



RLI International

March 2020

The RLI is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions throughout the world. It was recommended by the R.I. Board of Directors and strongly endorsed by the Council on Legislation at three of their triennial meetings. RLI conducts a series of quality leadership development courses for potential club officers and other club members, including those who have recently joined a Rotary Club. The courses emphasize both leadership skills and knowledge of Rotary around the world. All course sessions are completely interactive. The 81 RLI Regional Divisions believe that leadership education has a positive impact on membership retention by creating enthusiasm and furthering engagement for Rotary.

RLI EXTENDS SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO MICHAEL AND CLAIRE RABASCA & FAMILY

We mourn the death of Michael Bergamasco in a tragic accident in New Jersey USA. He was struck by a pickup truck while crossing a street. Michael was the son-in-law of RLI EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR Michael Rabasca and his wife, Claire. Michael, a surveyor, was the husband of Michael and Claire's daughter Nancy and the father of two daughters, Francesca and Arianna.

Linett to Retire on July 1

Long time Founder and International Chair of RLI, David Linett, has decided to retire from that position on July 1. Linett founded what was later called RLI as he concluded his term as a district governor in New Jersey, USA in 1992. He served as a Rotary International Director during 2004-6 and in many Rotary leadership positions for many years. During his terms of office, he emphasized the expansion of RLI and was personally involved in bringing into RLI many new member districts and divisions. He expects to continue some RLI expansion efforts after his "retirement" (except that there are not too many expansion prospects anymore because RLI has grown so large around the world.)

McGovern to succeed Chair Linett on July 1.

RLI is fortunate to have Past International Director and vice-chair of the Board, as well as Past Trustee and vice-chair of the trustees as its incoming International Chair. Mike is currently well known around the world, not the least as the current Chair of the Polio Committee of R.I. A more complete biography will appear in a future issue of the RLI eBulletin. Some years ago, he served as the Chair of the RLI Northeast America Division for two years before being elected to the RLI Board.

RLI WILL NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE UPCOMING ROTARY CONVENTION

Because Rotary International (for whatever its reason) failed to provide RLI with an exhibit booth at the Honolulu Convention, RLI has determined not to participate in the convention. RLI has had an exhibit booth in the Houses of Friendship for MANY OF ITS 27 YEARS. This year Rotary International sent RLI an acknowledgement of receipt of the required application that stated that RLI would be assigned a booth in the first group of assigned organizations. RLI has been assigned exhibit space in each House of Friendship for the past 20 plus years. Because an exhibit booth is a key part of the RLI participation in a convention, the planned Honolulu RLI Breakfast was also terminated. RLI HOPES TO OPERATE A CONVENTION EXHIBIT BOOTH at the 2021 convention in TAIWAN together with sponsoring a Convention Breakfast.

The Orlando USA Curriculum/Best Practices Meeting a Great Success

RLI leaders from North America and other places joined together during this past January in Orlando, Florida, USA to discuss possible revisions in the Recommended RLI Curriculum and division practices and procedures. Orlando has long been a site of such meetings and the results of such meetings have improved the practices and programs of RLI in many places of the world. Unfortunately, the Chair of the Orlando meeting, PDG Tim Schuler, was unable to personally participate at the actual event because of a surgery change of schedule but was ably assisted by Brenda Wendt of the Sunshine Division. PDG and RLI International Vice-Chair, Knut Johnsen assisted in the success of the event. Four other RLI International Officers also participated, including International Chair Linett, International Executive Director Michael Rabasca, International RLI Vice-Chair, Frank Wargo and International Communications Director, Paul Muczynski. It should be noted that the R.I. International Assembly will be holding its meeting next January in Orlando and some participants in that meeting may be also involved in the RLI event there after that Assembly.

As Reported Previously, RLI has Begun to Hold Curriculum/Best Practices Meetings Around the World.

To provide better access to Curriculum/Best Practices meetings for RLI leaders around the world, RLI has begun a series of such meetings outside of Orlando. Recent successful meetings have already been held in Mumbai, India; Sofia, Bulgaria; and Santa Cruz, Bolivia. Future such meetings are planned for Southeast Asia (at Indonesia) in 2020 and in the Scandinavian Region (at Denmark) during 2021.

Previous meetings have proved very successful in attracting RLI leaders in those regions. The meetings have fostered a lively exchange of ideas, have promoted enthusiasm for RLI courses in those regions as well as great suggestions for the progress of those RLI Regions. RLI intends to increase these opportunities for Division and District leaders to improve the promotion and content of those events.

Those Divisions that wish to develop these events in the future, should communicate with Chair Linett at gjinlin@aol.com .

A Look at Branding!!

Rotary International has Instituted a Program of Branding Compliance. After many years of large numbers of Rotary organizations that were not technically part of the Rotary International Corporation, but used the Rotary name, the R.I. Board adopted a program to identify those such Rotary

organizations. Such an effort is apparently designed to prevent successful claims/liabilities against the Rotary International corporation for any indebtedness or other liability of non-R.I. corporations/organizations that use the Rotary name, etc.

For the Rotary Leadership Institute that has used that name for 20 plus years, it is a matter of amending its name. The most obvious solution seems to use RLI instead of spelling out that name.

RLI has appointed a special committee to work on compliance. It is headed by PDG Bo Porter of Alabama, USA. When alerted to the R.I. project, Chair Linett and Vice-Chair Knut Johnsen held a telephone conference call with R.I. representatives. At the Orlando meeting, part of the program was devoted to compliance with the R.I. requirements.

For now, we call on all our committees/entities, etc. to use the name RLI. Most of the Rotary world already uses RLI instead of spelling out the original name. Clubs can simply continue to use Rotary Club of or District # _____, etc. The committee led by Bo Porter will be available for advice on compliance. The International RLI is in process of reviewing its documents to make the necessary changes to its documents. It will certainly take time for changing so many documents, etc., but it will eventually be valuable for us as well as Rotary International. (Note that our organization was approved by the R.I. Board of Directors in 2002.)

AROUND THE RLI WORLD

We plan to add some items on divisions, etc. activities for the next issue of the ebulletin in mid- April. Please send your items for the next issue by April 10 to Dave Linett at ginlin@aol.com. We already do have some information re: Mongolia, Ukraine/Belarus, Israel and central Europe. Also, in preparation for drafting the annual report we ask divisions to send pictures of their events to Knut Johnsen at knutjohnsen@att.net and Paul Muczynski at pmuczynski@epix.net.

HELP ROTARY IMPROVE RETENTION RATES - SEND ALL NEW ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS TO A RLI COURSE DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP.

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