



Highlights from the April 2018 Rotary Foundation Trustees Meeting

The Rotary Foundation Trustees met on 10–12 April 2018 in Evanston, Illinois, USA and reviewed eight committee reports and recorded 49 decisions. The following are highlights from this meeting.

Administration

The Trustees

- selected past RI Director Steven A. Snyder to serve as one of two lead facilitators on the 2019 Regional Leaders Training Institute planning team;
- approved revised policy directions for the regional Rotary Foundation coordinators.

Fund Development

The Trustees

- changed the name of “Term Gifts” to “Directed Gifts”;
- agreed to offer districts a one-time opportunity to use up to 20 percent of their uncommitted DDF at the end of fiscal year 2018 for district grants before the end of 2021;
- agreed to the establishment of the Japan Rotary Peace Centers Endowment Fund to support the Rotary Peace Centers program and encouraged the transfer of accumulated district designated funds to this newly formed fund;
- requested that districts take advantage of alumni, Rotaract, and Interact expertise and networks by working closely with alumni associations, Rotaract clubs, and Interact clubs to identify, develop, and implement impactful projects and to build strong connections with international partners in implementing those projects;
- agreed to alleviate international partners from global grant reporting responsibilities if they were not the party receiving or distributing the grant money.

Programs

The Trustees

- agreed to enhance the master’s degree program by 2022 to focus more broadly on peace and international development, whereby Peace Centers would offer peace fellows elective courses, certificates, or tracks for specializations that would take advantage of Rotary’s Areas of Focus;
- agreed to develop a standardized workshop series applicable to all master’s degree centers to better equip Rotary peace fellows with practical aspects of a career in peace building and development;
- agreed that upon the certification of polio eradication, The Rotary Foundation will advocate in pre-elected countries for the implementation of the polio post-certification strategy as developed by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative;
- agreed to provide an additional US\$2 million in World Fund to finance 2017–18 global grants;
- extended Rotary’s service partnership agreement with Peace Corps and Habitat for Humanity International both for an additional three-year period;
- added a new type of partnership called “Collaborating Organizations” such as nongovernmental organizations, government agencies, corporations, or universities with which Rotarians can work to advance their community and international service activities;
- agreed to hold a Rotary Peace Symposium on 31 May–1 June 2019 at the Hamburg convention;

- revised the conflict of interest policy for program participants.

Finances

The Trustees for fiscal year 2018–19,

- approved a contributions budget totaling US\$314,671,000, a total program awards expenditures budget of \$274,026,000, and net investment returns budget of \$43,269,000;
- approved \$16,825,156 to be distributed from endowed funds, allocated as follows:
 - program awards: \$13,788,060
 - program operations: 1,343,871
 - fund development: 1,015,935
 - general administration expenses: 677,290