs every 3 years.

Evaluation Criteria: Surveys drafted for the evaluation of all RI structured programs and the Menu of Service Opportunities can draw from the following as appropriate:

- a) number of clubs and districts (and individual Rotarians, if appropriate) participating in the program/service opportunity on a country, regional and worldwide basis;
- b) involvement of cooperating non-Rotary organizations;

- c) amount of funds expended at the club and district levels to participate in a program/service opportunity, to include restricted Rotary Foundation contributions, District Designated Fund (DDF) allocations
- d) the cost to Rotary International to support the program/service opportunity (including staff)
- e) the appropriateness and effectiveness of RI policies and procedures to support clubs and districts participating in the program/service opportunity
- f) the value and effectiveness of promotional and informational materials produced by RI for the program/service activity
- g) identification of the RI programs/service opportunities and/or Rotary Foundation programs that are most important to clubs and districts and are achieving the highest participation levels
- h) Rotarians' perception of the program/service opportunity's relevance to their communities' needs
- i) reporting of public relations opportunities - how and if news of Rotary club and district projects was shared with the public through the media
- j) membership development opportunities: Were new members recruited as a result of non-Rotarian participation in a program or service opportunity?
- k) identification of local challenges to the successful implementation of a program/service opportunity

Polling Audience: Rotary club presidents
(May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 399)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 399

40.030. New RI Structured Programs

As a general guideline, the Board shall adopt a new RI structured program only when:

- a) an existing program of similar cost has been eliminated or reduced;
- b) the president and president-elect have been able, as desired and appropriate, to consult one or more RI committees to evaluate and develop program proposals;
- c) the president and president-elect agree on its need and commit themselves to fully supporting it;
- d) the general secretary has submitted a complete program prospectus which specifies the new program's purpose and effect and indicates what is required to launch it successfully;
- e) there is sufficient time for adequate planning and preparation before the new program's implementation;

- f) there is sufficient staff and financial support for the first few years of the program;
- g) it is adopted initially as a three-year pilot program, after which the general secretary shall submit a detailed evaluation of the program to the Board, which shall then decide whether to make it a regular RI program. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 337; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61

40.030.1. Feasibility Study for New Structured Programs

Before any new structured program is adopted by the Board, the needs and desires of the Rotary world and the financial and staff feasibility for that proposed program should first be assessed by the Board. Other considerations should be the contribution of the program to fulfilling the objective of Rotary, the duties added by the program to the job of the governor, its relationship to established RI programs, possibilities for adaptation of the program in various parts of the Rotary world, the degree to which it involves personal participation by club members and plans for its future expansion, consolidation, or termination. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 187; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61

40.040. RI Projects

The purpose of Rotary is most effectively expressed through the activities of individual clubs and Rotarians covering the various avenues of Rotary service, determined by each club in consideration of its own abilities and resources and the interests of its members and particular needs and opportunities for service. However, from time to time, it is appropriate for RI, as an association of clubs, to promulgate programs or projects which help to advance the Object of Rotary and which would benefit from the collective effort of those clubs and individual Rotarians who wish to participate. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 345

40.040.1. New RI Projects

Until the PolioPlus program has been successfully completed, no other International program will be considered. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 36

40.050. New Generations

It is the responsibility of each Rotarian to prepare the New Generations - all young people up to the age of 30 - by improving their life skills to ensure a better future, while recognizing the diversity of their needs. All clubs and districts are encouraged to undertake projects that support the fundamental needs of the New Generations: health, human values, education, and self-development. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219

40.050.1. Service to New Generations

The following are areas of service to New Generations:

Health:

PolioPlus
Health education
Early childhood development
Drug and alcohol prevention
AIDS awareness
Support to the disabled
Poverty projects
Hunger projects

Human Values:

Promotion of universal human values in the community
Serving as an example to family and community
Parent mentor projects
Involving families in club service projects
Intergenerational projects
Character education projects
Conflict resolution projects
Supporting Rotary's policy on the rights of children
Giving freely of your time

Education:

Functional literacy
Scholarships
Youth Exchange
Model United Nations
Vocational training
Work experience and internships for young people
Preserve Planet Earth
Developing a positive image of youth in the community
Enhancing community awareness of the needs of New Generations

Self-Development:

Rotary Conferences for New Generations
Mentor projects
Interact and Rotaract clubs
Leadership Training for Interact and Rotaract club members
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
Establishing a youth advisory council in the community
Peer support projects
Fostering the productive use of leisure time
(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)

40.050.2. New Generations Month

The month of September is designated as “New Generations Month” to focus upon all Rotary activities that support the development of young people up to the age of 30. Clubs are encouraged to use the slogan “Every Rotarian an Example to Youth” in club bulletins and publicity materials during New Generations Month. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180. Amended by February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219

40.050.3. New Generations Conferences

At the community level, clubs should provide a forum for the New Generations to share with leaders of the community their concerns; express their hopes, dreams and ambitions; and seek solutions to problems that can beset them and the communities in which they live. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 219

Cross References

41.080.9. *New Generations Exchange Program*

40.060. Women’s Issues

The Board has agreed to use a list of key issues affecting the progress of women as the basis for developing all future programs and activities that affect women. These key issues are as follows:

A) Education

- 1) In order to sustain themselves and their families, all women must be able to obtain basic literacy and numeracy skills, life skills (mothering and coping skills, health education) and job skills. These skills can be termed “survival education,” for without these fundamental skills, women and their families are in jeopardy.
- 2) In many parts of the developing world, girls are not given the opportunity to complete their primary education. 30% of all girls in developing countries are not enrolled in, or are prevented from attending school. Primary education for girls is an investment in the future, as it provides a better chance for them as adults to sustain their family’s economic viability. All girls have a right to receive a primary education.
- 3) In many countries, secondary education is not free. Often, families with limited means will choose to send their sons, rather than their daughters, on to further their education. More opportunities must be created for young women to attend secondary school.
- 4) Women in all countries must be encouraged to further their education at colleges and universities. Efforts are needed to increase university enrollment by women, particularly in those countries with low rates of female enrollment.

5) Girls of all ages are often constrained by the traditional parameters that limit their vision and expectations of their lives. Adults who teach and guide girls must be trained to help girls expand their horizons.

6) Bias exists in career guidance of young women at both the secondary and university education levels. Often women are steered away from traditionally male academic subjects and occupations, such as mathematics, the sciences, and technology. Targeted support is needed for women to enter a broad range of occupations.

7) Women often are unable to participate in the development of policies that affect their well-being and progress. There is a need for strategic education - the development of a strategic plan to target women for key areas of education (such as finance, government, engineering, agriculture) so that they develop the credentials needed to affect policies that impact their lives.

B) Health

1) All women have a right to primary health care including access to a primary health care facility. Obstacles which women face in obtaining health care (in developed and developing countries) include:

- a) limited number of health care facilities -- many facilities exceed their capacity to serve, some women have to travel long distances to reach facilities;
- b) lack of understanding about their families' nutritional needs;
- c) no access to supply of potable water, no sanitation facilities;
- d) limited or no access to family planning services;
- e) failure of service providers to properly explain to women the cause of their health problems.

2) Health and family planning education are key to reduced birth rates and reductions in sexually transmitted diseases such as AIDS.

3) Environmental degradation endangers the health and safety of all the inhabitants of Planet Earth. Deforestation and soil erosion lead to creation of new deserts, flooding, and the destruction of arable land. Pollution poisons drinking water and fouls the air. Without a sustainable environment, sustainable health of women will not be possible.

C) Economics

1) Economic access to opportunities and resources is critical to the status of women in their communities. Key components that contribute to women's economic success include:

- a) basic literacy and numeracy
- b) training for basic job skills
- c) access to credit
- d) access to government services -- technical support and advice
- e) access to transportation
- f) access to child care services
- g) ability to independently conduct economic activity

2) In many parts of the world, in both developed and developing countries, women who do work are often stressed and fatigued because they still carry the full burden of domestic work, including child-rearing. Family education is needed to foster the development of partnerships between husbands and wives in meeting domestic needs.

3) Women, as consumers and policy makers, can play a vital role in redirecting economic policies towards production and consumption that supports human values.

D) Self Development

1) In order to reach their potential, women in all communities worldwide must be provided with new and enhanced opportunities for leadership development.

2) Around the world, there are many women leaders at the grassroots level who continuously provide outstanding service to their communities, but for whom there is little or no public recognition of their contributions. These women certainly deserve such recognition which can inspire them to further service and also provide an excellent example for other women and children in the community to emulate.

3) While there are many women in the field of journalism, there is limited media coverage of women's issues and few stories which project positive images of successful women. Education of the media is needed to help journalists and publishers understand the important role which the media can play in helping to build women's self-confidence through stories which highlight the activities of women leaders and discuss issues of relevance to women.

4) One of the greatest impediments to women's self-esteem is domestic abuse. It is a problem that affects women in all countries, and at all social and economic levels. Often domestic violence is generational, passed on to children of both genders. In some countries and cultures, such violence is stigmatized and hidden from public view. In other cultures, it is an accepted form of behavior. Domestic abuse is often linked to drug and alcohol abuse. Domestic violence against women must end. Community wide education is needed so that such actions are no longer tolerated. All communities must have a refuge facility with accompanying social and legal services for battered women and children. Men who perpetrate such violence must be provided with treatment opportunities. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90

40.060.1. Rotary Action to Address the Needs of Women

1) RI recognizes that:

- a) all women in the Rotary movement, serving as Rotarian, spouses, and in associated groups are valuable contributors to the achievement of the Object of Rotary;
- b) the status of women is inherently related to the well-being of children and families;
- c) improvements in the situation of women benefit all society;

- d) women play a pivotal role in Building the Future;
- 2) all Rotarians are encouraged to increase their awareness about issues that affect the development and progress of women in their communities;
- 3) women Rotarians are encouraged to network with other women Rotary club members at the community, district and international levels, to foster fellowship, share experiences, encourage more women's involvement in Rotary, and generate additional projects that address women's needs;
- 4) women Rotarians are encouraged to identify the needs of women in their communities, and share these needs with all of their club members;
- 5) Rotary clubs are encouraged to:
 - a) address the key issues affecting women through existing Rotary programs such as World Community Service and Rotary Community Corps, and program emphases such as Literacy and Commitment to Family;
 - b) ensure that all children in their communities both boys and girls, are able to attend and complete primary school as a minimum in order to achieve basic literacy and numeracy skills as part of RI's emphasis on literacy;
 - c) establish and/or support refuge centers with social and legal services for women and children who are victims of domestic violence;
 - d) increase their number of women members-- increasing the percentage of women in each club will enhance opportunities for clubs to select service projects that address the need of both genders;
 - e) organize Interact and Rotaract clubs in more communities to provide greater leadership development opportunities for young men and women;
 - f) share information about women's issues with the members of their Interact and Rotaract clubs, and encourage Interactors and Rotaractors to address issues which impact women;
 - g) work in partnership with other non-governmental organizations to address women's issues;
 - h) recognize the outstanding contributions of spouses and various associated groups to the Rotary movement, preferably at a special event, such as the district conference, and encourage their continued valuable service to Rotary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

40.070. Family and Community

Rotarians, clubs and districts worldwide are encouraged to demonstrate their commitment to family and community through projects, activities and events in celebration of “Family Month” during the month of December each year. (*July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 20*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94. *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172 and July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 20



Article 41. Structured Programs of RI

- 41.010.** Interact
- 41.020.** Rotaract
- 41.030.** Rotary Community Corps (RCC)
- 41.040.** Rotary Friendship Exchange
- 41.050.** Rotary Volunteers
- 41.060.** Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- 41.070.** World Community Service (WCS)
- 41.080.** Youth Exchange

41.010. Interact

This is a structured program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in June 1962.

Note: The Board regularly reviews and, as necessary, amends the Interact “Statement of Policy,” “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and “Standard Interact Club Bylaws.”

The "Interact Statement of Policy" is as follows:

1. The Interact program was developed and created by and is an activity of Rotary International, and the authority for the establishment and enforcement of constitutional provisions, organizational requirements and standards of procedure, and for the protection and preservation of the Interact name and emblem is retained by Rotary International.
2. An Interact club is a Rotary club sponsored organization of young people whose purpose is to provide opportunity for them to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding.
3. An Interact club is organized, sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club or clubs and is established following the endorsement of the governor upon certification and recognition by Rotary International; it can be created and sustained in no other way, and its continued existence depends upon the continued sponsorship of its sponsoring Rotary club and continued recognition by Rotary International.
4. Within the framework established by Rotary International, the sponsoring Rotary club is responsible for organizing the Interact club and for providing it with guidance and counsel thereafter and has complete control and supervision over all activities, policies, and programs of the Interact club.
5. Where the Interact club is school-connected, control and supervision by the sponsoring Rotary club shall be exercised in full cooperation with the school authorities, with the understanding that such clubs are subject to the same regulations and policies established by the school authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the school.
6. All Interact club activities, projects, and programs shall at all times be conducted in harmony with the policies of Rotary International; continued sponsorship of an Interact club by a Rotary club and recognition of it by RI are contingent thereon.

7. There shall be a “Standard Interact Club Constitution” prescribed by Rotary International and subject to amendment only by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. As a prerequisite of its organization and certification, each Interact club shall adopt the “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and shall automatically adopt all amendments thereto subsequently made by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.
8. Each Interact club shall adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the “Standard Interact Club Constitution” and with policy established by Rotary International. Such by-laws shall be subject to the approval of the sponsoring Rotary club.
9. Each Interact club shall be sponsored by the Rotary club whose locality embraces the area of residence of the school(s) from which the Interact members are drawn, unless written authority is granted by the Board of Directors of Rotary International to organize an Interact club outside the locality of the sponsoring Rotary club.
10. An Interact club may be organized and sponsored jointly by more than one Rotary club under the following conditions:
 - a) The governor must give his approval, stating in writing that, in his considered judgment, the best interests of the district, the Rotary clubs concerned and the Interact program would be served by the proposed joint sponsorship.
 - b) A substantial percentage of the members of the proposed Interact club must be drawn from within the locality of each sponsoring Rotary club.
 - c) The circumstances must be such that the organization of separate Interact clubs, each sponsored by a single Rotary club, would create or result in an artificial division of what is essentially a single body of students within the school or community.
 - d) A joint Interact committee must be created with effective representation from each of the sponsoring Rotary clubs.
11. Each member of an Interact club, by his acceptance of membership, agrees to accept and to adhere to the provisions of the constitution and by-laws of his Interact club.
12. Membership in an Interact club shall be evidenced by Interact membership identification cards supplied to Interact clubs through sponsoring Rotary clubs by Rotary International.
13. The Interact name and emblem, as used in or applied to the Interact program, are the property of Rotary International and shall be preserved for the exclusive use of those involved in the Interact program, including duly established Interact clubs and their members in good standing.
14. An Interact club member shall be entitled to use and display the Interact name and emblem in an appropriate and dignified manner during the period of his membership in an Interact club and he shall relinquish such entitlement upon termination of his membership in his Interact club or upon the termination of his Interact club.

15. An Interact club may be terminated (a) by Rotary International, with or without the consent, approval or concurrence of the sponsoring Rotary club, for failure to function in accordance with its constitution or for other cause, (b) by its sponsoring Rotary club, or (c) by the Interact club itself upon its own determination.
16. Upon termination of an Interact club, all rights and privileges relating to the name and emblem shall be relinquished by the club and by its members individually and collectively.
17. As a matter of policy, the Board does not recognize the right of any individual or organization except RI to circularize Interact clubs for any commercial or other purpose.
18. Governors are requested to appoint district Interact committees, composed of Rotarians from various parts of the district, to assist the governor in publicizing the Interact program, promoting the organization of new Interact clubs, and administering the program of Interact within the district. Where feasible and practicable in the appointment of district Interact committees, there should be provision for continuity of membership by appointing one or more members for a second term. Rotary district Interact committees in carrying out their duties might benefit from consultation with members of Interact clubs.
19. Interact organization and meetings beyond the club level.
 - a) If, within a district of Rotary International, there are five or more Interact clubs, an Interact district may be established, the boundaries of the district to be coterminous with the Rotary International district embracing the respective sponsoring Rotary clubs. The clubs in such Interact district may elect an Interact representative from among their membership. The method of election shall be determined by the district Interact committee. The district Interact representative will be guided and counseled by the Rotary governor and the Rotary district Interact committee, or other appropriate Rotary district committee, and shall assist the district committee in arranging districtwide meetings and, where possible, shall preside at such meetings, shall give counsel to and provide encouragement and inspiration to the Interact clubs of the district, particularly with respect to broadening and deepening the program of Interact within the district, and shall help focus their attention on the worldwide extent of Interact and the potential and achievements of the program in behalf of international understanding.
 - b) If an Interact district has been established, there may be, with approval of the governor, a district organization which will provide, in addition to the district representative, for a district secretary and two or more zone representatives, each responsible for a certain number of clubs and such other responsibilities as may be assigned by the district representative.
 - c) Within a district of Rotary International, any two or more Interact clubs conveniently located with respect to each other are encouraged to hold meetings with representatives from each club, with the advice, guidance and presence of one or more members of the district Interact committee, in order to increase friendship, exchange ideas, gain inspiration, and strengthen, broaden and deepen the program of Interact within the district. When distances permit, such meetings may be held on a districtwide basis, under the guidance of the district Interact committee, with one or more members of this committee present.

- d) The purpose of a districtwide Interact meeting is to provide encouragement, enlightenment, and inspiration to the Interact clubs with respect to school and Community Service and to focus attention on the worldwide potential and achievements of Interact in behalf of international understanding.
 - e) No meeting of members of Interact clubs beyond the club level shall have any legislative authority nor shall be so organized or conducted as to give the appearance of having such authority. Nevertheless, such a meeting may include the opportunity for expression of ideas which might be of value as advisory observations to those who are involved at the district or other levels with the administration of Interact.
 - f) All Interact district activities shall be financed by the Interact clubs in the district. No expenses of district Interact meetings or Interact district representatives shall be paid by Rotary International. The cost of such meetings shall be minimal and within the financial means of those participating.
20. Meetings of Interact club members from more than one district, particularly from districts in more than one country, are recommended and encouraged wherever feasible, such meetings to be held under the guidance of the host Rotary governor and the Interact committee, with one or more members of the committee present and in conjunction with the host Interact district representative and Interact presidents, and subject to the approval of the Board of Directors of RI. Requests to the Board of Directors of RI for holding multidistrict meetings of Interact clubs must be accompanied by:
- a) Information including the date, location, purpose, program and participants of the proposed meeting;
 - b) A copy of the anticipated budget for the meeting with assurance that the sponsors are in a position to and will assume complete responsibility for contractual and financial obligations inherent in the meeting;
 - c) Proof of adequate liability insurance covering the event;
 - d) Assurance that the planning and implementation of the proposed meeting will be carried out under the direct supervision of Rotarians;
 - e) A statement from the director or immediate past director of RI resident in the area in which the meeting is to be held that he approves the plan for holding such meeting.
21. Financing the cost of the Interact program.
- a) No part of the expenses of Interact district representatives or meetings of Interact clubs or groups of Interact clubs shall be paid by Rotary International.
 - b) Costs involved in arranging any meetings of Interact clubs or groups of Interact clubs should be kept as low as possible consistent with effective meetings and a meaningful program.

- c) It is the responsibility of the Interact club to raise the funds necessary to carry out the program of the club.
 - d) Rotary clubs sponsoring Interact clubs should not contribute more than occasional or incidental financial assistance to such Interact clubs.
 - e) Interact clubs should not make general solicitations for financial assistance from Rotary clubs or from other Interact clubs.
 - f) Interact clubs should not solicit financial assistance from individuals, businesses or organizations in their respective communities without giving something of value in return.
 - g) Any dues or assessments on the membership of any Interact club should be nominal and should be only for the purpose of covering the cost of administering the club; funds for activities and projects undertaken by Interact clubs should be raised by such clubs apart from such dues or assessments.
 - h) Rotary clubs and Rotary district conferences inviting members of Interact clubs to participate in the programs of such clubs and conferences should subscribe to sufficient trip accident and liability insurance to protect the Rotary club or district conference against any possible legal or moral obligation and liability.
22. As a matter of principle, Interact clubs are not authorized to assume membership or merge with other organizations regardless of the purpose of such organizations. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: May-June 1964 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 244 and 247; May 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 285. *Amended by* May 1967 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 251, 252, 253, 254; July 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154; January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 131 and 135; January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106; January 1972 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107; January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102; January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 171, 173, 174 and November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

41.010.1. Rotary Club Sponsorship

Through existing publications, the general secretary should encourage Rotary club sponsorship of Interact clubs and the value of Interact to young people in schools and communities throughout the Rotary world. Each Interact club shall be strongly encouraged to mention after its own name “sponsored by the Rotary club of (name).” Space shall be reserved on the Interact membership identification cards so that the name of the sponsoring Rotary club can be included. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304; June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 253

41.010.2. Charter Membership

It is recommended, but not mandated, that there be a minimum of 15 members for a new Interact club to be chartered. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91

41.010.3. Governor and District Involvement in Interact

The governor's endorsement is required as a prerequisite to certification of a new Interact club. All communications related to the status of Interact clubs shall be brought to the attention of the governor by the sponsoring Rotary clubs and/or the RI Secretariat. RI district Interact chairs are encouraged to create a district Interact newsletter. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91

41.010.4. Enhancing Participation in Interact

All clubs and Rotarians should be aware that Interact is available to all young people and is not limited to the families of Rotarians. Interact clubs are encouraged to cooperate with their sponsoring Rotary clubs in carrying out community programs and projects. Sponsoring Rotary clubs are encouraged to do the same with their Interact clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150

41.010.5. Recognition of Interact by Rotarians

Rotary club and district Interact leaders are encouraged to identify, address, and support Interact clubs and projects in their communities, utilize the Internet to promote Interact activities, and take a more active role in assisting Interactors to make international connections, especially through communication and information-sharing. Rotarians are encouraged to hold district level conferences for Interactors, New Generations conferences for young people, and meetings for Rotarians and other adults focusing on youth issues. In addition, Rotarians are encouraged to recognize Interactors with certificates, medallions, pins and seals of the Interact emblem as appropriate. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235

41.010.6. Interact Emblem

Note: The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, an official Interact emblem, dissimilar to the Rotary emblem, which is for the Interact club's exclusive use and benefit.

The following statement reflects RI's policy on the use of the Interact emblem:

1. The Interact emblem is for the exclusive use of the respective clubs bearing that name and the members of those clubs.
2. When displayed by individual club members, the emblem may be used without further information.
3. When the emblem is used to represent a club, the name of the club should appear with the emblem.
4. When an Interact district exists, it may use the emblem but only in conjunction with reference to the district and its number.

5. No publication may bear the Interact emblem without the name of the club or number of the district except those published by or under the authority of RI for the use of Rotary or the Interact club in establishing or carrying out the affairs of one of the sponsored clubs.

6. No other use of the emblem is permitted by RI, which has legal control of this emblem. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1962 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295

41.010.7. School-Connected Interact Clubs

Where an Interact club is school-connected, control and supervision by the sponsoring Rotary club shall be exercised in full cooperation with the school authorities. Such clubs are subject to the same regulations and policies established by the school authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the school. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251

41.010.8. Accident and Liability Insurance

Clubs and district conferences inviting members of Interact clubs to participate in the programs of such clubs or conferences should subscribe to sufficient trip accident and liability insurance to protect the club or district conference against any possible legal liability. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

41.010.9. Multidistrict Interact Meetings

Where feasible, meetings of Interact club members from more than one district, particularly from districts in more than one country, are recommended and encouraged. Such meetings are to be held under the guidance of the host governor and the Interact committee, with one or more members of the committee present and in conjunction with the host Interact representative and Interact presidents. Such meetings are subject to the approval of the Board. Requests to the Board to hold such meetings must be accompanied by

- 1) information including the date, location, purpose, program and participants of the proposed meeting
- 2) a copy of the anticipated meeting budget with assurance that the sponsors are in a position to and will assume complete responsibility for contractual and financial obligations inherent in the meeting
- 3) proof of adequate liability insurance covering the event
- 4) assurance that the planning and implementation of the proposed meeting will be carried out under the direct supervision of Rotarians
- 5) a statement of approval of the meeting plan from the director or immediate past director resident in the area in which the meeting is to be held. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106. Amended by October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

41.010.10. Interact Association With Other Organizations

As a matter of principle, Interact clubs are not authorized to assume membership in or merge with other organizations regardless of the purpose of such organizations. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 286. See also January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

41.010.11. Interact Club Designations in *Official Directory*

The symbol (I) for Interact shall be included in the listings of clubs in the “Rotary Districts” section of the *Official Directory* and shall designate clubs which sponsor one or more Interact clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153

41.010.12. RI Secretariat Service to Interact Clubs

Direct correspondence with members of Interact clubs should not be initiated from the RI Secretariat, except in unusual circumstances and for reasons which indicate the desirability of such correspondence. However, communications received at the Secretariat from individual Interact club members should be acknowledged by direct response to the Interact member with a copy of the correspondence to the sponsoring Rotary club. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 249

41.010.13. Interact Finances

It is the responsibility of the Interact club to raise the funds necessary to carry out the program of the club. Rotary clubs sponsoring Interact clubs should not contribute more than occasional or incidental financial assistance to such Interact clubs. Interact clubs should not make general solicitations for financial assistance from Rotary clubs or other Interact clubs. Interact clubs should not solicit financial assistance from individuals, businesses or organizations in their respective communities without giving something of value in return.

Any dues or assessments on the membership of any Interact club should be nominal and only to cover the cost of administering the club; generally speaking, funds for activities and projects undertaken by Interact clubs should be raised by such clubs apart from such dues or assessments.

Sponsoring Rotary clubs should establish financial guidelines for the Interact club to ensure that all funds are managed in a responsible and transparent manner, consistent with laws and banking regulations in the country. This should include providing oversight for an adult signatory on all accounts, and plans for disbursement of funds should the Interact club disband or be terminated. Additionally, these guidelines should include financial stewardship plans for all monies collected to support service projects. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67*)

Source: May-June 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 246; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67

41.010.14. World Interact Week

The week that includes 5 November shall be designated World Interact Week. (*June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 299*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

41.010.15. Rotary Club and Interact Club Involvement

Rotary clubs and Interact clubs should meet jointly at least annually for the purpose of discussing plans and objectives for the upcoming year. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 59

Cross References

31.090.2. General Secretary Authority Regarding Interact Clubs

41.020. Rotaract

This is a structured program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1968.

Note: The Board regularly reviews and amends, as necessary, the “Rotaract Statement of Policy” which is as follows:

Rotaract Statement of Policy

1. The Rotaract program was created by and is an activity of Rotary International, who holds authority for the establishment of constitutional provisions, organizational requirements, and standards of procedure, as well as the protection of the Rotaract name and emblem.
2. A Rotaract club is a Rotary club-sponsored organization of young men and women between the ages of 18 and 30 whose purpose is to provide an opportunity for young men and women to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, to address the physical and social needs of their communities, and to promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service, and whose goals are:
 - a) To develop professional and leadership skills;
 - b) To emphasize respect for the rights of others, and to promote ethical standards and the dignity of all useful occupations;
 - c) To provide opportunities for young people to address the needs and concerns of the community and our world;
 - d) To provide opportunities for working in cooperation with sponsoring Rotary clubs;
 - e) To motivate young people for eventual membership in Rotary.

3. Rotaract club programming shall consist of professional development, leadership development, and service program development as outlined in the “Standard Rotaract Club Constitution.”
4. A Rotaract club is organized, sponsored, and counseled by a Rotary club or clubs and is established following the endorsement of the governor upon certification by Rotary International; its existence depends upon the continued sponsorship of its sponsoring Rotary club and continued recognition by Rotary International.
5. It is recommended, but not mandated, that new Rotaract clubs have a minimum of 15 charter members.
6. Within the framework established by Rotary International, the sponsoring Rotary club is responsible for organizing the Rotaract club and providing it with guidance thereafter.
7. Rotary clubs which sponsor Rotaract clubs are encouraged to invite Rotaractors on at least a quarterly basis to their regularly scheduled meetings, project planning meetings, and special events, and are encouraged to review Rotary club membership potential within their Rotaract clubs on a periodic basis.
8. Rotaract clubs are encouraged to invite their sponsoring Rotary club to Rotaract club meetings, project planning meetings, and special events on at least a quarterly basis.
9. Rotaract clubs are encouraged to develop lists of their club members who might hold a Rotary classification as well as maintain lists of current and past club members indicating their interest in Rotary service projects, both lists to be shared with their sponsoring Rotary club(s).
10. Where the Rotaract club is university-based, control and counsel by the sponsoring Rotary club shall be exercised in full cooperation with the university authorities, with the understanding that such a club is subject to the same regulations and policies established by the authorities for all student organizations and extracurricular activities of the university (or other institution of higher education.)
11. All Rotaract club activities, projects and programs shall be conducted in harmony with the policies of Rotary International.
12. There shall be a standard Rotaract club constitution prescribed by Rotary International and subject to amendment only by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. As a prerequisite of its organization and certification, each Rotaract club shall adopt the “Standard Rotaract Club Constitution” and all amendments.
13. Each Rotaract club shall adopt bylaws not inconsistent with the “Standard Rotaract Club Constitution” and with policy established by Rotary International. Such bylaws shall be subject to the approval of the sponsoring Rotary club.
14. A Rotaract club may be organized and sponsored jointly by more than one Rotary club under the following conditions:

- a) The governor must give his approval, stating in writing that, in his considered judgment, the best interests of the district, the Rotary clubs concerned and the Rotaract program would be served by the proposed joint sponsorship.
 - b) The circumstances must be such that the organization of separate Rotaract clubs, each sponsored by a single Rotary club, would create an artificial division of what is essentially a single body of young adults within the community or university.
 - c) A joint Rotaract committee must be created with effective representation from each of the sponsoring Rotary clubs.
15. Each member of a Rotaract club, agrees to accept and to adhere to the provisions of the constitution and bylaws of his club.
16. Membership in a Rotaract club shall be evidenced by Rotaract club membership identification cards supplied to Rotaract clubs by Rotary International.
17. The Rotaract name and emblem are the property of Rotary International and shall be preserved for the exclusive use of those involved in the Rotaract program. When displayed by individual club members, the emblems may be used without further information. When the emblem is used to represent a club, the name of the club should appear with the emblem. Where a Rotary district exists, it may use the respective emblem but only in conjunction with reference to the district and its number.
18. A Rotaract club member shall be entitled to use and display the Rotaract name and emblem in an appropriate and dignified manner during the period of his membership in a Rotaract club. He shall relinquish such entitlement upon termination of his membership in his Rotaract club or upon the termination of his Rotaract club.
19. A Rotaract club may be terminated:
 - a) By Rotary International, with or without the consent, approval or concurrence of the sponsoring Rotary club, for failure to function in accordance with its constitution, or for other cause.
 - b) By its sponsoring Rotary club, after consultation with the governor and the District Rotaract Representative, or
 - c) By the Rotaract club itself upon its own determination.
20. Upon termination of a Rotaract club, all rights and privileges relating to the name and emblem shall be relinquished by the club and by its members individually and collectively. The Rotaract club shall relinquish all financial assets to the sponsoring Rotary club.
21. As a matter of policy, the Board does not recognize the right of any individual or organization except RI to circularize Rotaract clubs for any commercial purpose, except in the case of Rotaractors who are responsible for organizing Rotaract club, district and multidistrict meetings.

22. Governors are requested to appoint district Rotaract committees, composed of Rotarians from various parts of the district, to assist the governor in publicizing the Rotaract program, promoting the organization of new Rotaract clubs, and administering the program of Rotaract within the district. Where feasible and practicable in the appointment of district Rotaract committees, there should be provision for continuity of membership by appointing one or more members for a second term.
23. Rotaract organization and meetings beyond the club level:
 - a) A district with two or more Rotaract clubs must elect a District Rotaract Representative from among their membership. The method of election shall be determined by the Rotaract membership. As a qualification for election to District Rotaract Representative, a person must have served as a Rotaract club president or as a member of the Rotaract district committee for one year.
 - b) In a district with one Rotaract club, the District Rotaract Representative shall be the most recent, available past Rotaract club president.
 - c) The District Rotaract Representative will be guided and counseled by the Rotary governor, the Rotary district Rotaract committee, or other appropriate Rotary district committee.
 - d) Each district is encouraged to develop a district Rotaract organization, headed by the District Rotaract Representative, to carry out the following responsibilities:
 - 1) Develop and distribute a district Rotaract newsletter;
 - 2) Plan, arrange, and hold a district Rotaract conference;
 - 3) Encourage attendance and participation at the Rotary district conference;
 - 4) Conduct Rotaract promotion and extension activities throughout the district in coordination with the district Rotaract chair;
 - 5) Serve as Rotaract information liaison to the RI Secretariat for the district;
 - 6) Plan and implement service activities (if approved by three-fourths of the Rotaract clubs in the district);
 - 7) Provide advice and support to Rotaract clubs in implementing their projects;
 - 8) Work with the district Rotaract chair to help coordinate Rotary/Rotaract activities in the district;
 - 9) Coordinate public relations activities for Rotaract at the district level;
 - 10) Work with the district Rotaract chair to plan and implement a training session for Rotaract club officers in the district.

- e) The purpose of the district-wide meeting of Rotaract clubs is to promote community service projects, increase international understanding and enhance professional development in a context of friendship and camaraderie.
- f) No meeting of members of Rotaract clubs beyond the club level shall have any legislative authority nor shall be so organized as to give the appearance of having such authority. Nevertheless, such a meeting may include ideas which might be of value as advisory observations to those involved at the district or other levels of Rotaract administration.
- g) At a district Rotaract meeting, a three-fourths majority of the Rotaract clubs in a district may vote to undertake a district service project and to establish a district Rotaract service fund to raise funds for this project. Contributions to such a fund must be voluntary. Such a project and service fund must be approved by the governor, and specific plans and instructions for the administration of the district project and use of the fund must also have the approval of the governor and three-fourths of the Rotaract clubs in the district. The governor must appoint a district fund committee to be responsible for collecting and administering the district fund, such committee to be composed of Rotaractors from the district and at least one Rotarian from the district Rotaract committee. The district service fund must be kept in a bank account which clearly indicates that the fund is the property of the district Rotaract organization and not the personal property of any individual Rotaractor or Rotaract club.
- h) All district Rotaract activities shall be financed by the Rotaract clubs in the district. No expenses of district Rotaract club meetings shall be paid by Rotary International. The cost of such meetings shall be minimal and within the financial means of those participating.

24. Rotaract activities beyond the district level

- a) Rotaract Multidistrict Service Projects. Rotaract-sponsored service projects involving clubs in two or more districts may be implemented provided that such projects
 - 1) are, in nature and scope, within the capability of the clubs and Rotaractors in the districts to undertake successfully without interfering with or detracting from the scope and effectiveness of club activities in furthering the program of Rotaract at the club level;
 - 2) shall not be undertaken initially unless each District Rotaract Representative concerned has agreed to such a joint project and then, only after approval of two-thirds of the clubs in each district;
 - 3) shall be undertaken with the approval of the governors concerned;
 - 4) shall be under the direct supervision of the District Rotaract Representatives concerned; the custody of all funds contributed or collected for such projects shall be the responsibility of the district representatives concerned, through a committee of Rotaractors from within the districts involved, who may be appointed to assist in administering any such project and related funds;

- 5) shall be undertaken only after the District Rotaract Representatives have jointly secured in advance the authorization of the general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, to undertake the project;
 - 6) shall involve the participation by Rotaract clubs and/or individual Rotaractors on a voluntary basis, clearly presented as such; the cost of participation by a club or individual Rotaractor, if any, should be kept to a minimum, and not be implicitly or directly made an obligation in the form of a per capita tax, or assessment or otherwise;
- b) Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organizations. Districts may develop a multidistrict organization for the purpose of disseminating information and facilitating communication between Rotaract clubs in the districts concerned, provided that
- 1) there is no objection by the governors of each of the districts concerned;
 - 2) authorization is secured from the general secretary, acting on behalf of the RI Board of Directors, to develop and maintain such an organization;
 - 3) the organization complies with RI policy or is subject to termination of its status by the general secretary on behalf of the RI Board of Directors;
 - 4) Rotaract representatives of the districts concerned comprise the membership of such organizations. Each District Rotaract Representative may appoint a member for his/her district organization, as needed, to carry out the activities of the multidistrict organization;
 - 5) funds needed to implement the organization's activities (i.e. production and distribution of regional club directories and newsletters, dissemination of Rotaract program information, general correspondence) shall be obtained on a voluntary basis only;
 - 6) the organization has no decision making or legislative powers, except for decisions concerning the activities of the organization, for which each member (District Rotaract Representative) shall have one vote.
- c) Rotaract Multidistrict Meetings
- 1) Rotaract worldwide meetings shall require the approval of the host governor(s) and RI director for the region, and shall also require approval of the RI Board of Directors. Proposals for such meetings shall be submitted by the host District Rotaract Representative and the proposal shall describe date, location, facilities, participants, program, budget and include proof of adequate liability insurance;
 - 2) Rotaract multidistrict meetings (not at a worldwide level), shall require that the host District Rotaract Representative provide a copy of the meeting proposal which describes date, location, facilities, participants, program budget and includes proof of adequate liability insurance to the governors concerned, and the approval of the host

governor. The District Rotaract Representative shall inform the RI director(s) for the region(s) and the general secretary of the event;

- 3) Rotaract exchange teams are encouraged when undertaken in accordance with the guidelines established by the RI Board;
- 4) as part of the official program of the annual RI Convention, a special Rotaract forum one day prior to the commencement of the convention shall be arranged and implemented by RI, to include discussion of issues identified by the RI Rotaract committee as important to Rotaractors;
- 5) the Rotaract pre-convention forum may be used as an opportunity to informally gauge Rotaract opinion on policy or program matters, with each district represented having one vote. Any recommendations made at the pre-convention meeting shall be forwarded to the RI Rotaract committee for its review and consideration.

25. Leadership Training

- a) All incoming Rotaract club officers shall be provided with Rotaract club officers leadership training at the district level, such training to include a one to two-day leadership training seminar conducted by the district Rotaract committee in coordination with the RI district Rotaract committee for all incoming Rotaract club officers, directors, and committee chairs to be paid for by the sponsoring Rotary clubs, or where circumstances dictate, by a mutually agreed-upon financial arrangement involving the sponsoring Rotary clubs, Rotary district, and the Rotaract participants.
- b) Rotary districts shall provide leadership training of district Rotaract committees on a multidistrict basis.

26. Financing the cost of the Rotaract program:

- a) Rotaract program financial policy includes the following:
 - 1) Rotary International shall provide for Rotaract activities at the international convention and shall provide program materials to district Rotaract chairs, representatives, and Rotaract clubs.
 - 2) No part of the expenses of meetings of Rotaract clubs or groups of Rotaract clubs shall be paid by Rotary International, with the exception of the annual Rotaract Pre-Convention Meeting.
 - 3) Any fees, dues or assessments on the membership of any Rotaract club shall be nominal and shall be only for the purpose of covering the cost of administering the club; funds for activities and projects undertaken by Rotaract clubs shall be raised by such clubs apart from such fees, dues or assessments and shall be placed into a separate account. A thorough audit by a qualified person shall be made once each year of all the club's financial transactions.

- 4) It is the responsibility of the Rotaract club to raise the funds necessary to carry out the program of the club.
 - 5) Rotary clubs and Rotary district conferences inviting members or Rotaract clubs to participate in the programs of such clubs and conferences should subscribe to sufficient trip, accident and liability insurance to protect the Rotary club or district conference against any possible legal or moral obligation and liability.
 - 6) Rotaract clubs should not make general solicitations for financial assistance from Rotary clubs or from other Rotaract clubs.
 - 7) Contributions to fund district Rotaract service projects must be voluntary and cannot be made enforceable upon the individual Rotaractor or Rotaract club.
27. As a matter of principle, Rotaract clubs are not authorized to assume membership or merge with other organizations regardless of the purpose of such organizations. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150; *Amended by* January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155; January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 106 and 164; January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 172 and 176; January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171; January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 307; May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 387, 391, 392, 393, 396, 398, 399; June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295; March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 229, 236; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236 and November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 74

41.020.1. Purpose of the Program

The purpose of Rotaract is to provide an opportunity for young men and women to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, to address the physical and social needs of their communities and to promote better relations among all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 387

41.020.2. Involvement of Governor

The governor's endorsement is required as a prerequisite to certification of a new Rotaract club. All communications relating to the status of Rotaract clubs are to be brought to the attention of the governor by the sponsoring Rotary clubs and/or the RI Secretariat. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102

41.020.3. Rotaract Training

All incoming governors-elect are encouraged to provide adequate training to their incoming Rotaract club presidents and, where appropriate, include such training as part of the program of the Rotary district assembly. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; *Affirmed by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 231

41.020.4. Composition of Rotaract Clubs

Rotaract clubs are composed of young adults between the ages of 18 and 30 inclusive who are residing, employed or studying within the vicinity of the sponsoring Rotary club. On 30 June of the Rotaract year in which a member becomes 30 years old, his or her Rotaract membership will end. It is recommended, but not mandated, that new Rotaract clubs have a minimum of 15 charter members. *(February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: May 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 375; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

41.020.5. Foundation Scholars as Guest Rotaract Club Members

All Rotary Foundation Scholars who are within the age guidelines adopted by the Board for the Rotaract program shall be eligible for guest Rotaract club membership during the period of their study in another country. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235

41.020.6. Membership Continuity

To the extent possible, a balance in age should be maintained at all times to promote continuity in the membership of a Rotaract club. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150

41.020.7. Rotaractors at Conventions

There shall be provision for full participation by registered Rotaractors at the international conventions, including opportunities for attendance at all plenary, ticketed and discussion group sessions.

As a part of the official program of the convention, there should be a Rotaract pre-convention meeting prior to the commencement of the convention, to be arranged and implemented by RI and to include discussion of issues identified by the RI Rotaract committee as important to Rotaractors. The pre-convention meeting should be conducted in accordance with RI policy regarding convention operations and procedures. The general secretary should ensure that Rotaractors have opportunities to participate in the development of the Rotaract pre-convention meeting program. The pre-convention meeting should include a separate district Rotaract representative training session. Such training session should focus on the roles and responsibilities of district Rotaract representatives. Governors are encouraged to defray all or part of the costs associated with the attendance of district Rotaract representatives-elect at the annual Rotaract pre-convention meeting. *(March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214)*

Source: May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 391; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; *Amended by* November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96 and March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214

41.020.8. Name of the Sponsoring Rotary Club

Rotaract clubs are strongly encouraged to mention after their own names “Sponsored by the Rotary Club of (name).” Space shall be reserved on the Rotaract membership identification cards so that the name of the sponsoring Rotary club can be included. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304

41.020.9. Use of Rotaract Emblems

The following policy applies to the use of the Rotaract emblems:

1. The Rotaract emblems are for the exclusive use of the respective clubs bearing those names and the members of those clubs.
2. When displayed by individual club members, the emblems may be used without further information.
3. When the emblem is used to represent a club, the name of the club should appear with the emblem.
4. Where a Rotaract district exists, it may use the respective emblem but only in conjunction with reference to the district and its number.
5. No publication may bear the Rotaract emblem without the name of the club or number of the district except those published by or under the authority of RI for the use of Rotary or Rotaract clubs in establishing or carrying on the affairs of one of the sponsored clubs.
6. No other use of the emblems is permitted by RI which has legal control of those emblems. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 295

41.020.10. Rotary/Rotaract Relations

Clubs that sponsor Rotaract clubs are encouraged to invite Rotaractors on at least a quarterly basis to their regularly scheduled meetings, project planning meetings and special events. It is recommended that at least once a month, each sponsoring Rotary club designate one or more of its members to attend the meetings of its Rotaract club. Rotaract clubs are encouraged to cooperate with their sponsoring Rotary clubs in carrying out community programs and projects. Sponsoring Rotary clubs are encouraged to do the same with their Rotaract clubs. Members of Rotary clubs are encouraged to invite qualified Rotaractors and past Rotaractors into membership of their clubs or consider sponsoring a new Rotary club. However, membership in both a Rotary club and a Rotaract club simultaneously is not permitted under the RI Bylaws. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236*)

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150; May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 399; April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 300; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. 63; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182 and June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236. *Affirmed by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 409.

41.020.11. Relationship With Other Organizations

As a matter of principle, Rotaract clubs are not authorized to assume membership in or merge with other organizations regardless of the purpose of such organizations. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171

41.020.12. Rotaract Motto

“Fellowship Through Service” shall be the motto for appropriate use by Rotaract clubs and their members. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155

41.020.13. World Rotaract Week

Rotary and Rotaract clubs are encouraged to observe the week including 13 March as World Rotaract Week, to involve Rotary and Rotaract clubs around the world in a common activity of international scope and visibility as determined by the president. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 375; March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233; November 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92

41.020.14. Recognition of District Rotaract Representatives

District Rotaract Representatives should be given annual recognition in the form of a certificate signed by the president. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

41.020.15. Rotaract Finances

Following is a delineation of financial responsibility for the Rotaract program:

- 1) Individual Rotaractors shall pay annual membership fees to their Rotaract club to cover the cost of club administration.
- 2) All sponsoring Rotary clubs must pay a certification fee of US\$50 for new Rotaract clubs.
- 3) Sponsoring Rotary clubs shall pay for the attendance of their Rotaract club officers, directors and committee chairs at district-level leadership training meetings (or, when circumstances dictate, these meetings shall be paid for through mutually agreed upon financial arrangements involving the sponsoring Rotary clubs, the Rotary district and the Rotaract participants).
- 4) Rotary districts shall pay for the attendance of their districts' Rotaract representatives at district-level or multidistrict leadership training meetings.
- 5) Rotary International shall provide for Rotaract activities at the International Convention (similar to the pre-convention World Community Service meeting) and shall provide program materials to district Rotaract chairs and representatives. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202*)

Source: May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 402; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92. *Amended by* November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 136

41.020.16. RI Representation at Regional Meetings

When appointed by the president, a current or past officer and a staff person should attend regional Rotaract meetings on a periodic basis, at a cost not to exceed US\$10,000 annually. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 25

41.020.17. INTEROTA Meetings

Rotaractors, prior to offering to host an INTEROTA meeting, must fully comply with Rotaract multidistrict policy as established by the Board. INTEROTA is not an official RI meeting, but RI will provide support to INTEROTA through approval of its program content and by ensuring representation of RI leadership at this event. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238. *Affirmed by* February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306

41.020.18. Make-up Attendance at Rotary Clubs

Rotaractors should be allowed to make-up Rotaract club attendance at meetings of Rotary clubs at the discretion of the individual Rotary club.

Rotary clubs that sponsor Rotaract clubs are encouraged to invite to their regularly scheduled meetings individual Rotaractors desiring to make up absences from their regularly scheduled Rotaract club meetings. (*November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111*)

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

41.020.19. RI Secretariat Support for Rotaract

The General Secretary shall provide the following services to the Rotaract program:

- 1) Provide full services to all District Rotaract Representatives including the production and distribution of District Rotaract Representative program packets at the beginning of each Rotary year.
- 2) Maintain an accurate list of the names, addresses and telephone numbers of all District Rotaract Representatives and distribute this list to all Representatives worldwide on an annual basis.
- 3) Serve as the international contact for all District Rotaract Representatives to respond to their requests for information and materials and to facilitate communication between Rotaract districts.
- 4) Provide each District Rotaract Representative with a free subscription to a Rotary World Magazine Press magazine.
- 5) Produce a computer-generated list of the names and addresses of all Rotaract club presidents and mail it to all District Rotaract Representatives on an annual basis. The list also should be made available to Rotaract clubs, upon request, for a fee.

- 6) Publish a column on the Rotaract program in *The Rotarian* on a regularly scheduled basis, and send these columns to regional magazines as mandatory material.
- 7) Produce *Rotaract News* in all official Rotary languages for distribution directly to all Rotaract club presidents, Rotary club sponsors of Rotaract clubs, District Rotaract Representatives, Rotary district Rotaract chairs and governors.
- 8) Provide RI staff support at all Rotaract activities held in conjunction with the RI convention.
- 9) Produce and make available directly to Rotaractors a selection of quality publications on the Rotaract program and a selection of existing Rotary program publications for their use in developing effective programs.
- 10) Provide the "Worldwide Rotaract Directory" on an annual basis to all Rotaract clubs.
- 11) Provide Rotaract training materials on CD-ROM for district Rotaract representatives. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: June 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 389; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 232

41.020.20. Rotaract Newsletter

The Rotaract Newsletter shall be published on a biannual basis and will be distributed to all Rotaract clubs, District Rotaract Chairs, District Rotaract Representatives, sponsoring Rotary clubs, all district governors, Multidistrict Information Organizations and RI international offices. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; Amended by February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177

41.020.21. Rotaract Club Designations in Official Directory

In the *Official Directory*, the symbol (R) for Rotaract shall be included in the listings of clubs in the "Rotary Districts" section and shall designate Rotary clubs which sponsor one or more Rotaract clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153

41.020.22. Composition, Selection and Qualifications of RI Rotaract Committee

The RI Rotaract Committee is a standing committee of RI, with six Rotarians and a minimum of three Rotaract members. Ideally, membership should be composed of the same number of Rotaractors and Rotarians with representation from the following geographic areas based on the prevalence of Rotaract membership in these areas:

South Asia (Zones 5 & 6)
Europe (Zones 10B, 11-18)
Latin America (Zones 19-21)
East Asia and Pacific (Zones 1-4, 7-9)
US/Canada/Caribbean (Zones 22-34)
Africa (Zone 10A)

If there are not enough members to allow for one member from each area, committee members should represent the first four regions as there are a higher number of Rotaract clubs in these regions.

Recommendations for potential committee members should be sought from the current RI Rotaract Committee and the chairs of each Rotaract Multidistrict Information Organization. RI presidents are requested to consider the Rotaract experience for potential members of the committee. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65*)

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65

Cross References

31.090.1. General Secretary Authority regarding Rotaract

41.030. Rotary Community Corps (RCC)

This is a structured program of Rotary International, formerly known as the Rotary Village Corps, adopted by the Board in 1986.

41.030.1. Purpose

The purpose of the Rotary Community Corps Program is to improve community living and enhance the enjoyment of life by encouraging community members to contribute to these goals by acting in the spirit of service to the community and their fellow human beings. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180, Exhibit 21

41.030.2. Goals

The goals of the RCC Program are:

- 1) To encourage individuals to take responsibility for the improvement of their village, neighborhood or community;
- 2) To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations;
- 3) To mobilize self-help activities and collective work to improve the quality of life;
- 4) To encourage the development of human potential to its fullest, within the context of the local culture and community. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180, 21

41.030.3. Membership

The membership of each corps shall consist of a minimum of ten adults with good character and leadership potential. Membership shall be open to individuals who are residing, employed or studying in or near the corps' village or community. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 180, Exhibit 21. Amended by November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

41.030.4. RCC Emblem

The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, an official emblem for the Rotary Community Corps Program.. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-22

41.030.5. Leadership Training Meetings

Governors are requested to hold leadership camps or meetings for RCC leaders at no expense to RI, to train them in leadership techniques, public speaking, communication, planning and implementing RCC projects, and other needs to foster the goals of the RCC Program. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-24

41.030.6. RCC at the Club Level

Governors and governors-elect, particularly those from developing countries, should communicate the value of the RCC Program to club leaders at the district conference, district assembly, presidents-elect training seminar and other Rotary meetings as appropriate, to provide them with constructive ideas and materials on how to initiate RCC projects within their communities. All clubs that sponsor RCCs are to report on progress within a three-month period of the certification of each corps, on a form provided by the RI Secretariat. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-26; April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279

41.030.7. RCC Funding

Clubs are encouraged to assist RCCs in establishing community revolving loan funds, which clubs may wish to administer directly to ensure good management. Revolving loans may be provided by a philanthropic association of local Rotarians to individuals or groups in needy communities in their areas for the development of micro-enterprises.

However, such associations are strongly encouraged to undertake this activity in compliance with all applicable local and national rules. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123; June 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 340

Cross References

21.020. *RCC District Committee*

41.040. Rotary Friendship Exchange

This is a structured program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1988.

Note: The Board regularly reviews and, as necessary, amends the “Rotary Friendship Exchange Guidelines,” which are as follows:

The general secretary is requested to :

- a) make available to all clubs worldwide a set of standardized Rotary Friendship Exchange program materials;
- b) provide annually all district Rotary Friendship Exchange chairs with Rotary Friendship Exchange program materials and the district Rotary Friendship Exchange chair's list on the same basis as the pilot program;
- c) include information about the Rotary Friendship Exchange program in all appropriate publications;
- d) include information about the Rotary Friendship Exchange program in all appropriate Rotary periodicals including the *Rotary World* and the Rotary World Magazine Press. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145*)

Source: July 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48

41.050. Rotary Volunteers

This is a structured program of Rotary International adopted by the Board in 1989.

41.050.1. Purpose

The purpose of the Rotary Volunteers program shall be to create a greater awareness among Rotarians of the volunteer opportunities available within their own and other communities requiring special expertise or skills not available within the community in which the need is required, and to increase and facilitate Rotarian participation in all types of volunteer activities. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 211

41.050.2. Goals

The goals of the Rotary Volunteers program shall be:

1. To increase awareness among all Rotarians of how they can significantly contribute to the successful completion of Rotary service projects in their own and other communities by volunteering their vocational skills in areas where such skills are needed.
2. To increase the awareness among clubs and districts of the benefits of utilizing Rotarian volunteers from their own or other communities to assist in carrying out their local service projects.
3. To assist clubs and districts in identifying those Rotarian volunteers possessing expertise and skills unavailable locally, who can help in the completion of such projects.
4. To assist Rotarians in identifying volunteer opportunities within Rotary-sponsored service projects, as well as worthy projects of other organizations.
5. To provide Rotarian leaders at the club, district and international levels with appropriate materials to promote volunteerism among the membership.

6. To assist those areas of the world that require expertise in raising their basic standard of living in such areas as increased education, better health care, increased agricultural productivity, improved sanitation, provision of potable water, eradication of disease, expansion of commerce, introduction of higher levels of technology, so that economic disparities among people worldwide are reduced, thus fostering understanding, fellowship and goodwill between Rotarians and the communities in which they live through contacts and friendships initiated through volunteer activities. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 211

41.050.3. Participants

Rotarians and spouses with Rotarians, as well as Rotaractors, Foundation alumni and non-Rotarians (where Rotarians are not immediately available) may participate in the Volunteers program. A limit of up to 1% of the total number of Rotarians in the district may serve as registered Rotary Volunteers. It is recommended that registrants of the Rotary Volunteers program be a minimum of 25 years of age. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: January- February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213; May 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 364; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97

41.060. Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

This is a structured program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1971.

The RYLA program is a tool for the leadership development of Interactors, Rotaractors, and Rotarians, as well as for youth in general. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310)*

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227

41.060.1. Purpose

The Board has adopted a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program to offer Rotarians a special opportunity to personally participate in developing qualities of leadership, good citizenship, and personal development in the young people of their communities. RYLA programs are conducted at the club, district, or multidistrict level. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310)*

Source: April 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 256; May-June 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 395; Amended by November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 95 and July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 37

41.060.2. Objectives

The objectives of a Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program have been identified as follows:

- 1) to demonstrate further Rotary respect and concern for youth;
- 2) to encourage and assist selected youth leaders and potential leaders in responsible and effective voluntary youth leadership by providing them with a training experience;
- 3) to encourage continued and stronger leadership of youth by youth;
- 4) to publicly recognize the high qualities of many young people who are rendering service to their communities as youth leaders.

Consideration should be given to the extent to which this purpose can be achieved by the district through whatever type of program is developed. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310)*

Source: May-June 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 395

41.060.3. Core Curriculum

All RYLA programs should include a core curriculum which includes the following topics:

- 1) The fundamentals of leadership
- 2) The ethics of positive leadership
- 3) The importance of communication skills in effective leadership
- 4) Problem solving and conflict management
- 5) What is Rotary and what does it do for the local community
- 6) Building self confidence and self esteem
- 7) The elements of community and global citizenship

while reflecting issues of local relevance and be carried out in a manner appropriate to local customs. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310)*

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

41.060.4. Publicizing RYLA Programs

The general secretary shall make Rotarians aware, through RI's RYLA publications, that RYLA programs can be targeted to limited age groups such as 14-18 year olds and 19-30 year olds in order to address varying needs and maturity levels. The general secretary shall also emphasize the different types of RYLA events, through RI's RYLA publications, highlighting the strength in the diversity of RYLA events at the international, multidistrict, district, multi-club and club levels. Clubs and districts are encouraged to consider inviting economically and socially disadvantaged youth with leadership potential to participate in their RYLA programs. *(February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 37

41.060.5. Activities for Rotarians Involved in RYLA

Rotarians involved in RYLA are encouraged to:

- a. make contact with each other, share information, and visit each others' RYLA events;
- b. organize RYLA events at the multidistrict and/or international levels;
- c. place information about their RYLA events on the internet, including key training materials;
- d. invite RYLA participants who may not have easy access to leadership development opportunities, including candidates from other organizations;
- e. provide continuity to the participants of their RYLA events by including them in the development of future RYLA events and encouraging them to become involved in mentoring. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310)*

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227

41.060.6. RYLA Seminars and Programs

RYLA seminars should be established to facilitate the exchange of information between Rotarians involved in RYLA, possibly at the zone level. In addition, governors and Directors are encouraged to include RYLA in the programs of the district assembly, the district conference, and Rotary institutes. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310*)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227

41.060.7. Annual International RYLA Event

An international RYLA event shall be an ancillary meeting at each International Convention. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 239

41.060.8. RYLA Planning Workshops

The Board encourages development of multidistrict, regional, or zone-level RYLA planning workshops to share information about successful RYLA programming among district RYLA chairs, district RYLA committee members, and other Rotarians interested in RYLA. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238

41.070. World Community Service (WCS)

This is a structured program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1967.

The WCS Program consists of activities within international service through which Rotarians conduct projects to improve lives and meet human needs, and thus promote international understanding and good will by means of materials and technical and professional assistance. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 364

41.070.1. Goals of WCS

Following are the goals of the WCS Program:

- 1) Improve the quality of life of those in need through international Rotary service.
- 2) Encourage cooperation between clubs and districts in different countries in their efforts to carry out international service projects.
- 3) Provide an effective framework for the exchange of information on project needs and offers of assistance.
- 4) Increase awareness among Rotarians of international development and cultural issues, and the importance of implementing projects which help people to help themselves.
- 5) Provide WCS Program services to participants in related RI and Foundation programs and emphases.

- 6) Educate Rotarians about funding opportunities for their WCS projects through The Rotary Foundation and other sources.
- 7) Communicate successful WCS experiences to other Rotarians.
- 8) Foster international understanding, good will and peace. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 252

41.070.2. WCS Initiatives

WCS Program initiatives include:

- 1) promotion of increased knowledge of Rotary's international service objectives through WCS opportunities and activities;
- 2) promotion and use of *ProjectLINK*;
- 3) promotion of cooperation between the International Service and Rotary Foundation committees at district and club levels, as appropriate;
- 4) expansion of intercountry committees as vehicles for International Service, including WCS activities;
- 5) promotion of support for disaster relief projects;
- 6) promotion of 23 February, "World Understanding and Peace" day;
- 7) promotion of projects involving donated goods and services;
- 8) commendation of International Projects Advisory Committees (IPACs) aims and achievements in areas where these provide a useful framework for WCS activities;
- 9) personal involvement by Rotarians in WCS activities, including international volunteer service. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72*)

Source: November 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84. Amended by February 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 182; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

41.070.3. WCS Cooperation With Other Organizations

It is appropriate for governors, their representatives and clubs to work in cooperation with other organizations whose purposes and activities are consistent with those of Rotary, when such cooperative activities and projects serve to enhance significantly the implementation of WCS. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 281

41.070.4. WCS Network Strategy

The Board has adopted a "WCS Network Strategy" the three goals of which are as follows:

- 1) To help Rotary clubs initiate/develop viable, new WCS service projects annually that maximize the use of RI/Rotary Foundation/external resources and benefit from the guidance of experienced Rotarians.
- 2) Assist Rotary clubs that encounter difficulties with projects in progress.
- 3) Begin to develop and expand a bank of World Community Service expertise (including both information and human resources) that can be easily accessed by Rotary clubs worldwide. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 353

41.070.5. Withdrawal of WCS Project Postings on the RI Web Site

The general secretary may withdraw a WCS project posting, with or without the consent of the host club or district, for failure to function in accordance with RI or Rotary Foundation policy.

To maintain an active WCS project listing on the RI Web site, a club or district must

- 1) Function in accordance with its purpose and in accordance with RI policy
- 2) Function in accordance with stewardship policies set by The Rotary Foundation Trustees, when applicable
- 3) Respond to inquiries from potential donors and the general secretary
- 4) Submit a completed Status Report to RI after the project has been registered for one year. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72*)

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72

Cross References

21.030. WCS District Committee

41.080. Youth Exchange

This is a structured program of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1974.

Note: The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, "Youth Exchange Program Guidelines," which are as follows:

Guidelines for the Youth Exchange Program

The Board of Directors of Rotary International has established recommended guidelines to assist clubs and districts in implementing their Youth Exchange activities.

The Board, with a view to promoting Youth Exchange as an opportunity for the development of international understanding, encourages Governors to appoint district Youth Exchange officers or committees, and to provide to the general secretary early in the year the names and addresses of such officers or committee chairs. The general secretary should publish annually a list of all Youth Exchange officers or district exchange committee chairs serving one district, more than one district, or all the districts in one country. This list should be revised and distributed annually to Governors and to those who are included in the list. This list will exclude districts that have not met district certification requirements.

The district Youth Exchange officers, or committees, are under the supervision of their respective Governors and should report to them.

The Board encourages the involvement of people with disabilities in Youth Exchange programs and other youth projects where and when this is possible and agreed upon between the sponsoring and receiving clubs or districts. The Board recommends that Governors appoint one member of their district Youth Exchange committee to be responsible for encouraging and aiding in the participation of people with disabilities in both long-term and short-term exchanges.

Employment regulations in various countries make it impractical for Rotary clubs and districts to engage in any international youth exchange programs in which participants are paid wages. However, individual Rotarians may provide support to other organizations that are properly equipped to undertake this type of the international exchange of youth.

The general secretary shall maintain a district certification program. The certification process requires all district Youth Exchange programs to provide Rotary International with evidence that they have adopted the certification guidelines in their long-term and short-term exchange programs and in any tours and camps. All club and district Youth Exchange programs must comply with RI sexual abuse and harassment prevention policies and other requirements set forth by the general secretary in order to be certified. If local circumstances are such that a district cannot meet any of the guidelines, they must provide the general secretary in writing evidence of the specific circumstances that prohibit compliance. This district must develop alternative procedures that maintain the intent of these guidelines and provide to the general secretary in writing an explanation of these procedures. The general secretary may grant waivers to districts that have implemented alternative policy and alternative procedures that meet the intent of RI policy in instances when RI policy is contrary to local law and customs. The general secretary will evaluate and determine whether the alternatives posited by districts meet the intent of the policy, and may bring matters to the Board should circumstances warrant. In circumstances where districts may only wish to send Youth Exchange students without serving as hosts for inbound students, the general secretary may waive certification requirements related to inbound students in these districts. In circumstances in multi-country districts where not all countries within the district wish to participate in the Youth Exchange program, the general secretary may waive certification requirements for non-participating countries in these districts.

Clubs and districts are strongly encouraged to consult legal counsel regarding liability issues before undertaking Youth Exchange activities. Districts must secure general liability insurance for the district Youth Exchange program with coverage and limits appropriate for their geographic location. Youth Exchange programs in certified districts located entirely within the

United States are covered under the U.S. Rotary Club and District General Liability Insurance Program. (Through 30 June 2007 Youth Exchange programs in provisionally-certified and non-certified districts are also covered.)

In addition, districts must establish a corporation or similar formal legal entity that includes the district Youth Exchange program. This requirement may be met by incorporating the district Youth Exchange program, a group of programs that includes Youth Exchange, or the district as a whole in accordance with *Rotary Code of Policies* 17.020. Districts may also meet this requirement by affiliation with an incorporated multidistrict Youth Exchange program for the districts' activities that are conducted within the scope of the multidistrict program.

The following guidelines are provided to assist clubs and districts undertaking Youth Exchange activities. These guidelines pertain to all types of exchanges, including long-term and short-term exchanges.

1. A Rotary Youth Exchange program is not a privilege for sons and daughters of Rotarians only, but welcomes any young people who meet the requirements of the program and who are recommended and sponsored by a Rotarian, a Rotary club, or a district. For the long-term exchange program, school attendance is considered mandatory.
2. Careful selection of all individuals involved in Rotary Youth Exchange programs should be of paramount concern and be done with the utmost care and consideration. Selection procedures should occur in a similarly thorough manner for both the long-term and short-term exchange programs.
 - a. All adults (Rotarian and non-Rotarians) involved in the program, including but not limited to committee members, host families, club counselors, and others, must be interviewed to determine suitability to work with youth, complete and sign a Youth Volunteer Agreement, and agree to undergo background checks, including law enforcement public record checks and a reference check.
 - b. Exchange candidates of ages acceptable to both sending and receiving districts and according to the laws and regulations of both countries must submit a written application and must undergo a selection process including personal interviews with the applicant and the applicant's parents or legal guardians at the club level and at the district level.
 - c. The hosting Rotary club or district must conscientiously screen and select host families on the basis of a written application, background checks for all adults in the home, including law enforcement public record checks and reference checks, personal interview, and home visits. Host families must receive training that includes information on program administration and rules and abuse and harassment awareness and prevention. For long-term exchanges, it is required for an exchangee to have more than one host family; three successive host families is preferable. For short-term exchange homestay programs, one family is usually sufficient. In long-term exchanges, parents of outbound students shall not be required to host incoming students. However, parents of outbound students may volunteer to host or may be asked to assist in finding suitable host families.

d. For both the long-term and short-term exchange programs, the sponsoring and hosting Rotary club must select an individual Rotarian counselor for each exchangee to be in regular contact with the exchangee and to serve as a liaison between the exchangee and the Rotary club, natural family, host family and community at large. The club counselor must not be a member of the student's host family and must be trained in responding to any problems or concerns which may arise during the exchange, including the prevention of physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

3. The sending Rotary club or district is responsible for ensuring that each exchangee is accepted and hosted by a receiving Rotary club or district. The sending Rotary club or district must also organize a mandatory orientation for the long-term and short-term exchangees and their parents or legal guardians prior to departure. This orientation must inform the participants about the rules, procedures and expectations associated with the Rotary Youth Exchange program and should include a briefing about the local Rotary club and its activities. The sending club or district must provide abuse prevention and awareness training for both students and parents or legal guardians. The receiving Rotary club or district must also provide an orientation program for incoming exchangees. Orientation for incoming exchangees must also include details about the appointed counselor's contact information if the student does encounter any aspects of neglect, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. Because local laws and customs in one country may differ greatly from those in other parts of the world, orientation for both the long-term and short-term exchangees must include information on local laws and customs, which may apply to young people.

4. The parents or legal guardians of each exchangee shall provide travel insurance, providing medical and dental coverage for accidental injury and illness, death benefits (including repatriation of remains), disability/dismemberment benefit (also known as capital benefits), emergency medical evacuation, emergency visitation expenses, 24-hour emergency assistance services, and legal liability (covering the student for any of his or her acts or omissions in connection with the Youth Exchange program), with respect to each exchangee in amounts satisfactory to the host Rotary club or district in consultation with the sponsor Rotary club or district, with coverage from the time of the exchangee's departure from home until the exchangee's return home. Evidence of coverage and level and limits of coverage of all insurance with a responsible insurance company or companies satisfactory to the host Rotary club or district prior to the beginning of the exchange shall be submitted to, received by, and accepted by the host Rotary club or district and the sponsor Rotary club or district prior to the exchangee's departure from home. Such travel insurance shall provide overseas medical and dental coverage for accidental injury and illness, death benefits (including repatriation of remains), disability/dismemberment benefit (also known as capital benefits), emergency medical evacuation, emergency visitation expenses (for transportation of parent or guardian to student's location), 24-hour emergency assistance services, and legal liability. At the option of the parents or legal guardians, such insurance may also include cancellation expenses, loss of property, loss of money, or kidnap, and ransom.

5. The parents or legal guardians of the exchangee are responsible for providing appropriate clothing and round-trip transportation to and from the host district.

6. The exchangee should undertake no travel outside the immediate area of the community in which the receiving Rotary club is located without the consent of the exchangee's parents or legal guardians and of the participating Rotary clubs or districts.

7. The exchangee **SHOULD NOT** under any circumstances be permitted to operate or drive a motorized vehicle of **ANY** kind during the period of the exchange, nor to own a motorized vehicle in the host country.
8. Participation in extreme sports, such as hang gliding, rock climbing, and bungee jumping, is discouraged. If students are allowed to participate in extreme sports, these activities should be undertaken with the hosting districts' and parents' written permission, and adequate insurance should be required.
9. The exchangee and the prospective host family should communicate with each other before the exchangee leaves home.
10. The host family should provide room and board for the exchangee and exercise appropriate supervisory and parental responsibility to ensure the exchangee's well-being.
11. All individuals involved in the exchange, including exchangees and their parents or legal guardians, host family members and Rotarian counselors, must agree in writing to all the requirements of the program as determined by the sending and receiving Rotary clubs or districts. All participants should display comportment at all times reflecting credit on self, the home country, and Rotary and should respect each other and act responsibly, befitting their role in the program. Exchangees should strive to adapt to the way of life, including language acquisition, of the host country and host family members should assist exchangees in ways to ease that transition. The exchangee should accept the supervision and authority of the host family and the receiving Rotary club or district during the period of the exchange. Exchangees must return home at a time and by a route agreed upon by their parents or legal guardians and the receiving Rotary club or district.
12. Any participant who does not comply with the requirements of the program should be removed from participation in the program. In the case of exchangees, they should be returned home by the receiving Rotary district at the earliest practical time by a route agreed upon between the parents or legal guardians and the sponsoring Rotary club or district. All parties involved in the exchange, including hosting and receiving Rotary clubs and districts, host families and the exchangee's parents or legal guardians, must be fully informed prior to the exchangee being sent home. In the case of adult volunteers (both Rotarian and non-Rotarian), those who have not complied with program requirements will be permanently removed from involvement with youth.
13. All serious incidents, including but not limited to, accidents, death, early returns, and crimes, and any allegations of abuse or harassment shall be reported by the district to RI within 72 hours of the time a district officer learns of the incident. Districts must identify a person within the district who will be responsible for reporting to RI.
14. All Rotarians and Rotary clubs involved in establishing short-term and long-term exchange activities are urged to ensure that preliminary agreements accurately reflect what they expect from the group with which the exchange is arranged, especially in the area of selection and orientation.

15. The hosting and sending Rotary club or districts must provide exchangees with a list of individuals to contact in the case of a problem or emergency. For both the long-term and short-term exchangees, this list must include the name and contact information for the exchangee's Rotarian counselor, hosting Rotary club president, hosting district chair, hosting governor, sponsoring district chair, sponsoring governor, sponsoring club president and two non-Rotarian resource persons (one male and one female). This list must also include local resources for medical, dental and mental health care and law enforcement professionals. Where available, this list should also include local resources, suicide prevention hotlines, rape crisis hotlines, and local child protection agencies.

16. Clubs and districts are encouraged to use the standard Youth Exchange applications for both the long-term and short-term exchange programs which can be obtained from the Secretariat. Districts must provide to RI a copy of the Guarantee Form of the standard Youth Exchange applications for each inbound student hosted by the district prior to the beginning of an exchange.

17. Participants should be between the ages of 15 and 19 at the beginning of the exchange unless the laws and regulations of a specific country deem otherwise, or a different age range is mutually agreed upon by the participating Rotary clubs or districts. They should be above average in their schoolwork, preferably in the upper third of their school class. Long-term exchanges should be for one academic year but may be extended to include part or all of the holiday periods immediately preceding and immediately following the academic year.

18. For long-term exchanges, the hosting club should provide for all educational expenses, arrange an appropriate academic program, and provide a program of orientation and continued contacts to familiarize the exchangee with the host community. For short-term exchanges, the hosting club should also provide a program of orientation and continued contact to familiarize the exchangee with the host community.

19. For long-term exchanges, the receiving Rotary club or district should provide a modest monthly allowance for the exchangee in an amount to be jointly determined by the parties concerned. Where meals eaten at school are not otherwise provided for, the monthly allowance should be sufficient to include the cost of such meals.

20. Due to the likely effects of reverse culture shock, following their return, long-term and short-term exchangees and their parents or legal guardians should be encouraged to attend a meeting conducted by the district Youth Exchange committee for debriefing of recently returned exchangees for the purpose of assisting them to return to their home, school, and community environment.

21. For long-term exchanges, both sending and receiving club or district should require, at a minimum, quarterly reports from the exchangees. This report should include information on their current hosts, feelings, concerns, ideas and suggestions regarding their exchange experience thus far. The designated Youth Exchange Officer should review the reports carefully and, when necessary, take action to respond to any irregularities reported by the students.

22. It is recognized that many successful exchanges are made for less than a full academic year and that in the interest of international understanding and goodwill, not all programs need be reciprocal. By mutual consent of the parties concerned, any of the responsibilities indicated may be assigned to someone other than the party specified.

23. Any other provisions consistent with the foregoing and which are deemed necessary or convenient for the operation of an exchange program may be adopted by the Rotary clubs or districts concerned. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; *Amended by* November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 274; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64. *See also* May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355. June 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; July 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47; February 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277; October 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174

41.080.1. Governors' Preparation

Governors are encouraged to use the period between their nomination and assuming office to learn as much as possible about the Youth Exchange Program in the district and the qualifications and skills of those who administer it. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159

41.080.2. Involvement by Persons With Disabilities

The Board favors the involvement of persons with disabilities in the Youth Exchange Program where and when this is possible and agreed upon by the sponsoring and receiving clubs or districts. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355

41.080.3. Liability Insurance

Clubs and districts are urged to consult legal counsel regarding liability questions before undertaking Youth Exchange activities, including advice relative to the desirability of securing liability insurance. Inbound clubs, districts, and multidistrict youth exchange groups should determine the minimum level of insurance adequate for the exchange length and local conditions in which the youth exchange student will live and travel during the exchange. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: July 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 260; *Affirmed by* March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

41.080.4. Multidistrict Youth Exchange Program

Each governor has the responsibility for the supervision and control of the Youth Exchange Program within the district. It is recognized that there may be instances where clubs in two districts wish to cooperate in jointly undertaking an activity or program. The Board has no objection to such cooperative effort, provided any activity or project is not undertaken as a joint activity or project unless two-thirds of the clubs in each such district have first approved participation in such joint activity or project. Furthermore, the governors of the respective districts shall have secured in advance specific authorization of the general secretary acting on behalf of the Board to undertake and participate in such activity or project. Each such proposal to the Board shall be evaluated on its merits.

The general secretary may remove a district from a multidistrict Youth Exchange activity upon notice that they have failed to comply with the district certification program with or without the consent of the district governor.

Multidistrict activities shall be administered by a committee composed of current district Youth Exchange chairs and other officers appointed by the respective governors of participating districts. Such a multidistrict committee is responsible for reporting in writing not less often than annually on its work and finances to all governors in the participating districts. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108; *Amended by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

41.080.5. International Travel by Youth Exchanges

No club shall assist or cooperate in sending a young person abroad on an international travel activity unless careful plans are made in advance covering every aspect of the proposed trip. In particular, no club should provide an identification card, letter of introduction, request for assistance or other credential or document intended to identify or introduce a young person to a Rotary club or clubs in another country, unless complete mutual agreement has been reached in advance with respect to the hospitality or assistance to be provided by the host club.

No club is obliged to provide hospitality or assistance to any young person from another country, despite any documented or claimed sponsorship of a Rotary club, unless the receiving club has specifically agreed in advance to provide such hospitality or assistance. It is the prerogative of any club to determine what assistance, if any, it will offer to young persons. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 355

41.080.6. Youth Exchange Committee

The president should appoint annually a Youth Exchange Committee to advise the Board on all aspects of the Youth Exchange program and to develop program content for the annual Youth Exchange Officers' pre-convention meeting. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 393

41.080.7. Pre-Convention Youth Exchange Officers Meeting

The annual pre-convention Youth Exchange officers meeting, as part of the official convention program, should be conducted in accordance with RI policy regarding convention operations and procedures. The general secretary is requested to provide staff support for such meeting. *(June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266)*

Source: June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 50; November 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150; November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91; *Amended by* June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 393 and June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266

41.080.8. Officer and Staff Attendance at Youth Exchange Officers Regional Meetings

A current or past RI officer selected by the president and a staff person should attend regional meetings of Youth Exchange officers on a periodic basis. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108)*

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

41.080.9. New Generations Exchange Program

The Board has approved guidelines for the New Generations Exchange Program serving the 18-25 population as an additional opportunity for clubs and districts within the Youth Exchange Program. These guidelines are as follows:

This new opportunity under the auspices of the Youth Exchange Program of RI is part of the overall emphasis on the New Generations. It will serve the 18-25 year old population, which is not generally served by the current Youth Exchange Program, which focuses on the 15-19 age group level, or the Group Study Exchange Program, which primarily serves the 25-40 year age group. Some sociologists point out that the 18-25 years are the most critical years.

Mechanics of the program:

1. Club-to-club and district-to-district arrangement as approved by the incumbent governor(s).
2. New Generations persons between the ages of 18-25 are eligible.
3. The exchange shall be for a short-term duration of from three to six weeks.
4. The exchange may be singly or in groups.
5. Transportation from one district to another or from one club to another club in another district shall be borne by the sending club or district.
6. The host or receiving district shall host the New Generations exchange members in homes for meals, lodging and local transportation. The schedule of activity for the visitors shall be people-to-people contact related to Rotary activities, for goodwill and understanding and for better cultural education and exposure.
7. Orientation shall be done by a district officer appointed by the governor for the outbound member(s) and for the inbound member(s).
8. The exchange period shall be with mutual understanding of the two governors.
(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 64

Cross References

2.110. Youth Protection

21.040.1. Youth Exchange Committees and Officers



Article 42. Menu of Service Opportunities

- 42.010.** Children at Risk
- 42.020.** Disabled Persons
- 42.030.** Health Care
- 42.040.** International Understanding and Goodwill
- 42.050.** Literacy and Numeracy
- 42.060.** Population Issues
- 42.070.** Alleviation of Hunger
- 42.080.** Preserve Planet Earth
- 42.090.** Urban Concerns
- 42.100.** PolioPlus (completion)

42.010. Children at Risk

42.010.1. Children at Risk

Children at risk live in difficult and uncertain conditions which contribute to a lack of food, shelter, health care, education, and freedom from abuse and violence. Children at risk have lost, or are in danger of losing, the fundamental components necessary for their successful growth into adulthood. *(June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 299)*

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 211

42.010.2. Children at Risk Service Opportunity

Every Rotary club is encouraged to address the needs of children at risk in their communities and communities in other countries, and undertake a Children's Needs Assessment survey on children at risk in their community. *(February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177

42.010.3. Rights of Children

Following is a statement on RI's position on the rights of children:

Rotary International, recognizing that:

- 1) children, because of their vulnerability, need special care and protection;
- 2) in all countries of the world there are children who are living in exceptionally difficult conditions;
- 3) all children should be able to grow into adulthood in an environment of peace, dignity, tolerance, freedom and equality;

endorses and supports the rights of all children to food, shelter, health care, education, and freedom from abuse and violence. Rotary clubs around the world are committed to protecting these rights for all children, regardless of race, creed or nationality.

The general secretary is requested to make available to individual Rotarians, clubs and districts, upon request, a selection of service activities which can be undertaken in support of children around the world. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169

42.020. Disabled Persons

42.020.1. Club and District Projects for the Disabled

Clubs and districts are encouraged to identify, address, and undertake projects to meet the needs of persons with disabilities in their communities, utilize the Internet to promote such projects, and promote projects for persons with disabilities at district-level meetings. *(May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324)*

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245

42.030. Health Care

42.030.1. AIDS Education

This is an activity of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in March 1993.

Clubs are encouraged to work as appropriate with government health agencies and non-governmental organizations to increase awareness among their membership and the broader community about AIDS education and prevention. They also should undertake or support AIDS education and prevention programs, enhancing AIDS awareness, simultaneously using caution and good judgment to work within cultural and community sensitivities. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192

42.030.2. Drug and Alcohol Abuse Prevention

The following is RI's statement on drug and alcohol abuse prevention:

Recognizing

- 1) that drug and alcohol abuse is a pervasive problem affecting almost every community around the world;
- 2) the destructive nature of such abuse, which drains the physical, intellectual and economic resources of each individual affected, as well as their families, communities and nations;
- 3) the value of community-based programs that teach positive values and help instill self-esteem in young people as effective deterrents to drug and alcohol abuse;
- 4) that awareness and preventative programs must be designed to address local problems;

the Board endorses and supports the efforts of its clubs working, as appropriate, with government agencies and non-governmental organizations to:

- 1) increase awareness among their membership and the broader community about local drug and alcohol abuse programs;
- 2) undertake or support drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs that focus on instilling positive values and self-esteem in young people;
- 3) support local family-based drug and alcohol abuse treatment programs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89

42.030.3. Concern for the Aging Activities

This is an activity of Rotary International, adopted by the Board in 1985.

Clubs are encouraged to consider undertaking one or more of the following activities on behalf of the aging:

- 1) retirement training or planning programs;
- 2) identification of post-retirement employment opportunities (voluntary and part-time);
- 3) encouragement of Probus clubs and similar organizations;
- 4) provision for health care services;
- 5) projects concerned with mental health;
- 6) provision of transportation or the means of mobility;
- 7) projects which address housing needs;
- 8) provision of opportunities for further education;
- 9) financial counseling;
- 10) activities which bridge the intergenerational gap;
- 11) provision of opportunities for leisure activities.

Clubs and individual Rotarians are encouraged to undertake projects which support the elderly and emphasize the maintenance of their independence for as long as possible; their physical and mental involvement in daily activities; and their development of a positive self- and projected image. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 33; May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 315

42.040. International Understanding and Goodwill

42.040.1. World Understanding and Peace Day

The anniversary of the first Rotary club meeting, 23 February, is observed as World Understanding and Peace Day. On that day, each club should give special recognition and emphasis to Rotary's commitment to international understanding, friendship and peace. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47; July 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

42.050. Literacy and Numeracy

42.060. Population Issues

42.060.1. Statement on Population Growth and Development

Population growth, when accompanied by increased agricultural production and adequate education for all, can be an important element of a prosperous society, providing a strong labor force to help drive the economy. Where population growth exceeds the capacity of the economy to absorb and integrate the population, the result is not prosperity for the majority of the people, but rather a downward spiral of increasing poverty, insufficient resources, urban violence and environmental degradation. The poorest of the poor are the most adversely affected.

Sustainable development, preservation of the environment and the quality of life for all people, especially the new generations, is impacted by population growth. Present world birth rates and longer life expectancy contribute to accelerated population growth, which puts an ever-increasing strain on the non-renewable resources necessary for sustainable development. Through projects such as Hunger, Concern for the Aging, AIDS, Literacy and Preserve Planet Earth, Rotary clubs have already begun to address the issue of population growth, both directly and indirectly.

Rotary International encourages Rotary clubs and districts, working as appropriate with government agencies, non-governmental organizations and local leadership to increase awareness and undertake even more projects that directly impact population growth and sustainable development. Projects would include those that promote education on the issue of population, access to family health care, adequate nutrition, and enable individuals to make informed and responsible decisions about issues such as child spacing in a way that is in keeping with their personal values and cultural and religious considerations. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67

42.060.2. Population Growth and Development Projects

The following key areas should be emphasized by clubs and districts when developing projects on population growth and development:

- a) Education – particularly of girl children, adolescents, and mothers;
- b) Aging population;
- c) Water, Air, Flora and Fauna;
- d) Sanitation/hygiene;
- e) Access to health care, including family health care;
- f) Nutrition;
- g) At risk children;
- h) Skill development and Employment;
- i) Literacy;
- j) Microcredit.

It is recommended to clubs and districts that the development of such projects should:

- a) Be based on the request of the community;
- b) Incorporate the culture of the societies concerned;
- c) Favor only voluntary family planning, excluding any compulsory birth control;
- d) Never provide material incentives to limit births;
- e) Respect the rights of all involved;
- f) Be cognizant of the freedom of choice of individuals. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67

42.060.3. Communication/Awareness Strategy

Population growth and development is recommended as an optional topic to be presented on the programs of district conferences, regional conferences, Rotary institutes, International Institutes, presidential conferences, and Rotary club meetings. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70

42.070. Alleviation of Hunger

42.070.1. Statement on Hunger Alleviation

The Board has adopted the following statement with respect to RI's position on the alleviation of hunger:

Whereas RI recognizes that:

- 1) the objective of alleviating hunger must receive high priority;
- 2) in this respect, children, mothers and the aged are a particularly vulnerable group and require our primary care;
- 3) the struggle against hunger is the shared responsibility of all people worldwide;
- 4) a substantial reduction in hunger and malnutrition is possible through the enhancement of existing programs;
- 5) the problem of famine and malnutrition now represents the most important sociopolitical challenge to world understanding and peace;
- 6) a social mobilization is required to gain world community consent and support;

RI therefore supports and agrees to encourage efforts to meet the following four goals:

- 1) the alleviation of starvation and death caused by famine;
- 2) a substantial reduction in malnutrition and mortality among children;

- 3) a tangible reduction of chronic hunger;
- 4) the elimination of major diseases, which are the consequence of inadequate nutrition;

RI recommends that Rotary clubs and districts implement long-range and cost-effective hunger projects that address poverty, including:

- 1) providing food in association with educational programs for children and women;
- 2) supporting schools that provide job skills training and job placement;
- 3) coordinating comprehensive efforts to break the cycle of poverty for entire villages by addressing basic needs such as food, water, sanitation, housing, education, health care, farming, and employment. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

42.070.2. United Nations Food Day

All clubs and districts are encouraged to commemorate annually the United Nations Food Day on 16 October through appropriate activities in their own communities and assistance to other communities in need. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

42.080. Preserve Planet Earth

42.080.1. Protecting the Environment

As they are in a unique position to bring these facts to the attention of government leaders, communities and industries, clubs shall be encouraged to help create better and necessary living conditions, make it possible for our earth to survive as a good place for mankind, and give emphasis to the protection and improvement of the environment in their community and World Community Service projects.

It is the responsibility of every Rotarian to support action directed at improving the environment and protecting animals and plants from extinction. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: COL 92-287

42.080.2. Safe Drinking Water

The Board, recognizing the vital importance of safe water, encourages all districts and clubs to support efforts which help people to provide themselves with safe water reasonably close to their homes using simple sustainable technology. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: COL 95-165

42.080.3. Support of Safe Water Projects

Clubs and districts are encouraged to use Foundation Matching Grants, World Community Service projects, the Preserve Planet Earth program, Rotary Volunteers, Rotary “Partners in Service” (Rotary Community Corps, Rotaract, Interact, etc.) and appropriate non-Rotary organizations and agencies in support of safe water projects.

The general secretary should make available appropriate, low-cost information and resources to assist clubs and districts in initiating and supporting safe water projects.

Outstanding RI safe water projects, especially those projects which might be replicated at low cost by clubs and districts, should be publicized in all appropriate Rotary publications and magazines. Efforts also should be made to promote public visibility and media attention for such projects.

Individual Rotarians, as well as clubs and districts that have experience and expertise in creating and maintaining safe water projects, should be identified and utilized. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 24

42.080.4. Club Involvement with Safe Water Projects

Clubs are encouraged to:

- 1) educate Rotarians to create a sense of stewardship toward water and water resources;
- 2) develop appropriate projects related to water and water resource problems in all appropriate community, vocational and international service projects;
- 3) undertake community education to enlist the support of the population at large in solving water-related problems.

The general secretary is requested to seek ways to develop literature and volunteer resources for use by clubs which need help in implementing projects related to drinking water and sanitation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254

42.080.5. Environmental Awareness Workshops

Clubs are encouraged to conduct or sponsor environmental awareness workshops to identify ecological concerns and problems regarding flora, fauna, air pollution and water resources that exist in the communities that the clubs serve. Clubs conducting such workshops are requested to send copies of successful programs to the general secretary for potential emulation by other clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 125

42.080.6. Preserve Planet Earth Projects, Club Committee, and Cooperation with Other Organizations

Clubs and districts are encouraged to identify, address, and undertake environmental projects to meet the needs of their communities, utilize the Internet to promote projects and appoint a club level “Preserve Planet Earth Committee” to communicate the importance of environmental-related issues through training and club visits, working with local organizations, conducting surveys, and educating youth. Clubs and districts are encouraged to work with other reputable organizations with similar environmental goals at local, national, and international levels. *(May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324)*

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248

42.090. Urban Concerns

42.090.1. Definition of Urban Peace

Urban Peace encompasses a multitude of areas involving one’s community. With an ever shrinking world due to computerization, travel and other means of communication, an Urban Peace Emphasis encompasses the entire world, of communities of all sizes, not just large metropolitan areas. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

42.090.2. Purpose and Goals of Urban Peace

The emphasis on Urban Peace addresses areas of concern including but not limited to: community terrorism; gun violence; domestic/family violence; ethnic and religious intolerance; deteriorating inner city/physical and structural; lack of recreational facilities; hunger/homelessness; and unemployment and unemployability. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

42.100. PolioPlus (completion)



Article 43. Global Networking Groups

43.010. Rotary Fellowships

43.020. Rotarian Action Groups

43.030. Incorporation Guidelines For Global Networking Groups

43.010. Rotary Fellowships

43.010.1. Terms of Fellowships

A Rotary fellowship is a group of Rotarians who unite themselves to pursue a vocational or recreational activity. The primary purpose of a fellowship shall be to further friendship and fellowship for those who share a common interest. Fellowship activities must be conducted independently of RI, but must be in harmony with RI policy, including the use of the Rotary Marks. Fellowships may not be used to promote religious beliefs, political issues, or other organizations. Recognition of a fellowship by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. A fellowship may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A fellowship is not an agency of RI. Fellowships must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Fellowships may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country. Individual Rotary Fellowships are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; *Amended by* June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.2. Organization and Membership

A fellowship shall have a governing document (charter, constitution, bylaws or similar document) which must be consistent with RI policy. All governing documents, and amendments thereto, must be reviewed by the fellowships committee, if practicable, and approved by the general secretary. A fellowship shall be organized with at least three officers, one of whom shall be the chair (president or other administrative head) and serve as a non-voting member-at-large of the RI fellowships committee. The chair must be an active Rotarian. A fellowship's membership shall be open to all Rotarians and spouses of Rotarians. Fellowships are encouraged to open their memberships to Rotaractors. Only Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors may be members of fellowships. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; *Amended by* October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.3. Criteria for Recognition as a Rotary Fellowship

All fellowships are subject to approval by the Board for recognition. The Board shall not recognize fellowships formed to promote, participate or be involved in religious or political activities, deal with subjects that negatively affect health or safety, or are not in accord with the Object of Rotary or the overall policy and program of Rotary International. Applications for new fellowships shall be reviewed by the fellowships committee, if practicable, and the general secretary. The recommendations of the committee and the general secretary shall be forwarded to the Board. All applications shall be reviewed by the Board, regardless of such recommendations.

To be recognized as a fellowship, a fellowship must:

- 1) Be a group of Rotarians representing at least three countries who share a common interest in a specific worthwhile activity which advances the Object of Rotary. The Board may reduce or waive the number of countries represented.
- 2) Be organized in accordance with RI policy;
- 3) Not duplicate the purposes of an existing fellowship, unless approved by the Board.

Groups that are denied recognition may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of such denial. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 66; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; *Amended by* June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302. See also November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

43.010.4. Termination of Recognition

The Board may terminate a fellowship's recognition by RI, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. Failure to respond to communications from the general secretary for a one-year period may result in termination of recognition of the fellowship.

To maintain its status as a fellowship, a fellowship must

- 1) Function in accordance with its recognized purpose and in accordance with RI policy
- 2) Publish a newsletter (which may be distributed solely by electronic means) for members of the fellowship in good standing, at least once during each Rotary year, and file the newsletter and other important fellowship communications and documents with the general secretary
- 3) Hold an annual forum by way of a newsletter, annual meeting, or other activity appropriate to the fellowship, through which fellowship members in good standing can interact
- 4) Respond to inquiries from members, potential members, and the general secretary
- 5) Submit an annual report of activities, including cost of membership dues and a financial statement showing revenues and expenditures during the past Rotary year, and a statement of funds on hand at the time of the report to its members with a copy to the general secretary by 1 October in each year. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: November 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

43.010.5. Services and Suspension

The General Secretary may suspend services provided to a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. These services include use of the Rotary Marks, listing in the *Official Directory*, program publications, and on the RI Web site, and provision of a booth at the International Convention, on a space available basis. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; *Amended by* June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.6. Incorporation of Fellowships

Fellowships are encouraged to incorporate. The advisability of incorporation is a matter the members should determine in light of the fellowship's activities. Applications for incorporation must be submitted to and approved by the general secretary. The articles of incorporation, or equivalent corporate document, of a fellowship must include a statement to the effect that the fellowship is not an activity or agency of RI. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 161; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.7. Fellowships at RI Conventions

An annual joint meeting of all fellowships should be held immediately preceding or during the convention. An annual general meeting of each fellowship should be held immediately preceding or during the convention. Fellowships are encouraged to arrange pre- and post-Convention activities in connection with the convention each year. The convention committee should assist in organizing such convention-related events and publicizing fellowship activities at the convention. Space should be provided at the International Convention for fellowship groups to meet, where possible, at no cost to the fellowships. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381

43.010.8. Fellowship Information in the Official Directory

The name, address and Web site of each fellowship, and the name, contact information and classification of the chair of each fellowship, shall be listed in the *Official Directory* each year, provided that such information is submitted by the date set by the general secretary. No further descriptive information shall be included. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381*)

Source: January 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 193; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381

43.010.9. Promotion of Fellowships

Clubs and districts are encouraged to promote fellowships, especially during June, Rotary Fellowships Month. Governors are encouraged to promote fellowship activities in monthly letters and to report at the district assembly or district conference on progress in fellowship activities for the year. Fellowships are encouraged to hold recognition days to increase interest in their activities and in Rotary in general, and to maintain Web sites that promote their activities and inform their members. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381

43.010.10. Rotary Fellowships Logo

An official logo for the Rotary Fellowships Program has been adopted by the Board. The general secretary shall include the logo on appropriate publications, and make the logo available on the RI Web site for downloading. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 354; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102 and May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381

43.010.11. Statement in Publications

Fellowship newsletters, publications, brochures, and Web sites must prominently display the statement “This fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International” or similar language approved by the general secretary. Following is an approved example of how such language may be incorporated into a statement describing the fellowship.

“The International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting golfing as an opportunity for fellowship. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.” (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.12. Agreements with Other Parties

Any agreement between a fellowship and other parties must clearly state that the fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International, an Illinois corporation, and that Rotary International is not liable for the activities of the fellowship. Any such agreement must also clearly state that Rotary International is not a party to the agreement, and that Rotary International is not liable for the performance of, or any obligation under, the agreement.

A fellowship may not enter into cooperative relationships with other organizations on behalf of RI. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.13. Fellowship Dues

Fellowship dues must be of a reasonable amount and limited to that necessary to cover administrative costs. Each fellowship shall disclose how dues are used in their governing documents, and on their membership application materials. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.14. Fellowships and Other Organizations

In order to ensure coordination and cooperation with Rotary entities that may be involved in similar activities and avoid conflicts of interest, Rotary Fellowships approaching other organizations for funds in excess of US\$25,000 or other cooperative relationships shall notify the general secretary in advance of any applications. This provision also applies to funds that will be disbursed to a third party organization working with the group. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258; Amended by March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205 and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.010.15. Fellowship Circularization Policy

A Rotary Fellowship desiring to request the cooperation of districts, clubs or Rotarians outside of its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

A Rotary Fellowship(s) engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotary Fellowship(s).

No Rotary Fellowship shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any Rotary district or club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members unless and until it first secures authorization from the Board. No Rotary Fellowship shall solicit funds on Web sites, with the exception of membership dues.

Even within the limits described above, it is not permissible for a Rotarian to circularize other fellowship members on matters affecting his or her individual business interests. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32)*

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

43.010.16. Policy Compliance

Fellowships that are not in compliance with RI policy are subject to termination of their fellowship status.

The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotary Fellowship when a group has not communicated with the general secretary for a one-year period, as required by the Rotary Code of Policies, or in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78

43.020. Rotarian Action Groups

43.020.1. Terms of Rotarian Action Groups

A Rotarian Action Group is a voluntary association of Rotarians who unite themselves for the purpose of conducting international service projects that advance the Object of Rotary. Rotarian Action Group activities must be in harmony with RI policy, including the use of the Rotary Marks. Rotarian Action Groups may not be used to promote religious beliefs, political issues, or other non-Rotary organizations. Recognition of a Rotarian Action Group by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. A Rotarian Action Group may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A Rotarian Action Group is not an agency of RI. Rotarian Action Groups must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Rotarian Action Groups may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country.

Individual Rotarian Action Groups are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate, including directors' and officers' insurance. *(November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75

43.020.2. Organization and Membership

A Rotarian Action Group shall have a governing document (charter, constitution, bylaws or similar document) which must be consistent with RI policy. Rotarian Action Groups must adopt the standard bylaws approved by the RI Board. The governing documents, including such bylaws, may include other provisions not inconsistent with the standard bylaws and RI policy. All governing documents and amendments thereto must be approved by the RI Board. A Rotarian Action Group shall be organized with at least three officers, one of whom shall be the chair (president or other administrative head). Each officer must be an active Rotarian. A group's membership shall be open to all Rotarians and spouses of Rotarians. Groups are encouraged to open their memberships to Rotaractors. Only Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors may be members. *(November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75

43.020.3. Criteria for Recognition as a Rotarian Action Group

All Rotarian Action Groups are subject to approval by the Board for recognition. The Board shall not recognize Rotarian Action Groups formed to promote, participate or be involved in religious or political activities, deal with subjects that negatively affect health or safety, or are not in accord with the Object of Rotary or the overall policy and program of Rotary International.

To apply to become a Rotarian Action Group, the group must

- 1) Consist of Rotarians representing at least three countries who share a common interest in a specific worthwhile service activity which advances the Object of Rotary. The Board may reduce or waive the number of countries represented.
- 2) Complete an application, including an action plan that outlines how the group plans to accomplish its service goals, what types of projects it intends to promote or conduct, and the expertise its founding members have in the subject
- 3) Be organized in accordance with RI policy
- 4) Complement the service activities of Rotarians, clubs and districts in advancing the Object of Rotary and not conflict with the purposes of an existing Rotarian Action Group, RI Program or Rotary Foundation program, unless approved by the Board. The group's name should not duplicate one of the board's Menu of Service Opportunities.

Within a two year period, the Rotarian Action Group must have undertaken an international service project and achieved a membership of 100 individuals representing at least 10 countries and three zones. Until these criteria are met, groups will be considered provisional. Provisional groups shall have all the rights and responsibilities of Rotarian Action Groups. Provisional groups that do not achieve these threshold levels within two years of official recognition will be terminated, unless granted a waiver or extension by the board.

Groups shall be reviewed on a triennial basis to determine whether they are maintaining the criteria for recognition.

Groups that are denied recognition or terminated may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of such denial. (*November 2007 Mtg., Dec. 69*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; *Amended by* November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

43.020.4. Termination of Recognition

The Board may terminate a group's recognition by RI, with or without the consent of the group's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. Failure to respond to communications from the general secretary for a one-year period may result in termination of recognition of the group.

To maintain its status as a Rotarian Action Group, a group must:

- 1) Function in accordance with its recognized purpose and in accordance with RI policy, including continuation of the membership requirements specified in 43.020.3.;
- 2) regularly undertake an international service project;
- 3) Publish a newsletter (which may be distributed solely by electronic means) for members of the Rotarian Action Group in good standing, at least once during each Rotary year, and file the newsletter and other important communications and documents with the general secretary;
- 4) Hold an annual forum by way of a newsletter, annual meeting, or other activity appropriate to the Rotarian Action Group, through which group members in good standing can interact;
- 5) Respond to inquiries from members, potential members, and the general secretary;
- 6) Submit an annual report of activities, including summary of service projects completed, cost of membership dues and a financial statement showing revenues and expenditures during the previous Rotary year, and a statement of funds on hand at the time of the report, to its members with a copy to the General Secretary by 1 October in each year.

Without limiting the vision of a particular Rotarian Action Group to strategically plan its long term program of international service, it is expected that each group will, over the medium term (three years), strive to achieve the following expectations:

- Expand its individual membership base
- Increase the number of districts in which projects are undertaken
- Increase the number of countries in which projects are undertaken
- Enhance the quality and sustainability of its program through leadership development and a best practices model
- Strengthen the leadership and governance of the Rotarian Action Group
- Enhance the capacity of the management structure of the Rotarian Action Group
- Provide for sustainable and accountable financial resources

- Demonstrate the involvement of clubs and districts in the program of the action group
- Provide quantitative and qualitative reports to its members and to RI on the program of the Rotarian Action Group
- Attend and maintain an information booth at the International Convention. *(November 2007 Mtg., Dec. 69)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

43.020.5. Independent Review of Financial Statements

Rotarian Action Groups with annual gross receipts or expenditures of more than US\$25,000 or equivalent are required to provide an annual financial statement and report that has been independently reviewed by a qualified accountant or by an action group audit committee, as may be decided by the members at their annual general meeting. This report is to be provided to the membership within three months of the completion of the action group's fiscal year, and a copy is to be supplied to the general secretary by 1 October in each year.

If an audit committee approach is selected, the committee must

- a) Be composed of at least three members who are not current officers
- b) Be composed of active Rotarians
- c) Have at least one member who is a past governor
- d) Have at least one member with accounting and audit experience
- e) Be selected by the action group at its annual meeting in accordance with the procedures established by the Rotarian Action Group. *(November 2007 Mtg., Dec. 69)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75; November 2007 Mtg., Dec. 69

43.020.6. Services and Suspension

The General Secretary may suspend services provided to a Rotarian Action Group, with or without the consent of the group's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. These services include use of the Rotary Marks, listing in the *Official Directory*, program publications, and on the RI Web site, and provision of a booth at the International Convention, on a space available basis. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.020.7. Incorporation of Rotarian Action Groups

Rotarian Action Groups are encouraged to incorporate. The advisability of incorporation is a matter the members should determine in light of their activities. Applications for incorporation must be submitted to the general secretary. The articles of incorporation, or equivalent corporate document, of a Rotarian Action Group must include a statement to the effect that the group is not an activity or agency of RI and must be in accordance with RI policy. *(November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75

43.020.8. Rotarian Action Groups at RI Conventions

An annual general meeting of each Rotarian Action Group should be held immediately preceding or during the convention. Space should be provided at the International Convention for Rotarian Action Groups to meet, where possible, at no cost to the Rotarian Action Groups. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.020.9. Rotarian Action Group Information in the *Official Directory*

The name, address and Web site of each Rotarian Action Group, and the name, contact information and classification of the chair of each group, shall be listed in the *Official Directory* each year, provided that such information is submitted by the date set by the general secretary. No further descriptive information shall be included. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.020.10. Promotion of Rotarian Action Groups

Rotarian Action Groups are encouraged to maintain Web sites that promote their activities and inform their members. Groups in formation that have not yet received recognition from the Board may organize a Web site to seek potential members, as long as the Web site clearly states that the group is not a Rotarian Action Group, and does not use the Rotary Marks. Groups in formation that are denied recognition must disable these Web sites upon notification of the Board's decision. (*November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75

43.020.11. Statement in Publications

Rotarian Action Groups' newsletters, publications, brochures, and Web sites must prominently display the statement "This Rotarian Action Group is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International" or similar language approved by the general secretary. Following is an approved example of how such language may be incorporated into a statement describing a Rotarian Action Group.

"The Rotarian Action Group for Urban Concerns is a group of Rotarians whose purpose is to mobilize Rotarians and provide global leadership to address issues such as crime, unemployment, substance abuse, and homelessness. This Rotarian Action Group operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International." (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.020.12. Agreements with Other Parties

Any agreement between a Rotarian Action Group and other parties must clearly state that the Rotarian Action Group is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International, an Illinois corporation, and that Rotary International is not liable for the activities of the Rotarian Action Group. Any such agreement must also clearly state that Rotary International is not a party to the agreement, and that Rotary International is not liable for the performance of, or any obligation under, the agreement. The Rotarian Action Group

shall provide a copy of any such agreement to the general secretary. *(November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75

43.020.13. Rotarian Action Group Dues

Rotarian Action Group dues must be of a reasonable amount and limited to that necessary to cover administrative costs. Each Rotarian Action Group shall disclose how dues are used in their governing documents, and on their membership application materials. Rotarian Action Groups shall prepare and circulate a statement of income and expenses annually to their members as provided in 43.020.4. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

43.020.14. Rotarian Action Group Service Activities

Rotarian Action Groups are encouraged to work through the existing structure of Rotary clubs and districts to promote and support their service projects. Rotarian Action Groups may list projects on their Web sites seeking financial support with notification to the general secretary. *(February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 160)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 160

43.020.15. Relationship between Rotarian Action Groups and Resource Groups

If appointed, resource groups are asked to facilitate the activities of the relevant Rotarian Action Group. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69)*

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

43.020.16. Rotarian Action Groups and Other Organizations

1. In order to ensure coordination and cooperation with Rotary entities that may be involved in similar activities and avoid conflicts of interest, Rotarian Action Groups approaching other organizations for funds in excess of US\$25,000, or other cooperative relationships, shall notify, and provide a copy to, the general secretary in advance of any formal applications. This provision also applies to funds that will be disbursed to a third party organization working with the group.

2. Notwithstanding point 1. above, Rotarian Action Groups may not contact or solicit any organizations on the “no contact list,” as defined in Article 35.010.1., for the purpose of obtaining funds or cooperation for their projects without the express written consent of the RI president in consultation with the Trustee Chairman. *(February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Dec. 75

43.020.17. Rotarian Action Group Circularization Policy

A Rotarian Action Group desiring to request the cooperation of districts, clubs or Rotarians outside of its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

A Rotarian Action Group engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotarian Action Group.

No Rotarian Action Group shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any Rotary district or club or from individual Rotarians other than its own members unless and until it first secures authorization from the Board. No Rotarian Action Group shall solicit funds on Web sites, with the exception of membership dues.

Even within the limits described above, it is not permissible for a Rotarian to circularize other Rotarian Action Group members on matters affecting his or her individual business interests. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

43.020.18. Policy Compliance

Rotarian Action Groups that are not in compliance with RI policy are subject to termination of their status.

The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotarian Action Group when a group has not communicated with the general secretary for a one-year period, as required by the Rotary Code of Policies, or in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78

43.030. Incorporation Guidelines For Global Networking Groups

The following recommended guidelines apply to all Global Networking Groups that choose to incorporate:

1. The name of the incorporated Global Networking Group shall be the same as the name approved by the RI Board.
2. The corporation shall be a not-for-profit entity, and it shall pay no dividend and no part of its money, property or other assets shall be distributed to its members, directors, or officers.
3. Where any provision of the corporate documents of the incorporated Global Networking Group is not in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI, the terms of the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI shall prevail at all times.
4. All members of the Global Networking Group shall be members of the incorporated entity.
5. The initial membership of the Global Networking Group shall be the members of the Global Networking Group as of the time of the incorporation. The addition or removal of a member from a Global Networking Group pursuant to the Global Networking Group's governing document shall immediately and automatically result in a corresponding change in the membership of the corporation.

6. Only Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors may be members of the incorporated entity.
7. The Global Networking Group corporation shall immediately and automatically cease operations and begin dissolution upon directive of the RI Board or upon the approval of the members of the corporation. The chair shall provide the Board notice of a decision by the Global Networking Group to dissolve the corporation, and shall provide a final report upon the completion of the dissolution process.
8. The board of directors and officers of the Global Networking Group corporation shall be limited to Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians or Rotaractors who are members of the Global Networking Group.
9. The number and terms of the directors shall be as required by local law and as provided for by the incorporated Global Networking Group's corporate documents.
10. There shall be at least three officers of the Global Networking Group, one of whom shall be the chair (president or other administrative head). The chair must be an active Rotarian. The current chair shall be the highest officer of the incorporated Global Networking Group and shall serve as chair of the board of directors. The Global Networking Group may elect such other officers as required by local law and as provided for in its corporate documents.
11. The chair shall report annually to the members on the status of the Global Networking Group incorporation.
12. The Global Networking Group is not an activity or agency of RI. (*February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137*)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76

Cross References

31.090.5. General Secretary Authority to Incorporate Global Networking Groups



Article 44. RI Awards

44.010. Presidential Citation

44.020. “Four Avenues of Service Citation”

44.030. Service Above Self Award

44.040. Significant Achievement Awards Program

44.050. RI Award of Honor

44.060. RI Membership Development and Extension Award

44.070. RI Public Relations Award

44.080. Best Cooperative Projects Award

44.090. Membership Development Initiatives Recognition Program

44.100. Recognition for Smaller Club Member Growth

44.010. Presidential Citation

The RI president is encouraged to favorably consider the presidential citation each year. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 347

44.020. “Four Avenues of Service Citation”

The “Four Avenues of Service Citation for Individual Rotarians” has been established as a way to recognize the grass-roots efforts of individual Rotarians.

The following are not eligible for this award:

Present, past or incoming RI President

Present, past, or incoming RI directors

Present, past, or incoming general secretary

Present, incoming or immediate past governors

Current club presidents

Present, past, or incoming president, immediate past president, vice-president, or honorary treasurer of RIBI. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; Amended by June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 347 and June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 389

44.030. Service Above Self Award

The purpose of this award is to recognize exemplary humanitarian service in any form and at any level by those who might otherwise go unrecognized. Candidates shall be considered based solely on the humanitarian Rotary services they have rendered. Personal financial contributions to Rotary, its Foundation or any individual project are not relevant considerations for this award. Names of the winners of the award shall be included on the RI Web site.

Eligibility

Any active Rotarian in good standing may be nominated, except the following:

District Governor

District Governor-elect

Immediate Past District Governor
RI Director
RI Director-elect
Past RI Director (within two years of having held that position)
Past RI President (within two years of having held that position)
Foundation Trustee
Incoming Foundation Trustee
Past Foundation Trustee (within two years of having held that position)

It is not possible to nominate one's self for the award. In addition, nominees must not be the spouse, lineal descendant (child or grandchild), a spouse of a lineal descendant or an ancestor (parent or grandparent) of the nominator. An individual may only receive the award once.

Criteria

Nominees must be Rotarians in good standing. They must have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service, in any form and at any level, with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others through Rotary. The award will not be given solely in recognition of one's performance in an elected or appointed Rotary assignment. Nominees' service through Rotary must be on a continuing basis.

Only current or immediate past district governors, and current and past RI directors may submit nominations. Any eligible nominator may nominate no more than three candidates for the award in any given year.

Up to 150 recipients will be selected each year. It is possible that there will be fewer than 150 recipients selected.

Nominations must be limited to the space provided on the prescribed form and must include a clear description of the nominee's service rendered through Rotary. Additional information will not be considered by the selection committee.

The award shall consist of a lapel pin and plaque. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184; Amended by February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217; June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 347; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 68; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 131; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 389; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 228; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77; and February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204

Cross References

31.090.6. GS Authority to Rescind Service Above Self Award

44.040. Significant Achievement Awards Program

The significant achievement awards program shall be a presidential recognition program, effective 1 July 1991. The citation program is designed to give district recognition to club activity that addresses significant problem or need. It is the purpose of the award to encourage new projects on the part of every club and to promote an increased awareness of the importance

of exemplary club efforts. The criteria for selection of significant achievement awards are found on the Significant Achievement Awards Nomination Form that has been approved for use by the RI Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22

44.050. RI Award of Honor

The RI Award of Honor may be granted to deserving individuals including heads of state. Up to five awards may be granted each Rotary year by the president. The president shall report to the Board the name of the individual to whom he plans to grant an award at least 14 days prior to granting the award. If a director voices any objection within seven days of notification, consideration of such award shall be delayed until the next Board meeting. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 300*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 53. Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 387; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325 and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 300. See also July 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 4

44.060. RI Membership Development and Extension Award

The Board has established an annual award known as the “RI Membership Development Extension Award.” (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 303. See also March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266. Affirmed by July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30

44.070. RI Public Relations Award

RI has adopted a RI Public Relations Award as a way to recognize clubs that have generated increased awareness of Rotary through outstanding media coverage or public relations efforts. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244

44.080. Best Cooperative Projects Award

Purpose:

The purpose of the External Relations’ Best Cooperative Projects Award is to recognize outstanding club service projects done in cooperation with other organizations. For example, at the local level clubs cooperate with a health clinic to provide free vaccinations. Examples for the national level include cooperating with the Boy Scouts of America and examples at the international level include working with international organizations such as UNICEF. Those projects done in cooperation with the United Nations (UN), its agencies, and/or other international humanitarian organizations will be given priority. The award honors clubs that have generated increased awareness and understanding of Rotary by working with other organizations.

Selection Process:

The method of selection is to be determined by the district governor. Governors may choose to appoint a special committee to select nominees and nominations are to be submitted by the district governor to Rotary International. Each district can submit up to five nominations.

Criteria:

Projects requiring active involvement will be given priority. For example, projects that involved club members and other groups in building a school or well, participating in a tutoring/mentoring program, or personally distributing food on a weekly basis to the needy are active projects. Projects that only required fundraising activity will not be considered.

Clubs should be able to provide the following:

1. cohesive report of project summary and objectives outlining significant grassroots efforts between the Rotary club and the other organization(s)
2. goals of all contributing organizations to the project
3. funds required/raised for the project
4. contact information for other participating organizations
5. positive results of the cooperation

Clubs may submit only one entry per year. Multi-club projects will also be accepted; each club (depending on level of involvement) would be recognized.

Submissions must be received by the district governor by 15 March and are due at RI World Headquarters no later than 15 April. Each club can submit only one project to the district governor, but up to five can be nominated per district.

All nominations must include a completed Nomination Form.

Award information:

The RI President and district governor will sign the award. District governors will be sent the official award certificates to present to those clubs who have demonstrated the best efforts to cooperate with other organizations. The district governor will also receive the awards for the other organization(s).

It is recommended that the award be presented during a district-wide event and to also invite representatives from the other contributing groups. To generate further interest in Rotary and future cooperative projects, districts might choose to invite other community organizations to attend the award presentation and invite local media to promote Rotary and the other organization(s).

Each club selected will receive an award, as will the cooperating organization(s). Therefore, the other organization(s) will also be recognized.

Internal Information:

External Relations staff will confirm the final award winners provided they meet the criteria.

Publicity:

Information about the award will be posted on the Rotary portal, PR Tips, and other Rotary publications. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236*)

Source: February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 212

44.090. Membership Development Initiatives Recognition Program

The Board has established the Membership Development Initiatives Recognition program as follows:

1. Up to three clubs per district will be recognized by the governor on an annual basis for developing a proactive, creative, long-term strategy for each of the three main supporting activities of membership development and retention:
 - a. promotion of member retention;
 - b. identification and recruitment of qualified members;
 - c. organization of new Rotary clubs.
2. To be considered for recognition, clubs must submit a one-page, detailed explanation of their proactive initiative or strategy to their district governor by 15 April;
3. District governors should forward the names of clubs recommended for recognition and the clubs' initiative or strategy to RI by 15 May;
4. A certificate signed by the RI president will be awarded to each club. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233

44.100. Recognition for Smaller Club Member Growth

The Board has adopted the "Recognition for Smaller Club Member Growth" program. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 198



CHAPTER VI

COMMUNICATIONS

Articles

- 48. Official Language and Translation**
- 49. Membership Communications**
- 50. Public Relations and Information**
- 51. Publications**
- 52. Audio/Visual/Electronic Communications**
- 53. Other Communications**

Article 48. Official Language and Translation

- 48.010. RI Official Language**
- 48.020. Translation of Rotary Literature**

48.010. RI Official Language

English is the only official language of RI and all official documents, including club charters, shall be issued in English. A charter issued to a Rotary club in a non-English-speaking country, where practicable, shall be accompanied by a translation of the charter in the language of the country in which the club is located. Such translation shall not bear the seal of RI or the signature of its officials. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 206; January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109. *Affirmed by June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 387 and November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 224*

48.010.1 Standard Common Second Language

The Board has elected not to adopt an advocacy position in the promotion of a standard common second language. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1960 Mtg. Bd. Dec. E-16; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 148

48.010.2. Study of Languages

Rotary emphasizes the great value inherent in all the world's languages and endorses efforts to support and strengthen their contributions to enhancing the global community and enriching the world's culture. All Rotarians are encouraged to study languages other than their own as a means to further international understanding goodwill and peace and to assist in fulfilling the Object of Rotary. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: February 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 267; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 315

48.020. Translation of Rotary Literature

The policy of RI concerning publication of Rotary literature in languages other than English, the official language of RI, is:

- 1) RI will provide translated versions of essential club and district information in Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Korean, Italian and Swedish.
- 2) All RI publications shall be revised in English and other languages on a staggered, triennial basis, with those publications affected most by the Council on Legislation to be revised after the Council. The general secretary will be authorized to make exceptions to this policy, as necessary. Recent changes in Board policy will be shared with club and district leaders via the RI Web site and the *Rotary World*;
- 3) A district or group of districts in which the Rotarians speak a language(s) other than those listed above may, on a voluntary basis, translate, print and distribute essential club information to the clubs in their district(s). Publications translated by volunteers shall not be considered official RI translations. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 224. See also April 2000 Trustees Mtg., Dec. 135

48.020.1. Role of General Secretary in Translations of Rotary Literature

The translation and printing of Rotary literature shall be under the direct supervision of the general secretary, who is authorized to approve translations on behalf of the Board and, to modify the text of translations of Rotary literature, where it appears necessary or advisable to make publications generally more useful to clubs. The distribution of Rotary literature to clubs shall be made by the Secretariat. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: April 1930 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV(p); January 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 142; November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

48.020.2. Use of Rotarian Volunteers in Translating

The general secretary shall develop a database of Rotarians who are able to interpret and translate into many languages. In selecting Rotarians to interpret /translate, the general secretary shall ensure that they first provide a sample of their work. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 185

48.020.3. Translation of Regional Magazines

Regional magazines shall take financial responsibility for translation of materials into their language from the English text provided by *The Rotarian* magazine at no cost to RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188

48.020.4. Translation of World Community Service Program Materials

All publications necessary to the achievement of a greater awareness and effective participation by clubs in Rotary World Community Service activities shall be made

available (through translation and other appropriate adaptation) in as many languages as possible at RI expense. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93

48.020.5. Translation of Constitutional Documents of Rotary International

A note shall be included in all editions of the *Manual of Procedure* in languages other than English preceding the section that includes the constitutional documents, to indicate: a) that in the event of any question arising regarding the meaning or interpretation of any provision of the constitutional documents, the English-language text of these documents is the official text; b) that each governor has a copy of the English-language edition of the *Manual of Procedure*, including the constitutional documents; and c) that a copy of the constitutional documents in English may be obtained by ordering an English-language edition of the *Manual of Procedure*. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80

48.020.6. Translation of Name “Rotary Club of”

A club may use the language of the country in which it is located to designate the name of the club so long as the name in translation reflects accurately the designation as given in English. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1955 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-6

Cross References

31.080.5. General Secretary Authority regarding Translations of Rotary Literature

58.050.3 Simultaneous Interpretation/Language Support During Plenary Sessions

61.030.15. Simultaneous Interpretation at Regional Conferences



Article 49. Membership Communications

- 49.010.** Official Notices
- 49.020.** Board Minutes
- 49.030.** Worldwide Directory
- 49.040.** *Official Directory*
- 49.050.** *Manual of Procedure*
- 49.060.** Constitutional Documents
- 49.070.** Codification of Policies

49.010. Official Notices

Official notices shall be sent to clubs and districts, whenever feasible, through the *Rotary World*. Such notification will satisfy the requirements of the RI Bylaws. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 116

49.020. Board Minutes

The minutes of Board meetings shall be distributed to:

- a) Current Board members
- b) Immediate past members of the Board
- c) Incoming members of the Board
- d) President's office
- e) General Secretary for use as he or she may deem necessary in the offices of the Secretariat
- f) Officers of RIBI
- g) Members of the RI finance committee
- h) Members of the RI constitution and bylaws committee
- i) Past presidents, directors, and general secretaries of RI

Those who are authorized to receive copies are expected to treat the minutes as confidential information. The minutes are not for reproduction or distribution to other than those authorized to receive copies. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-12

49.020.1. Confidentiality of Board Minutes and Reports

Any and all reports to a Board meeting or to a RI committee meeting, as well as discussions during those meetings and notes taken during those meetings, contain proprietary and confidential information. The privileged relationship between any attorney engaged by RI must remain between the attorney and RI, and thus information emerging from this relationship is to be provided only to RI Directors. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

49.030. Worldwide Directory

The Board has emphatically denied approval of the publication of a directory containing the addresses and classifications of all Rotarians of the world. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1916 Mtg., Bd. Dec.; October 1916 Mtg., Bd. Dec. Item No. 33; Dec. 1916 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 17-e; November 1928 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IV-(f)

49.040. Official Directory

The content and format of the *Official Directory* is a responsibility of the general secretary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141

49.040.1. Official Directory, Distribution of

One copy of the *Official Directory* shall be distributed gratis to the secretary of each club, with additional copies to be available for purchase in any quantity by the club. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 286

49.040.2. Contact Information in Official Directory

The General Secretary shall include in the *Official Directory* the business and home telephone numbers and email addresses, if available, of all persons whose names appear in the *Official Directory*. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: March 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

49.040.3. List of Official Rotary Licensees in the Official Directory

The general secretary shall publish in each *Official Directory* the name and relevant information of all current licensees who are up-to-date with their royalty payments at the time such publication goes to print. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317

49.040.4. Mailing Addresses for President and President-elect in the Official Directory

The general secretary shall ensure that in each edition of the annual *Official Directory*, as well as in all other publications from the Secretariat that list addresses (fax and phone numbers, etc.), the only address given for the president and president-elect is the World Headquarters in Evanston. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 24

Cross References

11.030.1. Approval for Clubs to Solicit Cooperation, Financial Aid, or Participation

11.030.6. Use of Official Directories for Commercial Purposes or Circularization

11.050. Club Membership Lists

41.010.11. Interact Club Designations in Official Directory

41.020.21. Rotaract Club Designations in Official Directory

49.050. Manual of Procedure

49.050.1. Manual of Procedure

The English edition of the *Manual of Procedure* shall be revised and published within six months of the adjournment of the Council. The editions in other languages shall be revised and published as soon thereafter as possible. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177. Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 208 and November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

49.050.2. Manual of Procedure on RI Web site

The *Manual of Procedure* shall be available on the Internet. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

49.060. Constitutional Documents

The revised English edition of the constitutional documents should be mailed to all districts within two months of adjournment of the Council. Adopted enactments should be reproduced exactly as adopted by the Council and only modified as necessary to give full effect to all adopted enactments. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 208; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255

49.070. Codification of Policies

The *Rotary Code of Policies* will result in a highly useful reference manual, in subject order, of all policy decisions still in force that were made by Conventions, Councils on Legislation, the Board, the Trustees and to a limited extent, the general secretary. All general and permanent policies of the Board shall be incorporated into the Code.

The Code will be maintained and kept up to date by the general secretary in one format in both an electronic edition at the Secretariat and a loose-leaf paper edition. The general secretary, at the conclusion of each Board meeting, shall review the decisions passed at that meeting and prepare a report listing those decisions taken by the Board that should be added to the Code. This report shall be submitted to the Executive Committee of the Board at its next meeting. The general secretary shall update the *Rotary Code of Policies* after each Board meeting for distribution in loose-leaf form to the Board and appropriate RI staff, and publication on the RI Web site. The general secretary shall also prepare an annual edition of the Code in compact disk (CD) form that shall be delivered gratis to each trustee, past director, governor and governor-elect who requests a copy, and shall be offered as a sale item in CD form to any other interested Rotarian or club.

Effective 1 July 2004, any section or subsection of the Code that is based on a Board decision more than 30 years old, and that has not been subsequently amended, shall be automatically rescinded effective 1 July of that year unless formally retained by specific action of the Board. Decisions in the Code that will be rescinded pursuant to the above policy shall be reported to the Board at its June meeting of each year.

The general secretary is requested to ensure that all suggested Board decisions make reference to any provisions of the *Rotary Code of Policies* that are affected by the suggested Board decision, such suggested decisions to be drafted so they may be added to the Code without modification. The general secretary shall have the authority to revise the numbering, arrangement, headings, and cross-references contained in the *Rotary Code of Policies* as may be required from time to time.

The general secretary is requested to place a statement in future editions of the *Manual of Procedure* that the white pages are for purposes of explanation and serve as guidelines in interpreting RI policy as found in the constitutional documents of RI and the *Rotary Code of Policies*.

The *Rotary Code of Policies* shall be issued only in English at this time.

The general and permanent policies of The Rotary Foundation shall be placed in a separate volume of the *Rotary Code of Policies* known as "The Rotary Foundation Code of Policies." (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41*)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150; June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83; February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 196, 197, June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 297, 298; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 299; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325



Article 50. Public Relations and Information

50.010. Purpose of RI Public Relations

50.020. Public Relations for General Officers

50.030. Public Relations Guidelines for Pro Bono Relationships with Corporate Entities

50.010. Purpose of RI Public Relations

The purpose of Rotary's public relations program is to foster understanding, appreciation, and support for the programs and Object of Rotary. The program should promote awareness among all Rotarians that good publicity, favorable public relations and a positive image are desirable and essential goals for Rotary if it is to achieve that purpose and broaden Rotary's service to humanity. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202; October-November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

50.010.1. Responsibility of General Secretary for Public Relations

The general secretary shall:

- 1) Present, explain, and promote Rotary to the public;
- 2) Assist the President and the Board in planning and executing an effective public relations program within the Board-approved budget;
- 3) Provide motivation, tools, and guidance to Rotary districts and clubs for developing and implementing effective public relations programs. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: October-November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

50.010.2. Special Public Relations Problems

The general secretary shall assist governors and clubs in dealing with any attitudes or conditions that may actually or potentially harm Rotary's reputation or limit its effectiveness. The general secretary shall also advise the president and Board and shall refer to them problems that may require their consideration and action. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146

50.010.3. Responsibility of Rotarians and Staff

RI officers, Rotary clubs, Rotarians and staff shall observe established policies of RI and avoid any public act, utterance, correspondence or published statement which might have a tendency to cause misunderstanding, create ill will, or reflect negatively on RI or its staff, or which might directly or indirectly attribute to RI or its member clubs an attitude, point of view, or policy to which it has not subscribed. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: November 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89; *Amended by* November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

50.020. Public Relations for General Officers

Although the Board is the policy-making body of RI and the president has primary responsibility to act as the official spokesperson for RI, the general public may expect that individual members of the Board, as well as governors, as officers of RI, are spokespersons for RI. Therefore, every member of the Board and every governor is expected to keep themselves fully informed with respect to RI policies so that they may competently explain such policies if they are called upon to do so. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 318; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

50.030. Public Relations Guidelines for Pro Bono Relationships with Corporate Entities

In order to support the organizational mission of RI and TRF by further enhancing the public image of RI/TRF through approved pro bono relationships with corporate entities, the Board has set forth the following public relations guidelines to effectively manage a pro bono relationship with a corporate entity to safeguard the integrity and reputation of RI/TRF, while allowing public relations opportunities for all parties to the agreement.

Definition Of Pro Bono Public Relations Relationship

Pro bono relationships do not involve compensation. Predetermined “out-of-pocket” costs are agreed to in advance of securing pro bono assistance. A pro bono public relations relationship involves a private communications agency supplying promotional work without compensation. In turn, RI/TRF agrees to publicize the pro bono relationship as appropriate in RI/TRF’s sole discretion.

Establishment of Relationship

When an appropriate corporate entity that may provide pro bono public relations services to RI has been identified, such entity shall be referred to the General Secretary for immediate review to ensure that RI/TRF’s credibility remain intact, and that current Rotary publicity initiatives will be enhanced. The review will include, but not be limited to, the following elements:

- 1) Shared mission/interest: A review of the corporation’s policies and positions on issues relevant to RI/TRF will be assessed to ensure that no conflict of interest exists with the Object of Rotary.
- 2) Background search: An extensive news search of the corporation and back review of annual reports will be researched to study current and past media placements.

Upon completion of the satisfactory review, the General Secretary will negotiate a pro bono agreement with the corporate entity. Terms of the agreement will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- 1) Message development: Standing key messages exist within RI/TRF. Altering or adapting these messages must gain approval by the general secretary to deter the release of misinformation to the general public and RI membership.

- 2) **RI Spokespeople:** The general secretary in consultation with the RI president and/or Trustee chairman, will designate appropriate RI/TRF spokespeople for all events and interviews, a RI/TRF spokesperson must be incorporated into all media interviews, either live or by telephone. RI will approve all media interviews related to the pro bono relationship.
- 3) **Editorial Review:** RI/TRF staff retains full editorial review of all material released by the corporate entity. This activity will ensure the release of factual information to the media, general public and membership audiences of the corporate entity and RI/TRF. These Guidelines do not authorize corporate entity to reproduce any of the ROTARY Marks for any purpose without the prior written, express consent of RI/TRF except as expressly set forth herein.
- 4) **Media placement:** All press releases, media advisories and media placements must be reviewed by RI to ensure accuracy and proper RI/TRF mention and copies of the media placements provided to RI.
- 5) **Placement in RI/TRF publications:** Efforts will be made to ensure proper recognition of the pro bono services donated by the corporate entity in Rotary publications including but not limited to: *The Rotarian*, *Rotary World*, and the RI Web site.
- 6) **Photo credit/video credit:** All material provided by RI/TRF must be credited to Rotary International and include appropriate copyright information, if owned by RI. Appropriate copyright notice would be : "© 2000 Rotary International."
- 7) **RI/TRF name and logo requirements:** "ROTARY," "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL," "ROTARY INTERNATIONAL and Design" (the Rotary Emblem), "THE ROTARY FOUNDATION," "THE ROTARY FOUNDATION OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL and Design" (the Rotary Foundation Logo), "TRF," among numerous other marks (collectively referred to as the "ROTARY Marks"), are the intellectual property of RI and/or TRF. Usage of the RI/TRF name and logos will adhere to guidelines of any current versions of the guidelines concerning reproduction of the ROTARY Marks or guidelines concerning use of the ROTARY Marks by other organizations as amended from time to time and/or any other relevant policies, guidelines, and/or decisions governing use of the ROTARY Marks, circularization, solicitation, and/or sponsorship, as promulgated by the RI Board of Directors.

Once final, the agreement will be submitted for appropriate review consistent with the RI contract review policy.

Maintenance

The general secretary, through the Public Relations Division, will provide continued monitoring of the pro bono public relations services to ensure that all elements of the approved contract are maintained to RI's satisfaction. Adjustments to or additions to key messages and media

placement activities will need prior approval from the general secretary. The general secretary will update the Board of Directors on a quarterly basis on the results of the agreement.

RI/TRF retains the right to terminate the agreement at any time. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 441; Amended by November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108 and May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

Cross References

44.070. RI Public Relations Award

57.120. RI Convention Public Relations

61.030.14. Regional Conference Publicity



Article 51. Publications

- 51.010.** Official Magazine
- 51.020.** Rotary Regional Magazines
- 51.030.** Publication Distribution Costs
- 51.040.** Guidelines for New Publications
- 51.050.** Publications Market Research and Finances
- 51.060.** Use of Recycled Paper in Publications
- 51.070.** *Rotary World*

51.010. Official Magazine

51.010.1. Board Authority to Publish a Magazine

The Board has authorized a publication containing articles and news matters of general interest to clubs and individual Rotarians. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: Ballot By Mail No. 6, 1910-1911

51.010.2. Official Magazine To Be Named “The Rotarian”

The official magazine of RI shall be named *The Rotarian*. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: August 1912 Mtg.

51.010.3. Goals of the Official Magazine

The Rotarian utilizes its broad policy directive to delineate and work to achieve the following goals:

- 1) To provide a channel of communication to disseminate and support the theme and philosophy of the president and special programs approved by the Board.
- 2) To promote and report on the major meetings of RI (the international convention, the International Assembly, and regional conferences) and the various official Rotary weeks and months.
- 3) To serve as an educational and program resource tool for clubs and district leaders.
- 4) To help build service by motivating and inspiring Rotarians through reportage of outstanding examples of activity in the four Avenues of Service by clubs and Rotarians around the world.
- 5) To help build international fellowship by providing Rotarians with regular and effective contact with the wide world of Rotary which lies beyond their individual clubs and by informing Rotarians of the accomplishments of their fellow Rotarians.
- 6) To provide a forum in which the views and concerns of Rotarians--both on Rotary and non-Rotary topics of significance--can serve to challenge, develop, and strengthen their beliefs in Rotary. In addition, to broaden the horizons of Rotarians and other readers by

focusing attention upon the problems of the cultural, ethical, and moral framework within which Rotary works and serves, with the understanding that there will be no comments published, no matter by whom submitted, which might reasonably be expected by the editors to be offensive to the citizens of any nationality or be adverse to the best interests of any country.

7) To help strengthen the fabric of society by treating family-life topics, including helpful art-of-living resources, which are of interest to the official magazine's prime audience, Rotarians and their families.

8) To provide comprehensive and effective leadership in maintaining a network of Rotary communication around the world through cooperation with Rotary regional magazines, district publications, and club bulletins.

9) To illuminate and enhance the image of RI by publishing a high-quality magazine which informs and educates non-Rotarians about Rotary ideals and activities.

10) To generate reader interest by producing a magazine which is attractive, lively, topical, and relevant to Rotarians and their lives--and, therefore, in a position to compete successfully with the many demands upon readers' time. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272; May 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 288

51.010.4. Content of the *The Rotarian* Magazine devoted to The Rotary Foundation

The general secretary shall ensure that in each edition of the magazine, a minimum of four pages shall be devoted to The Rotary Foundation, exclusive of the November (Foundation Month) issue. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55*)

Source: July 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 12

51.010.5. Official Magazine Advertising Policy

The Board has adopted the following:

ADVERTISING POLICY OF THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE

I) General Policy

- a. The magazine shall actively solicit high-grade advertising from reputable advertisers of worthy goods and services.
- b. Cautious judgment be exercised in the acceptance of advertising, to the end that there will be in the magazine no advertising which is offensive to good morals or decency, or that promises something different from what the advertiser will deliver.
- c. The Board, the general secretary acting on its behalf, is responsible for administering this policy and making the final decision on questions of advertising acceptance.
- d. It is recognized that Rotarians are of necessity in competition with each other in their business and professional interests and that such competition should not be the basis for rejection of legitimate advertising.

- e. RI does not endorse any advertiser and does not assume financial responsibility or obligation in connection with advertised goods and services.

II) *Standard for Acceptance*

- a. The value of goods or services offered must be reasonably stated and product, service, copy, and illustration must be acceptable by the standards of aesthetics and good taste one would expect in a prestige magazine.
- b. The decision on the acceptability of advertising for any commodity or service can be influenced by the opinions of recognized trade or professional groups and credit agencies.

III) *Free Advertising*

- a) Free advertising space shall be available only to RI.

IV) *Use of Rotary Emblem, Personal Rotary Affiliation, Rotary Club Supplies*

- a. The general regulations of RI concerning use of the Rotary emblem also apply to advertising.
- b. Mention of an advertiser's personal Rotary affiliation shall not be permitted in such advertising.
- c. When the advertisement of a dealer in club supplies is received, it must be determined that the products being distributed are made by franchised manufacturers. In the case of a manufacturer's advertisement, it must be determined that such person is manufacturing under a license granted by RI.
- d. The Board shall develop and periodically review categories of acceptable and unacceptable advertising to guide the general secretary in administering this policy.
- e. Vendors who seek to customize merchandise that is in competition with merchandise provided by official licensees must apply for a license from RI when seeking to sell such merchandise through advertising in the Rotary World Magazine Press. Alternatively, vendors seeking to advertise in the Rotary World Magazine Press to sell goods which may be customized and which may compete with officially licensed products shall be required to use the following disclaimer in any of their advertising, "Not licensed to reproduce the Rotary Marks," or other such disclaimer as the general secretary finds appropriate. The general secretary reserves the right to determine which advertisements shall require a disclaimer.

Customized, competing goods are any goods that directly compete with goods offered by Rotary International's officially licensed vendors ("Licensed Products"). A complete list of Licensed Products is available on RI's Web site, www.rotary.org.

The general secretary reserves the right to determine which goods compete with Licensed Products.

V) Unacceptable Advertising

- a) Each case is to be decided on its merits. The following types of advertising are not acceptable:
- 1) Fraudulent or misleading advertising.
 - 2) False, unwarranted or exaggerated claims.
 - 3) Vulgar, suggestive or offensive copy.
 - 4) Advertising which attacks competitors unfairly or disparages their products, services or methods.
 - 5) Medical advertising of products containing habit forming or dangerous drugs; contraceptive devices; medical advertising which, in the opinion of the publisher, would be offensive to readers and adjacent advertisers.
 - 6) "Bait" advertising where the reader is denied a fair opportunity to purchase the products or services advertised on the terms indicated.
 - 7) Advertising by clubs which solicits donations from other clubs or Rotarians.
 - 8) Advertising which promotes gambling fund raising games (e.g. horse racing) or encourages readers to speculate or invest in a questionable activity.
 - 9) Advertising of astrologists, horoscopists, palmists.
 - 10) Advertising of books, programs, schools, when subject matter is judged contrary to Rotary values.
 - 11) Advertising of religious or political groups which attempts to sell their philosophy or convert the belief of readers.
 - 12) Advertising by clubs or Rotarians offering to act as intermediaries for other Rotarians in making business contacts.
 - 13) Advertising which too closely resembles the magazine's editorial content. (Any advertisement which, in the opinion of the publisher, may be mistaken for editorial content will be labeled "advertisement.")
 - 14) Advertising for cigarettes.
 15. Advertising from organizations that seek donations from Rotarians for their own humanitarian and educational programs. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236*)

51.010.6. Advertising Content of *The Rotarian*

The advertising content of *The Rotarian* should not exceed 35% of pages on an annual basis. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238

51.010.7. RI Cause-Related Marketing Policy

The Board has approved the following cause-related marketing policy:

RI CAUSE RELATED MARKETING POLICY

A) An advertiser may say that proceeds from any product, service, program or activity advertised will be contributed to a specific activity or project of a Rotary club, Rotary district, or to RI or the Rotary Foundation of RI. The subject of an advertisement may be identified as being sponsored by a Rotary club or Rotary district, or other Rotary related entity, implying where the proceeds will be directed.

B) An advertiser cannot say that proceeds from any product, service, program, or activity advertised will be contributed to any specific or general project, activity, movement or organization other than those specifically allowed in paragraph 1, above.

C) An advertiser specifying the contribution of any portion of its proceeds as set out in paragraph 1 above must, upon request by RI:

i) provide a written report certified and verified by a certified public or chartered accountant reflecting both the relevant gross annual sales for the relevant year and itemizing the advertised contributions;

ii) keep accurate records of its relevant sales and permit RI, upon reasonable notice and during normal business hours, to inspect and audit said books from time to time for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of contributions and reports made under these paragraphs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 73

51.010.8. Distribution of *The Rotarian* to Non-Rotarians

All clubs are encouraged to distribute copies of either *The Rotarian* or the appropriate regional magazine to local libraries (including countries where English is the second language), school libraries and the editors of local news papers. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 131

51.010.9. Subscription Price for *The Rotarian*

The annual subscription price for *The Rotarian* shall be US\$12. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310*)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 274

51.010.10. Gratis Subscription to the Official Magazine for Surviving Spouse of a Past RI General Officer

The general secretary shall ensure that the surviving spouse of a past general officer shall continue to receive *The Rotarian* magazine for their lifetime, or until such time as he or she requests that the subscription be cancelled. (*November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111*)

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

51.010.11. Gratis Subscription to the Official Magazine for Governors-elect

Each governor-elect in the districts outside North America shall receive a gratis subscription to the official magazine commencing six months prior to his or her assuming office as governor whether or not they are a current subscriber to the official magazine. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E-14; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

Cross References

31.030.10. Magazine Subscription Requirements

31.060.5. Adjustment of Advertising Rates for The Rotarian

70.040. Publications Revenues

51.020. Rotary Regional Magazines

51.020.1. Rotary Regional Magazine, Definition

The Board has adopted the following definition of Rotary regional magazines:

A Rotary regional magazine exists to advance the Object of Rotary in all its aspects. A Rotary publication that meets the following criteria may be recognized as a Rotary regional magazine (including both the print and any electronic versions):

- 1) The magazine serves an area of more than one district or country.
- 2) All aspects of the publication of the magazine are under the direct supervision of an editorial board consisting of at least six members, including a current governor or designate, a current incoming governor or designate, the magazine's editor in chief, and three past RI officers (preferably media professionals or members with communications experience).
- 3) Recognizing the right of the editor of a Rotary regional magazine to enjoy editorial freedom within the basic framework of RI policy, the editor accepts reasonable editorial and management supervision by the editorial board.
- 4) The editorial content of the magazine is in harmony with RI policy, and at least 50 percent of the editorial content covers Rotary or Rotary-related subjects.

- 5) In addition to local or regional news, the magazine carries information about RI and considers for publication such topics and specific text as the RI president may request.
- 6) The magazine is published at least four times a year and shall be a minimum of twenty-four (24) pages per issue.
- 7) The overall appearance of the magazine is attractive and in keeping with the dignity and nature of Rotary, and adheres to the RI Board guidelines for reproduction of the Rotary Marks.
- 8) The magazine's circulation reaches a majority of the Rotarians in the area it serves, in order to maintain the magazine's purpose and economic viability.
- 9) The magazine is adequately financed without financial responsibility by RI.
- 10) The magazine adheres to RI's reporting requirements.
- 11) The magazine has entered into an agreement with RI for the publication and distribution of a magazine using the Rotary Marks and circularizing the membership. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109)*

Source: June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 60; *Amended by* February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140 and November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

51.020.2. Statement of Policy Establishing the Relationship between the Rotary World Magazine Press and RI

1. In order to be certified by the Board for its region, an "approved" regional magazine (both the print and any electronic versions) must assume responsibility for serving as the basic means of communication between RI and club members/ subscribers in the region in replacing *The Rotarian*.
2. The regional magazine editors are responsible for the conduct of their respective magazines within the context of these guidelines.
3. The monthly mandatory material supplied by RI, or regionally prepared material conveying the same general theme and information, must be used by the certified RI-licensed Rotary regional magazines and may include the following:
 - a) One cover per year (the new president in July);
 - b) President's biography and the annual theme in July;
 - c) Monthly messages from the president;
 - d) Summary of Board decisions;
 - e) Reports of the Council on Legislation;

- f) Official calls to the RI Convention and promotional materials, including a major article by the RI Convention committee chair or the host club executive committee chair;
 - g) Report on the RI Convention and International Assembly;
 - h) Selected material from the Member Notes section of *The Rotarian*;
 - i) Introduction of the Board and president-nominee;
 - j) Feature articles in support of Rotary's designated months;
 - k) Feature article on The Rotary Foundation as it appears in the November issue of *The Rotarian*;
 - l) Announcements of RI programs, activities, and meetings of special emphasis (including programs of The Rotary Foundation of RI, the 3-H program, PolioPlus, peace forums, and special grants/volunteers); special allowance for articles of specific interest in certain areas; similarly, non-use of certain portions of articles that have no application to individual regions;
 - m) Any special news or information that, in the opinion of the Board or president, or the general secretary acting on behalf of the Board, should be communicated to each individual Rotarian through his or her chosen Rotary magazine;
 - n) Quarterly promotional and educational advertisements and articles about the importance of protecting the Rotary Marks and RI's licensing system, such ads and articles to focus on: the Board's guidelines for use of the Rotary Marks, the importance of preserving the integrity of RI's intellectual property, the simplicity and benefits of RI's licensing system, and projects and programs of local Rotary Entities making correct use of the Rotary Marks under the Board's guidelines.
 - o) Regional magazine editors have the authority to substitute "local" articles of similar themes, upon approval by RI;
4. Certified RI-licensed regional magazines are required to devote a minimum of six (6) pages per issue to mandatory material from *The Rotarian* and regional sources, as shown in paragraph 3 above;
5. Before a new magazine may be considered for certification, it must follow the procedures to become an "approved and prescribed" regional magazine, including, but not limited to, completion of a two-year pilot program. Except for exempt language groups, as determined by RI, during the first year, subscriptions to the magazine shall be a second subscription in addition to the required subscription to *The Rotarian*. During the second year, members may choose between the two magazines to meet the magazine subscription requirement;
6. Only certified Rotary regional magazines shall receive RI support and services or RI-supplied materials. Operation of a publication using the Rotary Marks or circularizing the membership without the authorization of RI is not permitted;

7. *The Rotarian* and the regional magazines shall continue to exchange quality editorial material and photographs to effectively emphasize the internationality of the magazines;
8. RI will provide, if and when possible, translated mandatory material for magazines that request it or vital advance manuscripts to compensate time for translation;
9. RI will provide, when possible, mandatory material, such as the president's message, for publication in the designated month simultaneously with *The Rotarian*;
10. Rotary regional magazines shall adhere to all RI Board guidelines for reproduction and use of the Rotary Marks;
11. A RI-sponsored Rotary World Magazine Press Editors Seminar shall be scheduled every two years in either the host city of the upcoming convention of that Rotary year or in Evanston, as determined by RI. Regional zone editors meetings in the alternate year shall be encouraged, at no cost to RI;
12. The magazine shall adhere to RI's reporting requirements;
13. The magazine will enter into an agreement with RI for the publication and distribution of a magazine using the Rotary Marks and circularizing the membership. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109*)

Source: October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 140, 142, and 144; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

51.020.3. Rotary World Magazine Press Editors Seminar

- a) The Rotary World Magazine Press Editors Seminar will be conducted every two years at World Headquarters in Evanston or the site of the following year's RI Convention. Regional zone editors meetings in the alternate year shall be encouraged, at no cost to RI;
- b) The Rotary World Magazine Press Editors Seminar will be conducted as a three-day meeting;
- c) Rotary World Magazine Press editors will be encouraged to attend the International Assembly and participate as observers, at no cost to RI;
- d) RI will provide financial support for the Rotary World Magazine Press Editors Seminar, including airfare and per diem expenses for participating editors. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140*)

Source: January-February 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 209; October 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140

51.020.4. Nueva Revista Rotaria

1. A Spanish-language regional magazine, to be known as *Nueva Revista Rotaria*, shall be established, to be published in Venezuela but servicing Bolivia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Venezuela;

2. All Rotarians in the above mentioned countries will be required to subscribe to the new regional magazine in accordance with RI Bylaws;
3. An executive committee shall be appointed by the president to
 - a) act as a designated committee on behalf of the governors in the above mentioned countries
 - b) administer *Nueva Revista Rotaria* - its general policies and editorial policies, editorial development, financial procedures - and serve as liaison with the Board and the general secretary
 - c) select and supervise the magazine editor with the paramount purpose and objective of serving all the above mentioned countries equally and fairly
 - d) collaborate with a special association to be formed by the Rotary Club of Torbes (San Cristobal), Venezuela, the group which established and continues to publish the regional magazine in Venezuela at no expense to RI
4. The above mentioned executive committee, appointed by the president, shall consist of
 - a) at least one, but no more than two, of the current or most immediate past RI directors from the above countries
 - b) four other members from the Rotary districts in the above mentioned countries as follows:

one representative from Central America or Dominican Republic
one representative from Ecuador or Venezuela
one representative from Bolivia
one representative from Paraguay or Uruguay

these representatives are
 - 1) to serve three year terms on a rotating basis established by the president to ensure continuity of leadership
 - 2) to be from any of the above mentioned countries other than the ones from which the current or most immediate past RI directors (in point 4.a) come
 - c) chair of the special association mentioned in point 3.d
5. The president shall appoint a qualified Rotarian fiscal agent in Venezuela to receive, disperse, monitor and account for the required magazine subscription monies which shall, subject to review every two years, be collected by the RI secretariat at the rate of US\$6.00 for each member per semiannual period from all member clubs;

6. This project is to be conducted at no cost to RI except assistance with editorial materials development, and costs associated with the collection of subscription monies for the specified period. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 398*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 296; Amended by February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 345. See also November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111

51.020.5. Specific Rotary Regional Magazines

Note: As of 2005 there are Rotary Regional Magazines in the following languages:

1. Arabic, English and French (*Rotary [Egypt]*)
2. Bulgarian (*Rotary Bulgaria*)
3. Chinese (*The Rotarian Monthly [Taiwan]*)
4. Czech (*Rotary Good News [Czech Republic]*)
5. Danish, Finnish, Icelandic, Norwegian, Swedish (*Rotary Norden [Scandinavia]*)
6. Dutch (*Rotarian [The Netherlands]*)
7. English (*Philippine Rotary; Rotary Magazine [Great Britain and Ireland]; Rotary Africa; Rotary Down Under [Australia]*)
8. English and Hindi (*Rotary News/Rotary Samachar [India]*)
9. French (*Le Rotarien [France]*)
10. Dutch, French and German (*Rotary Contact [Belgium]*)
11. German (*Rotary Magazin [Germany]; Rotary Suisse Liechtenstein (Switzerland)*)
12. German, French, Italian, and Romansch (*Rotary: Der Schweitzer Rotarier; Le Rotarien Suisse; Il Rotariano Svizzero; Il Rotarian Svizzer*)
13. Hebrew (*Rotary Israel*)
14. Italian (*Realta Nuova; Rotary [Italy]*)
15. Japanese and English (*The Rotary-No-Tomo [Japan]*)
16. Korean (*The Rotary Korea*)
17. Polish (*Glos Rotary [Poland]*)
18. Portuguese (*Brasil Rotario; Portugal Rotario*)

19. Spanish (*Colombia Rotaria; El Rotario de Chile; El Rotario Peruano [Peru]; Nueva Revista Rotaria [Venezuela]; Espana Rotaria [Spain]; Rotarismo En Mexico; Vida Rotaria [Argentina]*)

20. Thai (*The Thai Rotarian*)

21. Turkish and English (*Rotary Dergisi [Turkey]*). (*February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109; and February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137

51.020.6. Supervision of Rotary Regional Magazines

All regional magazines are requested to establish editorial boards, as set forth in *Rotary Code* section 51.020.1, pt. 2. Members will serve for a period of at least one year, and the editorial board must meet at least once a year. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109*)

Source: July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

51.020.7. Certification of Rotary Regional Magazines

Each Rotary regional magazine must be certified every five years to ensure that it meets RI specifications as outlined in the *Manual of Procedure* and *Rotary Code* section 51.020.8. Certification status will be evaluated by the Communications Committee and recommended to and granted by the Board. The general secretary shall conduct random reviews of all certified regional magazines to determine their adherence to prescribed editorial guidelines. Beginning in July 2005, each certified regional magazine must enter into an agreement with RI for publication of a magazine using the Rotary Marks and circularizing the membership. Operation of such a publication without the authorization of RI is not permitted. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109*)

Source: July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 284; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140 and November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

51.020.8. Guidelines for Rotary Regional Magazine Certification

The Board has approved the following guidelines for Rotary regional magazine certification:

a) Qualifications

1) Only regional magazines that have been approved for their country(ies) by the RI Board are eligible to be certified as part of the Rotary World Magazine Press by entering into a license agreement with RI.

2) To become certified, regional magazines must be directly supervised by an editorial board consisting of at least six members, including a current governor or designate, a current incoming governor or designate, the magazine's editor in chief, and three past RI officers (preferably media professionals or members with communications experience). Members will serve for a period of at least one year, and the editorial board must meet at least once a year.

- 3) To become certified and maintain their certified status, regional magazines (both the print and any electronic versions) must consistently publish the mandatory Rotary content as supplied by RI and specified in *Rotary Code* section 51.020.2. Editorial content must reflect that the regional magazine serves all Rotary countries or districts within its territory, and is published in the primary, officially recognized language.
 - i) The editors and editorial boards of regional magazines shall ensure adherence to RI policy on political and religious matters and strive to promote the Rotary principle of welcoming men and women of all races, nations, religious faiths, vocations, and political persuasions to membership.
 - ii) Regional magazines shall not express an editorial opinion on any pending controversial public measure.
 - iii) Regional magazines shall not endorse, recommend, or otherwise express an editorial opinion about any candidate for public office or Rotary office, or publish any letter, speech, or other content supporting or otherwise commenting on any such candidate.
 - iv) Regional magazines shall not express an editorial opinion on international political affairs or publish any letter, speech, or other content on such affairs.
- 4) Certification will be granted to only one regional magazine per country, and existing approved and prescribed regional magazines that qualify will be given preference.
- 5) The Communications Committee will determine if magazines meet the requirements for certification and will make recommendations to the RI Board when the process is complete. Following Board approval, all regional magazines must enter into an agreement with RI delineating the nature of the relationship and setting forth the guidelines for publishing a certified Rotary regional magazine. Once the agreement is signed, the regional magazines may announce or publish news of their certified status.
- 6) Re-certification is required every five years. In special circumstances, the Communications Committee will consider granting reasonable extensions for the submission of certification applications. In the event of unusual circumstances that call into question the viability of a certified regional magazine, its editor, or its editorial board and occur before the re-certification date, the Board, on recommendation of the Communications Committee, can suspend or terminate the certification, under the terms of the agreement between the Rotary regional magazine and RI, until that magazine can assure RI that it is in compliance with all certification requirements.
- 7) Only certified regional magazines will qualify for assistance and support from RI on addressing issues of non-payment by clubs of their subscriptions.
- 8) Any magazine not achieving certified status and seeking to enter into an agreement with RI by 31 December 2005 shall no longer be authorized to operate as a Rotary regional magazine using the Rotary Marks or circularizing Rotarians.

9) Before a new magazine can be considered for certification, it must receive the approval of the Board to enter into the two-year pilot program, which includes a two-year agreement with RI to publish using the Rotary Marks and circularizing Rotarians.

10) RI shall audit one issue (chosen randomly) of every regional magazine at least once a year, the specifics of which are to be determined at the sole discretion of RI. The results of the audit will be disclosed within 90 days of completion. Should any noncompliance with RI guidelines be discovered, the regional magazine shall be given a reasonable opportunity to remedy the problem by the publication of the next issue or the earliest opportunity thereafter. The regional magazine shall be placed on probation until the noncompliance is remedied to the full satisfaction of RI. Should the regional magazine fail to comply in a timely manner, the regional magazine shall be placed on notice of termination, in accordance with the provisions of the agreement between the regional magazine and RI.

b) Procedures

1. Regional magazines must adhere to the order process established and maintained by RI.

2. Regional magazines must comply with RI's monthly report filing requirements.

3. Regional magazines must adhere to RI Board guidelines for reproduction and use of the Rotary Marks.

4. Regional magazines must submit the following information to RI:

i) A detailed content summary of each issue, plus at least three copies of each issue immediately upon publication;

ii) a list of editorial board members, including each member's name, title (if any), and length of term, and an annual schedule of editorial board meetings;

iii) basic circulation information, including the number of paid and complimentary subscriptions and the annual subscription cost;

iv) verification that standard circulation requirements (two or more Rotary districts or at least two Rotary countries) are being met;

v) verification of publication frequency (at least four times per year);

vi) a current magazine editorial calendar and a projection of any major changes or planned improvements for the next five years (licensed period);

vii) a report of advertising policy and rates;

viii) a basic financial statement, signed by the regional magazine editor and approved by the editorial board. The statement will verify that the regional magazine is financially viable and in a position to maintain publication. If the editor and editorial board choose

to provide additional financial information regarding revenues and expenses, they may do so. However, the basic concern is obtaining reasonable assurance that the magazine is financially solvent and can continue publishing without serious monetary problems. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 259; *Amended by* February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 217; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140; and November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109

51.020.9. Provisional Status for Rotary Regional Magazines

If a Rotary regional magazine serves a specific language community located within only one district but shows potential for growth to additional districts, it may apply for a two-year provisional status with full benefits of certification, upon entering into an agreement with RI. Such provisional status shall begin on the date of first publication of the regional magazine. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140; and February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203

51.020.10. Report of Exceptions to Subscription Requirement

The general secretary shall provide the RI Board with a status report on countries exempted from magazine subscriptions every three years, in accordance with RI Bylaws section 20.030.2. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205

Cross References

70.040. Publications: Collection of Revenues for Regional Magazines

51.030. Publication Distribution Costs

The general secretary shall ensure that all general mailings of RI and Foundation materials from the Secretariat are made as cost effectively as possible, utilizing the international offices to the best extent possible, particularly for translation services and for group mailings. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 231

51.040. Guidelines for New Publications

Any proposal for a new RI publication must be submitted to the Board through the general secretary. The general secretary shall be charged with the responsibility of developing publications that will meet a real need and be cost effective. The following information should be available for a new publication:

1. Purpose of publications (including the origin, such as Board decisions);
2. The audience to be reached;

3. The intended life-span of the publication;
4. Anticipated demand;
5. Consequences of not producing the publication;
6. Practicality and appropriateness of format/medium as it relates to ease the production, revision, etc.;
7. Coverage of other publications (redundancy);
8. Impact on inventories at the international offices;
9. Cost of the publication;
10. Comprehensive budget to carry the cost of the publication, if approved;
11. Feasibility of offering new publication by electronic methods. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216*)

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 198; Amended by February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216

51.050. Publications Market Research and Finances

1. The general secretary shall require that all publications, audiovisuals, or other items produced for sale by the secretariat shall be subjected to research analysis to determine their need, marketability, and profitability;
2. The general secretary shall ensure that any monies expended for the production, marketing and distribution of new or revised items produced for sale by the Secretariat, shall be fully recovered through the sale of such items, unless gratis distribution is specifically authorized;
3. All committees shall approach the recommendation of any new publications, audio-visuals or other items to be produced for sale by the Secretariat, with the objective of having all such items be self sustaining during the life of the item. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233

51.060. Use of Recycled Paper in Publications

All RI publications will be produced on recycled paper, when feasible. Non-recycled paper may be used in printing *The Rotarian* magazine. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 121*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 121

51.070. Rotary World

The *Rotary World* newspaper shall be published four times annually, in July, October, January, and April, in nine languages. The general secretary, in addition to distributing one copy of *Rotary World* to the president of each club, shall mail a copy to current RI Directors and Foundation Trustees, Past Directors and Foundation Trustees, Incoming Directors and Trustees, Governors, Incoming Governors, RI and Foundation international committee and resource group members, regional Rotary Foundation coordinators, district RI and Foundation committee chairs, and Past Governors who request to receive the newspaper, and any others the general secretary may add. The *Rotary World* shall contain at least one project profile concerning successful humanitarian programs of RI and The Rotary Foundation in each issue. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277; July 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22; July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 39; *Amended by* February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 120; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

Cross References

49.010. Official Notices in Rotary World



Article 52. Audio/Visual/Electronic Communications

52.010. Audiovisuals

52.020. Internet and Electronic Communications

52.030. Communications Technology

52.010. Audiovisuals

The continued use of audiovisual productions to communicate Rotary programs and activities is encouraged. All audiovisual productions should be produced in more than one version so as to conform to the various cultural and language conditions represented in the Rotary world. The general secretary shall provide the Board, on a continuing basis, reports on the purchase and utilization (as far as can be determined) of audiovisuals produced by RI. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 41

52.010.1. Video Coverage of RI Programs-Budget

Each new or pilot program, whether funded by RI or its Foundation, should include in its budget funds to document the program on site, as the general secretary may recommend, with professional video footage or still photography to give more international coverage and build up the RI photo library. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176

52.010.2. Rotary Information on Video

The General Secretary shall produce videos on the programs and activities of RI and its Foundation, as appropriate, such videos to be as international in content as possible. *(May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325)*

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

52.020. Internet and Electronic Communications

52.020.1. Guidelines for Rotary Club, District, and other Rotary Entity Electronic Publications

a) A Rotary Entity's Web site is a "publication," just as a Rotary Entity's newsletter is a "publication." The primary purpose of any Rotary publication, printed or electronic, is to advance the Object of Rotary.

b) Content and design of such publications should be under the direct supervision of the publishing entity's highest officer, whether it be the Rotary club president, governor, or Fellowship chair, and must conform to current RI policies as set forth in the Manual of Procedure. (Of particular note are those policies pertaining to Rotary Mark and Emblem usage and those prohibiting circularization.) In particular, whenever the name "Rotary," the Rotary Emblem or other of the Rotary Marks are used, Rotary Entities should use the further identifier of the name of the Rotary Entity involved. When selecting a domain name that includes the word "Rotary," Rotary Entities should also include further

identifying language of the name of the Rotary Entity and not solely the word, “Rotary.” (See section 33.020.6.) (Proper naming examples are, “www.AnytownRotaryClub.org,” “www.rotarydistrict0000.org,” “www.AnytownRotaryVillage.org,” and “www.Rotary[Insert Name of Rotary Entity Here].org.” Examples of generic, improper naming examples that only use “Rotary” by itself or refer to RI and not a specific Rotary Entity would be “www.rotaryvillage.org,” “www.rotarian.org,” “www.RIactivity.org” and www.rotarywomen.org.) Rotary International accepts no responsibility for the content of any non-RI publication.

c) Rotary International maintains a site on the World Wide Web (www.rotary.org) to provide Rotarians with timely and accurate information about the programs of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation. Editors of Rotary publications in all media are encouraged to use this information in their respective Rotary organs, provided they adhere to the copyright policies posted on the RI site. Furthermore Rotarians in charge of club, district, and other Rotary Entity Web sites shall, when feasible, include a link to the RI Web site for the benefit of those wishing to learn more about Rotary.

d) Top Level Domain (“TLD”) and Domain Name Registration and Maintenance Policy

I. Purpose of Policy

The purpose of this policy is to define the TLD and domain name registration policy for Rotary International. It should also serve as a guide to Secretariat Staff as various departments take advantage of the Internet to promote Rotary International and its programs and to Rotary Entities seeking to purchase domain names as they establish Web sites to advance the Object of Rotary.

II. TLDs and Domain Names Reserved for the Exclusive Use of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation

A. TLDs and Domain Names

Rotary International reserves the following of the Rotary Marks for the exclusive use of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation as TLDs or domain names (the below to include the plural, as well as the singular uses thereof):

- a) interact
- b) interactclub
- c) interactive
- d) paulharris
- e) paulharrisfellow
- f) polioplus
- g) RI
- h) rotaract
- i) rotaractclub
- j) rotarian
- k) rotary
- l) rotaryclub
- m) rotaryfoundation
- n) rotaryinternational

- o) rotaryintl
- p) therotarian
- q) therotaryfoundation
- r) TRF
- s) serviceaboveself

To the extent possible, each Rotary Mark should be maintained as a domain name (in conjunction with each major TLD such as .com, .org, .net, .info, .biz and others, as they become available), a TLD or other major identifier of Rotary on the Internet.

B. Country Code Domains

“ROTARY” should also be protected in conjunction with country code (“cc”) domains as much as possible based on the following order of priority:

- a. Any domain name and/or country mandated by the RI Board or TRF Trustees.
- b. Countries in which RI has an international office.
- c. Countries in which RI is scheduled to hold an upcoming Convention and/or the home countries of elected and/or nominated RI presidents.
- d. Countries in which there have historically been or in which RI is currently having problems, either because of those who infringe RI’s marks or because other individuals, companies or organizations have filed numerous applications for same or similar marks requiring RI to file oppositions against these applications.
- e. Countries in which RI has either a significant number of licensees or major licensees.
- f. Countries in which RI has established a prominent presence, either because of large numbers of Rotarians or countries in which RI and/or the programs of RI are very active.

Rotarians, Rotary clubs, Rotary districts and other Rotary Entities are asked to support this Policy and transfer ownership rights in any of the above designated TLDs and/or domain names they may currently own to RI, at RI’s request. Due to budget limitations, cc level domain names featuring any of the Rotary Marks other than ROTARY are not in line for purchase at this time, but this is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the general secretary.

C. Other TLDs and Domains

- 1. The general secretary shall determine whether there are any TLDs or domain names, other than those set forth above, which it would be in RI’s best interest to protect and maintain for its exclusive use and/or benefit.
- 2. The general secretary shall determine whether and when the use of any of the Rotary Marks in a TLD or domain name by a Rotary Entity does not comply with Board policy or for an individual, company or organization not affiliated with RI constitutes infringement and shall pursue the matter accordingly.

III. Registration and Maintenance of TLDs and Domain Names

The general secretary shall purchase TLDs and domain names meeting the current goals of TLD and domain name protection, listing Rotary International as the owner. The

Intellectual Property Section of the Legal Department shall handle the registration, renewal and maintenance of TLDs and domain names for Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation, with technical and substantive support from IS, Communications and CDA, as necessary.

IV. Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities

A. Rotary clubs, Rotary districts, other Rotary Entities and individual Rotarians should be advised that RI reserves the right to request that TLDs and domain names featuring any of the Rotary Marks be assigned to RI now and in the future, pursuant to this policy.

B. Rotary clubs, districts, other Rotary Entities and individual Rotarians are encouraged to purchase domain names that comply with the RI Board policy concerning the use of the Rotary Marks as outlined in the Rotary International *Manual of Procedure* and *Rotary Code of Policies*. Rotary Entities are encouraged, before registering domain names, to check with their CDA representative to ensure their proposed domain name complies with Board policy for use of the Rotary Marks.

C. The purchase and/or administration of any TLDs which may become available using any of the Rotary Marks is reserved exclusively for RI.

D. The general secretary may require a disclaimer that limits RI's liability to be placed on Web sites of Rotary Entities.

E. The general secretary reserves the right to take any necessary action against any Rotary club, district or other Rotary Entity or individual Rotarian or group of Rotarians whose actions are not consistent with RI Board policy concerning the use of the Rotary Marks. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 230; Amended by February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 225; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

52.020.2. RI's Web site

The general secretary shall maintain the RI Web site at the www.rotary.org address on behalf of the Board. The Web site shall include information pertinent to the programs and activities of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation as well as applications to assist Rotary clubs and districts in doing their Rotary business online including such things as membership updates, Foundation donations, purchasing of Rotary products, etc. The general secretary shall provide or make accommodation for reasonable space (up to 10 pages each) for the president and the president-elect to communicate with the Rotary world as an integrated part of RI's Web site. The general secretary shall include RI's Web site address (<http://www.rotary.org>) on RI publications, literature and stationery, as is appropriate, as they are reproduced. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 33; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216

52.020.3. The Rotarian and the Internet

The general secretary shall provide space on the RI World Wide Web site for material from the Rotary World Magazine Press magazines. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 145*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 110

52.020.4. RI Web Language-based Communities

RI Web language communities will be developed and maintained in Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish, French, German, Korean, Italian and Swedish.

RI Web language communities are the only official language Web sites of Rotary International. (*February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 436. *Affirmed by* August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85. *Amended by* February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107; and February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137

Cross References

33.020.3. Use of Rotary Marks by RI Officers in Publications

33.020.4. Use of Rotary Marks on Web sites of RI Officers

33.020.6. Use of Name “Rotary,” or other Rotary Marks by Clubs and Districts

33.020.12. Use of the Word “Rotarian” in Club Publications

52.030. Communications Technology

The general secretary shall develop and implement the use of technology as a means of: providing more personalized and economical communications to and from clubs, districts and Rotarians on the programs and administration of Rotary, and training incoming officers of RI and its clubs. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

52.030.1. Development of Multimedia Products

The development of multimedia products to enhance communications between the Secretariat and Rotarians, provide training to club officers and members, and promote the programs of RI and its Foundation is encouraged. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 380



Article 53. Other Communications

53.010. Rotary International Library

53.020. Rose Bowl Parade Float

53.010. Rotary International Library

There shall be an archives in One Rotary Center, which will include copies of as many books as possible that have been published about Rotary. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

53.020. Rose Bowl Parade Float

The Board looks with favor on continually having a float in the Tournament of Roses parade, and has authorized the solicitation of clubs within Canada and the United States of America for voluntary contributions to fund the construction and promotion (fund-raising and publicity) of the float on the condition that the project shall be self-supporting, and all accounting and records of contributions shall be handled by the Rotary Rose Parade committee. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February, 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235

53.020.1. Solicitation for the Rotary Float in the Tournament of Roses Parade

The Rotary Float committee in California, USA shall ensure that any communication it sends to Rotarians or clubs in the United States and Canada soliciting contributions to help defray the costs of a float in the annual Tournament of Roses Parade shall prominently include this statement: “This is not a project of Rotary International” and shall not contain a picture or message from the president without his or her prior approval. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 304



CHAPTER VII

MEETINGS

Articles

- 57. International Convention**
- 58. International Assembly**
- 59. Council on Legislation**
- 60. Institutes**
- 61. Regional and Presidential Conferences**
- 62. General Policies Relating to RI Meetings**

Article 57. International Convention

- 57.010.** Purpose
- 57.020.** Host Organization Committee
- 57.030.** Dates
- 57.040.** Guidelines
- 57.050.** Site Selection
- 57.060.** Attendance
- 57.070.** Housing
- 57.080.** Sergeants-at-Arms at the Convention
- 57.090.** Group Air Travel
- 57.100.** Regional Magazine Editors Attendance
- 57.110.** International Convention Committee
- 57.120.** Public Relations
- 57.130.** Finances
- 57.140.** Proceedings
- 57.150.** Role of RI Board and Spouses
- 57.160.** Role of General Secretary
- 57.170.** Post-Convention Activities
- 57.180.** Miscellaneous International Convention Matters

57.010. Purpose

The primary purpose of the annual convention of Rotary International is to stimulate, inspire, and inform all Rotarians at an international level, as well as serve as a forum for advancing the strategic goals of the association. Club presidents-elect and other incoming Rotary club and Rotary International officers are especially encouraged to attend the convention so they will be motivated to actively develop Rotary at the club and district levels. The annual convention also is the annual business meeting of the association. Since the convention constitutes a worldwide gathering of the Rotary family, the celebration of the fellowship of Rotary through social and entertainment features is appropriate to the extent such activities do not detract from the primary purpose of the convention. The program includes pre-convention meetings, plenary sessions, workshops, forums, entertainment features and other meetings for this purpose. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

57.020. Host Organization Committee

57.020.1. Definition of “Host Area”

The Board will define an area consisting of one or more districts, which shall be considered as the host area. The general secretary shall negotiate with the host organization concerning the definition of the host area. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292; May-June 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.020.2. Host Organization Advised of Guidelines

Before selection of a venue, the potential host organization shall be advised of Rotary convention site guidelines and required to accept them in principle. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362

57.020.3. Relationship of the Host Organization to RI

The host organization cooperates with the Board and the convention committee to assist with the convention program and to provide hospitality for attendees. The general secretary, acting through the convention manager, serves as liaison between the host organization and the convention committee and Board. The general secretary, who is responsible for the operational aspects of Convention management, fulfills these responsibilities through the convention manager with the advice and cooperation of the host organization.

The above statement shall be provided to all host organization committees for their information and guidance in connection with plans for the convention.

The general secretary, in consultation with the current RI president, may hold a multi-day meeting in Evanston for five or six host organization committee chairs and the two or three convention committee chairs of future conventions on an as-needed basis. If this meeting is held, the general secretary will be assisted by a previous host organization committee chair, a previous convention committee chair, and any other persons selected by the president.

The meeting, if required, should provide training for the most recently selected host organization committee chairs and an opportunity for the host organization committee chairs and the convention committee chairs to acquire ideas from one another and to coordinate their activities with the RI staff. The expense of this meeting if needed, including the travel expenses, shall be paid by RI. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.020.4. Host Organization's Duties

The host organization appoints a chair and selects an executive committee. The executive committee acts for the host organization in making hospitality plans, appointing auxiliary committees, and coordinating their work. It also cooperates by providing advice and

assistance to the convention committee, the general secretary and the convention manager. The chair of the host organization is the liaison between the host organization and RI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233

57.020.5. Host Organization and Convention Committee

The host organization shall be responsible to the convention committee, which will approve and direct its actions as necessary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362

57.020.6. Host Organization Chair's Qualifications

The host organization chair should

- a) be an experienced Rotarian, preferably a past district governor, appointed by the host organization area as evidenced in a written communication to the general secretary at least 30 months in advance of the convention
- b) have adequate time and personal freedom to make a “full-time” commitment to serving as chair
- c) be able to work effectively and in cooperation with leaders from other countries and cultures
- d) be able to effectively serve as liaison between the HOC, the convention committee and the RI general secretary
- e) be fully supported by the leaders in the host area and on the host organization.

An acting host organization committee chair shall be identified as part of the original proposal until the host organization committee chair is selected via the process detailed in the bid proposal. This shall go into effect for the 2015 Convention.

None of the chair’s responsibilities may be delegated. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: June 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.020.7. Host Organization's Responsibilities

Responsibilities of the host organization include:

- a) Convention attendance promotion in cooperation with RI
- b) Convention city decoration
- c) Convention logo design in cooperation with RI
- d) House of Friendship in cooperation with RI
- e) Host Hospitality Night
- f) Information booth during convention hours
- g) Identifying appropriate local tour companies
- h) Reception/Welcome
- i) HOC cultural event (ticketed)
- j) HOC office
- k) HOC volunteer
- l) Publicity in cooperation with RI
- m) Securing HOC sponsorship with approval of the general secretary and RI president

- n) Provision of a HOC financial budget
- o) HOC Business Exposition in the House of Friendship
- p) Host Area registration in cooperation with RI
- q) HOC expenses and revenues
- r) Other support

The above responsibilities demonstrate that an important function of the host organization is to act as "host" to all who attend the convention. In fulfilling the responsibilities as hosts, Rotarians of the host organization have the opportunity to provide service and hospitality that reflect the unique ambiance of the convention city. It is this ambiance that demonstrates the internationality of the convention and Rotary as a whole. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd Dec. 87)*

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233; February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.020.8. Host Organization Budget and Financial Reports

The host organization will develop a balanced break even budget, reflecting all anticipated host organization expenses and revenues, and will submit this budget to the president, Convention Committee, and the general secretary prior to the first meeting of the Convention Committee for approval. This budget shall be submitted for review at each Convention Committee meeting.

Each host organization committee is required to provide quarterly financial reports of actual and projected revenues and expenses to RI as of 30 June, 30 September, 31 December, and 31 March during the twelve month period immediately prior to its convention. The general secretary shall provide a standard report format for use by the host organization committee.

The host organization shall also submit a final financial statement to the president, convention chair and the general secretary within 60 days of the end of the convention. If the final financial statement shows that the host organization income exceeded its expenses, the host organization shall refund to RI any funds received from RI, up to the amount paid by RI to the host organization, within 90 days of the end of the convention. The host organization shall determine in advance how surplus funds shall be allocated after the convention. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 253; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.020.9. Publicity for Convention by Host Organization

Except as approved by the Board or the president, the host organization should understand the importance of avoiding publicity regarding any proposed Convention until after the preceding Convention has been held. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

57.020.10. Host Organization Relationship With Convention Manager

The host organization is to provide advice and assistance to the convention manager. Local Rotarians are citizens of the host country as well as business and professional people, and community leaders, familiar with customs and practices of the host city and country. Therefore, only they can provide the degree of assistance that enables RI to

perform its Convention responsibilities with a working knowledge of the host city. The host Rotarians offer local knowledge to assist the convention manager in fulfilling RI's responsibilities for the planning and conduct of its Convention in the host city. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 233; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

57.020.11. General Duties of Host Organization Committee

The Host Organization Committee must clearly understand its role in the planning and operation of the convention. It must also accept its duty to cooperate with the RI Convention Committee and convention manager to finalize plans for the convention.

The Host Organization Committee shall be required to annually submit a report on its progress toward meeting Host Organization Committee responsibilities until one year prior to its assigned convention, at which time the Host Organization Committee shall be required to submit a monthly report on its progress. Depending upon the progress shown via the annual submission of such a report, the general secretary may hold a training meeting in the city of the Host Organization Committee on an as-needed basis. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: November 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 122; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

Cross References

71.070.1. *Insurance for Host Organizations*

57.030. Dates

If the Board, when determining the International Convention city, does not name the dates on which the International Convention shall be held, the Executive Committee of the Board is authorized to name the dates. The convention should not be held during the last half of June, effective 2015. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 252*)

Source: January 1947 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 252

57.040. Guidelines

A manual for the general guidance of the convention committee has been approved and is revised from time to time by the Board. Such manual includes Board policy governing Conventions. The general secretary is requested to bring to the Board's attention any necessary changes to the manual. Each Convention committee is likewise requested to include in its final report any recommended changes to the manual. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 342

57.040.1. Distribution of Manual for Conventions

The following shall receive revisions of the *Manual for Conventions*: president, president-elect, president-nominee, when known, host organization chair, host area governor(s) at time of acceptance, succeeding governors through the year of the convention, all convention

committee members, chief sergeant-at-arms and key deputies, general secretary, and the host area convention bureau/tourism office. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.050. Site Selection

57.050.1. Convention in Successively Different Locations

The international convention shall not be held in any one country for more than one consecutive year. If possible, Conventions should be held successively in different parts of the world, with the qualification that cost factors be given careful consideration. The eastern and western regions of the United States, as divided by the Mississippi River, are to be considered two distinct regions for this site selection purpose. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: January 1938 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77; Conv. Res. 64-42; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.050.2. Accessibility of Convention Location

In determining the locations of RI meetings, care should be taken to ensure the accessibility of such locations for all those eligible to attend. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273

57.050.3. Study of Potential Convention Sites

Continued study should be made of those cities currently or potentially capable of hosting the RI Convention. Consideration should also be given to Convention costs which might be absorbed by entities within such cities if the Board considers them as potential Convention sites. Each year RI will solicit invitations and only those cities responding by a predetermined deadline will be considered. There shall be no standing list of potential host districts and/or cities. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: November 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 122; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.050.4. Convention Attendance and Financial Options

In selecting a Convention site, consideration shall be given to determining the maximum number of persons to be accommodated in a particular city, as well as to the best available financial options. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273

57.050.5. Minimum Standards For Convention

The Board will consider a proposal only if the general secretary has explicitly confirmed that the city currently meets all of the requirements for holding a convention. If the general secretary and/or Rotary senior leader involved in the site inspection reports that a city does not meet all of the critical site specification criteria as described in the current *Manual for Conventions* and the Board proceeds to select that city, the Board shall provide an explanation of how any deficiencies will be addressed in its respective Board

decision. The general secretary shall inform the Board of potential sites which vary slightly from the standards, or preferred criteria, when such variances would not inhibit the full capability of a city to hold a convention. Should no city be certified by the general secretary from among those submitting invitations, the Board will postpone any selection until a city has been so certified or solicit proposals from another area of the Rotary world. International conventions shall not be allocated to cities that do not have sufficient and proper facilities. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289*)

Source: June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362; November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 98; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; *Amended by* June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289

57.050.6. Support of Host Area

Preference will be given to those invitations which indicate that the host district area will support the convention. Such support includes a resolution or other statement of attendance pledged by the host organization. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: May-June 1981, Bd. Dec. 394; *Amended by* June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.050.7. District Support for Convention

Before the Board accepts an invitation to host a Convention, any nearby districts must satisfactorily prove to the Board support for the convention. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273

57.050.8. Cost Control Measures in Convention Site Selection

To control Convention expenses, negotiations to reduce costs in the following areas may be conducted before the selection of the convention city: housing, entertainment, official meal functions, meeting places, other facilities and printing. The number of official meals should be limited as much as possible. Any gratis items to be offered, including complimentary hotel rooms for various officers, should be established. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362

57.050.9. Funding of Convention Meeting Space

When considering districts' invitations to hold conventions in their cities, RI will expect the city to provide without expense to RI a suitable and convenient auditorium for the convention's general sessions and additional meeting places for other sessions. No district of any city should have to pay rental or other expenses for convention venues for RI's use. Rather, the city shall furnish such facilities, or the city government, tourist association, chamber of commerce, or a similar group of business people should provide any necessary funds for such a meeting place. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: July 1932 Mtg., Bd. Dec. IX(f). *Amended by* January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.050.10. Convention Cancellation

The general secretary shall continue to monitor factors which could interrupt International Conventions and make contracts, wherever possible, in such a way as to

minimize any liability to RI in the event of any interruption in plans for a Convention. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 264

57.050.11. Procedures for Selecting RI Convention Sites

The following procedures have been established for the selection of sites to hold RI's annual convention:

1. The general secretary shall maintain current information on cities around the world reporting to have the facilities and services available to hold a RI Convention. (*see section 57.050.3.*) This information will be provided to the Board on an annual basis to assist the Board in designating an area(s) of the world in which to hold a future RI Convention. (9 years out)
2. Nine years before the year in which a RI Convention is to be held, the RI Board will determine what geographic location(s) from which proposals to host the convention will be solicited. (9 years out)
3. Based on the Board's decision, the general secretary will send a letter to Rotary District(s) in the designated geographic location(s) which have cities reported to have the facilities and services needed to hold a convention, and have not hosted a convention within the previous 20 years. The letter will specify the requirements for holding a convention, and the obligations and responsibilities of the host district(s). Enclosed with this letter will be a copy of "Rotary International Convention Site Specifications" and a checklist of host organization committee responsibilities. The proposals shall request a reply letter indicating that the district governor(s) agrees, by signature of the bid, to comply with that list of host organization committee responsibilities. It shall be noted that the checklist is not exhaustive, and that if the host organization committee wishes to do anything above or beyond its defined responsibilities, the host organization committee must inform and receive approval from RI before proceeding with that activity. The letter will request these district(s) to submit proposals to RI within a six-month time frame. (9 years out)
4. Proposals for hosting conventions will be acknowledged in writing promptly upon receipt. If, after review by the general secretary, there are cities that are obviously not suitable, a letter will be sent to the districts(s) that made the proposal(s) expressing regret. (8 years, 6 months out)
5. At the end of the six month time frame, the general secretary will review all proposals received, and notify the Board of those cities which, through information submitted in the proposals and through research conducted by the general secretary, have the preferred and critical criteria, in the way of facilities and services needed to hold a convention. Proposals will require the endorsement of the governor of the district(s), and an official representative of the government of the proposed city. Proposals will require the bidding chair to serve as the acting host organization committee chair and an explanation of how and when the host area will select its host organization committee chair no later than 5 years out. (8 years, 6 months out)

6. The Board will request the president to appoint a Rotary senior leader to join the general secretary in conducting an inspection of the city(ies) under consideration by the Board, and make recommendations, in cooperation with the general secretary, as to the suitability of the city(ies) for holding a convention. The review and site visit process should be completed within six months of the deadline for receipt of proposals. (8-7 years out)

7. The Board will then tentatively select one of the cities as the site to hold a convention in a specified year, subject to the general secretary's successful negotiation of an appropriate block of hotel rooms, adequate space in which to hold all convention activities, a thorough review of related tax implications relating to convention income and expenses and any other agreements necessary to memorialize the proposal from the host area, government (or related agency) as it relates to any financial arrangements. (7 years out)

8. When negotiations for hotels, transportation, convention facilities, and financial arrangements have been successfully completed and all tax implications considered, the General Secretary will notify the Board. At that time, the Board will accept the proposal from the district, and agree to hold a convention in the specified city in a specified year, subject to the successful negotiation of all necessary arrangements by the General Secretary. (6 years out) (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; Amended by June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.050.12. Convention Site Inspection by Rotary Senior Leader

- a) The president will set the dates for site visits for future conventions.
- b) In accepting the president's invitation to participate in a convention site visit, the Rotary senior leader must commit to participation in the full trip, visiting all cities included on the itinerary.
- c) The Rotary senior leader will travel with the general secretary to all cities being considered.
- d) The site team will be required to submit a final report on its recommendations for a future convention site within four weeks after completing all visits. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70. Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.050.13. Publicizing Site Selection

The general secretary shall ensure that all information published by the Secretariat about the Board's selection of various sites for a RI Convention clearly distinguish between those sites definitely decided upon and those sites that have been tentatively identified and whose facilities are still being investigated. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124

57.050.14. Changing Location of Convention Site

Having selected a convention city, the general secretary will update future Boards on the progress being made with several cities and districts scheduled to host conventions in future years. The general secretary will alert the Board to any serious problems encountered in convention planning.

In the event information is received which indicates that the location of a meeting which has already been determined has become inaccessible, the Board shall consider changing such location. *(June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266)*

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273; Amended by June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266

57.050.15. Proposals to Hold Conventions in Countries with Currency Restrictions

When it is proposed to hold a convention in a country where currency exchange restrictions apply, such meetings will be used as an opportunity to negotiate with appropriate government officials in those countries where there is a substantial amount of funds of RI or the Rotary Foundation on deposit, and not available as a result of currency restrictions concerning the release of such funds. *(February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: May-June 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 46

57.050.16. Future Conventions Bidding Workshop

RI shall hold a Convention Bidding and Hosting Workshop during the annual International Convention. This workshop will train interested Rotarians on the primary responsibilities of host organization committees, how to submit an effective proposal, possible ways to secure government support for venue fees and public transportation, etc. A sample checklist of host organization committee responsibilities will also be available at this workshop. The general secretary, appointed past convention chair(s) and host organization committee chair(s) shall lead the workshop. Attendance at this workshop is strongly encouraged of all bidders for the 2015 convention and beyond. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

Cross References

61.020. Regional Conference Site Selection Criteria

57.060. Attendance

57.060.1. Guidelines for Convention Registration

Registration at RI Conventions shall be limited to:

- Rotarians
- Rotaractors
- Interactors
- Youth Exchange students
- Foundation scholars
- non-Rotarian Foundation alumni

- Rotary club/district employees
- RYLarians
- Spouses of deceased Rotary senior leaders

Any other person who wishes to register for a RI Convention may do so as the paid guest of a qualified accompanying convention registrant. All convention registrants shall pay the corresponding convention registration fees established by the Board. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251; Amended by November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.060.2. Attendance of Rotary Foundation Program Alumni

Any alumni of Rotary's Foundation may register to attend RI conventions.

The official convention program will include an all-day (seven-hour) seminar for Rotary Foundation alumni to be held annually for three years as a pilot program, beginning at the 2008 RI (Los Angeles) Convention on Saturday as a pre-convention event. (*November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35*)

Source: November 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 70; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 218

57.060.3. Attendance of Incoming Club Presidents and Governors-Elect

The importance of the attendance of incoming club presidents and governors-elect should be stressed at all times by the president through the Secretariat and by announcement. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362

57.060.4. Attendance of Spouses of Deceased Rotary Senior Leaders

Spouses of deceased Rotary Senior Leaders who are not Rotarians themselves shall be allowed to register independently for the conventions instead of as the guests of Rotarians. In addition, all spouses of deceased Rotary Senior Leaders, whether Rotarians or not, should be accorded the same privileges at RI conventions that would have been available to their former spouses. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289

57.060.5. One-day Registration Fees

RI shall only entertain requests to offer one-day registration fees where plenary hall capacity permits. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289

57.060.6. Non-Rotarian Convention Registration and Exhibitor's Policy

1. Paying RI licensed vendors, host business expo exhibitors and organizations with which RI has a formal cooperative relationship will be provided up to six complimentary House of Friendship access badges per booth for non-Rotarian booth staff. Any additional badges will be available for US\$50 per badge if requested before the March pre-registration deadline. All badges requested after the March pre-registration deadline shall be available on-site for US\$100 per badge. Rotarians and others who qualify under

established registration categories shall register for the convention and pay the corresponding convention registration fees established by the Board, with the following exception: Rotarian licensed vendors that will not be attending any plenary sessions, workshops or other official RI Convention events and are only granted access to the House of Friendship for the sole purpose of staffing their exhibit will be exempt from paying the Rotarian registration fee.

RI projects and Global Networking Groups exhibitors that do not pay a booth rental fee may obtain House of Friendship access badges for their non-Rotarian booth staff for US\$50 per badge if requested before the March pre-registration deadline. All badges requested after the March pre-registration deadline shall be issued on-site for US\$100 per badge. Rotarians and others who qualify under established registration categories shall register for the convention and pay the corresponding convention registration fees established by the Board.

The Host Organization Committee (HOC) may obtain a reasonable quantity as determined by the convention manager of complimentary House of Friendship access badges and set up wristbands for its non-Rotarian volunteers, entertainers, and convention service vendors to adequately support on-site HOC convention responsibilities, if requested before the March pre-registration deadline. All badges requested after the March pre-registration deadline shall be available on-site for US\$100 per badge. Rotarians and others who qualify under established registration categories shall register for the convention and pay the corresponding convention registration fees established by the Board. RI shall provide the wristbands, badge stock, which will include the Rotary emblem security sticker, and template to be printed by the HOC. Any non-Rotarian exhibitor who wishes to attend a plenary session, workshop, or other official convention event may do so as the paid guest of a qualified accompanying convention registrant, after registering at the corresponding convention registration fee established by the Board.

Convention sponsors of US\$10,000 or more will be provided up to six complimentary full-access convention badges for their non-Rotarian representatives if requested before the March pre-registration deadline. Requests for additional badges, and requests received after the March pre-registration deadline shall be issued at the “Guest 19 Years and Over” registration fee.

2. The general secretary may allow exceptions to the above policy as he deems appropriate. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251

Cross References

- 37.010.3. RIBI Officers' Attendance at International Assembly and Convention*
- 57.100. Regional Magazine Editors Attendance*
- 61.020.3. Minimum Criteria For Holding Regional Conferences*

57.070. Housing

57.070.1. Housing Distance From Convention Site

Wherever possible, an effort should be made to avoid housing Convention attendees at distances requiring more than 45 minutes traveling time to reach the center of Convention activity. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197)*

Source: May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362. *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

57.070.2. Convention Housing/Registration

A computer record of International Convention registration information, particularly on Convention attendees, shall be maintained at the Secretariat. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 278

57.070.3. Registration/Housing Forms

Official Convention registration/housing forms shall be distributed one year in advance at the preceding Convention, and ten months in advance by mail. Only properly completed official convention forms bearing a Rotarian signature received by the published deadline will be honored (except those forms received on line/electronically). Forms received unsigned or past the deadline will be returned to registrants. Travel agents shall follow RI Convention housing procedures. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 278; January-February 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166. *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.070.4. Hotel Guaranty Deposits

Official Convention housing forms shall state that hotel deposits will not be refunded if cancellation is made after the hotel cancellation deadline. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

57.080. Sergeants-at-Arms at the Convention

The role and responsibilities of the RI sergeant-at-arms leadership at the International Convention are as follows:

I. Chief Sergeant-at-arms

The president for the year in which the convention will be held shall appoint the chief sergeant-at-arms to serve as an officer of the convention, in accordance with the RI Bylaws. The chief sergeant-at-arms shall be appointed concurrently with the Convention Committee and shall attend all official meetings of the Convention Committee. The chief sergeant-at-arms is selected based upon the following criteria:

Criteria for selection

1. Is a past officer of Rotary International
2. Has served in the sergeant-at-arms leadership at at least two previous Rotary International events, including the International Assembly, International Convention, and Council on Legislation
3. Has demonstrated excellent management and organizational skills
4. If married, has a supportive spouse willing to accompany the chief sergeant and serve at the event

Responsibilities

1. Attends all meetings of the convention committee and any necessary site visits
2. Recommends the appointment of the sergeant-at-arms team, in consultation with the respective convention chair and subject to the approval of the president
3. Reports directly to the president on all matters related to the sergeants-at-arms. The president, at his discretion, may delegate this responsibility to the convention chair. The chief sergeant-at-arms will also work with the convention chair on all issues, as the chair is responsible for all aspects of the convention, including the budget
4. In cooperation with the general secretary, ensures that security, emergency and first aid procedures, crowd control, and general safety meets the needs of all convention participants and staff
5. In cooperation with the general secretary, ensures that all Rotary equipment and rentals, including vehicles, assigned to the SAA team are appropriately allocated and accounted for
6. Monitors the exhibit halls to ensure that all activities taking place are in accordance with RI policies and convention procedures as defined in the Convention Manual
7. Is responsible for various sergeants-at-arms functions, including:
 - a) Training all sergeants-at-arms at a pre-convention briefing (one for local sergeants-at-arms and one for international sergeants-at-arms) as the schedule and programming permits
 - b) Organizing and assigning responsibilities to the assistant chief sergeants-at-arms and deputy sergeants-at-arms
 - c) Transportation of speakers and other invited guests to and from event sites, as needed
 - d) Collection of tickets at various ticketed events upon request of banqueting staff liaison
 - e) Collection of funds for ticketed events is not permitted
 - f) Supervising the checking of badges at admission points in coordination with hired security and venue staff
 - g) Coordinating leadership transportation in cooperation with RI Staff
 - h) Assigning mobility carts as needed to convention participants when applicable
 - i) Claiming, logging, and storage of lost and found items as necessary
 - j) Evaluating overall performance of volunteer sergeants-at-arms and recognize extraordinary service as applicable
 - k) Supporting other areas of the convention and fellow sergeants-at-arms as primary assignments allow

II. Assistant Chief Sergeants-at-Arms

Subject to the approval of the president, the chief sergeant-at-arms recommends to the president and the convention chair eight assistant chief sergeants-at-arms. The chief sergeant-at-arms shall recommend such appointments from the sergeants-at-arms candidates list. The assistant chief sergeants-at-arms shall be selected according to the following criteria:

Criteria for selection

1. Is a past officer of Rotary International
2. Has served in the sergeant-at-arms leadership at at least two previous Rotary International events, including the International Assembly, International Convention, and Council on Legislation
3. Has excellent management and organizational skills
4. If married, has a supportive spouse willing to accompany the sergeant and serve at the event

Responsibilities

As assigned by the chief sergeant-at-arms

III. Deputy Sergeants-at-Arms

Subject to the approval of the president, the chief sergeant-at-arms shall recommend to the president and the convention chair twelve deputy sergeants-at-arms. The deputy sergeants-at-arms shall be selected in accordance with the following criteria:

Criteria for selection

1. Is a past officer of Rotary International
2. Has served in the sergeant-at-arms leadership at at least two previous Rotary International events, including the International Assembly, International Convention, and Council on Legislation
3. Has excellent management and organizational skills
4. If married, has a supportive spouse willing to accompany the sergeant and serve at the event

Responsibilities

As assigned by the chief sergeant-at-arms. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 390; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 80; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.080.1. Duration of Sergeant-at-Arms Assignments at the International Convention

The duration of sergeants-at-arms leadership assignments should be consistent to ensure appropriate sergeant-at-arms support throughout the convention. Assignments for the sergeant-at-arms leadership should follow these guidelines:

	Domestic	International
Chief	9 nights	11 nights
Assistant Chief	8 nights	10 nights
Deputy	8 nights	10 nights

(*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 390*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 390

57.080.2. Costs of Sergeants-at-Arms at the International Convention

The expenses of sergeants-at-arms leadership at the International Convention should be paid by RI in accordance with the RI Travel Policy.

The International Convention sergeants-at-arms budget shall include the expenses of:
One chief sergeant-at-arms

Ten assistant chief sergeants-at-arms
Ten deputy sergeants-at-arms

Expenses shall include transportation to and from the convention, accommodations, meals, registration fees and incidentals for the chief sergeant-at-arms and assistant chief sergeants-at-arms, and their spouses while serving as sergeant-at-arms. Expenses for the deputy sergeants-at-arms shall include accommodations, meals, incidentals and registration fee. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.080.3. Sergeants-at-Arms Manual for Conventions

A manual for the general guidance of the convention sergeants-at-arms has been prepared and is revised from time to time by the Board. Such manual includes Board policy governing sergeants-at-arms. The general secretary is requested to bring to the Board's attention any necessary changes to the manual. Each sergeants-at-arms committee is likewise requested to include in its final report any recommended changes to the manual. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405

57.080.4. Sergeants-at-arms Leadership Requirements

The number of deputy sergeants-at-arms should be increased, at cost to RI, by a ratio of one sergeant-at-arms per every 1000 attendees for all international conventions with a pre-registered attendance number greater than 22,000 people up to a maximum of 13 additional sergeants-at-arms. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86)*

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86

57.090. Group Air Travel

It is not practicable for RI to arrange for chartered air transport facilities for group travel by Rotarians to the convention. In the best interests of all concerned, no attempt shall be undertaken to make such arrangements. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146

57.100. Regional Magazine Editors Attendance

57.100.1. Registration Fee Waiver for Regional Editors

The registration fee for Rotary regional magazine editors attending International Conventions shall be waived as these editors will attend as media instead of as regular convention attendees. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289)*

Source: February-March 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 246; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289

57.110. International Convention Committee

57.110.1. Appointment and Qualifications of Convention Committee

The president, in consultation with the president to serve during the year of the convention, shall appoint the chair of the convention committee. The chair of the convention committee shall be a past director. The chair shall have knowledge of and experience in planning Rotary International Conventions. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90; May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; and February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166

57.110.2. Continuity of Convention Committee

The chair of a Convention Committee may attend meetings of the prior year's Convention Committee as an observer. Such future chair shall attend the convention preceding the convention for which such chair has been appointed to serve at Rotary International's expense; and meet with the president and host organization representatives several months prior to the convention for which such chair has been appointed. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197*)

Source: November 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 122; July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 39; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

57.110.3. Duties of Convention Committee

The Convention Committee shall assist the president in planning and implementing the program of the convention. This should be done in close association with the general secretary and the Host Organization, who are responsible to the Convention Committee. The Convention Committee will advise, receive instructions from, and work with the president of the relevant year to include such president's desires and ideas in the program format. The final authority will be the Board. The members of the Convention Committee will be official participants of the convention. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; July 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 15; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.110.4. Convention Host Organization Events

Although the host organization may plan various events considered appropriate at an International Convention, details of these plans shall be provided to the International Convention Committee which, subject to the review and authority of the Board, will determine whether they shall take place. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 275

57.110.5. Convention Committee Meeting at Prior Convention

As a standard practice for Conventions, the International Convention Committee shall hold a brief meeting following the convention held immediately prior to the convention year for which they are planning. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

57.120. Public Relations

57.120.1. Importance of Public Relations

The general secretary, in cooperation with Host Organization, shall endeavor to provide qualified local public relations support, approximately three months before the convention through the duration of the convention. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197)*

Source: May-June 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 406; *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

57.120.2. Financing for Convention Publicity

Convention public relations activity should be financed within the RI annual budget. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197)*

Source: October-November 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 156; *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

57.120.3. Convention Press Bureau

The Convention provides a significant opportunity to publicize Rotary and provide Rotarians attending the meeting with valuable encouragement and guidance for their club and district public relations activities. The general secretary, depending on the circumstances in each country hosting the convention, shall assign sufficient staff for press work at each Convention. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197)*

Source: November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 153; *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

57.130. Finances

57.130.1. Convention Expense Appropriations

The following convention expenses not covered in the Rotary International convention budget shall be covered in the appropriate Rotary International or Rotary Foundation budgets:

- a) International Institute
- b) Production and distribution of the *Convention Proceedings*
- c) Pre-convention events of The Rotary Foundation (expenses to be borne by the budget of The Rotary Foundation)
- d) The convention balloting and credentialing process
- e) Press center and media relations
- f) Youth Exchange pre-convention meeting expenses
- g) Rotaract pre-convention meeting expenses
- h) International RYLA event expenses *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; *Amended by* February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87. See also August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89

57.130.2. Convention Budget

The convention budget shall be prepared on realistic cost and revenue figures based on anticipated attendance. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197)*

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 318; *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

57.130.3. Convention Expense Reserve Fund

There shall be, as an appropriated fund balance, a reserve fund for net convention loss of a minimum of US\$500,000, with the understanding that no convention budget should be deliberately established so as to anticipate subvention by the reserve fund. Such reserve fund is intended to reduce the impact of conventions on RI's general administrative reserve funds.

In the event that a convention's revenues exceed expenses, the convention expense reserve fund shall be increased by the excess amount. Amounts in this reserve fund exceeding US\$500,000 may be used to reduce the cost of future RI conventions. The reserve fund will be reduced by such amounts utilized in this manner. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258*)

Source: November 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113; Amended by October 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 109 and March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258

57.130.4. Convention Expenses Paid by RI

- a) The convention budget shall cover the expenses of the following persons attending the convention of Rotary International:
- President and spouse (to be funded by the current year convention budget)
 - General Secretary and spouse (to be funded by the current year convention budget)
 - Sergeants-at-arms and spouses (includes chief and assistant chief SAAs) (to be funded by the current year convention budget)
 - Following year convention chief sergeant-at-arms (to be funded by the following year convention budget)
 - Deputy sergeants-at-arms (hotel, registration fee, and meals only)
 - Current year Convention Committee and spouses (to be funded by the current year convention budget)
 - Secretariat staff as assigned by the general secretary to support the convention activities
 - Any person assigned by the president or the Board to a place on the program of the convention, but who is not included in the above, may have his/her expenses paid by RI with the approval of the president
- b) The Rotary Foundation shall pay the expenses of the following persons attending the convention of Rotary International:
- Trustee chair and spouse
 - Trustees and spouses
 - Incoming trustees and spouses
 - Secretariat staff as assigned by the general secretary to other Foundation functions held in conjunction with the convention
- c) RI shall pay the expenses of the following persons attending the convention of Rotary International from the appropriate budget:
- President's aide and spouse
 - President-elect and spouse
 - President-elect's aide and spouse
 - President-nominee and spouse

- President-nominee's aide and spouse
- Directors and spouses
- Directors-elect and spouses
- Past Presidents (non-trustee) and spouses
- Secretariat staff as assigned by the general secretary to other organizational functions held in conjunction with the convention
- Current year's President's immediate family, provided that the expenses of no more than 20 such members are paid by RI over a two-year period for the same officer serving first as president-elect and then as president at two consecutive conventions
- Following year's President-elect's immediate family, provided that the expenses of no more than 20 such members are paid by RI over a two-year period for the same officer serving first as president-elect and then as president at two consecutive conventions (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec 87*)

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.130.5. Board Review of Budget for Ensuing Convention

The general secretary shall report promptly to the Board any and all known or expected significant variances in budgeted income and expense. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.130.6. Convention to Be Self-Supporting

The Convention budget shall be balanced. Therefore the costs associated with the holding of the annual Rotary International Convention shall be covered by the revenue collected from registration fees, booth rental, ticket sales, and other acceptable means of revenue. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; Affirmed by March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258

57.130.7. Convention Keynote Speaker Fees

Convention committees shall include in the convention budget funds to cover the cost of keynote speaker fees, honorariums and attendance expenses, subject to final approval of the convention budget by the Board. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 364

57.140. Proceedings

57.140.1. Plenary Sessions

The format of the plenary sessions shall reflect the following recommendations:

a) Substance of Plenary Sessions

All plenary sessions should be directed to achieve the purposes stated in 57.010. Speakers should be knowledgeable regarding Rotary and speak on subjects related to Rotary. Major speakers should be advised to relate their topics to Rotary, especially if

they are non-Rotarians. Speakers should be secured as early as feasible, preferably one year prior to the convention for promotional purposes.

b) Length of Speeches

All speeches at plenary sessions should be no longer than 25 minutes. This must be emphasized to speakers when they are invited to speak.

c) Scheduling of Opening and Closing Plenary Sessions

Consideration should be given to holding the first plenary session on the opening day, with the closing feature on the last evening of the convention. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.140.2. Report of Balloting Arrangements Committee

The report of the balloting arrangements committee to the convention shall be in summary form. At the time of presentation, the chair of the committee shall announce that copies of the detailed report will be available immediately following the plenary session at which the summary report is given. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1956 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227

57.140.3. Convention Features and Entertainment

a) Publicity Value of Convention Speakers

In the selection of convention speakers, consideration should be given to their worldwide publicity value as well as to the practicality of subject matter and its relationship to the work of clubs and RI's aims. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197*)

Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

b) Convention Keynote Speakers

Keynote speakers for RI Conventions should provide to convention registrants informative and inspirational messages related to the object and programs of Rotary International. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 266*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 364

c) Workshop on The Rotary Foundation

A workshop on The Rotary Foundation shall be convened during the course of the International Convention. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 232

d) Interact Workshop for Rotary Leaders

Future RI presidents and convention committees are requested to consider including an intensive Interact workshop for Rotary leaders in convention programs. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220*)

Source: February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 165

e) Topics on World Understanding and Peace

It is suggested that topics on world understanding and peace be included in the agenda of the International Convention. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294

f) Affiliate-Function Breakfasts

The president shall not be expected to attend affiliate function breakfasts due to considerable duties at Conventions. The president may send a current director as a representative to any such breakfast. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

g) Rotary Fellowship Activities

See Section 43.010.

h) Workshops for Club Presidents-Elect and Membership

Each RI Convention shall offer a workshop for club presidents-elect and a workshop regarding membership so that these benefits of attending an RI Convention can be promoted early during the Rotary year. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289

57.140.4. Simultaneous Interpretation

While the official language of RI is English, the Convention Committee shall consider providing simultaneous interpretation for all eight main Rotary languages: French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, German, Italian and Swedish, and any additional languages that are appropriate for the host country. The Convention Committee shall determine the initial interpretation languages that should be included in the final budget recommendation. The Convention Committee may also provide simultaneous interpretation if the registration numbers at the first registration deadline warrant adding such simultaneous interpretation and if space and budgetary constraints allow RI to do so. If registration numbers at the first registration deadline warrant an elimination of a specific language, such action will be at the discretion of the president, in consultation of the general secretary.

The provision of simultaneous interpretation and the translation of printed matter in languages at convention ancillary meetings shall be determined by the RI president, based on recommendations from the general secretary in consultation with the convention chair. These recommendations will be based upon the location of the convention and the pre-registered attendance by language. Ancillary meetings are defined as official pre- or post convention meetings but do not include the International Institute. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.140.5. Convention Exhibit Space

Booth space is provided at the International Convention for the core groups as detailed below:

a. Club and District Projects Exhibitions: A special booth or area will be provided to exhibit exemplary projects, with the provisions that no requests for financial support be allowed and no sales of products or merchandise be allowed from these booths.

b. Global Networking Groups

See Sections 43.010. and 43.020.

c. Licensed Rotary Emblem Merchandise Vendors

d. Secretariat Services: Booth space will be allocated to the RI Secretariat for providing resources and information on RI and TRF programs and emphases

e. General Services: Appropriate display areas may be provided to those vendors or entities that have entered into an agreement and/or contract with RI requiring them to provide a service to convention attendees, or specifically allowing them to make use of exhibit space at the International Convention

f. Non-Rotary Organizations

See Section 57.140.7. (November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.140.6. Display and Sale of Commercial Items

Display and sale of commercial items at the convention shall be governed as follows:

a) Subject to space availability, official licensees may display, sell and take orders for such merchandise covered by their respective licenses, under conditions specified by RI and after payment of a rental fee for the space.

b) The host organization shall be permitted to sell souvenirs indigenous to the region of the convention and convention logo merchandise during the dates of the event without obtaining a license from or owing a royalty to RI. All convention logo merchandise sold by the host organization or related affiliates must be obtained from a RI licensee. If a unique souvenir item is desired that is not reasonably available from a RI licensee, a release must be obtained from RI for the unlicensed vendor to reproduce the convention logo. Any variations from the approved Convention logo must be approved by the RI president for the year of the convention. The host organization or related affiliates may not sell RI emblem merchandise, except that which contains that year's Convention logo. Should the host organization or related affiliates desire to sell RI emblem merchandise which does not include the convention logo, they must become a RI licensee with all of the obligations attendant thereto, even if their intended sales are for fundraising purposes related to the convention. Notwithstanding a valid License Agreement with RI, at no time during the dates of the convention may the host organization sell any items featuring the RI Emblem other than those bearing the entire Convention logo or those bearing a variation of the convention logo previously approved by the RI president.

c) In order to offer videos and/or DVDs of speakers at the international convention, the taped speaker must be a Rotary senior leader and/or those speakers who have signed a

release form, and he/she must use library images and music to support his/her presentation. Orders for the videos/DVD will be taken on site at the convention and the video/DVD will be shipped later, which allows the sale price to cover production and shipping costs. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: January-February 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166; Amended by February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; June 2006 Trustees Mtg, Dec. 187; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.140.7. Guidelines for Non-Rotary Organizations Exhibiting at Convention

RI provides space at conventions for exhibiting Rotary service projects and fellowship activities, and official licensee merchandise. As space permits, RI shall also make available to other organizations the opportunity to exhibit at conventions, provided that

- a) RI and the other organization have mutually shared goals;
- b) the organization's program reflects at least one of the programs of RI or TRF, or one of the service areas in the RI Menu of Service Opportunities;
- c) the organization is of sound reputation;
- d) the organization does not promote any political or religious cause or entity;
- e) the organization's exhibit will not involve fund-raising or on-site sales.

Preference shall be given to those organizations that have official relationships with RI, and those that have a proven record of successful cooperation with Rotary clubs. Organizations exhibiting at the RI Convention shall pay a rental fee for the space provided of 50% of the rental fees charged to RI's licensed vendors of RI merchandise. This policy shall be applied to RI presidential conferences, when space permits.

Organizations that have Board-approved cooperative relationships with RI, UN agencies and other key international organizations with which RI has official status that have purchased booth space will be provided up to six complimentary registration badges per booth allowing full access to all convention events on the same basis as other paid registrants. Representatives from these organizations who are Rotarians shall register for the convention and pay the corresponding convention registration fees established by the Board. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd Dec. 404; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.140.8. Materials Language Support

The convention program and transport guide shall be provided in English, French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish.

All other convention publications will be provided in English with additional languages to be determined based upon the proposed audience. The program book may also be offered in additional languages if the pre-registered attendance of the associated language group is equal to or greater than 5% of the total pre-registered convention attendance and the increased costs are within budgetary constraints.

Depending on the convention location and attendance by language, additional languages for convention printed materials or publications will be determined by the RI president, based on recommendations from the general secretary in consultation with the convention chair. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.140.9. Formal Introductions

Current and incoming members of the Board, with their spouses, shall be individually introduced during the RI Convention. Past presidents, with their spouses, shall be individually introduced during one of the plenary sessions of each RI Convention. Current and incoming Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, with their spouses, shall be individually introduced at one of the plenary sessions of each RI Convention. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166*)

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94; Amended by February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 166

Cross References

34.040.2. Event Specific Uses of the Rotary Marks

34.050.1. Accurate Reproduction of the Rotary Marks on Merchandise

41.020.7. Rotaractors at Conventions

41.080.7. Youth Exchange Officers' Meetings at Convention

57.150. Role of Official Participants and Spouses

In addition to their prescribed role as defined in the constitutional documents, the official participants represent RI or its Foundation in their official capacity at assigned events; participate in plenary sessions, workshops or forums and, as assigned, as speakers, moderators or panelists; participate in pre-convention meetings such as the International Institute, Youth Exchange Officers, Rotaract, the International RYLA, and any other approved pre-convention activities; participate in RI luncheons, dinners and other social events; attend meetings which may be held during the convention; and discharge such other responsibilities as the president, president-elect, trustee chair, or Board may assign.

Spouses of official participants at the convention shall participate in: plenary sessions of the convention; formal luncheons and dinners; discussion workshops and forums regarding RI programs and initiatives; and the International Institute. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 190; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.150.1. Board Members as Club Delegates to Convention

As a matter of principle, a member of the Board should not serve as a club delegate in the International Convention and thus deprive the convention of additional, independent thinking and contributions and also deprive other qualified Rotarians of the privilege of serving in this capacity. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1959 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94

57.160. Role of General Secretary for International Conventions

Prior to the appointment of the Convention Committee, the general secretary will act as the liaison to the president and the RI Board in all matters concerning the convention and shall act as liaison for the host organization and host city municipal officials. During this period, the general secretary will act as the principal contact to the host organization.

As soon as feasible after the Board has determined the city in which the convention is to be held, the general secretary shall proceed to the city selected and negotiate contracts for RI with the close cooperation of the host organization and the city administration or private parties, for a sufficient hotel room block to guarantee accommodations for the probable attendance. The general secretary shall meet with the board of directors of the host organization and carefully review with it all convention organization plans.

In fulfilling responsibilities, the general secretary shall:

1. Act as secretary to the convention committee and promptly submit minutes of the meetings to appropriate interested parties prior to submission to the RI Board
2. In consultation with the convention committee chair, be responsible for development of the advance memorandum and agenda for committee meetings
3. Provide regular reports on convention planning to convention committee and Rotary senior leaders
4. Negotiate and execute all contracts in accordance with RI policy
5. Coordinate the site selection process
6. Review and approve convention logo submissions in accordance with RI policy; oversee use of convention logo on all printed and electronic materials and merchandise
7. Be responsible for all registration and housing functions connected with the convention
8. Provide at the preceding convention suitable space, materials, forms and supplies necessary for pre-registration for the following convention
9. Be responsible for staffing the convention and pre-convention meetings, including but not limited to the meetings managers and staff, Secretariat services, public relations function, program coordination, ticket sales, future convention promotion booth and registration
10. If authorized and feasible, provide for on-site currency exchange
11. Provide a registration package to include convention program, badge, and other required materials
12. Monitor registrations by language preference in order to determine final languages to be interpreted simultaneously. This same information will be used by the general secretary and the Convention Committee to determine which languages are used for the program and transportation guide (*Rotary Code of Policies section 57.140.4.*)
13. Subject to policies of the Board, direction of the president and guidance of the convention committee, be primarily responsible for the financial control of convention matters
 - a) Ensure that expenditures are within budget provisions, providing monthly variance reports and bringing to the attention of the president, the Board and the committee any overruns for appropriate action
 - b) Collect all fees and other revenues and properly safeguard and account for them
 - c) Make all purchases of goods and services, authorizing others to do so under appropriate circumstances and appropriate controls. When purchasing goods or services locally the general secretary will work in close cooperation with the HOC as local relationships often offer cost savings to RI

- d) Sell tickets to all official events and provide space to the HOC for host event ticket sales
- e) Verify that all goods and services are delivered in accordance with contracts and agreements including assurance that meals charged to RI are for those served or guaranteed
- f) Be solely responsible for making guarantees of obligations to vendors
- g) Review applications and bids for companies that will be designated “official.” For example, an “official” air carrier, and where appropriate, an “official” rental car company and other services, may receive a similar designation. Competitive firms are sought for the designations, and proposals are obtained and analyzed by the general secretary. For the air carrier, the general secretary considers not only the fare proposed but also the capacity of the carrier, the complimentary tickets and freight offered to RI

The selection of “official” service firms should be:

- 1) Recommended by the general secretary’s staff assigned to convention activities
- 2) Approved by the president who will preside over the convention

All complimentary air tickets and hotel rooms should be used exclusively to benefit travel and accommodation related to the convention and replace fares, which would otherwise be charged to the convention budget

h) Provide continual oversight of the budget. It is anticipated that the general secretary will provide the Board with final financial reports and statistics no later than the November Board meeting

14. Provide appropriate space in an easily accessible and prominent location for the following convention booths: Rotary Global Networking Groups, Club and District Projects Exhibition, Secretariat Services, General Services, Licensees, and Convention Promotion

15. The general secretary shall ensure that no groups or individuals associated with any convention-related booth, other than those donations provided directly to The Rotary Foundation, use the RI Convention as an avenue to solicit or raise funds for their own respective local fund raising projects

16. Open an office in the convention city approximately two weeks prior to the convention and have staff available to work with the host organization, convention bureaus, suppliers, contractors and others, regarding pre-convention arrangements

17. Produce and distribute an official convention program

18. Assign sufficient staff for the convention press bureau depending on circumstances specific to each country

19. Provide space and necessary personnel to accommodate convention election procedures for Rotary International

20. Provide housing, transportation, and appropriate amenities for guest speakers and performers within the confines of the convention budget

21. As soon as practical, and prior to publication, submit a financial statement to the president and convention committee for their review and comment

22. Provide the president, Board and the convention committee chair a final financial statement with details of income and expenses (profit/loss) and necessary comments and explanation notes

23. Ensure that host organization Rotarians and host city suppliers recommended by the visitors convention bureau be included in the bidding process

24. Establish suitable offices for the host organization committee and other appropriate RI general officers and staff at the convention site, including the president, president-elect, president-nominee, and The Rotary Foundation chair

25. Maintain and provide to the convention committee a list of unofficial affiliate events to ensure control and non-conflict

26. Provide adequate space for the annual general meetings of Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups, preferably two meeting rooms with seating space for over 100 people (*Rotary Code of Policies 43.010.7 and 43.020.8*)
27. Develop the initial attendance estimate based upon relevant historical information and in consultation with the HOC
28. Provide the estimated registration attendance figure to the Convention Committee in its Advance Memorandum. The committee may adjust the estimate but must justify any adjustments before the estimate is taken to the Board. The committee will also calculate the convention budget using this registration estimate
29. Present both the registration estimate and the convention budget to the Board for approval
30. Ensure that protocol is followed per “Rotary International Protocol” (*Rotary Code* section 26.090.) (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

57.170. Post-Convention Activities

57.170.1. Convention Chair's Report

The annual report of the convention committee chair shall be developed on the basis of separate critiques. Such separate critiques shall come from the convention committee chair, the host organization committee chair, the convention sergeant-at-arms, the convention manager, the chair of the RI Convention committee for the next convention and, if feasible, the chair of the convention committee for two years hence. The critiques shall be evaluated by the Board at its next meeting following receipt thereof. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 122. Amended by May-June 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362

57.170.2. Convention Proceedings Book

The *Convention Proceedings* book shall contain a record of the proceedings of the convention, the annual report of the general secretary, the annual report of the treasurer, and the report of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. Gratis copies shall be sent only to governors, governors-elect, present and past RI officers, and current RI committee members. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202*)

Source: January 1964 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137. Amended by May-June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394. See also August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 89

57.180. Miscellaneous International Convention Matters

57.180.1. District Conference Within Convention Area

For the purposes of promotion and support within the districts hosting the immediately ensuing Convention, district conferences in the host area shall be held no less than 90 days prior to the convention and preferably in the first half of the Rotary year. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199

57.180.2. Solicitation of Sponsors for RI Conventions

The RI Board has authorized the solicitation of sponsors for RI Conventions by both RI and Host Organizations, subject to the approval, on a case by case basis, of the general secretary in consultation with the RI president and in compliance with existing Board policy, the “Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs” (Code 36.010.), the “RI and TRF Guidelines for Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations” (Code 33.010.11), the “RI Emblem Use Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Rotary Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship and Cooperative Relationship Purposes” (Code 11.040.6.) and the *RI Manual for Conventions*. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86

57.180.3. Convention Logo Restrictions

The host organization will develop suggested designs for the convention logo for review by the general secretary and approval by the Convention Committee and president-elect. Effective with the 2012 convention, convention logos shall not contain the trademark of another entity, only one logo shall be approved for each convention and the logo design process should begin no later than four years before the convention. HOCs should consult with RI throughout the process to ensure that approved RI emblem guidelines are followed. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289; Amended by November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87



Article 58. International Assembly

- 58.010.** Guidelines and Minimum Standards
- 58.020.** Scheduling
- 58.030.** International Assembly Committee
- 58.040.** Attendance and Participants' Responsibilities
- 58.050.** Training, Programs and Sessions
- 58.060.** Publications
- 58.070.** Finances
- 58.080.** Exhibit and Display Space at the International Assembly
- 58.090.** Evaluation

58.010. Guidelines and Minimum Standards

The general secretary shall maintain a manual for the International Assembly based on current RI policies and procedures for the International Assembly. The general secretary shall review the International Assembly manual annually and provide suggested revisions to the Board, if required. It is understood that the general secretary may authorize variances from these standards in certain circumstances. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32)*

Source: November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

58.020. Scheduling

The general secretary is requested to book dates at least five years in advance for future International Assemblies at a suitable venue. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 193

58.030. International Assembly Committee

The president shall appoint an annual International Assembly Committee of members selected by the president-elect to assist in planning and implementing the overall operations of the International Assembly. *(May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106; Amended by May 2000 mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040. Attendance and Participants' Responsibilities

58.040.1. Guidelines for Attendance

The International Assembly is a special purpose meeting. Therefore, attendance is restricted to participants and their spouses. The president-elect is authorized to determine whether persons other than participants and their spouses, for whom special requests are made to attend the assembly, also may accompany designated participants. *(June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236)*

Source: January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; and June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236. Affirmed by October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61

58.040.2. Delineation of General Responsibilities

The roles and responsibilities of the RI volunteer leadership for the International Assembly are as follows:

A. International Assembly Moderator

Criteria for selection:

1. Is a former member of the Board of Directors of Rotary International and has served as a RI training leader at an International Assembly;
2. Demonstrates knowledge of, and has experience with Rotary, The Rotary Foundation, Rotary protocol, practices and procedures;
3. Demonstrates the leadership qualities needed to help lead and mold a multi-national group of training leaders into an effective leadership team;
4. If possible, has served as the assistant moderator during the immediate past International Assembly.

Responsibilities:

1. Serves as vice-chair of the International Assembly Committee;
2. Assists in the development of the agenda and materials for the training leaders seminar, based on the program of the International Assembly approved by the president-elect;
3. Assists in the development of the instructional and informational programs and materials provided to the governors-elect at the International Assembly;
4. With the approval of the president-elect, selects two leaders' seminar trainers;
5. Oversees all aspects of the training leaders' seminar, in cooperation with the assistant moderator and leaders' seminar trainers, to ensure that each training leader performs well as a motivator and communicator in promoting the program of the International Assembly;
6. Evaluates each training leader's capabilities during the training leaders' seminar, and confirms to the president-elect their ability to serve as facilitators during the International Assembly;
7. Monitors each training leader's performance during the International Assembly through visits to the group discussion rooms;
8. Mentors training leaders as needed to enhance performance, or takes corrective action as necessary;
9. Conducts daily information sessions for all training leaders;

10. Informs the president-elect of any lack of cooperation of governors-elect;
11. Prepares an evaluation report on the overall program, including training leader performance, after the International Assembly;
12. Provides orientation to the assistant moderator.

B. International Assembly Assistant Moderator

Criteria for selection:

1. Is a former member of the Board of Directors of Rotary International and has served as a training leader at an International Assembly;
2. Demonstrates knowledge of, and has experience with Rotary, The Rotary Foundation, Rotary protocol, practices and procedures;
3. Demonstrates the leadership qualities needed to help lead and mold a multi-national group of training leaders into an effective leadership team.

Responsibilities:

1. Assists the moderator in the development of the agenda and materials for the seminar, based on the program of the International Assembly approved by the president-elect;
2. Cooperates with the moderator in carrying out the moderator's responsibilities;
3. Assists the moderator in the evaluation of each training leader's capabilities during the training leaders' seminar;
4. Monitors each training leader's performance during the International Assembly through visits to the group discussion rooms;
5. Prepares an evaluation report on the overall program, including training leader performance, after the International Assembly.

C. Sergeants-at-Arms

I. Chief Sergeant-at-Arms

Criteria for selection:

1. Is a past officer of Rotary International.
2. Has served as a sergeant-at-arms for at least two previous International Assemblies.
3. Has excellent management and organizational skills.
4. If married, has a supportive spouse willing to accompany the chief sergeant and serve at the event.

5. Should have served as a RI training leader, RRFC, or similar position.
6. The president-elect should keep in mind the multilingual needs of the assembly when making these appointments.

Responsibilities:

1. Shall be a member of the International Assembly committee.
2. Once appointed, the chief sergeant-at-arms shall report directly to the president-elect on all matters related to the sergeants-at-arms. However, the president-elect, at his discretion, may delegate this responsibility to the assembly moderator.
3. Liaise with staff to ensure the emergency and first-aid procedures, crowd control, and general safety needs of all International Assembly participants and staff.
4. Ensure the required attendance at all functions, as determined by the moderator, in a smooth, effective and pleasant manner.
5. Maintain the security of all Rotary equipment and rentals assigned to the sergeants-at-arms.
6. Liaise with the International Assembly first aid officer to ensure that appropriate first aid assistance is provided to all International Assembly participants and staff.
7. Shall liaise with the RI staff and hotel staff as needed, to ensure safety, security and climate-control services are operating at satisfactory levels.
8. Shall recommend to the president-elect six sergeants-at-arms for appointment.
9. Evaluate overall performance of sergeants-at-arms and recognize extraordinary service as applicable.

II. Sergeant-at-arms and Spouses

The sergeants-at-arms shall be chosen according to the following criteria.

Criteria for selection:

1. Is a past officer of Rotary International.
2. Has served as a sergeant-at-arms at a previous RI meeting, and is part of the current rotation schedule in accordance with RI Board policy (section 58.040.03).
3. Has demonstrated excellent management and organizational skills.
4. If married, has a supportive spouse willing to accompany the sergeant and serve at the event.

5. Should have served as RI training leader, Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, or similar position, if possible.
6. The president-elect should keep in mind the multilingual needs of the Assembly when making these appointments.

Responsibilities:

1. Liaise with the RI staff to ensure the emergency and first-aid procedures, crowd control, and general safety needs of all International Assembly participants and staff.
2. As assigned by the chief sergeant-at-arms

III. First Aid Officer

The first aid officer is a Rotarian volunteer serving to assist fellow Rotarians and their spouses with first aid or first aid information at the Rotary International Assembly. The first aid officer is selected by the president-elect after consultation with the chief sergeant-at-arms and International Assembly moderator, and serves directly with the chief sergeant-at-arms.

Those appointed to be the first aid officer should be a past officer of RI and must be a licensed first aid officer in the state/province and country in which the International Assembly is held.

It is the duty of the first aid officer to:

1. Coordinate with local hospitals, local pharmacies, local dentists, ambulance services, medical stations and local physicians in the event of any medical needs resulting from his/her first aid evaluations during the event, as appropriate and necessary.
2. Respond and coordinate any medical needs with the chief sergeant-at-arms, ensuring the “Sergeant-at-Arms/RI First Aid Procedures” are followed. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 91; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Decs. 325 and 390; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; and November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45

58.040.3 Sergeants-at-Arms Appointment Rotation Schedule for International Assembly

The appointment of the sergeants-at-arms for the International Assembly shall be on a rotation schedule with the following guideline:

The chief sergeant at the assembly shall have been one of the sergeants appointed to serve at the immediate past assembly. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 390*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 390

58.040.4. Manual for Assembly Sergeants-at-Arms

A manual for the general guidance of the International Assembly sergeants-at-arms has been prepared and is revised from time to time by the Board. Such manual includes Board policy governing sergeants-at-arms. The general secretary is requested to bring to the Board's attention any necessary changes to the manual. Each sergeants-at-arms committee is likewise requested to include in its final report any recommended changes to the manual. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405

58.040.5. Role of the Songleader and the Accompanist at the International Assembly

When invited by the president-elect, the songleader is present at every plenary session of the International Assembly to provide fellowship and lead songs at the beginning of every plenary. The songleader may also preside at some sessions additional events at the request of the president-elect.

When invited by the president-elect, the accompanist is present at every plenary session of the International Assembly to provide background music before the plenary sessions begin and accompaniment to the songleader. The accompanist also assists at other International Assembly events when requested by the president-elect. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

58.040.6. Presiding Duties of President and President-elect

The president and president-elect shall demonstrate their commitment to the importance of the International Assembly by sharing the presiding functions at each plenary session of the International Assembly. However, the president-elect may appoint additional presidors for plenary sessions and major activities at the International Assembly. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107; July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 40; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 72; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040.7. President-elect as Chair

The president-elect shall be the chair of the International Assembly committee, or any other committee or group assigned to plan, design, prepare or implement the International Assembly. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 40; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412. See also COL 98-120

58.040.8. Responsibilities of the Spouse of the President-elect

The spouse of the president-elect shall be responsible for the spouse assembly program and shall serve as presidor of such program. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040.9. Responsibilities of Board of Directors

The Board and its individual Directors shall have the following roles at the International Assembly:

- a. To participate in plenary sessions and in other presentations as assigned, as speaker, moderator or panelist;
- b. To serve as official hosts at functions attended by governors-elect;
- c. To become more knowledgeable about the training and education of governors-elect;
- d. To help identify problems or trends in Rotary which may warrant the attention of the Board;
- e. To attend meetings of the Board which may be held during the assembly;
- f. To discharge such other responsibilities as requested by the president, president-elect or Board. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040.10. Responsibilities of Spouses of President, President-Elect, President-nominee, Directors, Incoming Directors, Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, Incoming Trustees, Past Presidents, Moderator, Assistant Moderator, General Secretary and RI Training Leaders

The roles of spouses of the president, president-nominee, directors, incoming directors, trustees of The Rotary Foundation, past presidents, moderator, assistant moderator, general secretary and RI training leaders in preparing for and attending the International Assembly shall be to:

- a. Become familiar with historical and cultural traditions of other nationalities in preparation for formal and informal exchanges with spouses of governors-elect;
- b. Become familiar with background information on RI and its Foundation;
- c. Serve as hosts of spouses of governors-elect;
- d. Participate in spouse plenary sessions, possibly as a speaker, moderator, panelist or presenter, as recommended by the spouse of the president-elect, with the approval of the president-elect;
- e. Participate in small group/roundtable discussions as facilitators, as recommended by the spouse of the president-elect, with the approval of the president-elect;
- f. Encourage multi-cultural understanding activities among participants.

The spouses of the moderator and the assistant moderator are expected to prepare the training leader spouses for their assembly related responsibilities. As part of this preparation, these spouses advise the president-elect's spouse on program ideas, spouse

activities and other components related to the training of the governor-elect spouses. The spouse of the moderator will also lead training sessions for the training leader spouses during the Training Leaders' Seminar.

Spouses of governors-elect and spouses of other officers attending the International Assembly must attend all plenary sessions and other assigned spouse activities and meetings. Spouses of training leaders, if attending the International Assembly, are required to attend the Training Leader Seminar at the cost of RI. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 97; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251; October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; and June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310

58.040.11. Responsibilities of the Past Presidents at the International Assembly

The past presidents shall have the following roles at the International Assembly:

- a) To participate in plenary sessions and in other presentations as assigned, as speaker, moderator or panelist as requested;
- b) To serve as official hosts at functions attended by governors-elect as requested;
- c) To help identify problems or trends in Rotary which may warrant the attention of the Board;
- d) To discharge such other responsibilities as the president, president-elect or Board may assign. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040.12. Role of the President-nominee at the International Assembly

The president-nominee shall participate in the International Assembly as requested by the president-elect. He or she shall observe all aspects of the International Assembly to prepare for the next year's assembly. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040.13. Appointment of Assembly Moderator

The International Assembly moderator in any year shall be appointed by the president-nominee who will be in charge of that year's International Assembly. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040.14. Selection of RI Training Leaders

RI training leaders are selected annually by the president-elect, in consultation with the president and moderator. Consideration is given to recommendations received from RI leadership and an effort is made to select a team reflecting diversity and varied geographical areas.

The following are necessary qualifications:

1. A past district governor (current member in good standing);

2. Ability to understand, read, and speak English;
3. Fluency in the language assigned for the group discussion sessions;
4. Recent experience conducting leadership training for adults;
5. Recent experience training on Rotary topics at the club, district and/or zone-levels;
6. Physical health, stamina, and mental well being sufficient to fulfill the responsibilities of the assignment.

Preference is given to candidates with the following additional qualities:

1. Mastery of Rotary knowledge;
2. Abilities in leadership and motivational techniques;
3. Understanding of the role of a facilitator with demonstrated ability as an facilitator;
4. Effective communicator in front of a group. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412, November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52; *Amended by* March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248

58.040.15. Responsibilities of Rotary International Training Leaders

RI training leaders serve from 1 January to 31 December. The responsibilities of each training leader includes:

- a) Reading and understanding all materials received, both prior to and during the International Assembly;
- b) Preparing thoroughly for all discussion groups during the International Assembly, using the prescribed curriculum;
- c) Attending the full Leaders' Seminar prior to the International Assembly
- d) Serving as a training leader at the International Assembly;
- e) Attending all plenary sessions and other activities during the International Assembly;
- f) Providing advice and support to incoming governors and district trainers preparing for their district team training seminar, PETS, and district assemblies, if requested;
- g) Serving as a Rotary information resource to Rotary leaders at the club and district level;
- h) Serving as a GETS training team member, if requested;
- i) Conducting make-up training for governors-elect, as requested.

To prepare all training leaders to carry out these responsibilities, a Training Leaders Seminar shall be held immediately prior to the commencement of governors-elect training at the International Assembly. Attendance at this seminar is mandatory for all Training Leaders. The seminar shall be conducted by the moderator, under the direction of the president-elect. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 305; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

58.040.16. Selection of Leaders' Seminar Trainers

Leaders' Seminar trainers are selected annually by the president-elect, in consultation with the moderator. It is recommended that two trainers be selected to serve each year.

The following are necessary qualifications:

1. A past district governor (current member in good standing)
2. A recent past RI training leader
3. Ability to understand, read, and speak English
4. Recent experience conducting leadership training for adults
5. Recent experience training on Rotary topics at the club, district and/or zone-levels
6. Physical health, stamina, and mental well being sufficient to fulfill the responsibilities of the assignment
7. Excellent presentation skills

Preference is given to candidates with the following additional qualities:

1. Mastery of Rotary knowledge
2. Abilities in leadership and motivational techniques
3. Understanding of the role of a facilitator with demonstrated ability as a facilitator
4. Effective communicator in front of a group. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

58.040.17. Responsibilities of Leaders' Seminar Trainers

The responsibilities of the leaders' seminar trainers include:

- a) Reading and understanding all materials received, both prior to and during the Leaders' Seminar;
- b) Consulting in the development of the materials for the train-the-trainer portion of the Leaders' Seminar program;
- c) Attending the full Leaders' Seminar prior to the International Assembly;
- d) Educating training leaders regarding characteristics of adult learners and effective facilitation techniques and motivating training leaders to succeed;
- e) In cooperation with the moderator, evaluating each training leader's capabilities during the Leaders' Seminar to ensure their ability to serve during the International Assembly;
- f) At the direction of the Moderator, coaching training leaders as needed to enhance performance;
- g) Conducting daily information sessions for training leaders. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

58.040.18. Role of the Presidential Aides at the International Assembly

Presidential Aides shall provide support to the president, president-elect, and president-nominee, as assigned, at the International Assembly. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.040.19. Training for Governors Serving a Second Term

Past governors selected to serve a second term will receive training, related payment of which will be paid according to the provisions in 58.070.2. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 377

58.040.20. Spouse Discussion Session Leaders

Prior to conducting spouse discussion sessions, spouses who will lead such sessions should receive appropriate orientation in facilitating the sessions. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306(4)

58.040.21. Role of the General Secretary

In fulfilling responsibilities for the International Assembly, the general secretary is responsible for all logistical, programmatic and administrative duties related to the International Assembly, Leaders' Seminar and approved adjunct meetings. Responsibilities include, but are not limited to, the following:

General Administration:

- a) Acts as secretary to the International Assembly committee
- b) Is responsible for the financial control of International Assembly matters
- c) Assigns Secretariat staff, as appropriate, to provide support to the International Assembly

Logistics:

- a) Negotiates and executes all contracts in accordance with RI policy
- b) Is responsible for all registration, housing, transportation and logistical arrangements
- c) Develops specifications and conditions for exhibit space in the assembly venue and allocates space based on availability
- d) Produces and distributes all official communications and publications for the events
- e) Establishes suitable offices for appropriate RI general officers and staff at the International Assembly site, including the President, President-elect, Trustee chairman, and the President-nominee.
- f) Is responsible for all official meal functions during the Leaders' Seminar and International Assembly
- g) Coordinates the transport of all materials to/from the assembly

Training Program:

- a) At the direction of the president-elect, executes the program of the International Assembly, including all plenary presentations, group discussion sessions and other program elements
- b) Supports the Leaders' Seminar, immediately prior to the International Assembly
- c) Assists the president-elect and moderator in the selection, training and support of RI training leaders

- d) Assists the president-elect in the selection of speakers, invites and confirms all speaker logistics, assists in the development of speech content and visuals to support the plenary sessions
- e) Based on the program approved by the president-elect, develops the training curriculum for the international assembly, including materials for the training leaders and governors-elect. *(February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171)*

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; *Amended by* November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 171

58.040.22. Children at Assembly

The attendance of children at the International Assembly is strongly discouraged. Under special circumstances, when the presence of children could be justified, a request for permission may be made in writing, well in advance of the International Assembly, to the president-elect. Such permission may be granted at the sole discretion of the president-elect. *(February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 105; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412 and February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

58.040.23. Regional Magazine Editors

Rotary International regional magazine editors are recognized as official participants of the International Assembly, at no cost to RI, with rights to be observers at plenary sessions, appropriate luncheons and dinners, receptions, and other social occasions. *(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194)*

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 274

Cross References

58.080. Exhibit and Display Space at the International Assembly

58.050. Training, Programs and Sessions

It is in the best interest of RI for all instruction and training for governors-elect to be accurate, current, and consistent with the total planning for the ensuing year. The International Assembly should be planned and conducted as an exemplary model for all other training, instructional and motivational assemblies, seminars, and workshops at the zone, district, multidistrict and club levels.

Each segment of the assembly, including addresses, plenary sessions, discussion groups, and special events shall be designed to promote the smooth and orderly transition to the ensuing year. The instructional and informational programs should have the approval of the president-elect as recommended by the International Assembly moderator. *(May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412)*

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 40; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.050.1. Suggested Assembly Program Content

The Board has adopted a suggested International Assembly program content and has agreed in principle that the International Assembly training topics should be addressed within a six-day training agenda as follows:

At least four days - Successful Service Projects; Sustaining and Growing Rotary's Membership Base (exchange of ideas within international groupings); Administration Requirements of RI (Policies and Procedures Regarding the District's Administrative and Financial Reporting Requirements to RI; Board Guidelines for Use of Rotary Marks); Presentation of Annual RI Theme; and Presidential Message.

At least one and one half days – The Rotary Foundation.

At least one half day – “Free time” for governors-elect and spouses to rest. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 301; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213; *Amended by* March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178

58.050.2. Duration of the International Assembly

The International Assembly should include at least six days of instruction, with programming on Foundation matters to be a full one and one-half days of the total International Assembly program. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 301; June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 213

58.050.3. Simultaneous Interpretation/Language Support

The International Assembly shall be conducted primarily in English with simultaneous interpretation provided during plenary sessions in French, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. Discussion sessions at the International Assembly will be held in English, French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 103; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254

58.050.4. Spouses Program

A standardized spouses program for the International Assembly has been adopted by the Board. It was designed to include the information needed in an effective spouses orientation program, and to ensure that this information is included in the program every year. The standardized program is general in order to allow for personalization each year.

Plenary Presentations

- Rotary International Organization
- Rotary International Programs
- Programs of The Rotary Foundation
- Open Forum with the president-elect
- Open Forum with the president

Discussions Sessions

- Role of Governor-elect Spouses
- Practical Advice for Spouses

- Programs of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation

Other Activities

- “Hands-on” Service Activities
(February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 73; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

58.050.5. Participants in Discussion Groups

Participation in group discussion sessions is limited to training leaders, governors-elect, and assigned secretariat staff. No spouses or other personnel are to be admitted to the sessions without the express written consent of the president-elect. (February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 306; Amended by May 2000, Bd. Dec. 412 and February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

58.050.6. Rotary Name and Emblem Training at the International Assembly

Training on the use of the Rotary Marks, including ownership, reproduction and the licensing thereof, for the governors-elect shall be conducted at each International Assembly. (May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 318; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.050.7. Financial Training

The general secretary is requested to provide training regarding billing cycles, dues payment, and termination procedures to the governors-elect at all International Assemblies. (February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159)

Source: July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 29; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159

58.050.8. Sexual Abuse and Harassment Prevention Training

A mandatory group discussion session on sexual abuse and harassment prevention in the context of Rotary youth programs shall be conducted at each International Assembly for governors-elect. (November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

58.050.9. Ancillary Meetings and Activities at the Assembly

The president and the chairman of the Trustees have the authority to convene meetings of the Directors and the Trustees respectively during the International Assembly. Other meetings and events may be scheduled in conjunction with the International Assembly by the president or the trustee chairman, provided that such meetings or events do not interfere with the implementation of the assembly program, taking into account the utilization of staff and space assigned specifically to support the International Assembly and fit within contracted space and services. When such meetings or events are scheduled, any additional staff or financial resources required for support shall not be considered an International Assembly expense. (June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 414; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

58.050.10. Formal Introductions

Current and incoming members of the Board, with their spouses, shall be individually introduced at one of the plenary sessions of the International Assembly.

Past presidents, with their spouses, shall be individually introduced during one of the plenary sessions of each International Assembly.

Current and incoming Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, with their spouses, shall be individually introduced at one of the plenary sessions of the International Assembly. *(February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137)*

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94

Cross References

34.030.7. Education of Rotarians Regarding RI's Licensing System at International Assembly

58.060. Publications

58.060.1. Assembly Materials Provided to Governors-elect

All assembly publications and materials shall be provided to the governors-elect at the International Assembly in English, French, Japanese, Korean, Spanish, and Portuguese. Specific content-related materials will be provided to the governors-elect in Italian. All publications must have the prior approval of the assembly moderator, and the concurrence of the president-elect. *(June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254)*

Source: July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 40; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 254

58.060.2. District Governor's Training Manual

The general secretary is instructed to distribute *The District Governor's Training Manual* to incoming governors in sufficient time for adequate study, preparation and acquaintance with such information. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146

58.070. Finances

58.070.1. International Assembly Attendance

RI shall pay the expenses of the majority of official participants to the International Assembly defined below in accordance with the RI Travel Policy.

1. Official and paid participants for the International Assembly include:

- a) President and spouse
- b) Aide to the president and spouse
- c) President-elect and spouse

- d) Aide to the president-elect and spouse
 - e) President-nominee and spouse
 - f) Aide to the president-nominee and spouse
 - g) Directors and spouses
 - h) Directors-elect and spouses
 - i) General Secretary
 - j) Past presidents of RI and spouses
 - k) Trustees and incoming trustees and spouses
 - l) Governors-elect and spouses
 - m) Moderator and spouse
 - n) Assistant moderator and spouse
 - o) Trainers
 - p) Training leaders and spouses
 - q) RI Districting Committee
 - r) Song leader
 - s) First Aid Officer
 - t) Accompanist
 - u) Sergeants-at-arms and spouses (including Chief Sergeant-at-arms)
 - v) Convention chair (following fiscal year)
 - w) Secretariat staff as the general secretary in consultation with the president and president-elect deem necessary
 - x) Any person assigned by the president-elect to a place on the program of the Assembly, but who is not included in the above list
2. Those participants officially authorized to attend the International Assembly as an official participant at no cost to Rotary International or its Foundation include:
- a) Directors-nominee and spouses
 - b) Officers and officers-nominee of the General Council of RIBI and spouses
 - c) Chairs of the resource groups and committees of Rotary International and its Foundation and spouses
 - d) Past general secretaries and spouses
 - e) International Convention Host Organization chair and select Host Organization members (Current fiscal year and following fiscal year)
 - f) Regional magazine editors
 - g) Past general officers of RI as observers
 - h) Current and past officers of RI as observers
 - i) Any exhibit personnel for exhibits as approved by the president-elect for a space the Assembly venue
 - j) Any person assigned by the president-elect to a place on the program of the Assembly, but who is not included in the above list (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290*)

58.070.2. Payment for International Assembly Attendance in Restricted Currency Countries

Insofar as practicable, all expenses of governors-elect in attending the international assembly from restricted currency countries shall be paid by RI from such funds. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1968 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177

58.070.3. Payment for Governors Serving a Second Term

A past governor who has been selected to serve a second term prior to the International Assembly shall be invited, along with his or her spouse, to attend the International Assembly at the expense of RI. A past governor who has been selected to fill a vacancy in the office of governor which occurs between the International Assembly and 1 September shall receive, at RI's expense, one to two days of intensive training at the most cost effective location. A past governor who has been selected to serve temporarily or to complete a term of office as governor between 1 September and the remainder of the Rotary year shall be provided strong support from Secretariat staff. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 377; May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 377; Amended by February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189. Affirmed by July 1998 Mtg., Bd., Dec. 47

58.070.4. Reimbursement of Expenses for Spouses of Governors-elect

RI will pay all expenses of governors-elect spouses who choose to attend the International Assembly provided that the spouse attends all mandatory sessions unless specifically excused by the president-elect. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 73; COL 98-222; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412 and February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

58.070.5. Costs of Sergeants-At-Arms at the International Assembly

The expenses of sergeants-at-arms at the International Assembly should be paid by RI in accordance with the RI Travel Policy.

The International Assembly Budget shall include the expenses of:

- a) One Chief Sergeant-at-arms and spouse
- b) Six Sergeants-at-arms and spouses

Expenses shall include transportation to and from the assembly, accommodations, meals, and incidentals for the sergeants-at-arms and spouses while serving as sergeants-at-arms. The assignment dates for the chief sergeant-at-arms should commence two days prior to the major arrival day of the International Assembly. The assignment dates for the sergeants-at-arms should commence one day prior to the major arrival day of the International Assembly. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: May 1979 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 342; Amended by May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; and February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

58.070.6. Solicitation of Funds

The Rotary Foundation is the only entity permitted to solicit funds during an International Assembly. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; *Amended by* June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

58.070.7. RI Reimbursement of Expenses of International Assembly Participants

The payment of the expenses of the designated official participants and others in attending the International Assembly is authorized only on the basis of attendance for the entire period of the assembly, unless specifically excused by the president-elect. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290*)

Source: July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

58.070.8. Responsibility of the President-elect for the International Assembly Budget

The president-elect shall have responsibility for the budget for the International Assembly in accordance with RI policy and as approved by the Board. Under the direction of the president-elect, the general secretary shall authorize assembly expenditures up to the budgetary limits established by the Board. Requests for any additional funding for the International Assembly shall be submitted by the president-elect to the Board for its approval. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 412

58.070.9. Costs for First Aid Officer at International Assembly

The expenses of the first aid officer at the International Assembly shall be paid by RI in accordance with the RI Travel Policy. The International Assembly budget shall include the expenses of one first aid officer. Expenses shall include transportation to and from the assembly, accommodations, meals, and incidentals for the first aid officer. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; *Amended by* February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

58.070.10. Observers at the International Assembly

The observers, official participants, who attend the International Assembly at no cost to Rotary International or its Foundation shall be charged a registration fee to cover the administrative expenses involved in their attendance, except the regional magazine editors whose registration fee will be waived. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

58.080. Exhibit and Display Space at the International Assembly

The general secretary will make available exhibit space at the assembly venue if the following criteria are met:

1. The group seeking exhibit space is one of the four core groups outlined in *Rotary Code of Policies* sections 58.080.1., 58.080.2., 58.080.3., and 58.080.4. or has been requested by the president-elect;
2. Space is available to accommodate the request for a display area;

3. The booth will provide governors-elect with Rotary resources, motivation, instruction, and/or education;
4. All materials to be provided through the booth will be in compliance with *Rotary Code of Policies* section 58.060.1. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

58.080.1. Licensed Merchandise Vendors

The Board looks with favor on permitting licensed suppliers of Rotary merchandise to display and sell such merchandise at the International Assembly. The general secretary is requested to make the necessary arrangements whenever feasible. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 95

58.080.2. Secretariat Services Exhibitors

A booth space will be allocated to the RI Secretariat for providing resources, information, and support to incoming district governors. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

58.080.3. Convention Promotion Exhibitors

An appropriate display area will be provided to the host organization of the next convention to promote the convention and provide tourist and general information about the convention city. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

58.080.4. General Exhibitors

Appropriate display areas may be provided to those vendors or entities that have entered into an agreement and/or contract with RI requiring them to provide a service to incoming governors, or specifically allowing them to make use of exhibit space at the International Assembly. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 115

58.090. Evaluation

58.090.1. Annual Evaluation of International Assembly

Governors-elect, their spouses, and other assembly participants shall be requested to evaluate, through questionnaires, the effectiveness of the assembly, both generally and from the standpoint of meeting their own needs. The summary of these evaluations will be shared with the Board of Directors, the president nominee, and the subsequent moderator. (*February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189*)

Source: January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189



Article 59. Council On Legislation

- 59.010.** Guidelines and Site Selection
- 59.020.** Proposed Legislation
- 59.030.** Participants
- 59.040.** District Representatives
- 59.050.** Credentials Committee
- 59.055.** Sergeants-at-Arms
- 59.060.** Proceedings and Functions
- 59.070.** Finances
- 59.080.** Post-Council Activities
- 59.090.** Support Staff
- 59.100.** Responsibilities of the General Secretary

59.010. Guidelines and Site Selection

59.010.1. Manual for the Council on Legislation

The Board shall approve and revise from time to time a manual for the Council on Legislation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76

59.010.2. Hotel Facilities at Council

Arrangements shall be made for a single hotel adequate to house all participants. Meeting and dining facilities should be located in the same accommodations. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: February 1984 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 210; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

59.010.3. Date and Time of Council on Legislation

The Board shall determine the specific date and time of the meeting based upon various factors, including the dates of the annual convention, major holidays and the availability of appropriate venues. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

59.010.4. Site Selection

The general secretary shall seek to complete the entire process of site visits, site selection, and contract negotiation during the first year of the three-year Council cycle. The venue should be contracted a minimum of 12 months prior to the commencement of the Council. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

59.020. Proposed Legislation

59.020.1. District Endorsed or Proposed Legislation

All districts should forward to the general secretary all legislation proposed or endorsed at a district conference within 45 days of the conclusion of the conference. Districts should also forward to the general secretary all legislation submitted through a ballot-by-mail within 45 days of the date fixed by the governor for receipt of the ballots. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220*)

Source: February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 144

59.020.2. Constitution and Bylaws Committee

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee and general secretary should not devote undue time and attention to any proposed legislation that involves fundamental and extensive amendments to the constitutional documents until such time as the proposer has exerted reasonable efforts to draft the proposed legislation so that it is not defective. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 200. Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

59.020.3. Club Review of Proposed Legislation

As part of the legislative process of RI, clubs are free to contact other clubs to discuss proposed legislation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238

59.020.4. Financial Impact Statement

The general secretary shall prepare a financial impact statement for all proposals that, in the opinion of the general secretary, have a significant financial impact if the proposed legislation is adopted. In drafting financial impact statements, the general secretary should consult with the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, including attending the Committee's meetings as appropriate, to ensure that financial impact statements are written with a complete understanding of the proposed legislation. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67*)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 148; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 280; February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202. Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec 201 and November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67

59.020.5. Statements of Support and Opposition

A club, a district conference, the general council or the conference of RIBI, the Council on Legislation or the Board may provide a statement commenting on any item of legislation (whether enactment or resolution) proposed to a Council on Legislation. Such statements, which may be in support of, in opposition to or as a comment on proposed legislation, must be limited to one page, that is, one side of a sheet of normal business stationery. Such statements, if submitted to the general secretary no later than two months prior to the opening of the next Council, shall be transmitted by the general secretary to all members of that Council. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164. Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204 and November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec 201

59.020.6. Board Consideration of Proposed Legislation from a Previous Council

With respect to proposed legislation offered by the Board at the instruction of a previous Council, the Board shall take steps to make clear that it is offering such proposed legislation in compliance with such instruction. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201)*

Source: January 1969 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85. Amended by February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205 and November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201.

59.020.7. Board Consideration of Proposed Legislation from a RI Committee

Where applicable, the Board may choose to indicate that a proposal originated with a RI committee.

For the purposes of 59.020.6 and 59.020.7., the Board may choose to have the legislation presented by a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or a current or former member of a committee involved in drafting the legislation. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201)*

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

59.020.8. Board Council on Legislation Advisory Committee

The president shall annually appoint a committee of three to five members of the Board to advise the Board on Council matters, including proposed legislation, roles and responsibilities at the Council, and, in the year of the Council, statements of support and opposition for consideration by the Board. In addition, in the year of the Council, a Rotarian experienced in Council matters may be designated by the president to assist the Board with Council procedures and the Board's role at the Council. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 331)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; Amended by November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127 and June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 331

59.020.9. Board Position on Items of Legislation

The Board should make its position known on items of legislation on which it has taken a position. *(February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139)*

Source: February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 147

59.020.10. Extension of Board Meeting Preceding the Council

The June Board meeting in the year preceding the Council may be extended by one or two full days, as necessary, for the following purposes:

- 1) To confer with the Council chair about the physical arrangements and the procedural aspects of the Council;
- 2) To review all proposed legislation pursuant to Section 7.050. of the RI Bylaws;
- 3) To consider the recommendations of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Legislative Advisory Committee;
- 4) To begin orientation and training before the Council with the Board Advisor. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; Amended by February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 148; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

59.020.11. Publishing Proposed Legislation

English shall be the official language of the Council and all enactments and resolutions as proposed and adopted shall be as written in the English language. The general secretary shall print a booklet of proposed legislation in English. As feasible, legislation deemed regular shall be published in English, French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish, as shall be those non-legislative publications distributed prior to the Council. In preparing the booklet of proposed legislation for consideration at the Council, the general secretary shall include reference to the month and year in which action was taken to propose such legislation.

The booklet should contain all duly proposed legislation except enactments which have been deemed defective or proposed resolutions which have been deemed not within the framework of the program of RI and which the Board has directed not be transmitted to the Council in accordance with RI Bylaws sections 7.037. and 7.050.

The financial impact, if any, of all legislation shall be contained in the booklet along with the purpose and effect statement. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: January 1941 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101; June 1958 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; *Amended by* February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 50; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 67; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

59.020.12. Use of a District Committee to Assist in Reviewing Legislation

Governors are encouraged, in preparation for the next Council on Legislation, to appoint a small committee of Rotarians, preferably with past Council experience, to prepare and review legislation originating in the district and to assist and inform Rotarians about such legislation. The district representative to the next Council should be appointed a member of the committee as soon as elected. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220. *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201.

59.020.13. Technical Legislation

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall determine which pieces of legislation shall be considered “technical legislation.” All “technical legislation” shall be placed in one area of the legislation books produced for the Council. The Board shall request some other presenter, such as a member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, to move all Board-proposed legislation deemed “technical” in nature. *(March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 224; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; *Amended by* March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196

59.020.14. Council Matters on RI Web Site

The names and districts of all Council representatives shall be placed on the RI Web site. In addition, the general secretary shall place Council instructional materials on the RI Web site as appropriate. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

59.020.15. Similar Legislation

Where there are substantially similar items of legislation, the Board – on the advice of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee – shall direct the general secretary to submit to the Council alternate legislation pursuant to RI bylaws section 7.050.1., and to note in the book of proposed legislation that the items of legislation are substantially similar to the alternate legislation. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 288

59.020.16. Résumés of Proposed Legislation

Résumés of proposed legislation, including the name, title, purpose and effect, and financial impact of the legislation, shall be prepared for all legislation to be transmitted to the Council and shall be posted on the RI Web site prior to the Council. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)*

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 288

59.030. Participants

59.030.1. Board of Directors

A director's primary responsibility is as a member of the Board. *See section 28.005. (November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201)*

Source: January 1959 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 94

59.030.2. Attendance of Directors-elect and Directors-nominee

Directors-elect and directors nominee shall be invited to the Council as observers with expenses to be paid by RI. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; *Amended by* June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 291

59.030.3. Council Officers and Members-at-Large

Council officers (chair, vice chair, and parliamentarian) and the members-at-large shall be announced by the president-elect by January of the year prior to the Council. *(November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

59.040. District Representatives

59.040.1. Communications Concerning Qualifications of Representatives

The general secretary, through appropriate publications of RI and otherwise, shall call to the attention of governors and clubs the stated duties and qualifications of a representative of clubs in the Council on Legislation, as provided in the RI Bylaws. The importance of clubs electing the most qualified Rotarians as the representatives of such clubs in the Council should be stressed. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86

59.040.2. Selection of Representatives

Each district is encouraged to select as its representative to the Council the best-qualified eligible Rotarian available for such service who is well-informed about current Rotary policies, procedures and programs. While it is the right of the clubs in each district to elect whom they will, it is stressed that representatives to the Council should be elected on the basis of their ability to carry out the representatives' defined duties and not on the basis of their personal popularity within the district, and that the role of representative should be viewed as a serious and responsible position and not simply a perquisite of having served as governor. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. Amended by March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 222. See also February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 235; February 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 259(b); October-November 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 75; January 1972 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85(b); May-June 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

59.040.3. Training of District Representatives

The District Representatives shall be trained at Rotary Institutes. See section 60.050.

Cross References

31.040.1. Selection of Council Representative in Ballot-By-Mail

59.050. Credentials Committee

The president is requested to appoint members of the Council on Legislation Credentials Committee at least six months prior to the scheduled convening of the Council and to appoint only members of the Council as members of the Committee. There shall be a minimum of six members of the Credentials Committee, in addition to a chair. There should be at least one member of the Committee for each language for which simultaneous interpretation is provided at the Council. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201. Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

59.055. Sergeants-at-Arms

There should be a minimum of ten sergeants-at-arms and two timekeepers at the Council, in addition to the chief sergeant. There should be at least one sergeant for each language for which simultaneous interpretation is provided at the Council. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99

59.055.1. Role of Sergeants-at-Arms at the Council on Legislation

The role and responsibilities of the RI sergeant-at-arms leadership for the Council on Legislation are as follows:

I. Chief Sergeant-at-Arms

The president of RI shall appoint the chief sergeant-at-arms to serve at the Council. The chief sergeant-at-arms shall be selected using the following criteria:

Criteria for selection:

1. Is a past officer of Rotary International
2. Has served in the sergeant-at-arms leadership at at least one previous Council on Legislation.
3. Has demonstrated excellent management and organizational skills.

Responsibilities:

1. Shall report directly to the Council chair on all matters related to the sergeants-at-arms.
2. Shall work with the Council chair and the appropriate staff to ensure the security, emergency and first-aid procedures, crowd control, and general safety meets the needs of all Council delegates and staff.
3. Shall have overall responsibility for various sergeant-at-arms functions, including:
Training, organization, and assignment of responsibilities for sergeants-at-arms.
Control of seating sections.
Collection of tickets at various ticketed events upon request of the Council Chair.
Claiming, logging, and storage of lost and found items.
4. The chief sergeant-at-arms shall liaise with the Council chair on all sergeants-at-arms issues, as the chair is responsible for all aspects of the Council, including the budget.
5. Shall evaluate the overall performance of sergeants-at-arms and recognize extraordinary service as applicable.

II. Sergeants-at-Arms

Subject to the approval of the president, the chief sergeant-at-arms shall recommend to the president and the Council chair a minimum of ten sergeants-at-arms and two timekeepers. The sergeants-at-arms shall be selected according to the following criteria:

Criteria for selection:

1. Is a past officer of Rotary International
2. Has served as a sergeant-at-arms at a prior RI meeting.
3. Has demonstrated excellent management and organizational skills.

Responsibilities:

1. Place signs, seat assignments within Reserve Seat section.
2. Count votes during voting sessions as requested by the Council Chair.
3. Control doors and vote counts during voting sessions.
4. Additional duties as assigned by the Council Chair

(May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 390)

59.055.2. Sergeants-at-Arms Manual for Council on Legislation

A manual for the general guidance of the Council sergeants-at-arms has been prepared and is revised from time to time by the Board. Such manual includes Board policy governing sergeants-at-arms. The general secretary is requested to bring to the Board's attention any necessary changes to the manual. Each sergeants-at-arms committee is likewise requested to include in its final report any recommended changes to the manual. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405

59.060. Proceedings and Functions

59.060.1. Scheduling Council Proceedings

To the extent possible, the days and hours of the meeting should be planned and maintained so that representatives are not called upon to carry out their responsibilities under conditions of excessive fatigue or other discomfort which might reduce the effectiveness with which they represent the clubs in their respective districts. At a minimum, all Councils should be scheduled to allow for five full days to consider proposed legislation. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: May-June 1982 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 21. Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec 201

59.060.2. Debate Procedures at Council

The Council chair and officials should arrange that matters of importance be given adequate time for debate in the Council's sessions. As feasible, debate should alternate between those supporting and those opposing the motion before the Council. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257

59.060.3. Council on Legislation Rules of Procedure

The Rules of Procedure of the Council on Legislation shall be published in the *Manual of Procedure* exactly as adopted by the previous Council, modified only as necessary to be consistent with the changes to the constitutional documents made by the Council. If any such modifications are necessary, a notation as to the necessary changes should be included.

The Rules of Procedure, as recommended by the Council Operations Committee in accordance with RI bylaws section 8.130.1., shall be sent to members of the Council two months prior to the Council. *(November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38)*

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 207; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 289

59.060.4. Electronic Vote Counting at Council

The general secretary should implement electronic voting at all Councils where it can be obtained at a reasonable cost. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 279

59.060.5. Pre-Council Workshop

The Council leadership shall plan for a workshop for Council members on the afternoon prior to the convening of the Council. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

59.060.6. Fellowship Activities During the Council

An informal arrival reception for members of the Council shall be held on the evening prior to the convening of the Council. A fellowship dinner shall be held during the Council meeting—preferably on the evening of the second day of the Council. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 276

59.060.7. Simultaneous Interpretation/Language Support

The Council shall be conducted in English, with simultaneous interpretation provided during plenary sessions in French, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, and Spanish. The general secretary, with the concurrence of the president, may choose other languages for simultaneous interpretation. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

59.060.8. Assistance from Local Rotarians

The Council on Legislation does not operate with the assistance of a host organization. It is recommended, however, that the Council chair and Council Operations Committee review whether assistance could be rendered by Rotarians residing or working near the site.

The chair may wish to review whether any ancillary activities (at no cost to RI) should be planned for the Council. If such activities are planned, the chair may contact local Rotarians to aid in various preparations for the Council, including, coordinating through local governors:

1. the presence of Rotarians (particularly those with multi-lingual capabilities) at major airports to welcome members of the Council and to direct them to relevant ground transportation to the main venue;
2. assistance in providing local transportation and visits to RI's World Headquarters;
3. coordination of a fellowship area at the main venue;
4. other activities that would contribute to the experience of the members of the Council.

In coordinating any efforts, particularly activities during the meeting, the Council chair and Council Operations Committee should not plan for any events that could hinder the progress of the Council's deliberations. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

59.070. Finances

The general secretary shall prepare a budget for each Council for review by the Board. In preparing such budget, the general secretary shall take into consideration paid attendance and reimbursable expenses. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

59.070.1. Expenses of Representatives

RI shall provide all representatives reimbursement for the following expenses:

1. Round-trip airfare
2. Room and meals
3. Inoculations up to a maximum of US\$150
4. Necessary visa expenses
5. Representatives' forced overnight or extended travel delay expenses of 10 hours or more

The general secretary shall set the day and time for the major arrival date for representatives. The general secretary shall take into consideration registration, any pre-Council workshop, and any other relevant factors when setting the date and time. The general secretary has the discretion to apply these guidelines in a fair and reasonable manner. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221; *Affirmed by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec 198

59.070.2. Expenses of Non-voting Members

RI shall pay the travel, lodging and meal expenses in attending the Council for the following members:

- (a) the president, president-elect, other directors, and the general secretary;
- (b) past presidents of RI, except those whose expenses are paid from The Rotary Foundation funds;
- (c) chair, vice-chair and parliamentarian of the Council;
- (d) Constitution and Bylaws Committee as members of the Council Operations Committee;
- (e) trustee representative;
- (f) up to three members-at-large. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

59.070.3. Expenses of Observers and Staff

RI shall pay the travel, lodging and meal expenses in attending the Council for the following additional persons:

- (a) directors-elect (including president-nominee);
- (b) directors-nominee;
- (c) spouse of the president, president-elect, chair and vice-chair;
- (d) chief sergeant-at-arms;
- (e) timekeepers

- (f) member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee whose term of office commences on 1 July following the Council;
- (g) aide to the president (if needed);
- (h) such members of the Secretariat staff as the general secretary may deem necessary for service at the Council, within the provisions therefor in the budget. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 291; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

59.070.4. Expenses of Incoming Members of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee to Attend Council and Committee Meetings

RI shall pay the following travel, lodging and meal expenses related to the holding of the Council:

- (a) the incoming member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee whose term of office commences on 1 July in the year of the Council shall be invited to attend as an observer at the last meeting of such committee prior to the 1 July appointment. Such attendance will be at RI expense.
- (b) the member of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee whose term of office shall commence immediately following the year of the Council shall be invited to attend both the pre- and post- Council Operations Committee meetings, and the Council as an observer at RI expense. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236. *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec 201

59.070.5 Expenses of Sergeants-At-Arms at the Council on Legislation

The expenses of sergeants-at-arms at the Council on Legislation shall be paid by RI in accordance with the RI Travel Policy.

The Council on Legislation sergeants-at-arms budget shall include the expenses of:

- a) One Chief Sergeant-at-arms;
- b) a minimum of eight Sergeants-at-arms

While serving in the capacity as a sergeant-at-arms, covered expenses should be the same as the representatives to the Council. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

59.080. Post-Council Activities

59.080.1. Club Review of Council Action

As part of the legislative process of RI, clubs are free to contact other clubs to discuss the action of the Council on items of proposed legislation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 238

59.080.2. Post-Council Distribution of Documents

The revised English Constitutional Documents should be mailed to all districts within two months of the adjournment of the Council. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201

Cross References

49.050.1. Manual of Procedure

59.090. Support Staff

In order to assure the effective functioning of the Council on Legislation, the general secretary should be afforded discretion in determining the number of staff to be present at the Council and in requisitioning adequate support equipment to be available for the use of staff at the Council. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 206*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 206

59.100. Responsibilities of the General Secretary

The general secretary shall oversee various responsibilities as listed below.

A. With Respect to Meetings Logistics, the General Secretary shall:

1. create the Council on Legislation budget;
2. provide regular reports on planning to the Council Operations Committee and appropriate Rotary senior leaders;
3. coordinate the site selection process;
4. negotiate and execute all contracts as pertains to budgetary guidelines, all in accordance with RI policy;
5. be responsible for all registration and housing functions connected with the Council on Legislation;
6. solicit bids from appropriate vendors including the following goods and services providers: venues, catering, electronic voting equipment, audio-visual, simultaneous interpretation, SI technical equipment and services, entertainment, security, specialty items, sign and banner printers, shipping, photography, transportation, office equipment and supplies and all similar entities;
7. be responsible for coordinating staff assignments for the Council;
8. make purchases of all goods and services as pertains to the Council;
9. verify that all goods and services are delivered in accordance with contracts and agreements including assurance that all meals charged to RI are for those served or guaranteed;
10. be responsible for making guarantees of obligations to vendors as pertains to budgetary guidelines;
11. provide the chair, Council Operations Committee, president and Board with the details of income and expenditures for the Council;

12. oversee all on-site logistical aspects of the Council;
13. create Council registration materials;
14. attend Council Operations Committee meetings;
15. coordinate, if scheduled by the Council Operations Committee, scheduled tours of ORC;
16. schedule and conduct all staff update meetings;
17. liaise with sergeants-at-arms; and
18. prepare, distribute and compile post-Council survey information.

B. With Respect to Council Operations and Legal Matters, the General Secretary shall:

1. create and monitor portions of the Council budget consistent with outlined responsibilities;
2. prepare and publish all items of legislation consistent with the RI constitutional documents and *Rotary Code of Policies*;
3. attend and take official minutes at all Council -related committee meetings;
4. liaise with all voting and non-voting members regarding attendance, credentialing and alternate members;
5. assist the Credentials Committee;
6. work with the Constitution and Bylaws Committee to determine the status of proposed legislation, and contact appropriate Rotarians concerning all issues pertaining to proposed legislation;
7. arrange for the translation of all materials into official Rotary languages;
8. oversee the printing and distribution of all materials in official Rotary languages;
9. manage statements of support and opposition;
10. coordinate transmission of all legislation to the Council as provided for in the RI constitutional documents, *Rotary Code of Policies*, and the direction of the RI Board;
11. review financial impact statements;
12. prepare and distribute the *Report of Action* of the Council;
13. provide on-site support and guidance for the Council proceedings;
14. negotiate and execute all contracts in accordance with RI policy;

C. With respect to Travel Arrangements, the General Secretary shall:

1. provide transportation cost estimates for all members of the Council for budgeting purposes;
2. book and ticket all transportation for Council members consistent with the RITS travel policy and/or the *Rotary Code of Policies*;
3. provide appropriate Rotarians with updated arrival/departure listings for logistical use;
4. manage forced overnights concerning travel to, from or during the Council;
5. provide on-site travel support at the Council, including ticket changes and confirmations; and,
6. advise appropriate Rotarians pertaining to obtaining visas and/or other official documentation for all members.

D. With Respect to Financial Arrangements, the General Secretary shall:

1. attend all relevant meetings for purposes of discussing and preparing financial impact statements for all legislation;
2. prepare financial impact statements for all legislation;

3. provide daily reconciliation of hotel bills on-site;
4. pay all associated invoices in a timely manner;
5. verify and pay expense reports consistent with the *Rotary Code of Policies*.
(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221)

Source: February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 221

Cross References

31.040.3. Examining Proposed Legislation



Article 60. Institutes

- 60.010.** International Institute
- 60.020.** Participants at International Institutes
- 60.030.** International Institute Program
- 60.040.** International Institute Finances
- 60.050.** Rotary Institutes

60.010. International Institute

An International Institute shall be held annually in conjunction with the International Convention, provided that a suitable venue can be contracted. Those eligible to attend the institute are past, current, and incoming officers of RI (including reported governors-nominee) and current RI committee members. Spouses and/or guests of those Rotarians eligible to attend the institute shall be permitted to register on the same form as an eligible Rotarian. The International Institute shall be conducted under the supervision and guidance of the president. *(June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236)*

Source: October-November 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 148; October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 92; November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 143; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 113: *Amended by* July 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 22; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 195; and June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 236

60.010.1. Past Officers Reunion Meeting

Past officers may organize a reunion meeting in conjunction with the International Assembly or the International Convention when an International Institute is not held. *(February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137)*

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec.89

60.020. Participants at International Institutes

60.020.1. Regional Magazine Editors

Rotary International regional magazine editors shall be recognized as official participants of International Institutes, with rights to be observers at plenary sessions, appropriate luncheons and dinners, receptions, and other social occasions. Other than registration fees, which shall be waived, there will be no associated cost to RI. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 274

60.030. International Institute - Program Reserved

60.040. International Institute Finances

60.040.1. Self-Supporting Institute

The International Institute should be entirely self-supporting, that is, participants' fees should meet all costs including staff support. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99

60.040.2. Support from Private and Corporate Sponsors

The International Institute should, with the permission of the president, solicit and/or receive financial support from private or corporate sponsors. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 99

60.050. Rotary Institutes

The Board of Directors of Rotary International has strongly affirmed the value of annual informational meetings of past, current and incoming RI officers in RI zones.

The Board has adopted the following "Requirements for Rotary Institutes," which the general secretary shall annually provide to institute conveners and chairs. The Board shall review these guidelines on a triennial basis. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; *Amended by* March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

A. Definitions

Institute: An annual informational meeting, with no administrative responsibility or authority, of all past, current and incoming RI officers in one or more zones (or sections of zones), as authorized by the president.

Convener: A director or immediate past director appointed by the president to have charge of an institute.

Foundation Representative: A current or incoming trustee appointed by the chair of the Foundation Trustees, with the concurrence of the president, to assist an institute in promoting The Rotary Foundation. Such appointment shall take into consideration the most cost-effective measures.

Institute Chair: A past RI officer appointed by the convener to organize an institute. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290; *Amended by* November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152

B. Purpose

The purpose of institutes is to

1. inform current and past RI officers accurately concerning the policies and programs of RI, including those of its Foundation;
2. promote support for these policies and programs, while also soliciting suggestions for improvements and innovations;
3. inform the Board of successful program developments at the zone level that the Board may want to consider for further development;
4. inspire, motivate and inform governors for leadership;
5. provide a forum for learning, discussion and inspiration, which will engender fellowship and a team spirit among all participants. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; Amended by February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183

C. Participants

Attendance at each institute shall be limited to past, current and incoming RI officers and their guests, though

1. others may be invited by the conveners or may attend at the request of the president or the general secretary;
2. host Rotarians and other local persons may assist the convener in administering the institute;
3. local Rotarians may be invited to attend as observers a special event at the institute, such as an address by the president or president-elect;
4. the RI president and president-elect are encouraged to participate in some institutes each year in order to enhance their knowledge and experience of the world of Rotary, and to provide opportunities for Rotary leaders at the zone level to gain greater knowledge and insight into the current and future directions of Rotary. In order to conserve institute and RI funds and to project the current president's theme, it is suggested that *either* the president *or* the president-elect attend each institute, but both should not attend together. It is, however, recognized that, given their many duties and commitments, the president or president-elect may only be able to attend portions of institutes;
5. the attendance of a representative of Rotary's Foundation is highly desirable in achieving the objectives of The Rotary Foundation and updating the knowledge of past, present, and incoming officers, and toward this end,
 - a. conveners are requested to consider providing lodging, meals and other local expenses for Foundation representatives and spouses from institute or other funds. The Foundation will pay all transportation costs and will pay the above expenses should the institute not pay them, provided that the convener inform the representative before the latter's departure for the institute that the institute will not bear such expenses;

- b. this representative, under the convener's guidance, should participate in any activity or program at the institute for which such representative's expertise would be valuable;
- c. conveners of institutes should provide in the institute agenda an opportunity for the Foundation representative to deliver a major address on the Foundation and to have another opportunity to update participants on Foundation programs, objectives, finances, and problems and to respond to participants' questions. (*November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; Amended by March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; May 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 225; March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183; July 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 114; April 1999 Trustees Mtg., Dec. 129

D. Organization

1. The organization and program of each institute shall be directed by the convener(s) designated by the president and who are the president's representative(s) to the institutes and who remain responsible to the president for the conduct of the institutes;
2. Those organizing the institute shall be appointed by the convener and shall prepare arrangements and agenda for the convener's approval;
3. The convener, while retaining complete control of the agenda, program, and finances of the institute, shall appoint a
 - a. chair, who is responsible for the arrangements for and organization of the institute meeting;
 - b. treasurer, who should be a past RI officer, responsible to the convener and the zone for the preparation of the institute budget, use and disbursement of the funds;
4. The local governor shall have no other role than to assist the convener as requested;
5. In order to promote the best attendance and participation at reasonable expense, institutes should not be planned for areas exceeding the equivalent of four zones. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; Amended by March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

E. Program

1. Institutes shall normally last two to three days, not counting the time for any separate sessions or seminars, and be held at times that are reasonably convenient for younger participants;
2. Past RI officers residing in the zone should be provided opportunities to participate in the program as speakers, panelists, discussion leaders, and members of the committees for the institute, as a means of developing future leaders in Rotary at the zone and international levels;
3. Conveners must not allow speeches and presentations to take up most of the program time at

institutes but rather plan ample time (approximately 40-50 percent) for the exchange of views among participants through panels, question and answer sessions, group discussions and the like;

4. The Board will annually recommend no more than four institute discussion topics for consideration by each institute that year, on the understanding that the convener may add other topics to meet the needs and desires of their zones; but conveners shall ensure that the institutes deal accurately and comprehensively with the topics recommended by the Board;
5. All conveners shall include in the program of each institute a copy of the written report (including any resolutions) that was submitted to the Board concerning the previous year's institute, along with a copy of any action taken by the Board then on that report;
6. Conveners shall, when convenient, arrange an intercity meeting for institute participants and local Rotarians;
7. Conveners may, as appropriate, avail themselves of the assistance of any RI staff assigned to the institute by the general secretary for information and participation in the institute program.
8. In the year of the Council on Legislation, Conveners are requested to:
 - a. conduct a training session to last at least one-half day limited to representatives and alternates and conducted by highly experienced Rotarians, to discuss the operation and procedures of the Council, but not the substance of the proposals, with training materials to support such training sessions provided by the general secretary;
 - b. schedule a plenary session to discuss the substance of the selected proposals to be considered at the next Council, for the purpose of allowing voting representatives the opportunity to hear the views of Rotarians from their area of the world.
9. The Board recommends including an open forum of least one-hour during the institute program for an exchange of ideas between the participants and Rotary senior leadership.
10. A director, or other representative of the Board, shall present the five-year forecast to each Rotary institute for discussion, pursuant to RI Bylaws section 17.060.4. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; Amended by March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 212; March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

F. Adjunct Meetings

1. GETS are considered mandatory adjunct meetings. Separate sessions or seminars shall, with the permission of the convener, be held at (or near) the same time and location of the institutes. Separate Rotary Foundation seminars are most useful and may, with the permission of the convener, be held at (or near) the same time and location of the institutes, as well. But these must
 - a. not interfere with, and should not duplicate, the main program of the institutes, which is primarily for past RI officers;

- b. therefore be also under the direction of the convener;
 - c. not duplicate the program at the International Assembly;
 - d. be consistent with RI policy and information developed by RI;
 - e. be promoted and financed as quite distinct from the institute itself.
2. However, any events coming before or after an institute - such as governors-elect training seminars (GETS) or The Rotary Foundation, or recreational events - should be clearly described as pre- (or post-) institute events, which may involve a different audience than those attending an institute.
3. Institute conveners are requested to work closely with regional Rotary Foundation coordinators to ensure that their purpose and agenda are in compliance with Foundation guidelines for the Regional Rotary Foundation Seminar held in conjunction with the Rotary institute. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 212; *Amended by* March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 82; June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117

G. Finances

1. Each institute shall be financially self-supporting through registration fees and voluntary donations (including goods and services) or sponsorships in accordance with RI Guidelines. Funds raised for the institute shall only be spent on institute-related expenses;
2. Adjunct meetings shall also be self-supporting through registration fees;
3. Districts and clubs (and non-participating Rotarians) shall not be required to pay any institute expenses, except for the costs of their governor and incoming governor (and other future RI officers at the discretion of districts and clubs), or as sponsors in accordance with RI Guidelines;
4. The convener shall make every effort to contain costs by
 - a. securing reasonably priced facilities and accommodations;
 - b. minimizing the number and cost of social functions;
 - c. minimizing the cost of speakers and any others invited from outside Rotary or the zone;
5. Rotary International provides adequate general liability (also known as public liability and third-party liability) insurance coverage for each institute. Coverage is limited to policy terms and excludes institute activities such as fireworks displays, motor racing events, and use of airplanes and watercraft to name a few. Coverage terms and limitations may change annually. Please contact RI Risk Management for additional information;

6. After all expenses have been paid, any surplus balance shall, in cooperation with the convener and the treasurer of the next institute, be carried forward for the sole use of that and future institutes. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265; Amended by March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164; February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183; June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290; March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 361; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 117

H. Reports

1. Each convener shall, within ninety days after the conclusion of an institute, send to the general secretary of RI, the convener of the following institute, and to each governor within that zone(s) a complete financial statement, certified by the chair and treasurer of the institute, detailing all revenues and expenses of the institute. The financial statement shall include any surplus balance received from the prior year's institute and any surplus balance carried forward to the following year's institute. Failure to comply with the requirement to distribute a complete financial statement, after having been notified by the general secretary, shall result in the convener being ineligible to receive any additional expense reimbursements from RI, whether or not such expenses are associated with the institute, and ineligible to receive any RI volunteer appointment or assignment, or any Rotary Foundation appointment or assignment, until the completed financial statement is distributed in accordance with this policy. In the case of extraordinary circumstances, an extension not exceeding thirty days may be granted by the president;
2. The general secretary shall distribute copies of the institute financial statements submitted by each convener to the Board prior to its final meeting each year. The general secretary shall provide a status report regarding past due institute financial reports to the treasurer and the chair of the RI Audit Committee in April of each year. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 188; Amended by November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 175; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 444; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 230; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

60.050.1. Institute Site and Date Approval

The president-elect and president-nominee are authorized by the Board to act on its behalf to approve the sites and dates of future Rotary institutes. Conveners are required to clear dates through the president's office before committing to a time and location. The general secretary shall advise all current and future conveners of Rotary institutes to make every effort to ensure that the meeting does not conflict with any other institute in the region or major religious holiday celebrated in that zone. (*March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229*)

Source: July 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 27; July 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 23; Amended by March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229

60.050.2. Participation in Institutes in Adjacent Zones or Sections

Rotary leaders eligible to participate in Rotary institutes are encouraged to attend, at no cost to RI, institutes organized in adjacent zones or sections within the same zone in order to increase communication and the flow of Rotary information within and across zones. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 245*)

Source: February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 197

60.050.3. Financial Guarantee to Rotary Institute Conveners

No guarantee for conveners is appropriate or necessary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 198

60.050.4. Rotary Institute Finances

RI will reimburse the transportation expenses incurred by conveners for travel to the institute site on up to two occasions, if necessary, for preparation and planning purposes. Conveners are encouraged to make these trips in conjunction with other Rotary travel, whenever possible, for economic reasons.

RI will reimburse the transportation expenses incurred by conveners, and their spouses when accompanying them, to attend Rotary institutes, in accordance with RI's established travel policy.

Rotary institutes are expected to cover all other expenses incurred by the conveners and their spouses attending their institute. Nevertheless, any such other expenses associated with the Rotary institute at which the director serves as convener that are not covered by the institute budget, including spouse expenses when accompanied by proper business purpose documentation, shall be reimbursed to the extent of the director's allocation available pursuant to the "Policy for Expenses of General Officers" under section 68.040.1. of the *Rotary Code of Policies*.

An advance of US\$1,000 may be made for each institute when requested by a convener, such advance to be refunded on completion of the institute.

Expenses of Directors and spouses for attending institutes other than those in which the director serves as convener will be reimbursed where such expenses are in furtherance of the business purposes of RI to the extent of the director's allocation available pursuant to the "Policy for Expenses of General Officers" under section 68.040.1. of the *Rotary Code of Policies*. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202*)

Source: May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 362. Amended by February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 247; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251 and February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202

60.050.5. TRF Presentation at Rotary Institutes

Conveners of Rotary institutes should provide, in addition to the Regional Foundation Seminar, sufficient time in the institute program to allow for a presentation on The Rotary Foundation as well as the opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the trustee representative. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 340. Affirmed by February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 134

60.050.6. GETS Training at Rotary Institutes

It is the responsibility of all Rotary institute conveners to ensure that the program for zone-level training of governors-elect as adopted by the Board is fully implemented. All conveners must submit a report to Rotary International on the governor-elect training on an annual basis. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 214

60.050.7. Recommended Convener Support for the GETS Training Team

It is recommended that presentation equipment and room charges for the training seminar, and registration fees for GETS training team members be included as part of the event budget and are provided at no cost to either RI or the GETS training team.

The GETS training team should be provided with the appropriate meeting space and equipment. The following logistical and equipment needs are recommended:

- a) Tables and chairs for participants set-up in a “U” shape (group size of no more than 25-30 governors-elect)
- b) Podium or table for training leader
- c) LCD projector, laptop computer, or overhead projector
- d) Flipchart stand, paper, and markers (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52*)

Source: November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 52

60.050.8. Combined Rotary Institutes/Presidential Conferences/District Conferences

Rotary institutes, presidential conferences, and district conferences may be held in conjunction with each other or simultaneously at the same venue provided that:

- 1. separate budgets and separate registration fees are established and maintained for each meeting;
- 2. funds will be maintained separately for each meeting;
- 3. prior consent is obtained from the governor where the district conference will be held and from the convener of the Rotary institute to be held. (*February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 185

Cross References

19.040.5. Reimbursement of Expenses for Governors-Elect Attendance at GETS

71.010.1. Risk Management for Rotary Institutes



Article 61. Regional and Presidential Conferences

- 61.010.** Purpose of Regional Conference
- 61.020.** Regional Conference Standards
- 61.030.** Regional Conference - Rules of Procedure
- 61.040.** Regional Conference Finances
- 61.050.** Presidential Conferences

61.010. Purpose of Regional Conference

Regional conferences are to be held under suitable circumstances consistent with the bylaws. The purpose of such conferences is to develop and promote acquaintance and understanding and provide a forum for the exchange of ideas. The conferences should provide opportunities for Rotarians who do not reside in potential convention locations to attend RI meetings economically. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.020. Regional Conference Standards

61.020.1. Timing of Regional Conferences

- a) Regional conferences need not be scheduled in each year. The desirability of holding a regional conference in any year shall be determined on the basis of the demand for such conference from within the host area, the suitability of the conference in relation to other RI activities and other circumstances relating to the holding of the conference.
- b) Regional conferences may be held wherever they will advance the program of Rotary.
- c) The Board shall authorize a regional conference no more often than every third year.
- d) As a general policy, a regional conference should not be held more often than every five years in any one area.
- e) Regional conferences may not be held in the same area in which an International Convention is scheduled within the prior or following two-year period. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 122; January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88; November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

61.020.2. Scheduling of Regional Conferences

- a) To provide adequate staff support, regional conferences should be scheduled between 15 September and 15 January, inclusive.

- b) Regional conferences should be planned in light of local conditions such as weather and holiday periods. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May-June 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176; October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.020.3. Minimum Criteria For Holding Regional Conferences

a) Minimum Number of Rotarians in Primary Attendance Area

There shall be at least 10,000 Rotarians resident in the "primary attendance area." The primary attendance area is the area from which Rotarians can travel to the conference economically. It is the area from which most attendees are expected to come. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

b) Rotarians' Inability to Attend Convention

Rotarians resident in the primary attendance area must not have had, or be expected to have, the opportunity to travel reasonably economically to a Convention for a period of several years. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

c) Minimum Attendance Requirements at Conference

A minimum of 2,000 Rotarians shall be expected to attend the conference. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

d) Size of Meeting Space

Regional conferences should be held in cities which have facilities to accommodate no fewer than 3,000 attendees, in order to facilitate a self-supporting conference. However, such proposed facilities should accommodate no more than 10,000 attendees, so as not to conflict with a major potential convention site. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

e) Funding of Meeting Space

RI will expect the city to provide without expense to RI a suitable and convenient auditorium for the conference's general sessions and additional meeting places for other sessions. No clubs of any city should have to pay rental or other expenses for a conference hall for RI's use. Rather, the city should furnish such facilities, or the city government, tourist association, chamber of commerce, or a similar group of business people should provide any necessary funds for such a meeting place. RI is not prohibited from paying rental for a conference hall or assuming such other expenses as may be necessary in an emergency. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030. Regional Conference Rules of Procedure

61.030.1. Invitation From Host Club

Invitations to host regional conferences are encouraged from a group of clubs, a district or a group of districts. In the case of district invitations, a majority of the clubs in the district(s) must have authorized their governor(s) to issue such an invitation. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

61.030.2. Special Justifications to Hold Conference

Regional conferences should be scheduled on the premise that such conferences are special occurrences, rather than regular annual events. Therefore, invitations to hold regional conferences must include special justifications to hold such conferences. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.030.3. Deadline and Information Related to Invitation

Any club which desires to host a regional conference should provide the invitation to hold such conference to the general secretary at least 36 months prior to the proposed date of the conference. The invitation will include information on the following matters: 1) the conference venue, its seating capacity and information concerning use of the hall without charge to RI or any club; 2) the number and price of first-class and second-class hotel rooms; 3) a proposed month for the conference with justification. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

61.030.4. Indication of Conference Support

Preference will be given to those invitations which indicate that the host club area will support the conference. Such support includes a resolution or other statement that registration from the host club area will equal the total number of Rotarians in the area as of January preceding the conference. The district conference or other appropriate resolution reporting registration commitments must be provided to the general secretary not less than 60 months before the meeting in order for the host club invitation to continue to be considered. If at any time, such registration commitment is withdrawn by action of the club(s) or district conference(s) in the host area, the Board will decide whether it is feasible to continue consideration of a particular conference site. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292. Amended by May-June 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394

61.030.5. Role of the Parties at a Regional Conference

The Executive Committee and the president, or the president, are authorized to act on behalf of the Board in discharging any responsibilities placed upon the Board in connection with the organization of a regional conference. Further, the Executive Committee is authorized to alter the established procedure as necessary.

a) Role of Board

The Board will make decisions as to the date and city in which the conference shall be held; define an area, including the host club locality, to be considered as the host area; issue the call to hold the conference preferably at least one year before the conference date; appoint the regional conference committee and designate its chair. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292; Amended by November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

b) Role of President

1. The president shall be the chair (presiding officer) of the conference.
2. The liaison director to each regional conference committee shall be either the president or a Board member.
3. The president, in consultation with the president to serve during the year of the conference, should appoint the chair of the regional conference committee. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90; January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83. Amended by November 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83

c) Role of General Secretary

The general secretary shall be the secretary of the conference and the regional conference committee, but may designate a Secretariat staff member to serve in the general secretary's place. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

d) Role of Attendees

The Rotarians at a regional conference do not constitute a legislative body. They cannot take action which shall be binding upon RI or any club. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030.6. Duties of Conference Committee

Regional conferences are official RI functions. Accordingly, the regional conference committees and the general secretary shall exercise appropriate control of the conference program content and expenses to achieve the purpose of the meeting within the conference guidelines established by the Board.

In appointing the regional conference committee, the Board shall consider the national characteristics of the host area. The conference committee shall be responsible to the Board for all phases of the conference not delegated to others, establish policies for the conference and draft the conference program for Board approval. The conference committee shall finalize the details of the approved program, including plenary sessions, discussion assemblies, entertainment features and all other matters not delegated to others. The conference committee shall supervise and control the Host Club Executive Committee.

Approximately three months before the conference and for the duration of the conference, the RI regional conference committee, in cooperation with the general secretary, should endeavor to secure qualified local public relations support. The cost of such support shall be part of a balanced RI conference budget. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; January 1975 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69; October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.030.7. Duties of General Secretary

The general secretary has primary responsibility for all operational functions, including publicity, finances, selection and preparation of meeting places, attendance promotion, registration and cooperation with the host club. The general secretary requires the cooperation of the host club in performing many such operational functions. The general secretary shall cooperate with the conference committee on the program and related matters, and will have primary responsibility to the Board for conference management.

The general secretary shall negotiate with the host club or clubs concerning the definition of the host area. The general secretary is requested to prepare manuals for the host club executive committee, the RI regional conference committee and the regional conference manager to describe their respective authority, responsibility and duties, including those related to budgetary control. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; May-June 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.030.8. Duties of Conference Manager

The RI conference manager represents the general secretary and performs many of the operational functions for which the general secretary has primary responsibility. The conference manager assists the conference committee in all phases of its work, and serves as liaison between the conference committee, the general secretary and the host club. Further, the conference manager assists the host club in developing hospitality plans and is responsible for drafting the conference program book. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030.9. Duties of Host Club

The host club is responsible for providing hospitality to visiting Rotarians and guests. All hospitality arrangements are subject to approval of the conference committee. The host club shall appoint a local arrangements committee to be known as the Host Club Executive Committee. This committee acts for the host club in making hospitality arrangements, appointing and coordinating the work of any local subcommittees to plan for such matters as housing, entertainment, registration, reception, transportation, Rotarians' guests, decorations, publicity, house of friendship, information and a conference news bureau. The host club cooperates with the general secretary in performing many of the operational functions for which the general secretary has primary responsibility. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030.10. Duties of Conference Chair

The chair of the conference committee shall open and preside over the conference. Together with the conference secretary, the chair also shall certify to the accuracy of the conference proceedings. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030.11. Duties of Conference Secretary

The secretary of the conference shall record the conference proceedings and, together with the conference chair, certify to their accuracy. The secretary also shall assist the chair with the conduct of the conference. The secretary also shall serve as secretary to the international conference committee, maintaining the minutes of such committee meetings and carrying on such correspondence as may be required. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030.12. Conference Program

The regional conference committee shall develop for approval of the Board the program of the conference. The program shall be arranged to include a complete presentation of the fundamental principles, policies, and procedures of Rotary, and also a consideration of those problems specific to the host area. The program should avoid public discussion of controversial questions, but should still provide opportunities for Rotarians of different opinions to confer in the spirit of Rotary. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030.13. Special Interest Group Sessions

As a general means to promote participation, regional conference plenary sessions should be reduced in favor of special interest group sessions. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.030.14. Conference Publicity

The general secretary shall publicize the regional conference through Rotary publications and by any other means to promote good attendance. Governors in the host area shall be urged to promote an interest in attending the conference. The regional conference committee may take necessary action to secure adequate publicity for the conference within the limits of the conference budget. No special effort shall be made to secure attendance from clubs not within the host area; however, Rotarians from any part of the world will be welcomed at the conference. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.030.15. Simultaneous Interpretation/Language Support

The provision of simultaneous interpretation and printed matter in languages at regional conferences shall be determined by the RI president, based on recommendations from the

general secretary in consultation with the conference chair. These recommendations will be based upon the location of the conference and the pre-registered attendance by language. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 124; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

61.030.16. Conference Entertainment

Entertainment should be typical of the host country or area, simple, and in good taste. It need not necessarily be professional and it should be moderately priced. No entertainment feature should conflict with the official conference program. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104; October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.040. Regional Conference Finances

61.040.1. Conference Registration Fee

The Board shall set the amount of the registration fee and establish the budget for the conference. It shall make such appropriations as necessary from RI funds. The general secretary shall have primary responsibility to the Board for developing and supervising the conference budget. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.040.2. Conference Registration Fee For Rotarians in the Host Area

Rotarians in the host area incur extraordinary costs in hosting a conference. Therefore, the Board will establish a host area registration fee which may be approximately 25% less than the registration fee for other Rotarians. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292. Amended by May-June 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394

61.040.3. RI Funding

The Board will make appropriations for planning and holding regional conferences in the same manner as for conventions. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1950 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184; January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 104

61.040.4. Conferences to be Self-Supporting

Regional conferences should be self-supporting. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October-November 1981 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.040.5. Submission of Budget

A proposed budget for a regional conference shall be submitted by the regional conference committee for approval by the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 83. Amended by May-June 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

61.050. Presidential Conferences

61.050.1. Responsibilities of the Parties

Each conference is organized around the following five basic areas: administration, budget, logistics, program development and promotion using the expertise of the RI president, conference chair, conference committee, local host Rotarians and the Secretariat. Clearly defined responsibilities have been assigned to these individuals or groups as listed below.

A. Responsibilities of the RI president in the year in which the conferences will be held.
The president will:

1. *administration*

- a) designate conference sites in consultation with the general secretary, the zone director and district leadership in order to reach those areas which are able to support and will benefit most from the program, at least eighteen months prior to the conference dates.
- b) consider and allow alternate conference formats (such as multiple one-day programs or conference dinners in several geographical regions, i.e., four major cities in Europe over a seven day period) to reach the greatest number of Rotarians at the lowest possible costs.
- c) consider the dates of Rotary institutes and other RI meetings when scheduling conferences.
- d) designate conference dates (in consultation with conference chair) at least fourteen months prior to the conference dates.
- e) appoint the conference chair at least eighteen months prior to date (preferably a current or past general RI officer from the host country).
- f) appoint the conference committee twelve months prior to the conference (giving preference to current or past governors from various areas of the conference region).
- g) approve and amend the planning meeting minutes with recommendations on how to operate and organize the meeting as tailored to the specifics of each locale.
- h) appoint an experienced sergeant-at-arms from the geographic region of the conference to serve as the conference's primary sergeant at no cost to RI.

2. *budget*

- a. approve a budget, as recommended by the conference chair.
- b. designate additional funds above what has been budgeted to be allocated to conferences, as necessary, after such additional funds are approved by the general secretary.
- c. approve the conference registration fee.
- d. approve donations of funds, goods and services as appropriate.

3. *logistics*

- a. approve the conference hotel and other venues as appropriate.

4. *program development*

- a. develop conference purpose and goals at the same time of the city selection.

- b. approve program content, topics and format of presentations.
 - c. approve speakers and other program leader names.
 - 5. *promotion*
 - a) approve a promotional strategy for the conference area.
- B. Responsibilities of the Conference Chair. The Conference Chair will:
- 1. *administration*
 - a) meet in the conference city with appropriate RI staff no less than ten months prior to the scheduled conference date, if required (for example, dinners in various cities may not require such planning meetings as decided by the president, Conference Chair and RI staff).
 - b) carefully review the advance memorandum, proposed program, inspect all hotels and venues under consideration, and meet with additional vendors if necessary during the planning meeting.
 - c) appoint a local Rotarian to serve as chair of the local host Rotarians.
 - 2. *budget*
 - a) in cooperation with the RI staff and chair of the host Rotarians, collect all vendor proposals prior to the planning meeting so that an accurate budget can be developed during the meeting.
 - b) in cooperation with the RI staff and chair of the host Rotarians, develop a conservative and realistic attendance model (including guests, Rotaractors and Foundation alumni) on which to base the conference budget.
 - c) in cooperation with the RI staff and chair of the host Rotarians, develop a recommended conference budget and a registration fee(s) during the planning meeting for approval by the RI president. The conference budget should take into consideration the economic situation of the target audience.
 - d) assist the conference committee and host organization in securing donations of funds, goods and services to the conference wherever possible for approval of the general secretary and RI president.
 - e) designate additional funds to be allocated to the conference as necessary, after such additional funds are approved by the RI president and general secretary.
 - 3. *logistics*
 - a) recommend all conference venues for approval of the RI president, in consultation with RI staff and chair of the host Rotarians, based on the inspection of properties, location, accessibility, offered rates, and capacity.
 - b) select menus for all conference meals while maintaining the conference budget parameters, and share such menus with the RI staff and chair of the host Rotarians.
 - 4. *program development*
 - a) develop a recommended conference program during the planning meeting based on the RI president's stated purpose and goals and in tandem with issues of concern to the conference area.

- b) develop recommended speakers and other program leaders for approval of the RI president at least four months prior to the conference, as allotted within the budget guidelines.
 - c) develop recommended entertainment features, in consultation with the host organization, with the approval of the president and conference chair, and within the budget guidelines.
 - d) consider that the primary program focus should be on discussion and active participation.
5. *promotion*
- a) recommend a conference promotional strategy, in consultation with the conference committee and RI staff, for the approval of the RI president.
 - b) recommend a conference promotional theme at the time of the planning meeting, if appropriate.
 - c) coordinate the promotional activities of the conference committee.
 - d) develop non-traditional promotional programs utilizing Rotarian expertise in conjunction with the RI president and RI staff.
- C. Responsibilities of the Conference Committee. The Conference Committee will:
1. *budget*
- a) fund their own participation and attendance in the conference (in order that conference expenses and correspondingly the conference registration fee may be kept to a minimum.)
 - b) assist the conference chair and local Rotarians in securing donations of funds, goods and services to the conference wherever possible for approval of the RI president.
2. *logistics*
- a) assist the conference chair as requested within the parameters outlined in these Presidential Conference Guidelines.
3. *program development*
- a) suggest potential speakers and program leaders to the conference chair for approval of the RI president.
 - b) serve in any program leader role as assigned.
 - c) serve on-site as a program leader if there are late cancellations or no-shows.
4. *promotion*
- a) recognize that their primary purpose is to promote conference attendance.
 - b) provide attendance estimates from their target area to the conference chair by the time of the planning meeting, if possible.
 - c) develop specific responsibilities for promoting conference attendance from membership in their target area of the conference region.

D. Responsibilities of the Local Host Rotarians. The Local Host Rotarians will:

1. *administration*

- a) be appointed from membership in the local area by the local host Rotarian chair. (The host chair is selected by the conference chair.)
- b) assist the host chair as directed.

2. *budget*

- a) be advised that no conference funds will be allocated to their group for their use in promoting, planning or facilitating the conference.
- b) be advised that all revenues and expenses related to the conference are the responsibility of Rotary International, excepting host organization activities and events.
- c) fund their own participation and attendance in the conference and planning meeting (in order that conference expenses and correspondingly the conference registration fee may be kept to a minimum.)
- d) assist the conference chair and committee in securing donations of funds, goods and services to the conference wherever possible for approval of the RI president and general secretary.
- e) if necessary, recommend any additional expenditures above budgeted amounts for approval by the RI president and general secretary.

3. *logistics*

- a) attend the conference planning meeting as designated by the conference chair.
- b) assist in recommending local venues as requested by the conference chair and RI staff.
- c) provide support based on their available resources in the areas of personnel, transportation, airport welcome, aides to Rotary senior leaders and other special invited guests, office equipment, decoration, food/beverage, registrant gifts, special event coordination, tours, homestay, home hospitality, entertainment and expertise in consultation and cooperation with the conference chair and RI staff.
- d) identify local Rotarians and other local resources who might be able to provide goods and services as outlined above.
- e) provide guidance in negotiations with local vendors, hotels, other venues as requested by the conference chair and RI staff.
- f) provide on-site support as identified by the conference chair and RI staff in the area of registration, general information or other areas as identified.

4. *program development*

- a) assist in identifying local members who could serve on the welcome committee, sergeant-at-arms and other conference committees as needed.
- b) recommend entertainment or cultural programs.

5. *promotion*

- a) promote the meeting to local Rotary and Rotaract clubs in the conference city and environs.

E. Responsibilities of the RI Secretariat Staff. The RI Secretariat Staff will:

1. *administration*

- a) prepare Presidential Conference information kit, including site recommendations, for the president-nominee twenty (20) months prior to the estimated conference date.

2. *budget*

- a) prepare a preliminary budget for discussion at the conference planning meeting.
- b) prepare a final budget in consultation with the conference chair and chair of the host Rotarians for inclusion in the conference planning meeting minutes.
- c) budget for necessary staff to attend the planning meeting and necessary staff to coordinate on-site activities during the conference in the areas of registration, logistics and program
- d) oversee the budget probable actuals and communicate variances to the RI president and conference chair.
- e) Provide authorization for the allocation of funds to cover program expenditures, pending receipt of appropriate documentation.
- f) Work with the finance division to reconcile all conference expenditures.
- g) Present any anticipated expenditures or requests for expenditures which are not included in the established budget to the RI president and general secretary for approval prior to taking action on these items.

3. *logistics*

- a) arrange the meeting location, sleeping rooms and meal functions as required for the planning meeting and coordinate appropriate materials (Advance Memorandum, supporting documents, etc.) for the conference chair, local host Rotarians and RI staff in the conference city at least ten months prior to the conference dates.
- b) develop the planning meeting minutes, in consultation with the conference chair, for approval of the RI president.
- c) review and evaluate proposals from venues, in consultation with the conference chair.
- d) serve as the primary point of contact with all venues, venue staff and vendors.
- e) prior to the planning meeting, create Conference specifications based on the requirements of the draft program. Specifications will outline all requirements for function space, food and beverage, sleeping rooms, simultaneous interpretation, audio visual, and transportation.
- f) identify the most appropriate vendors/suppliers to meet RI needs, using specifications.
- g) Negotiate, sign, and coordinate all vendor/supplier contracts for meeting/hotel space, meal functions, goods/services and all other program activities and events in consultation with the conference chair and chair of host Rotarians. The venue is to be presented for the approval of the RI president prior to contracting that respective venue.
- h) develop appropriate registration procedures for pre-registration and on-site, including the identification of acceptable currencies, confirmation procedures, ticket sales, etc.

- i) coordinate all meeting logistics on-site in consultation with the conference chair.
- j) provide registration and badge correction services on-site.

4. *program development*

- a) prepare invitation letters to the conference chair and conference committee members.
- b) prepare a preliminary program for discussion and development at the planning meeting.
- c) prepare and send the invitation/follow-up/confirmation letters and background materials for conference speakers and other program leaders.
- d) prepare a program book for conference registrants.
- e) serve as on-site stage manager for the program.
- f) transmit a conference report (as prepared by the conference findings committee) to the RI Board, Trustees of The Rotary Foundation and the conference registrants.

5. *promotion*

- a) develop a conference promotional brochure, registration and housing forms, in consultation with the conference chair, for approval of the RI president.
- b) mail conference promotional materials to club presidents, governors and specified others in the designated conference region no later than three months prior to the conference.
- c) send conference promotional materials, program updates and other conference information via electronic mail to the target audience, whenever possible.
- d) post conference promotional materials to the RI Web site and FaxBack services at least three months prior to the conference.
- e) inform appropriate RI staff in charge of Rotary publications (*Rotary World, The Rotarian*, etc.) regarding the details of the conference after the conference planning meeting. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 54*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 239; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172 and November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 54

61.050.2. Sergeant-at-Arms at Presidential Conferences

An experienced sergeant-at-arms shall be selected from the geographic region of the Presidential Conference who shall serve at no cost to RI. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 77

61.050.3. Public Relations Workshops at Presidential Conferences

Regionally-based public relations workshops may be held in conjunction with presidential conferences. (*November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111*)

Source: August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 88

61.050.4. Non-Rotary Organizations Exhibiting at Presidential Conferences

The “Guidelines for Non-Rotary Organizations Exhibiting at RI Conventions” shall apply to presidential conferences when space permits. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 404

61.050.5. Simultaneous Interpretation/Language Support

The provision of simultaneous interpretation and printed matter in languages at presidential conferences shall be determined by the RI president, based on recommendations from the general secretary in consultation with the conference chair. These recommendations will be based upon the location of the conference and the pre-registered attendance by language. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112*)

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

61.050.6. Conferences Budget

Presidential conferences shall be self-supporting. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 389*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 389



Article 62. General Policies of RI Meetings

62.010. Involvement of Local Rotarians in RI Meetings

62.020. Sergeants-at-Arms Leadership Candidate Book

62.010. Involvement of Local Rotarians in RI Meetings

The general secretary is requested to take advantage of the potential value of involving local Rotarians in the preparation and conduct of international Rotary meetings whenever it meets the needs of the meeting and contributes to good will between Rotarians from different areas. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348

Cross References

11.040.6. RI Guidelines for Rotary Clubs, Districts and Other Rotary Entities for Sponsorship, or Cooperative Relationship Purposes

33.010.11. RI and TRF Guidelines for the Use of the Rotary Marks by Sponsors and Cooperating Organizations

36.010. Guidelines for Sponsorship of RI Meetings, Events, Projects and Programs

62.020. Sergeants-at-Arms Leadership Candidate Book

The sergeants-at-arms Leadership Candidate Book contains a listing of those Rotarians with sufficient experience as sergeants-at-arms at RI meetings to serve in the sergeants-at-arms Leadership of the International Convention, International Assembly, and Council on Legislation as developed by the Sergeants-at-arms Academy in 1997 and updated in 1999 and 2001. This list should be updated on an annual basis as necessary. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 405



CHAPTER VIII

FINANCES

Articles

- 66. General Finance Provisions**
- 67. Audits and Budgets**
- 68. Expenses and Reimbursements**
- 69. Investments**
- 70. Revenues**
- 71. Risk Management and Insurance**

Article 66. General Finance Provisions

- 66.010.** Financial Responsibility
- 66.020.** One Rotary Center Real Estate Management Policy
- 66.030.** Special Projects
- 66.040.** Emergencies
- 66.050.** Contracts
- 66.060.** Purchasing Manual
- 66.070.** Annual Report
- 66.080.** Audited Financial Statements
- 66.090.** Banking Procedures

66.010. Financial Responsibility

RI will assume the long-term financial stability, accountability, and preservation of the assets of the association. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 61. See also February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 237

66.010.1. RI Financial Policy Statement

The Board has adopted a “RI Financial Policy Statement” as follows:

Rotary International Board decisions create financial policy and define financial accountability. These decisions may be based on the need to provide the proper tools to meet the service and reporting requirements for serving Rotarians. Board decisions may also be the result of legislative and/or regulatory changes made by US government agencies, legislative bodies or accounting standards boards. In any event, financial policies are created as these decisions are approved by the RI Board. The general secretary and Chief Financial Officer are held accountable for proper implementation and maintenance of these policies.

Recent financial policy changes have been motivated by the Internal Revenue Service’s (IRS) Intermediate Sanctions regulations. In the past, the only alternative available to the IRS was revocation of the exempt status of a non-profit organization which failed to meet the provisions of the IRS Code. Under the new Intermediate Sanctions, the IRS may apply

stringent financial penalties for non-compliance, not only to the organization itself, but to anyone affiliated with the organization in a decision-making role. These penalties are from 10% to 200% of the dollar value of the code violation.

The RI Board has reacted to this new environment by approving decisions regarding expense reimbursement and spouse and family travel policy that bring Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation into compliance with IRS Code. In response to this, the Finance Division has implemented procedures for the proper reporting of income arising from excess accountable plan reimbursement and the spouse and family travel benefit. All individual reimbursable expenses must be accompanied by a receipt or invoice which clearly documents the business purpose of the expenditure. Circumventing financial policies approved by the Board by allowing payment without these required documents will result in violation of IRS Code, could jeopardize Rotary International's exempt status and could result in taxable income to the Rotarian.

It is the primary responsibility of the Chief Financial Officer to protect the assets of the organization and to report any financial risk to the organization to the general secretary. In recent pronouncements by the head of the tax exempt section, the Internal Revenue Service has made it clear non-profit organizations are viewed as a major new source of tax dollars. The comprehensive audits of colleges and universities resulted in taxes, penalties, and interest paid to the IRS by these organizations. Both RI and TRF file a form 990 annually with the IRS, which details all financial information including payments to officials of the organization. The surpluses reported via this form make RI and TRF visible and a potential target for audit.

All financial policies are established by the RI Board of Directors and may not be circumvented by any individual. Changes of policy may be made only by the RI Board of Directors. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394

66.010.2. Contributions to and Support For Other Organizations

The funds of RI have been provided by its member clubs exclusively for its own purposes and, therefore, contributions cannot be made for activities of other organizations. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1955 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

Cross References

30.070. *RI Finance Committee*

35.010. *General Guidelines for Joint RI and TRF Relationships with Other Organizations*

66.020. One Rotary Center Real Estate Management Policy

The Board has adopted a “One Rotary Center Real Estate Management Policy.” (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 439; Amended by February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 229 and June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 303.

66.030. Special Projects

The general secretary shall inform the president at the initiation of any project with a significant (more than US\$1 million) long-term (more than one year) financial impact. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 86

66.040. Emergencies

The general secretary is authorized to act on behalf of the Board in making arrangements in emergency situations, by doing whatever may appear necessary to safeguard the funds and financial obligations of RI. Such action shall only be undertaken after prior consultation with the treasurer and/or the chair of the finance committee whenever feasible. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1940 Mtg., Bd. Dec. E58. Amended by July 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78

66.050. Contracts

66.050.1. Policy on Contracts

The general secretary shall establish and maintain a policy for the review of contracts. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 51*)

Source: November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 51

66.050.2. Summary of Contracts Provided to the General Secretary

The general secretary shall receive from the Purchasing Department on a monthly basis a summary of information on all contracts executed in excess of US\$50,000. All contracts in excess of US\$150,000 should be reported by the Purchasing Department to the general secretary upon execution. All contracts in excess of US\$300,000 should be brought to the general secretary's attention by the Purchasing Department prior to execution. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194*)

Source: February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 323; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

66.050.3. MIS Contract Review

The general secretary is requested to survey periodically the fees (rate) charged by other software contractors to determine if the fees being paid by RI are in accordance with industry standards and to take appropriate remedial actions. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 160

66.060. Purchasing Manual

The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, the “RI Purchasing Practices and Procedures Manual.” (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Dec. 194; *Amended by* February 1998 Mtg., Dec. 323; November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 181; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87

66.070. Annual Report

The general secretary is requested to produce an annual report covering the accomplishments, administration, programs and finances of RI, including its Foundation, in English, Spanish, Portuguese, Japanese, French, German, Italian, Korean, and Swedish. (*May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 439*)

Source: February 1988 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 280; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 439

66.080. Audited Financial Statements

Audited financial statements shall be published in English and made available on the RI Web site. Additional copies of the audited financial statements shall be available to all Rotarians upon request. Financial highlights shall be prepared and distributed each year through *The Rotarian* and other official regional Rotary magazines. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310*)

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 199; *Amended by* May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 439 and June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310

66.090. Banking Procedures

The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, the “RI Resolution on Banking.” (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 401; *Amended by* November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129

66.090.1. Division of Interest

Interest earned on accounts in which funds of RI and TRF are commingled shall be pro-rated to RI and TRF in accordance with the proportionate balances in the accounts on the last day of the month preceding the month in which interest earned is received. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: January 1971 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 204; *Amended by* May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

66.090.2. Exchange Rates for Payments to RI

RI will establish the rates for conversion of payments to RI, from currencies other than U.S. dollars, into U.S. dollars for each six-month period beginning 1 July and 1 January.

When the value of a currency fluctuates three percent or more in relation to the U.S.

dollar from the prior month, the general secretary, acting for the Board, may adjust the exchange rates as he deems appropriate. (*October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133*)

Source: February 1977 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 314; *Amended by* October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 133

Cross References

31.060. General Secretary's Responsibility for Finance Matters



Article 67. Audits and Budgets

67.010. Internal Audit System

67.020. Guidelines for Appointment and Evaluation of the Independent Auditor

67.030. Budget Review Process

67.040. Authority to Exceed RI Budget

67.050. Capital Expenditures

67.010. Internal Audit System

The General Audit/Auditing Services Division Charter shall be as follows:

A. Policy Statement

It is the policy of Rotary International to maintain a comprehensive program of internal auditing as an overall control measure and as a service to the senior leadership and management of the organization.

B. Mission and Scope of Work

The mission of the auditing services division is to provide independent, objective assurance services to help improve the operations of the Secretariat of Rotary International (hereinafter the “Secretariat”). It helps the Secretariat achieve the mission of Rotary International by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of control systems, risk management, and/or governance processes (in conjunction or consultation with responsible functions within the Secretariat).

The scope of work of the auditing services division is to assist in determining whether the Secretariat’s internal control structure is adequate and functioning in a manner to reasonably assure that:

- a) Risks (all types) are appropriately identified and managed;
- b) Interaction with the various internal governance and risk management groups occurs as needed;
- c) Resources are acquired economically, used efficiently, and adequately protected;
- d) Operations, programs, plans, and objectives are achieved effectively, efficiently, economically, and safely;
- e) Significant financial, managerial, and operating information is accurate, reliable, and timely;
- f) The secretariat and employees’ actions are in compliance with policies, standards, procedures, and applicable laws and regulations;
- g) Quality and continuous improvement are considered in existing control processes;
- h) Significant legislative or regulatory issues are recognized and addressed appropriately;
- i) Opportunities for improving control, accountability, and image are identified.

C. Responsibility

In general, all members of the Secretariat staff are responsible for the Secretariat's internal control structure. Specifically:

- i. The general secretary is responsible for the establishment and maintenance of a positive control environment by providing leadership and direction to the senior managers through the review of how those managers are controlling the business operations of the Secretariat. The general secretary also provides direction to the general auditor in carrying out Board policy regarding the internal audit program.
- ii. Senior and operational managers are responsible for the design, implementation, and maintenance of specific internal control practices and procedures within their areas of supervision. These managers are also responsible for providing to the general auditor, upon request, full and unrestricted access to all activities, records, and personnel.
- iii. The general auditor/auditing services division manager is responsible to senior leadership and management for the following:
 - a. Evaluates and assesses the adequacy, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Secretariat's control systems, risk management, and/or governance processes;
 - b. Contributes to the organization's ongoing effectiveness;
 - c. Reports of material issues related to the processes for controlling the activities of the Secretariat, including potential improvements to those processes;
 - d. Information on the status and results of the annual audit plan and the sufficiency of auditing services division resources;
- iv. The auditing services division has responsibility to:
 - a. Annually develop a flexible audit plan taking into account any risks or control concerns identified by senior management and leadership, as well as projected benefits and costs of each planned engagement. The plan is reviewed with the general secretary and RI Audit Committee for necessary revisions and approval by no later than 30 June of each year. The approved plan shall be reviewed with the Finance Committee of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation and the RI Operations Review Committee at the next scheduled meetings.
 - b. Implement the approved annual audit plan including any special tasks or projects requested and/or approved by the general secretary, the RI Audit Committee, and/or the RI Operations Review Committee.
 - c. As requested, assist in the investigation of significant suspected fraudulent activities within the Secretariat and notify the general secretary, the RI Audit Committee, the Finance Committee of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, and/or the RI Operations Review Committee of the results.
 - d. Consider the scope of work of the external auditors and other third parties, as appropriate, for the purpose of providing optimal audit coverage to the Secretariat.

e. Receive, evaluate, and respond to requests from the president and the president-elect, the Board of Directors acting collectively, the RI Audit Committee, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation acting collectively, the Finance committee acting as the Audit committee of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, the RI Finance committee, the RI Operations Review committee, and the general secretary.

f. Review the audit charter annually with the general secretary and the RI Audit Committee for necessary updates and revisions.

D. Independence

To provide for the independence of the auditing services division, its personnel report functionally to the RI Board through the RI Audit Committee and administratively to the general secretary/COO. The general secretary shall counsel the RI Audit Committee chair regarding the potential removal or replacement of the auditing services division manager.

E. Authority

As necessary to accomplish its responsibilities, the auditing services division shall:

- a) Have access to all records, property, and personnel;
- b) Have access to the general secretary/COO, the RI Audit Committee, and the RI Operations Review committee;
- c) Be provided with and allocate adequate resources, determine scopes of work, and apply the techniques required to accomplish audit objectives;
- d) Obtain the necessary assistance of applicable Secretariat personnel where performing audits, investigations, or special projects, as well as other specialized services from within or outside the Secretariat.

The auditing services division is not authorized to:

- a) Perform any operational duties for the Secretariat;
- b) Initiate or approve accounting transactions external to the auditing services division;
- c) Direct the activities of any Secretariat employee not employed by the auditing services division, except to the extent such employees have been appropriately assigned to auditing teams or to otherwise assist the internal auditors.

F. Reports Of The Auditing Services Division

The auditing services division will complete fair, factual, and balanced reports summarizing the activities and observations of each audit and/or project. Individual audit reports shall detail the audit objectives and scope; function/process background and control system summary; observations, conditions, and applicable recommendations; and management responses and action plans. The audit reports shall include high-level executive summaries. Special project reports may deviate from this format depending upon the circumstances.

The general secretary and affected operational management should be given ample opportunity to review the report prior to final distribution. This review should provide an opportunity to correct errors, omissions, misunderstandings, or other inaccuracies and provide suggestions. The general secretary and management have no authority to change any aspect of the audit report. If a difference of opinion exists, the general secretary or management may submit a formal statement with the response in the audit report.

At a minimum, audit report distribution should comply with the following guidelines:

Audit Report Package Description	Distribution Guidelines
Audit Report for material observations including executive summary, recommendations, and management responses and action plans.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RI Audit Committee• President and president-elect• General secretary• All general managers and affected operational management• TRF Finance Committee (acting as the Audit committee for TRF)• TRF trustee chairman (when report concerns TRF operations, staff, or finances)• Chair of the Operations Review committee• External audit firm lead partner and/or manager
Executive Summary of material observations, recommendations, and management responses and action plans	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All other RI directors• All other TRF trustees (when report concerns TRF operations, staff, or finances)• All other Operations Review committee members
Letter of non-material observations including executive summary, recommendations, and management responses and action plan.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair of the RI Audit Committee• Chair of the Operations Review committee• Chair of TRF Finance committee• General secretary• All general managers and affected operational management
Special Project Reports	General auditor/ auditing services manager will consult with general secretary and/or chair of the RI Audit Committee to determine distribution guidelines for individual reports.

G. Standards Of Audit Practice

The auditing services division will meet or exceed the recently updated (January 2004) International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing (Standards) of the Institute of Internal Auditors. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226)*

Source: July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 87; February 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216. *Affirmed by* June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 402. *Amended by* June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 346; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 162; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

Cross References

30.070.2. Meetings of the Finance Committee

67.020. Guidelines for Appointment and Evaluation of the Independent Auditor

The RI Board of Directors is responsible for appointment and evaluation of the independent auditor. The RI Audit Committee assists the Board in executing this responsibility by:

- defining and communicating performance expectations;
- monitoring and assessing performance;
- making recommendations to the Board regarding services, fees and appointment; and
- overseeing any competitive selection process.

The RI Audit Committee is to communicate with TRF Finance Committee (acting as the TRF Audit Committee of the Trustees) and the Trustee Chairman regarding any appointment or evaluation of the independent auditor.

The RI Audit Committee will monitor and evaluate the performance of the independent auditor as outlined in the “Annual Performance Assessment” as defined in these guidelines. Each year, the RI Audit Committee will document and communicate its assessment to the Board, TRF Finance Committee, and the Trustee Chairman, and make recommendations to the Board as necessary. Recommendations may include conducting a competitive selection based on serious and/or ongoing performance deficiencies. The RI Audit Committee will solicit and consider input from TRF Finance Committee and management.

In general, unless circumstances dictate otherwise, the RI Audit Committee, on behalf of the Board and Trustees, will formally consider and conduct a comprehensive review for the selection of its independent auditor based on competitive proposals at least once every seven (7) years. The RI Audit Committee will solicit and consider input from TRF Finance Committee and management.

A. Annual Performance Assessment

The general secretary will distribute evaluation criteria and related materials for use in monitoring and evaluating the performance of the independent auditor during the year. This information will be distributed prior to the start of the significant audit services (e.g. typically in January or February) to the following:

- Members of the RI Audit Committee
- Members of TRF Finance Committee (acting as the audit committee)
- General Secretary
- Other Secretariat Managers as deemed necessary

At the conclusion of the audit services (e.g. October), the general secretary will solicit evaluation feedback from the noted Rotary leaders and managers. The evaluation and feedback will be reported to both TRF Finance Committee and the RI Audit Committee at their subsequent meetings (typically, February). Evaluation criteria should remain fairly constant from year to year to allow evaluation of performance trends over time. Examples of potential performance evaluation criteria include, but are not limited to:

- Audit plan expected and actual results
- Quality of audit services
- Timeliness of audit and deliverables
- Audit fees (actual versus agreed)
- Independence
- Understanding of Rotary
- Type, frequency and quality of information and communication
- Availability and transparency

TRF Finance Committee and the RI Audit Committee should discuss with the independent auditor (in closed session if necessary):

- Questions or concerns regarding performance of the independent auditor during the prior fiscal year and/or the overall relationship
- Performance expectations
- The proposed audit plan, scope, and fees for the next annual audit(s)
- Questions or concerns of the independent auditors

TRF Finance Committee Chairman shall communicate to the RI Audit Committee the results of its deliberations. The results should be communicated via the general secretary (or general auditor) for inclusion in the advance memorandum for the RI Audit Committee.

The RI Audit Committee will communicate the results of its deliberations regarding the independent auditor's performance and proposals to the Board through its meeting minutes/report to the Board. The RI Audit Committee will make specific recommendations, if any, to the Board concerning acceptance of the independent auditor's proposal for the next fiscal year. The RI Audit Committee may make other recommendations to the Board, including competitive bidding of these services. If competitive bidding is recommended, the Trustee Chairman and TRF Finance Committee Chairman should be notified.

The RI Audit Committee's deliberations will include consideration of the annual evaluation survey results as well as information received from TRF Finance Committee. The RI Audit Committee shall also share the results of its deliberations with TRF Finance Committee. Throughout the year, the RI Audit Committee and TRF Finance Committee should have complete, direct, and open access to the independent auditor. The general secretary will assist and facilitate this access.

Discussion of the independent auditor's performance may be placed on the agenda of any RI Audit Committee or TRF Finance Committee meeting. TRF Finance Committee should communicate the results of any discussions to the RI Audit Committee. Similarly, the RI Audit Committee may request input from TRF Finance Committee and/or share the results of any RI Audit Committee deliberations.

If necessary, the independent auditor's performance may be reviewed between regularly scheduled committee meetings. Either chairman of TRF Finance Committee or the RI Audit Committee or management may initiate this review. The chairmen should confer to determine the best approach to conduct the review. The results of any review should be documented and communicated.

B. Competitive Selection

The RI Audit Committee will oversee the process of competitive selection of the independent auditor. The RI Audit Committee will solicit and consider input from TRF Finance Committee and management.

The general secretary will coordinate the competitive selection process in consultation with the RI Audit Committee, TRF Finance Committee, and management. TRF general manager, or his designee, will be included in correspondence with management, and will be invited to participate in any management group involved in the selection process.

Specific selection procedures will be defined in detail at the time the actual selection process begins. Generally, the process should include the following:

1. Establish selection process procedures and timeline
2. Define service requirements
3. Select evaluation group(s) and communicate responsibilities
4. Establish audit firm evaluation criteria and scoring methodology
5. Research audit firms and develop audit firm selection universe
6. Prepare and distribute request for proposal package
7. Evaluate proposals based on established criteria
8. Select audit firm(s)
9. Request/receive oral presentations from selected audit firms
10. Final evaluation and selection (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 208

67.020.1. External Audit Process

The RI Audit Committee, in coordination with the general secretary, shall implement the “Guidelines for Appointment and Evaluation of the Independent Auditor” to evaluate the audit process annually and seek audit bids when appropriate. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 253; Amended by November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 167; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 208; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226

67.030. Budget Review Process

Financial statements must be produced on a timely basis for adequate review by the Board. The budget review process shall also include review of the original Board approved budget for the year, and a budget variance review system. Such a system shall provide the president and the general secretary with an explanation of any actual or anticipated variance along with an indication of appropriate corrective action taken or to be taken. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 370

67.030.1. President-elect Responsibility for Budget Preparation

The president-elect of RI shall assist in the preparation of the RI budget for the year he or she is president. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 107

67.030.2. General Secretary Responsibility for Budget Preparation and Implementation

- a) The general secretary has full responsibility to manage and control the RI budget preparation process and the implementation of the approved budget and Board-authorized variances
- b) The general secretary has full responsibility and authority to regularly review and monitor, throughout the fiscal year, actual results at a detailed level against the approved budget, and authorized variances approved by the Board
- c) All budgets are to be managed at a cost center level
- d) Cost center budgets may not be exceeded without advance written approval by the general secretary
- e) Available budgeted funds from cost centers may not be made available for activities in other cost centers without advance written approval by the general secretary
- f) All financial transactions are to be properly accounted for in compliance with the organization's chart of accounts and cost centers
- g) The general secretary is authorized to take whatever steps are needed to exercise his authority in the implementation of this policy
- h) The general secretary shall recognize the priority of integrating the budget process with the Secretariat Strategic Plan and shall maintain accountability for budgets through the staff evaluation process. (*February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 393; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 147

67.030.3. Chief Financial Officer Responsibility for Budget Preparation

The Chief Financial Officer has financial and operational authority over the budget process and the utilization of funds at RI, under the direction of the general secretary. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 393

67.030.4. Manager Responsibility for Budget Preparation

The RI budget shall be monitored by line item at the cost center level, and manager accountability shall be maintained at cost center level. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 208

67.030.5. Controller Authority over International Office Financial Matters

The controller shall have line reporting authority over the RI International Offices regarding financial matters. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 208

67.030.6. Financial Impact of Board Agenda Items

Advance memorandum items presented for RI Board consideration which have any financial impact on the capital or operating budgets of RI must be submitted to the Finance Division through the Chief Financial Officer no later than 30 days prior to the Board meeting for analysis of that impact. Those items presented after the 30-day deadline will be deferred to the next meeting unless the president, in consultation with the Executive Committee, agrees to their presentation at the current meeting. (*February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196*)

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 170

Cross References

29.040.3. Preparing Five-Year Budget Forecast

30.070.1. Finance Committee Responsibilities

67.040. Authority to Exceed RI Budget

The general secretary has the authority to pay the outstanding obligations of Rotary International, even though in excess of the appropriated budget, for any fiscal year, provided that the general secretary and treasurer report to the president and the Board at each meeting any expected or projected material deviation from the appropriated budget. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 317; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

67.050. Capital Expenditures

Note: The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, the “RI Policy on Financing Capital Expenditures and Projects,” which is as follows:

A. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to identify those circumstances under which financing capital projects or equipment with debt or through capital leases is appropriate. The policy also establishes limits for the level of permitted indebtedness and capital leases and stipulates the approvals required to incur debt or enter into a capital lease.

B. Scope

This policy applies to the financing of Rotary International's capital expenditures and projects.

C. Policy

1. The incurrence of debt will be considered under the following circumstances:

- a) If spending available cash on capital project(s) will impede the organization's ability to attain or maintain RI's operating reserve goal, and
- b) The project being financed is expected to generate incremental income in future years that can be used to offset future debt payments.

2. The entering into a capital lease will be considered under the following circumstances:
 - a) The equipment being acquired is of a nature that technological advances will make the equipment obsolete over relatively short periods of time, and
 - b) The effective lease rate is less than the expected rate of return on investments over the term of the lease.
3. The amount of permitted debt plus capital leases is subject to the following:
 - a) Total debt and capital leases shall not exceed 15% of RI's fund balance.
 - b) Income available for debt service should be equal to or greater than two times the annual debt service (principle and interest) and lease payments. Income available for debt service equals revenues less adjusted operating expenses. Adjusted operating expense equals operating expenses less depreciation, amortization, interest expense, and any extraordinary items.

D. Authority

The Board must approve any incurrence of debt. The general secretary may approve capital leases in amounts not to exceed \$100,000 in any fiscal year. Amounts in excess of \$100,000 in any fiscal year must be approved by the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 341

67.050.1. Threshold for Capital Items

The general secretary is authorized, after prior consultation with the treasurer or the chair of the RI Finance Committee, to adjust the capitalization threshold as appropriate. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 315*)

Source: June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 315

Cross References

29.010.3. *Expenses of Advance Committee Meetings*

30.050.3. *Liaison Directors' Expenses*

30.110. *Committee Finances*

40.030. *New Structured Programs*



Article 68. Expenses and Reimbursements

- 68.010.** Approval of Disbursements
- 68.020.** Travel
- 68.030.** Governors' Expenses
- 68.040.** General Officers' Expenses
- 68.050.** Officer Expenses
- 68.060.** Rotary Foundation Apportionments
- 68.070.** Miscellaneous Expenses

68.010. Approval of Disbursements

All disbursements generated by volunteers, including the office of president, shall be subject to post-disbursement approval by the Treasurer, or his/her designate. The Treasurer shall report to the Board on all substantive expenditures that have not been made in accordance with the approved budget or in compliance with the policies adopted from time to time by the Board. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 249

68.020. Travel

68.020.1. RI Travel Expenses

RI is committed to Rotarians worldwide to use their per capita dues and contributions wisely by ensuring that those traveling at the expense of RI and its Foundation do so at the least expensive available cost, consistent with good service and RI's travel policy. All individuals traveling at RI expense are encouraged to conserve the funds of the organization. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 191; July 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

68.020.2. Official RI Expense Statement

All Rotarians and staff must use the official RI Expense Statement for travel expense reimbursements. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 211

68.020.3. Travel Operations Management Plan

The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, the "RI Travel Management Plan." *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159

68.020.4. External Airfare Audits

The general secretary is requested to implement a system of airfare audits by an external fare audit expert at appropriate intervals, to provide assurances on an overall basis that the lowest available airfares are being attained. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159; Amended by November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248

68.020.5. Rotary International Travel Service (RITS) Travel Policy

The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, the RI Travel Service (RITS) Travel Policy. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 256*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 154; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 314; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 315; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 65; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 420; July 2004 Mtg., Dec. 16; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 253; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 127; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 256

68.020.6. Personal Travel

The main purpose of the RI travel service (RITS) is to provide the best possible services to those who travel on Rotary-funded assignments. Non-funded travel arrangements are the personal responsibility of the individual travelers. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189 pt. 3b

68.020.7. RI Travel Service (RITS) Relationship with a General Contractor

RI travel service (RITS) will have a contractual relationship with one general contractor agency--and through it with as many subordinate accredited international travel agencies as are necessary. Such agency shall provide the best possible cost-effective service to all of the Rotary world in accord with the RI travel policy. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 191

68.020.8. Exceptions to RITS Travel Policy

The purpose of the Rotary International Travel Service is to offer air routings and provide associated travel services that facilitate the Rotary assignment of the proposed trip. As such, it is expected the Rotary funded travelers will accept routings and fares that the travel staff determine to be the most logical as per the written travel policy.

Exceptions to the policy may be applied for in writing to the general secretary. Examples of exceptions that may not be applied for include:

- 1) the selection of specific airlines for frequent flyer benefits where Rotary has the opportunity to take advantage of lower fare or incentive programs on other airlines;
- 2) the selection of specific airlines where Rotary needs to fulfill its contractual commitments with its preferred airlines;
- 3) the selection of full economy/coach class fares (for the benefit of personal first or business class upgrades), where lower discount fares may be available; noting no change to the current travel policy for those entitled to business class where business class is not available. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189

68.020.9. Local Purchase Expense Reimbursement

Reimbursement to Rotarians for locally purchased airline tickets authorized by RITS is to be processed upon submission of applicable receipts on an official Rotary International

expense statement to the Finance Department or to the appropriate Rotary international office or fiscal agent. The submission of the required documentation may not occur prior to the commencement of travel. *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35)*

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; *Amended by* November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

68.020.10. RI Staff Travel

The Board has adopted a “RI Staff Travel Policy” that applies to all Rotary International and Rotary Foundation employees who are authorized to travel on behalf of the organization. Unless there are significant cost implications to changes in this policy, the general secretary shall be authorized to revise the RI Staff Travel Policy as circumstances require. *(November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55)*

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 462; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 255

68.020.11. Spouse Travel Reimbursements

The Board has adopted the RI Policy Regarding Spouse Travel Expense Reimbursements. Under this policy, Rotary will reimburse Rotary spouse travel only if the function of the travel serves a bona fide business purpose for Rotary International and the amounts requested for reimbursement are substantiated by utilizing a RI “Document of Reimbursable Activities of Spouse.” *(November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35)*

Source: February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 313; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; *Amended by* November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

68.020.12. Master Account Billing Procedures

For all individuals traveling at RI expense, the general secretary shall limit the use of master account billing procedures to the costs of the hotel room and tax only. All other individual business expenses will be reimbursed according to the standard reimbursement procedures.

However at the International Assembly, Council on Legislation and other official RI meetings where meal plans are contracted to be paid by RI or its Foundation, the costs of that meal plan, applicable tax and service charges shall be charged to the master account billing. *(June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290)*

Source: November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251; *Amended by* June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 290

Cross References

71.010.2. Risk Management for Travel Operations

68.030. Governors' Expenses

68.030.1. Governors' Estimated Allocation

At the beginning of each term of office the governor is provided with an estimated allocation. These funds are used to carry out the policies of RI, and are intended to subsidize the governor's reasonable and necessary expenses in carrying out his or her

duties and responsibilities within the district, including those mandated duties performed during the term as district governor-elect, in accordance with the constitutional documents and Board established policies. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 248, App. D; Amended by October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

68.030.2. Summary of District Governor Budget Model Methodology and Procedures

The Board regularly reviews and amends, where necessary, the “RI Summary of District Governor Budget Model Methodology and Procedures.” The method of calculating governors’ allocations shall be clearly explained to all incoming governors at the time of the International Assembly. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: See July 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 84; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 82

68.030.3. Governors’ Expenses Reimbursable by RI

The Board has adopted the following policy with regard to the payment of governors' expenses reimbursable by RI:

- a) The budget appropriation for governors shall be based on a schedule of rates so as to provide equitable and adequate service to all clubs. To this end, the Board in adopting the budget and making appropriations allocates funds on the basis of a relationship of various activities. The Board is of the opinion that there should be no radical departure from the basis of such allocations within each district from year to year since this would upset the general balance of these activities.
- b) It is mandatory that a governor's expenses reimbursable by RI must not exceed the total amount of the governor's budget appropriation. If because of unusual circumstances it appears to the governor that additional funds may be needed, he or she must submit a request for an increased appropriation for approval by the Board prior to incurring any such expenses. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1942 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178

68.030.4. Schedule of Reimbursement to Governors

Reimbursements paid to governors, within their estimated allocation from RI, must be disbursed in local currency, and are subject to random audit. Payment is either made directly to the district governor or may be paid to the district fund. Reimbursements to governors shall be administered as follows, and reviewed regularly:

- a) 70% of the budget available to governors will be mailed in the first week of July (the general secretary is authorized to disburse less than 70% of the budget available to governors if he considers this necessary to maintain appropriate controls and stewardship over large total allocation amounts)
- b) prior to the disbursement of additional funds, there must be received
 - 1. expense reports documenting the use of the initial 70%
 - 2. expense reports documenting the use of up to the remaining 30%

- c) expense reports must be submitted no later than 31 July following the governor's year of service, with proper documentation, in order to receive further reimbursement of up to the remaining 30% of the budget amount
- d) upon receipt of a petition explaining extenuating circumstances, the general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may extend the deadline noted in point c) above to no later than 30 September
- e) governors must fully document the use of the initial 70% allocation advance and return any unsubstantiated or unused funds to RI no later than 30 September following the governor's year of service; governors with amounts not substantiated or repaid to RI will be added to the List of Rotarians with Outstanding Obligations to RI and reported to the RI Audit Committee
- f) reimbursement is capped at 100% of the District Budget Model amount
- g) training on this policy is to be included as a part of the district governor training at the International Assembly. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 396; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 329. *Amended by* November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 203; February 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 335; May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 398; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 447; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 409; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 318; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

68.030.5. Reimbursable Office Expenses

The Board has established a framework for governors' reimbursable office expenses. (*November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172*)

Source: August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 82

68.030.6. Procedure for Revising Governors' Budgets

For the purpose of establishing a procedure for the handling of revisions in appropriations for governors, it is agreed that:

- a) in the general administration budget for each year, there shall be included in the total amount appropriated for governors a reserve to provide for all revisions in the appropriations for individual districts;
- b) the general secretary is authorized to make such revisions in the appropriations for governors as may be necessary due to districting or changes in the number of clubs in any district;
- c) the general secretary shall be authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Board relative to increases in governors' budgets, when, in the opinion of the general secretary, all or part of such increase requested by the governor is justified and reasonable;
- d) the general secretary shall be authorized to make decisions on behalf of the Board relative to reimbursement of governors for expenses incurred in excess of their budgets,

when, in the opinion of the general secretary, all or part of such reimbursement as may be requested by a governor is justified and reasonable; and

e) all actions taken by the general secretary in accordance with these procedures shall be reported to the Board. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April-May 1948 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 212; January 1967 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 192

68.030.7. Exchange Rate Fluctuations

Governor's budgets will be recalculated to the extent the US exchange rate increases or declines against local currency by three percent or more between the rate in effect 1 July and the rate at which the budget was originally prepared to offset the increase or decline. The revised budget, reflected in US dollars, will then become final and not subject to further change due to subsequent exchange rate fluctuations. (*June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270*)

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 410; Amended by June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 270

68.030.8. Funding for Assistant Governor Training

All districts that have adopted the District Leadership Plan shall be eligible to receive an amount of up to 10% of the amount calculated by the model district allocation to train and support assistant governors. The general secretary shall disburse the additional funds approved by the Board for assistant governor training based on expense report documentation that the funds are being used to train and support assistant governors. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196; February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 216; Amended by Mtg. November 2000, Bd. Dec. 153 and November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 138

68.030.9. Additional Funding for Training of Club Presidents and Assistant Governors

Districts with multiple countries, multiple languages, large geographical distances, and/or large numbers of clubs may warrant the allocation of additional financial resources from RI. The RI Board may consider providing additional funding for such districts, upon their request, to support the training of incoming club presidents and assistant governors.

Travel expenses of assistant governors are an eligible expense category for reimbursement to governors whose districts have been allocated special training subsidies to support their clubs. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 313; July 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 17; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

Cross References

18.030. *Rotarians Involved in Extension*

19.020.1. *Governors' Additional Meetings with Clubs*

19.050. *Vacancies in the Office of Governor or Governor-elect: Training*

31.060.8. *Increases in Governors' Budgets*

58.070.1 *International Assembly Attendance*

58.070.2. *Payment for International Assembly Attendance in Restricted Currency Countries*

58.070.3. *Payment for Governors Serving a Second Term*

68.040. General Officers' Expenses

68.040.1. Policy for Expenses of General Officers

All reimbursements shall be for reasonable expenses in furtherance of the business purposes of RI. The general secretary shall ensure that RI maintains consistent enforcement of the existing reimbursement policies, particularly with respect to documentation. This includes monitoring so that no personal expenses are reimbursed.

This policy recognizes that, in some cases, non-US Rotarians will not be subject to the treatment of undocumented reimbursable expenses as compensation.

A. Annual Expense Allocation (Not Taxable Reimbursement to the Recipient):

Directors (excluding the president and the president-elect) may be reimbursed for expenses of up to US\$15,000 each year. This amount is known as the annual expense allocation. Directors from zones with multiple countries and a large geographical territory, including zones 5 and 6, 7 and 8, 10, 19 and 20, 21, and 22 may be reimbursed up to an additional amount of US\$5000 each year for business travel expenses within the director's zone or paired zone. The president and the president-elect shall not receive the annual expense allocation. Any portion of the annual expense allocation not used by a director in the director's first year on the Board may be accrued and utilized in the second year. No portion of the annual expense allocation may be used by a director following the completion of the director's second year on the Board.

Expenses to be covered by this allocation include:

1. Office expenses associated with officer responsibilities including:

- a. Business cards
- b. Stationery
- c. Postage
- d. Multicopying
- e. Telephone and FAX costs
- f. Office assistance (personnel)
- g. Other overhead costs associated with maintaining office

2. Out-of-pocket expenses associated with director visits to clubs and other travels reasonably associated with his position, including spouse expenses when accompanied by proper business purpose documentation:

- a. Transportation costs
- b. Hotel
- c. Meals and reasonable incidentals

3. Cost of director attendance at presidential conferences or other meetings convened by the president, including spouse expenses when accompanied by proper business purpose documentation:

- a. Registration fee
- b. Transportation
- c. Hotel
- d. Meals and reasonable incidentals

4. Costs associated with the Rotary institute the director is responsible for convening not otherwise covered by RI budget (see Section E) or institute budget, including spouse expenses when accompanied by proper business purpose documentation.

5. Cost of director attendance at institutes where the director does not serve as convener, including spouse expenses when accompanied by proper business purpose documentation:

- a. Registration
- b. Transportation
- c. Hotel
- d. Meals and reasonable incidentals

6. Miscellaneous Expenses

- a. President's jacket and tie for RI directors, president's jacket and scarf for spouses of RI directors
- b. Directors pins
- c. RI videos or publications
- d. Airline upgrades
- e. Vaccination and preventive medical costs associated with required RI travel
- f. Costs of establishing and maintaining a director Web site

7. Other reasonable Rotary business expenses not detailed above but within the officer's allocated amounts may be approved by the executive committee and reported to the Board at its next meeting. Any officers seeking reimbursements for business expenses beyond the authorized allocation amounts shall seek the authorization of the Board.

B. Other Reimbursable Expenses Over and Above the Annual Expense Allocation (Not Taxable Reimbursement to the Recipient)

In addition to the above-mentioned reimbursable expenses, RI business related expenses incurred by the president and president-elect while traveling on RI business and business related expenses incurred by directors associated with meetings in which officer attendance is mandatory (board meetings, International Assembly, International Convention and other meetings as designated by the president) may be submitted on expense statements with proper documentation for reimbursement. Reimbursement for expenses associated with mandatory meetings shall be limited to:

1. Ground transportation
2. Airport taxes
3. Meals en route or not provided for group or otherwise charged to hotel master account
4. Laundry and reasonable incidentals
5. One airline club membership
6. Other customary and reasonable Rotary travel expenses associated with these meetings

7. All meals while on RI business
 8. Spouse expenses for this travel where authorized and where accompanied by proper business purpose documentation
- C. Other Reimbursable Expenses Over and Above the Annual Expense Allocation
(Reported as Taxable to the Recipient)

Co-payments (deductible) required under officer travel medical insurance

D. Other Reimbursable Expenses for the President and the President-elect (Taxable Reimbursement to the Recipient)

The president and president-elect are provided with the use of a condominium while in Evanston (see Section G). However, they maintain their principal residence while in office and also incur other extraordinary expenses while traveling on official RI business. The president and president-elect shall be reimbursed to cover the following annual costs for the officer and spouse:

1. Costs of maintaining their principal residences, limited to residence insurance, property taxes, utilities, security, lawn care, periodic cleaning, automobile insurance and related vehicle taxes (not to exceed US\$35,000)
2. Formalwear and luggage (not to exceed US\$3,500)
3. Personal expenses incurred while traveling on RI business (not to exceed US\$1,500)
4. Tax advice and preparation (not to exceed US\$3,000)
5. Executive physicals (not to exceed US\$1,000)
6. Co-payments (deductible) if covered under RI employee health insurance program (not to exceed US\$6,000)
7. Co-payments (deductible) required under officer travel medical insurance (not to exceed US\$6,000)
8. Cost of secondary health care coverage (not to exceed US\$5,500)
9. Maintenance of club memberships (not to exceed US\$750)
10. Employee portion of medical/dental insurance (not to exceed US\$2,000)
11. Any taxes payable by the recipient with respect to the expenses reimbursed in this section (not to exceed 46% of the above listed items).

E. Rotary Institutes

RI will reimburse the transportation expenses incurred by conveners for travel to the institute site on two occasions for planning purposes, and also the transportation expenses incurred by conveners, and their spouses when accompanying them, to attend Rotary institutes, in accordance with RI's established travel policy. Rotary institutes are expected to pay all other expenses incurred by the conveners and their spouses attending their institute. Upon request, RI will advance US\$1,000 to the convener to cover his costs—such advance to be refunded on completion of the institute.

F. Items Not Reimbursable by RI

Any item not identified as reimbursable under this policy, shall not be reimbursable, including, but not limited to:

1. Personal toiletries
2. Medical prescriptions or over the counter medications while traveling on RI business
3. Personal services (beauty salon, haircuts, health clubs)
4. Expenses of spouses except as otherwise allowed by this policy
5. Expenses of other family members, including children, except as allowed by Board policy for the President and President-elect at the International Convention
6. Clothing (except for Presidents' jacket, tie and accessories)
7. Luggage
8. Video rentals
9. Non-Rotary business-related entertainment
10. Personal telephone, fax and e-mail

G. Expenses of President and President-Elect While in Evanston, Use of Condominium and Trips to their Permanent Residence

The president and president-elect are provided with the use of a condominium while in Evanston. The president and president-elect shall be reimbursed for all meals for themselves and their spouses while in Evanston, as well as grocery expenses.

The value of the condominium and the meal and grocery expenses of the president and president-elect while in Evanston and the transportation costs for trips to their permanent residence may be taxable to them under United States tax law depending upon factors unique to each president and president-elect. The general secretary shall retain an outside tax consultant to meet annually with the president, president-elect and president-nominee to evaluate the relevant factors and determine whether these items will be taxable. If it is determined that these values are taxable to the president and/or the president-elect, RI shall reimburse any taxes payable.

H. Master Account

The general secretary shall limit the use of master account billing procedures to the costs of the hotel room and tax only. All other business expenses will be reimbursed according to the standard reimbursement procedures for RI directors.

I. Reimbursement Procedures

All requests for reimbursement of expenses or payment of credit card bills shall be substantiated utilizing a RI expense statement form and must be approved by the chief financial officer, subject to review by the general secretary and the RI treasurer. All expenses in excess of US\$75 must be substantiated with a receipt.

J. Advances

Advances are generally not provided to RI officers. Any advances that are approved shall be provided within 30 days of when an expense is to be paid or incurred. All expenses that are not substantiated, utilizing a RI expense statement form, within 60 days of when they are paid or incurred should be placed on the officer's personal account for collection. If these funds are not collected within 120 days of when they were expended or incurred, they

should be reported as taxable to the recipient on the relevant form, and the individual should receive appropriate tax reporting statements which give notice that the payments are taxable. Notification that the payments are taxable to the recipient shall not discharge the amount owed to RI by the recipient.

K. Rotary International Policy Statement Prohibiting Personal Use of RI-owned Automobiles

The following policy governs the use by any individual of any RI-owned or leased vehicle:

1. Any individual provided with a RI-owned automobile shall use such vehicle for use in connection with RI's trade or business;
2. When the vehicle is not in use for RI trade or business, it is to be kept on RI's business premises, unless it is temporarily located elsewhere, for example, for maintenance or because of a mechanical failure;
3. No individual may use the vehicle for personal purposes, except for de minimus personal use;
4. RI reasonably believes that, except for de minimus use, neither an employee, nor any individual whose use would be taxable to the employee, may use the vehicle for any personal purpose.

The general secretary will develop procedures and documentation for those using such RI-owned vehicles to substantiate that the use of such vehicles meets the preceding conditions.

L. RI Corporate Credit Cards

The president, president-elect, and president-nominee shall be the only volunteers who are issued RI corporate credit cards for use in paying for business expenses during their years in office. Upon request, the spouses of such volunteers shall also be issued corporate credit cards for paying for business expenses. All credit card charges shall be placed on the volunteer's personal account for collection. However, any charge that is substantiated by properly completing a RI expense statement form (and attaching necessary documentary evidence, including all hotel bills and credit card receipts, and a statement of the business purpose of all expenses) within 60 days of the charge will be removed from the volunteer's personal account. Any charge that is not substantiated within 60 days and that is not paid back to RI within 120 days of the charge should be reported as taxable to the volunteer on the appropriate tax reporting forms. Notification that a payment is taxable to the volunteer shall not discharge the amount owed to RI by the volunteer. The general secretary shall notify the volunteer by letter when an amount owed has not been paid after 90 days of the charge. If unsubstantiated expenses are not repaid within 120 days of the charge, the general secretary shall cancel the volunteer's credit card.

The executive committee shall review any expenditures made with the RI corporate credit cards that are not provided for in the guidelines noted in the RI Policy on Reimbursable Expenses for Directors for RI. Corporate cards used for personal items or in conflict with the above procedures may be cancelled.

M. Interpretation

The executive committee may make interim decisions as to the interpretation of this policy. Any interim decision made by the executive committee shall be reported to the Board at its next meeting. The Board shall make all final decisions regarding the interpretation of this policy. *(November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32)*

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 393. *Amended by* June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 48, 50, 53, 54; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 251; July 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146; February 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 293; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 158; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 160; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 330; February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 207; June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 322. *Affirmed by* November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 150

68.040.2. Expenses for Officers' Spouses

RI may pay the expenses of spouses accompanying directors to Board meetings, to be determined annually by the Board. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47)*

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 409; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 47

68.040.3. Reimbursement of Rotary General Officers

All Rotary-related expenditures made by the president or president-elect should be made using funds from budgeted line items. RI shall reimburse all budgeted Rotary-related business expenses incurred by the president, president-elect, or president-nominee. All requests from the president, president-elect, president-nominee and Directors for reimbursement of expenses or payment of credit card bills must be substantiated by utilizing a RI expense statement form and must be approved by the chief financial officer and are subject to review by the RI Treasurer. All expenses in excess of US\$75 must be substantiated with a receipt. *(November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58)*

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 146; June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294; *Amended by* June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 292; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 177; and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

68.040.4. Disclosure of Payments to RI General Officers

Any payments provided to Rotary senior leaders, other than reasonable, documented expenditures reimbursable pursuant to the expense reimbursement policy established by the Board, shall be disclosed on an annual basis to Rotarians through publication in the Rotary World Magazine Press, and as a separate line item for each officer in RI's annual report. *(June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220)*

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 371; February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 287; *Amended by* November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; June 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 220

Cross References

27.080. *President's Finances*

27.080.3. *Pre - and Post-Term Expenses of the President*

29.010.4. *President-elect's Travel Expenses*

29.020.3. *President-nominee Expenses*

68.050. Officer Expenses

68.050.1. International Meetings

The Board shall determine each year whose expenses in attending the International Assembly and International Convention shall be paid by RI. (*February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139*)

Source: July 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 30; July 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 31

68.050.2. Expenses for Individuals Accompanying the President

It shall be at the discretion of the president as to who should accompany him or her at any stage of his travels throughout the Rotary world and how the expenses of such persons should be met. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 140

68.050.3. Expenses for Club and District Visits

Clubs and districts are reminded that if they invite RI General Officers to an event, those clubs and districts should expect to pay the reasonable travel, lodging and meal expenses of these officers. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 189; July 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 2

68.050.4. Reimbursement to Present and Past RI Officers for Unbudgeted Expenses

The expenses of officers of RI in the performance of their duties are reimbursable by RI to the extent of budget appropriations for such expenses. The expenses for past officers as they may relate to RI committees or in other activities for which provision is made in the RI budget are also reimbursable. No other payments to present or past officers will be provided. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January 1954 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159

Cross References

41.080.8. Officer and Staff Attendance at Youth Exchange Officers' Regional Meetings

68.060. Rotary Foundation Apportionments

68.060.1. Financial Impact of Foundation Activities

The general secretary is requested to provide an annual update of the financial impact of Foundation activities (including the Permanent Fund initiative) incurred by RI, to ensure each organization is charged its fair share of expenses. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 339

68.060.2. Joint Committee to Review Allocation of Costs Between RI and TRF

The RI president and the chairman of The Rotary Foundation Trustees shall each appoint two members of their respective bodies each year to a joint committee of Directors and

Trustees to review and recommend to the Board and Trustees any changes required to RI's methodology and allocation of costs to the Foundation. (*June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294*)

Source: February 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 314; Amended by June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294

68.060.3. Annual Allocation of TRF Costs

Budgeted allocations for future Rotary years shall be based on an analysis of actual experience for the prior calendar year. All methods of allocation shall remain in effect until both the RI Board and the Foundation Trustees agree to make any change. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310*)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 276

68.060.4. Rotary Foundation Space Allocation

The cost of occupancy of One Rotary Center shall be the same cost per square foot for both RI and TRF. The cost allocation shall be based on the percentage of space (both direct and indirect occupancy) occupied by RI and TRF. The base cost shall be the net operating expense. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310*)

Source: February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 276

68.060.5. Allocation of International Office Costs

The Board shall review TRF allocations for all international offices on an annual basis. Wherever possible, direct Foundation costs will be controlled in separate Foundation cost centers within the international offices' budgets. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 376; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294

68.060.6. Allocation of International Assembly Costs

The allocation of costs of the International Assembly shall be based on a percentage of time used by the Foundation. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294

68.060.7. Allocation for Presidential Celebrations

The allocation for presidential celebrations shall be considered annually by the president-elect and the trustee vice-chairman. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294

68.060.8. Information Systems Costs

The methodology for allocating information systems costs shall be based, where possible, on specific project identification and actual project costs. Information systems projects performed for the Foundation shall be agreed to by the general secretary, the TRF general manager, the RI chief information officer, the RI chief financial officer, and approved by the trustee chairman. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 294

68.070. Miscellaneous Expenses

68.070.1. Club and District Finances

Financial support shall not be provided to districts or clubs that accept the invitation to be involved in extension to new countries. Clubs in new countries shall be instructed and guided by the Secretariat to become financially self-sufficient as quickly as possible. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 357

68.070.2. Funding for the Paul P. Harris Memorial Building

Financial support shall be provided for the maintenance of the Paul P. Harris Memorial Building in Wallingford, Vermont, USA, based upon documented expenses from District 7870, and not to exceed US\$5,000 annually. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 212; Amended by June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 271

68.070.3. Substantiation of Reimbursement of Reimbursable Expenses

All requests for reimbursement of business expenses shall be submitted on a RI expense statement within 60 days of when the expenses were incurred. All expenses in excess of US\$75 must be substantiated with a receipt. Expense statements received after 60 days will not be reimbursed unless authorized by the general secretary in exceptional cases where circumstances warrant such action. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159*)

Source: February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 272; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 159

Cross References

- 35.030. Invitations for RI to Attend Meetings of Other Organizations*
- 36.020.3. Support for RI Representatives to UN*
- 41.020.15. Rotaract Finances*
- 41.020.16. RI Representation at Regional Rotaract Meetings*
- 48.020. Translation Expenses*
- 51.020.3. Financial Support for Rotary World Magazine Press Editors Seminar*
- 51.040. Guidelines for New Publications*
- 51.050. Publications Market Research and Finances*
- 57.130. Convention Finances*
- 58.070. International Assembly Finances*
- 59.070. Council on Legislation Finances*
- 60.020.1. Regional Magazine Editors' Expenses at International Institute*
- 60.040. International Institute Finances*
- 60.050.4. Expenses for Rotary Institute*
- 61.040. Regional Conference Finances*



Article 69. Investments

69.010. Investment Policy Statement – Rotary International General Surplus Fund

69.020. Operating Reserve Policy

69.030. Cash Management

69.040. Restricted Currencies

69.050. Fiscal Agents

69.060. Budgeted Investment Earnings and Investment Earnings Reserve

69.010. Investment Policy Statement – Rotary International General Surplus Fund

69.010.1. Objective

The primary objective of the General Surplus Fund, hereinafter referred to as “the Fund,” is to provide for the long-term financial security of RI. The Fund includes Rotary International’s (1) unrestricted cash, plus (2) marketable securities, plus (or minus) (3) any receivable (or payable) from (or to) The Rotary Foundation. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183*)

Source: November 1996, Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151 Amended by June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 391; August 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 90 and June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183

69.010.2. Delegation of Responsibilities

The Board of Directors of Rotary International has responsibility for formulating investment policy; developing investment objectives; retaining, monitoring, and terminating investment managers; and allocating assets among the managers.

The RI Finance Committee has responsibility for recommending investment policies to the Board and for monitoring the performance of the investment managers.

The investment managers appointed to execute the policy will invest the Fund in accordance with the Fund’s investment guidelines and the managers’ judgments concerning relative investment values.

The investment consultant is responsible for preparing quarterly investment performance reports, assisting in manager searches, and advising on all investment-related matters.

The General Secretary is responsible for implementing the policies and investment-related decisions taken by the Board. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151. Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430 and May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 324

69.010.3. Allocation of Assets

Over the long-term, the asset allocation policy will be the key determinant of the returns generated by the Fund and the associated volatility of returns. Based on the Fund’s objectives and circumstances, the Board has developed the following asset mix guidelines:

	Percent of Total Fund		
	Minimum	Target	Maximum
U.S. Equities	40%	45%	50%
Non-U.S. Equities	12%	15%	18%
Total Equities	55%	60%	65%
Fixed Income	35%	40%	45%

The Fund will be rebalanced any time an asset class exceeds the minimum or maximum allocation specified above. Routine cash flows will be used to maintain the allocation as close as practical to the target allocations. If routine cash flows are insufficient to maintain the allocation within the permissible ranges as of any calendar quarter-end, balances will be transferred as necessary between asset classes to bring the allocation back within the permissible ranges. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 426*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 426

69.010.4. Investment Manager Structure

To implement its asset allocation policy, the Board has developed the following investment manager structure for the U.S. equity component of the Fund:

<u>Segment of Market</u>	<u>% of Total</u>
broad market index fund	20%
enhanced index fund	20%
large cap growth	20%
large cap value	20%
small cap growth	10%
small cap value	10%

(*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 334*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 334

69.010.5. Investment Guidelines

The Fund will invest in the U.S. Equity General Partnership II, the International Equity General Partnership II, and the Fixed Income General Partnership II of the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and Rotary International. There are separate manager guidelines for each of these partnerships. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 426*)

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 426

69.010.6. Investment Performance Objective

The investment objective of the General Fund is to achieve a rate of return consistent with the target allocation table shown above (*see section 69.010.3.*). Over a three- to five-year period, the rate of return earned by the Fund should exceed the annualized total return of a custom index that comprises the following three indexes:

- Wilshire 5000 Stock Index (45% weight)
- M.S.C.I. All Country World Ex-U.S. Free Index (15% weight)
- Lehman Brothers Aggregate Bond Index (40% weight)

For performance evaluation purposes, all rates of return will be examined on a net-of-fee basis. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430 and May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

69.010.7. Diversification

The Fund is to be broadly diversified across several asset classes so as to limit the impact of large losses from any one asset class on the overall portfolio. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 426*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 426

69.010.8. Liquidity Needs

The general secretary or his delegates shall arrange for cash withdrawals to meet the Fund's spending needs. The source of funds for these withdrawals will be based on rebalancing and cost considerations. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151

69.010.9. Proxy Voting

The Board of Directors of Rotary International has delegated investment management responsibilities to various independent investment managers. The Board delegates the full responsibility to vote proxies to these investment managers. The Board expects each investment manager to vote all proxies prudently and in the interest of the Fund. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151

69.010.10. Review of Investment Objectives

The achievement of investment objectives will be reviewed on an annual basis. This review will focus on the continued feasibility of achieving the objectives and the continued appropriateness of the investment policy. It is not expected that the investment policy will change frequently; in particular, short-term changes in the financial markets should generally not require an adjustment in the investment policy. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430

69.010.11. Review of Investment Managers

The Board will review results of all managers at least semiannually. With a perspective toward three-year and five-year time horizons, the Board will evaluate whether each manager has:

- Performed satisfactorily when compared with the specific objectives for its portfolio;
- Produced results that compare favorably to other investment management organizations managing similar portfolios;
- Exceeded the returns of appropriate market indices;
- Made portfolio management decisions that were reasonable and effective in view of capital market developments; and
- Adhered to the relevant policies and objectives.

Among the events that the Board will examine closely in its review of investment managers are:

- Poor results relative to objectives over a fairly short period of time (e.g., one year);
- Poor absolute performance over a three-to-five year period;
- The departure of one or more key investment professionals;
- Violation of an investment guideline; and
- Material changes in the manager's organization, such as philosophical and personnel changes, acquisitions or losses of major accounts, a change in ownership or control of the investment management organization, etc.

The Board will evaluate investment managers and events in light of the current situation and other related factors. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430

69.010.12. Reporting Requirements

Within six weeks after the end of each calendar quarter, staff and/or the Fund's investment consultant will prepare a report containing information on the investment performance of the Fund in total and for each manager.

Each active investment manager will be required to submit a quarterly report within six weeks after the end of each calendar quarter containing the following information:

- a. Overview of financial markets with comments on economic and market factors which have impacted the performance of the portfolio manager's decisions.
- b. Review of investment performance (net of fees) for the quarter, fiscal year-to-date (June 30) and since-inception of the account with comments on any policy or strategy changes which contributed either positively or negatively to that performance.
- c. Discussion of those factors which the manager believes are likely to impact performance over the next 12 months, and what the manager's strategy is likely to be in response to those factors.
- d. Where appropriate, the use of any derivative product during the quarter, including information concerning the rationale behind the position and the size of the transaction.
- e. Comments on any material change in personnel, investment strategy or other pertinent information potentially affecting performance.
- f. List of the securities in the portfolio at the end of the quarter.

At the end of each calendar year, the investment manager will prepare a report regarding their proxy voting activities for that year, and include the information in the December quarterly report. *(November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45)*

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 151; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430

69.010.13. Procedures for Immediate Termination of Investment Managers

The RI Board has established the following procedures to be followed when circumstances warrant the immediate termination of an investment manager.

1. Rotary's investment consultant and staff will inform the general secretary of any adverse situation in which they recommend immediate termination of an investment manager.
2. The general secretary will immediately notify the RI president and the Foundation chairman of the situation and the recommendation to terminate the investment manager.
3. Upon direction of the RI president and the Foundation chairman, the general secretary will instruct staff to inform the investment manager of Rotary's decision to terminate the relationship.
4. Staff will phone the manager, and will send a written confirmation of the termination.
5. Staff will phone the custodian bank to inform them of the manager's termination and instruct the bank to no longer accept instructions from the manager. A written confirmation of the termination will be sent to the custodian bank.
6. At the next RI Board and Trustee meetings, an item will be prepared advising the Boards of both Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation of the situation and the termination of the manager. The RI Board will be asked to approve the action of the RI president, while the Board of Trustees will be asked to approve the action of the chairman of the Trustees. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 139

69.010.14. Investment Restrictions

The Fund may not invest in commodities or non-exchange traded real estate investment trusts. (*November 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 45*)

Source: June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 430

69.010.15. Status of RI Investments

The general secretary shall report on the status of RI investments at each Board meeting. (*November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 55*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 312

69.020. Operating Reserve Policy

Rotary International's operating reserve goal is to maintain an Operating Reserve at an amount equal to 100% of the highest level of total annual expenses, less those associated with the International Convention and the Council on Legislation, during the most recent three-year period. The Operating Reserve equals the General Surplus Fund as defined in section 69.010.1., less Board-designated funds. Board-designated funds are defined as the US\$500,000 convention

expenses reserve fund and the investment earnings reserve fund. These funds shall be so designated in Rotary International's financial statements. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183. Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 155

69.030. Cash Management

69.030.1. Investments from Cash Accounts

Cash deposits wherever held shall be invested in such a way as to develop the best rate of return consistent with liquidity and safety. Temporary cash surplus funds held in the U.S.A. shall be invested in short term investments of appropriate term and amount in accordance with the quarterly cash flow statement when such investments will provide a greater return than ordinary savings accounts. The general secretary is instructed to request from depositories of RI funds, wherever located, a monthly statement of accounts held by RI. (*June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310*)

Source: April-May 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 374; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310

69.030.2. Foreign Currency Management Policy

RI has adopted a "Foreign Currency Management Policy" as follows:

1.0 Purpose

- 1.1 To mitigate foreign exchange exposure wherever possible in order to reduce the unexpected increases and decreases to budgeted earnings that are caused by significant fluctuations in currency rates.

2.0 Definition of Exposures

- 2.1 *Transaction* - transaction exposure is the exposure of balance sheet accounts such as accounts receivable or accounts payable to a change in foreign exchange rates between the time a transaction is booked and the time it is paid. An example of transaction exposure are scholarship payments that are booked at the RI rate when committed, and then charged at the RI rate in effect when the payments are made.
- 2.2 *Translation* - exposure that arises due to the need to translate foreign financial statements into U.S. dollars. Currency exchange rates from the prior quarter are compared to those of the current quarter and the change in value is applied to the balances held at quarter-end. Month-end non-U.S. investment balances and bank balances are translated.
- 2.3 *Economic exposure - anticipated* - exposure of anticipated cash flows to unexpected rate changes in the future. An example would be the transfer of funds between the international offices and World Headquarters.
- 2.4 *Internal exposure* - an intra-company exposure resulting from the use of the RI exchange rate instead of the actual exchange rate. Examples are dues paid in

local currency at the prior month's RI rate but booked at the current month's RI rate, or program-related expenses paid in local currency and booked at the budgeted RI rate, but paid at the prevailing market rate.

3.0 Goals

- 3.1 Minimize the need to enter into foreign exchange contracts by effectively managing cash on a global basis.
- 3.2 Minimize the risk of loss rather than maximizing opportunities for gain that arise from foreign exchange exposures.
- 3.3 Minimize the transaction costs associated with a foreign exchange risk management program.

4.0 Responsibility

- 4.1 Centralized control and direction of foreign exchange activities are necessary to ensure a rational approach to controlling Rotary's worldwide exposures in various foreign currencies. Accordingly, overall responsibility for management of Rotary's exposures should be maintained at the Treasury Department at World Headquarters.

5.0 Authority to Hedge Foreign Currency Exposure

- 5.1 The Chief Financial Officer or the Manager, Investments and Treasury Division or the Treasury Manager, with the approval of the general secretary, are authorized to enter into contracts to hedge Rotary's foreign currency exposure.

6.0 Policy

- 6.1 All local currency inflows will be netted against expected local currency outflows. Any net excess currency will be transferred from the local bank account into another currency that is needed. Currency should be maintained in local bank accounts only if: (1) required to meet near-term local Foundation program expenses or operational expenses of the international offices, or (2) there exists currency restrictions that prohibit the transfer of funds.
- 6.2 Due to the risks associated with using forecasted numbers, anticipated exposures such as expected transfers from the international offices, will not be hedged 100% unless hedged through the use of foreign currency options. In general, Rotary will attempt to hedge up to 75% of an identified foreign exchange exposure, any particular transaction, or a series of related transactions which have an impact on the Statement of Activities, or cash flow.
- 6.3 Translation exposure will be hedged only if the funds will not be utilized locally.
- 6.4 Any action taken to protect against foreign exchange risk must be economically justified.

- 6.5 Hedging techniques will be applied only to offset or eliminate an actual or anticipated exposure, and not to create a speculative exposure which did not previously exist.
- 6.6 Foreign exchange instruments that can be used to hedge Rotary's currency exposure include forward contracts and foreign currency options.
- 6.7 To control counter-party risk, Rotary can enter into foreign exchange contracts to hedge Rotary's currency exposure only with financial institutions that have public debt ratings of A or better from either Moody's or Standard and Poor's.
- 6.8 Financial instruments may be used to cover future periods of 1 to 365 days (12 months). Any use of financial instruments beyond 12 months from the date of execution of the financial instrument must have prior approval from the Chief Financial Officer.
- 6.9 It is the responsibility of the Manager, Investments and Treasury Division and the Treasury Manager to maintain exact records of all foreign exchange transactions. Further, it is their responsibility to document all transactions and to inform all departments that have a requirement to record or need to know of such transactions.

7.0 Procedures:

Global Cash Management:

- 7.1 Any payments due Rotary International from RIBI will be made in Pound Sterling to Rotary's interest-bearing Pound Sterling bank account.
- 7.2 Excess Japanese Yen will be transferred to World Headquarters at least monthly.
- 7.3 Excess Korean Won for the Foundation will be transferred to World Headquarters at least quarterly. Excess Korean Won for RI will be transferred at least bi-annually.
- 7.4 Other local currency balances will be monitored on a regular basis. The Treasury Department will instruct international offices and fiscal agents to transfer excess funds.
- 7.5 The above cash management procedures can be modified as needed.

Foreign Exchange hedging:

- 7.6 In executing this policy, the Manager, Investments and Treasury Division and the Treasury Manager will analyze each exposure to be hedged and will utilize their technical expertise and prudent judgment in determining the following:
- when to place the hedge
 - what percentage of the exposure to hedge
 - whether the entire desired hedge percentage should be placed at one time, or over a period of time

- what type of hedging vehicle to utilize
- when to unwind the hedge, if appropriate
- how far into the future the hedge should be placed

7.7 The appropriate hedging strategy will be based on:

- time horizon until exposure is recognized
- volatility of the currency
- expectation of future exchange rates
- acceptance range for currency fluctuations
- Rotary's aversion to risk
- reliability of the data used
- cost

7.8 In contemplating the placement of a hedge, Treasury will review the accounting treatment with the Finance Division prior to entering into a hedging contract. This will assure that there are no unfavorable accounting impacts encountered with the hedge.

7.9 The Treasury Department may seek bids for any hedging contract where the U.S. Dollar equivalent is less than \$1,000,000. All contracts where the U.S. Dollar equivalent is \$1,000,000 or more must be bid. In so doing, the lowest cost option for Rotary will be selected.

7.10 As the value date for an exercised option or for a forward contract approaches, Treasury will determine if the contract should be extended, swapped out or utilized for the actual delivery of currency. If the latter is the case, Treasury will provide the appropriate delivery instructions to the financial institution with whom the contract resides.

7.11 On an ongoing basis, the Manager, Investment and Treasury Division and Treasury Manager will continue to review Rotary's business operations with the goal of identifying foreign exchange exposures. From there, a hedging strategy, if appropriate, will be formulated.

GLOSSARY

Economic exposure - This exposure refers to potential real economic loss due to currency rate fluctuations. It includes translation exposure and transaction exposures in a pure account sense, as defined by FASB #52, as well as exposures not highlighted in the financial statements. This would include commitments of Rotary not yet recognized as transactions under FASB #52. Also, economic exposure includes future anticipated cashflows such as contributions and dues. Such exposures may be subjected to real economic loss should foreign currency values decline. However, because these exposures are projected, traditional accounting statements do not recognize their existence. Hedges of economic exposure are typically recognized on accounting statements and therefore may impact the Statement of Activity while not being offset by underlying exposures.

Foreign exchange rates - the equivalent number of units of one currency per unit of a different currency. There are two ways to quote foreign exchange rates: the U.S. dollar equivalent of a unit of the foreign currency, or the amount of the foreign currency per U.S. dollar.

Hedging - refers to the reduction or elimination of risk through the use of forwards, futures or options. Hedging may entail giving up some opportunity gain in order to reduce risk.

Hedging vehicles:

- *forward contracts* - A forward contract is a contractual obligation to buy or sell a specific amount of foreign currency at a specific price for delivery at a future date. The forward contract price (rate) is determined by the interest rate differential between the two currencies involved. Forward rates are quoted at a premium or discount to the spot or current rate depending on the interest differential rate between the currencies involved.
- *options* - A currency option is the right, but not the obligation, to buy or sell a predetermined amount of currency, at a specific exchange rate for a specific date. An up-front fee, the premium, is paid for this right. A PUT is the right, but not the obligation, to SELL a currency at a predetermined rate. A CALL is the right, but not the obligation, to BUY a currency at a predetermined rate.

Spot rate - current market rate of currency.

Transaction exposure - arises whenever a company commits to pay or receive funds in a currency other than its functional currency.

Translation exposure - the risk that financial statements of overseas units will gain or lose value because of exchange rate movements when translated into the currency of the parent company upon consolidation. (*November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 395; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325 and November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

69.040. Restricted Currencies

It is the policy of RI to minimize funds in countries where the transfer and investment of RI funds are restricted. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1985 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112; February-March 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 315

69.040.1. Protection of Deposits in Restricted Currency Countries

The general secretary should take appropriate action to protect the US\$ value of deposits in restricted currency countries. The general secretary shall expedite the transfer of restricted funds to RI's World Headquarters, and in the interim, utilize the funds for local expenditures wherever possible. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: January-February 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 265

69.040.2. TRF's Use of RI Restricted Funds

RI restricted funds shall be used for Foundation programs in restricted currency countries. In such cases, RI shall receive US\$ credit for the use of such funds. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 314

Cross References

58.070.2. *Payment for International Assembly Attendance in Restricted Currency Countries*

69.050. Fiscal Agents

69.050.1. Audits of Fiscal Agents

Audits of RI fiscal agents shall be conducted by local public accounting firms. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 208

69.050. 2. Term of Appointment of Fiscal Agents

The office of a fiscal agent shall be for a period of one Rotary year with the provision that the fiscal agent may be reappointed on an annual basis for a period not to exceed five years, unless the Board for practical reasons specifically approves otherwise. The fiscal agent shall countersign a copy of the letter of appointment specifying his term. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1980 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 310

Cross References

31.060.3. *Fiscal Agent Systems*

69.060. Budgeted Investment Earnings and Investment Earnings Reserve

Investment earnings shall be budgeted annually at 5%. The RI Board has established an investment earnings reserve. If in any year investment earnings are less than budgeted investment earnings, any shortfall will be funded from the investment earnings reserve fund as a transfer of Board-designated funds. If in any year investment earnings are greater than the budgeted investment earnings, that excess will be transferred to the investment earnings reserve fund. The amount of the investment earnings reserve will be limited to US\$12 million. Any transfer from the investment earnings reserve is to provide for any shortfall in investment earnings and is not for the use of additional general operating expenses. (*November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38*)

Source: June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298; Amended by November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58



Article 70. Revenues

70.010. Per Capita Dues

70.020. Licensing

70.030. Invoices

70.040. Publications

70.010. Per Capita Dues

There is no exception to the constitutional requirement for uniform per capita dues. All payments to RI shall be at the current rate of exchange as determined by RI for each semiannual period. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: April 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 315

70.010.1. Standardized Membership Reporting and Billing

There shall be standardized reporting requirements for all RI International Offices and RIBI. The general secretary shall implement standardized membership reporting and billing for semiannual dues for all Rotary clubs. *(February 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196)*

Source: October 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 130

70.010.2. Refunds or Prorating of Per Capita Dues

The general secretary may make from time to time such adjustments in and refunds of the per capita dues and subscriptions paid by any club in cases where clubs have paid per capita dues and subscriptions for members who have died, resigned, or have been dropped from the rolls of the club without having paid any club dues for the period. *(May 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 398)*

Source: May-June 1935 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 321

70.010.3. Annual Budgeting for Dues Revenue

For all RI budgets, the anticipated dues revenue shall be based on the number of dues-paying Rotarians at the time of the 1 January (six months prior to the budget year) semiannual reports. *(February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194)*

Source: November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184

Cross References

9.020. Clubs in Arrears to RI

18.050.5. Minimum Number of Charter Members

18.050.14. Per Capita Dues for Newly Admitted Clubs

70.020. Licensing

(See also Article 34 “Licensing”)

70.020.1. Licensee Royalties

The Board strongly supports the protection of the Rotary name and emblem from unauthorized commercial use. The general secretary is requested to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure continual compliance with RI's licensing agreements, which assure the maximum receipt of revenues to RI. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194

70.020.2. Review of Policy on Royalties from Sale of RI-Emblem Merchandise

The general secretary will establish and monitor annual licensing targets and budgets, and make regular reports to the Board on progress in this area. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 93, pt. 1e; November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 69

70.020.3. Royalties on Rotary Emblem Merchandise to the PolioPlus Fund

Any royalty fees received by Rotary International for the sale of items that promote the PolioPlus campaign will be transferred to the Foundation's PolioPlus Fund. *(June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348)*

Source: June 1987 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 49

70.020.4. Royalties on Rotary Emblem Merchandise to The Rotary Foundation Annual Programs Fund

Any royalty fees received by Rotary International for the sale of items under the Type 4C license will be transferred to the Foundation's Annual Programs Fund. *(February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157)*

Source: February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 157

Cross References

34.020. Granting of an RI License

70.030. Invoices

All RI invoices from World Headquarters will be billed only in US dollars. RI invoices billed from RI international offices will be billed in the currency of the club's country. *(June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298)*

Source: November 1990 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 196. Amended by June 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 298

70.040. Publications

70.040.1. Rates for Advertising in *The Rotarian* Magazine

The Board shall approve the advertising rates for *The Rotarian* magazine. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: October 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 108

70.040.2. Collection of Subscription Moneys for Regional Magazines in India

The RI South Asia Office (Delhi) shall receive subscription moneys for the regional magazines in India, along with the semiannual per capita dues collection. Such subscription moneys shall be transmitted to the Rotary News Trust, with any costs incurred for this activity to be reimbursed to Rotary International. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: May 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 263; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325

70.040.3. Collection of Revenues for *Nueva Revista Rotaria* Magazine

RI shall collect revenues for *Nueva Revista Rotaria*, subject to a review every two years. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325*)

Source: November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 111

70.040.4. Revenue Plan for RI Web Community

Rotary International will solicit advertising for its Web site. Such advertising will include display advertisements (banner ads) as well as links to advertisers' own Web sites or online catalogs. Advertising policy, guidelines, and rates will be the same as those already established for advertising on the Web pages of *The Rotarian* magazine. Such policy, guidelines, and rates will be adjusted from time to time, as appropriate.

Rotary International will solicit advertising from official licensees and will create a special marketplace section for licensees on the RI Web site. This section will include display advertising as well as links to the individual vendors' sites and catalogs. Guidelines and information for prospective licensees will also be part of this section.

Rotary International will solicit classified ads for an expanded version of the online *Emporium* section of the magazine. Policy, guidelines, and rates will be the same as those established for the online *Emporium* section. Such policy, guidelines, and rates will be adjusted from time to time, as appropriate.

Rotary International will create a portal for advertisers that will be accessed via a link on the homepage. The portal will function as an online marketplace and include display advertising and links to a variety of reputable online advertisers. The organization will earn revenue based on the amount of purchases made by visitors to the portal via the RI Web site. The general secretary will determine whether it is more cost-effective for the organization to maintain the portal or to engage an outside firm to create and maintain the portal.

Rotary International will provide video and audio webcasting of selected Convention and conference speeches and other Rotary events and make them available to Rotarians either live online or as archived material for download. These webcasts will be offered for sale at reasonable cost. The general secretary will determine whether it is more cost-effective to engage an outside firm for this service or for staff to provide the service. (*February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202*)

Source: November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 167

Cross References

51.010.5. Official Magazine Advertising Policy



Article 71. Risk Management and Insurance

- 71.010.** Risk Management
- 71.020.** Umbrella Liability Coverage
- 71.030.** Business Interruption
- 71.040.** Accidental Death and Dismemberment
- 71.050.** Liability Coverage for RI Directors and Officers
- 71.060.** RI Travel Medical
- 71.070.** RI Meetings and Programs
- 71.080.** Club and District Liability Insurance

71.010. Risk Management

71.010.1. Risk Management Guidelines for Rotary Institutes

1. Before entering into any contracts or other formal agreements to secure meeting accommodations and services, the convener should have legal or insurance counsel review any sections referring to indemnification and liability for injury or damage to the persons and property of others.
2. Any requests from a venue or service provider to provide indemnity from RI for our acts should be carefully reviewed. One concern is RI's responsibility for physical damage to buildings at the venue due to negligence on the part of RI or an institute participant. RI's liability could potentially result in a multi-million dollar expense if not addressed. If possible, RI's responsibility for such damage should be limited in the contract to an amount not greater than \$5 million and the venue's insurer should agree to provide a waiver of their subrogation rights. This is not unreasonable given that RI is paying a fee for use of the venue and this fee indirectly funds the cost of their insurance.
3. Service providers should be required to provide evidence of the insurance coverage they maintain and, ideally, this requirement should be specified in any contracts with them. This practice is commonplace in the USA and is becoming more widely used outside the USA in recent years.
4. Another potential source of catastrophic risk exposure is the area of transportation. Whenever possible, institute organizers should have participants purchase transportation services directly from the providers. If this is not possible for a particular institute, ensure that there are formal contracts in place for all transportation service providers that include an indemnity provision and insurance requirements. In addition, insurance certificates should be requested and carefully reviewed.
5. Institute organizers should carefully review any required rules or operating procedures that are required by venue management. These rules will often provide information on laws in the country which may be pertinent to institute participants or may be a great resource for "best practices" in that particular facility for safety and risk management. It is in the best interests of Rotary for institute organizers to understand the venue's rules and ensure that our organization does not introduce hazards in the course of our event. It should also be noted that venues may be able to assess fines or other penalties to organizations violating their requirements.

6. In the event that the institute plans to pay the expenses of institute speakers or other participants residing outside the host country, the issue of travel medical and accident insurance should be addressed. Many standard medical insurance plans do not fully respond to costs incurred outside one's home country, and it is rare for any plan to include medical evacuation and repatriation benefits. Evacuations can involve the need for medical personnel while in transit and private aircraft or other specialized equipment, which may cost tens of thousands of dollars. (*June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 329; Amended by June 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 273

71.010.2. Risk Management for Travel Operations

Whenever general officers, incoming general officers and senior staff personnel of RI travel as a group, by air or ground transportation, they shall travel in more than one group, each group to be transported separately. The president and general secretary are authorized to approve exceptions to this policy as appropriate after consideration of the risks involved to the organization. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: July 1978 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 10. Affirmed by November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 191

71.020. Umbrella Liability Coverage

The general secretary is requested to increase RI's liability coverage under its umbrella insurance policy from US\$20 million to US\$25 million. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 123

71.030. Business Interruption

RI's business interruption/extra expense insurance limits shall be US\$6 million. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 152

71.040. Accidental Death and Dismemberment

RI's accidental death and dismemberment benefit shall be as follows:

Class 1
president, president-elect, their spouses \$1,000,000

Class 2
Directors, Trustees, their spouses \$500,000

Class 3
Committee members, employees \$300,000
(*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 160, App. A(4)

71.050. Liability Coverage for RI Directors and Officers

The general secretary shall obtain liability insurance for general officers of RI. (*June 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 226*)

Source: March 1983 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 222

Cross Reference

28.100. Indemnification of RI Directors and Officers

71.060. RI Travel Medical

71.060.1. Travel-Related Insurance Funded by RI

The Board has outlined RI's strategy for travel accident insurance available to RI travelers. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg. Bd. Dec. 191

71.060.2. International Assembly Travel Medical Insurance

RI shall obtain travel medical insurance coverage for those official participants in the International Assembly not otherwise insured by RI, The Rotary Foundation or RIBI. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 112

71.060.3. Travel Medical Insurance for RI Directors

The general secretary is authorized to obtain travel medical insurance for directors (and their spouses when accompanying them). (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: May 1991 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 382

71.060.4. Payment of Travel Medical Insurance for Past RI Presidents

RI will provide travel medical insurance coverage for past presidents of RI who are not current Trustees of The Rotary Foundation, similar to coverage provided for directors and incoming directors, when past presidents are traveling on Rotary business at RI expense. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 402

71.070. RI Meetings and Programs

71.070.1. Insurance for Host Organizations

RI shall purchase a separate Special Events Insurance policy to provide liability coverage for major meetings held by RI. General liability insurance coverage shall be provided for all future convention Host Organizations for their activities and events during the time of the conventions, subject to the terms and conditions of a Special Events insurance policy,

under the condition that RI has the opportunity to review and approve all contracts executed by the Host Organizations and that full cooperation will be provided in submitting detailed underwriting information to RI and its carriers. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 163

71.070.2. Insurance for Rotary Institutes

Rotary International provides adequate liability insurance coverage for each institute, under the condition that RI has the opportunity to review and approve all contracts executed by the convener or his delegate, and that full cooperation will be provided in submitting detailed underwriting information to RI and its insurance carriers on a timely basis. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 202, Appendix F, pt. G5

71.070.3. Recommended Insurance Minimums for Participants in the Youth Exchange Program

The legal guardians of each exchangee shall be responsible for the payment of all medical and accident costs. They shall provide health and accident insurance with respect to each exchangee by way of an insurance policy which must be acceptable to the receiving Rotary district or club.

As the receiving district or club must be in a position to arrange immediate and emergency medical attention when it is needed, they must be satisfied that the insurance policy carried by the exchangee is with a responsible insurance company which will assure the provider of service complete and prompt payment for the service provided.

Such insurance shall provide not less than US\$500,000 (or equivalent total) coverage for medical expenses occasioned by illness or accident, and not less than US\$10,000 (or equivalent) coverage for accidental death.

Irrespective of other benefits which it provides, the insurance shall

- i. provide coverage from the time of the exchangee's departure from home until the exchangee's return home;
- ii. provide not less than US\$10,000 for repatriation of the exchangee's remains or cremation expenses in the hosting district in the event of the death of the exchangee;
- iii. provide coverage for the cost of reasonable transport and accommodation incurred by any one close relative or friend to travel to, travel with, remain with, or escort the exchangee as a result of serious injury, illness or death of the exchangee;
- iv. guarantee payment directly to the provider of medical services by means of an acceptable international medical assistance organization;

- v. provide coverage not less than US\$50,000 for necessary emergency transport or evacuation of the exchangee in the event of severe illness or bodily injury;
- vi. provide coverage for ongoing treatment for a specified time for illness or accidental injury sustained during the period of coverage of the insurance policy;
- vii. be worldwide and not limited to the hosting country. Coverage in the home country may be excluded.

The general secretary is requested to provide information upon request relating to the policies offered which are available for purchase at the option of a Youth Exchange student's parents or legal guardian. (*June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 348*)

Source: March 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 274; June 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 323; November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 191

71.080. Club and District Liability Insurance

71.080.1. Maintenance of Liability Insurance

Each club shall maintain liability insurance for its activities as appropriate for its geographic region. (*November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176*)

Source: November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 176

71.080.2. Mandatory Participation in General Liability Insurance Program for Clubs in the U.S.

- 1) RI will maintain a policy of general liability insurance, with limits deemed appropriate by the general secretary, protecting RI and clubs and districts located in the U.S. and its territories and possessions. Each club in these regions must participate in the program.
- 2) The general secretary shall have authority to negotiate participation in the program on either a primary or an excess basis with clubs that have unique insurance risks, including but not limited to clubs that possess all of the following risks:
 - Permanent, full-time employees;
 - Ownership of real property with substantial acreage;
 - Services provided to persons with physical and mental disabilities on this real property.
- 3) Each club covered by this policy will be billed annually an amount sufficient to pay for the insurance coverage and related administrative expenses. The amount billed each club will be based on membership statistics stated in the semiannual reports. The general secretary may vary the amount billed to clubs in different areas within these regions based on independent actuarial studies.

- 4) The general secretary will develop appropriate policies and procedures for implementing and administering the policy, including mechanisms for communicating with clubs and districts regarding their participation. (*February 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 194*)

Source: November 2000 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 178. Amended by February 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 282

Cross References

41.010.8. Interact Accident and Liability Insurance

41.080.3. Youth Exchange Liability Insurance



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