



## Highlights from the September 2020 Rotary International Board of Directors Meeting

The RI Board of Directors meeting was held virtually on 28–30 September 2020. At this meeting, the Board reviewed 8 committee reports and recorded 32 decisions.

### Club and District

The Board received a report on membership trends that included, as of 1 July 2020, a membership total of 1,174,890 Rotarians (down 14,576 members from 2019) and a total of 36,159 clubs (up 269 clubs from 2019).

### Programs and Awards

The Board

- to promote diversity in Rotary leadership positions agreed, effective with the next recruitment cycle, to remove the past governor qualification from all regional leader positions and that one gender should not constitute more than 60 percent of the speakers at Rotary International and zone meetings;
- agreed to the development of a three-year detailed implementation plan for a new Rotary committee structure that streamlines Rotary committees, eliminates overlap of committee duties, adds more joint committees with The Rotary Foundation, and provides numerous changes to committee terms of reference, among other structural changes;
- approved creation of an Interact Advisory Council, comprising current Interactors, recent Interactor alumni, and a director liaison—on a one-year pilot basis—to advise the Board on Interact-related matters;
- encouraged those districts certified to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange that are planning to resume short-term Youth Exchange in October 2020 and/or long-term Youth Exchange in January 2021 to use the [Developing a Crisis Management Plan](#) and further encouraged districts certified to participate in Rotary Youth Exchange to explore options to conduct virtual exchanges in accordance with the [virtual Rotary Youth Exchange guidelines](#);

### Meetings

The Board accepted the proposal of Districts 5830, 5890, and 5910 to host the 2022 Rotary International Convention on 4–8 June 2022 in Houston TX, USA.

### Administration and Finances

The Board

- elected Larry Lunsford, Mark Daniel Maloney, and Akira Miki to be Rotary Foundation trustees beginning 1 July 2021;
- agrees that, in light of the ongoing global COVID-19 pandemic, to qualify as “Rotary-funded travel” for the remainder of calendar year 2020, the travel must be essential to Rotary’s business operations and defined essential travel as travel that is mission-critical for Rotary business and
  - a. cannot be conducted without in-person interaction or without visit(s) to a specific location(s);
  - b. for which the purpose and intended outcomes are dependent upon the presence of the funded traveler(s) at the in-person meeting/location;

and further agreed that Rotary-funded, essential travel includes:

- travel by the president, president elect, trustee chair, and their spouses;
  - travel related to the Polio global initiative;
  - travel by volunteers whose attendance is required where the meeting/event cannot accomplish its goals or be successful without the in-person presence of that traveler (for example, travel by a convener to an event is essential, while travel by a particular speaker to an event is not essential; spouse or partner travel to an event, other than the convener's, is not considered essential);
  - travel by students and Rotary Peace Fellows who have secured proper documentation to enter their intended destination country or to return home;
  - travel by a director within his or her own country to the extent permitted by applicable local governmental regulations;
  - travel by a governor within his or her district to the extent permitted by applicable local governmental regulations;
- agreed that personal travel shall not be allowed in conjunction with any Rotary-funded travel through 31 December 2020.