



Highlights from the January 2017 Rotary International Board of Directors Meeting

The third 2016–17 RI Board of Directors meeting was held on– January 2017 in Evanston, IL USA. At this meeting, the Board reviewed eight committee reports and recorded 61 decisions.

Clubs and Districts

In accordance with the RI Bylaws, which requires the Board to review the composition of zones at least every eight years, the Board agreed to a realignment of the 34 Rotary zones. This new zone structure will be posted to rotary.org.

The Board noted that the RI Bylaws permit a Rotarian to be a member of more than one club at the same time. The Board affirmed, however, that for any dual-member Rotarian, Rotary will officially recognize only the membership in the club to which the Rotarian pays dues.

In accordance with the findings from Rotary’s strategic planning effort, the Board agreed in concept with testing a global membership model that is not club-based.

In addressing how to grow Rotary’s membership, the Board approved regional membership initiatives that align with the zone structure, to include annual funding tailored for each zone for training and other membership-related initiatives.

In reviewing districting matters, the Board approved a national redistricting plan in Brazil.

Programs and Awards

The Board

- to more efficiently administer service awards and recognition at the Secretariat, approved a new Rotary Service Awards and Recognition program;
- recognized the proposed Hepatitis Eradication Rotarian Action Group;
- approved 117 recipients of the 2016–17 RI Service Above Self Award;
- designated the week (Monday through Sunday) that includes 7 October as “Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week.”

Administration and Finances

The Board approved President-elect Riseley’s proposed 2017–18 committee structure and appointments.

The Board amended its policy to encourage candidate interviews at Director Nominating Committees and further stipulated that if candidate interviews are conducted, the committee shall ensure that 1) each candidate is asked the same questions; 2) each interview lasts the same amount of time; and 3) the committee conducts all interviews on the same day and at the same location.

The Board approved the 2017-18 budget assumptions, including a list of enterprise projects for inclusion in the budget.