

**HIGHLIGHTS
OF
ACTIONS TAKEN BY
THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AT ITS NOVEMBER 2007 MEETING**

The second meeting of the 2007-08 RI Board of Directors was held on 29 October—2 November 2007, in Evanston, Illinois, USA. At this meeting the Board reviewed reports from 17 committees and recorded 112 decisions.

CLUB AND DISTRICT MATTERS

The 2007 Council on Legislation referred numerous resolutions to the Board for study, most of which the Board responded to at its June 2007 meeting. At that meeting, the Board deferred consideration of several resolutions to its November meeting to allow time for further review. In response, the Board:

- Reaffirmed its policy on new corporate projects, which states that “until the PolioPlus program has been successfully completed, no other International program will be considered.”
- Recognized its strengths are in long-term rebuilding efforts, and therefore, did not support establishing a rapid disaster response task force. The Board instead encouraged Rotarians interested in disaster response to work with established disaster relief organizations.
- Advised that RI has various communication and information resources available to Rotarians and requested the general secretary to increase promotion of such resources.
- Noting that the Secretariat continuously seeks and implements opportunities for cost effectiveness, and that the Board and RI committees continually address cost effectiveness and efficiency, did not agree to appoint a cost reduction team.
- Requested the general secretary to conduct a needs analysis for providing clubs Internet-based meetings software and platforms.

The Board increased the number of regional Rotary International membership coordinators (RRIMC) from 44 to 64 and discontinued the RI membership zone coordinator position, effective 1 July 2008. The Board further agreed that the primary role of the RRIMC is to train district membership chairs and committees through regional training and other appropriate workshops and seminars.

Noting the success and potential of the recent presidential membership conferences, the Board recommended that these self-supporting conferences continue throughout the Rotary world over the next two years, and that they concentrate solely upon membership development and retention. The Board further requested that each presidential conference submit a financial report to the general secretary.

The Board encourages clubs to immediately report their new members to RI. Clubs are obligated to fulfill the entire financial responsibility of their new members, which includes the full amount of any pro-rata dues and all semiannual dues payments that fall within 180 days of a member’s admittance to Rotary.

Based on a resolution from a Rotary Peace Forum in Africa, the Board approved the appointment of a Reach Out to Africa Resource Group for 2007-08, and requested the president to issue invitations to Rotarians to serve on the resource group and to determine its terms of reference.

In ongoing discussions to improve the Governors-elect Training Seminar, the Board requested the general secretary to develop an alternative curriculum using innovative, independent-learning techniques, and for such a curriculum to be implemented as a two-year pilot project on a voluntary basis at three to five Rotary institutes in 2009 and 2010.

RI ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

The Board established roles and responsibilities for the various elements of the RI strategic plan, and assigned each of the plan's priorities to an RI committee for further planning, implementation, monitoring, and report to the Board. The Board further approved a new Vocational Service Committee, to be appointed by the president. The Board affirmed that the plan's highest priority is the eradication of polio, with the plan's other priorities collectively holding equal importance.

The Board approved President-elect Lee's selection of four distinguished Rotarians to serve as Rotary Foundation Trustees to begin serving 1 July 2008. They are: William B. Boyd, Samuel A Okudzeto, John F Germ and Doh Bae

The Board requested that any unofficial Rotary program, group, or entity using the word "Rotary" in its name or requesting Rotarian support or participation to submit an annual financial statement to its members and participants, and to the Secretariat upon request, by 1 October each year.

The Board accepted the audited statements and report on RI's financial results for 2006-07. The Results will be published in the annual report.

RI PROGRAMS, COMMUNICATIONS, AND AWARDS

In discussing Rotaract issues, the Board established a policy for the composition, selection, and qualification of the RI standing committee on Rotaract; it recommended that districts appoint one joint district Rotaract committee composed of equal numbers of Rotarians and Rotaractors; it agreed that Rotaract clubs should be invited by their sponsoring Rotary clubs to participate in the official visit of the district governor to the Rotary club; and it encouraged districts to collect and maintain alumni data on former Rotaractors as potential future Rotarians.

The Board encouraged districts to take a number of steps in furthering the Interact program, including to work with Interactors aging out of the program or relocating to find new potential Rotaract or Interact clubs; to develop parental consent forms (or indemnification/hold harmless waivers, as appropriate) for Interact club activities; and to develop an award for all Interact, Rotaract, RYLA, and Youth Exchange program participants who have made outstanding service contributions.

The Board established a triennial review of Rotarian Action Groups by the Rotarian Action Groups Committee to determine whether they should maintain their Board recognition, and

changed the financial reporting requirement for Rotarian Action Groups to allow groups to use an audit committee instead of a paid financial professionals. Additionally, the Board recognized the Disaster Relief Rotarian Action Group and the Rotarian Singles Fellowship.

Noting the significant number of Rotarians for whom Hindi is the native language, the Board agreed to begin providing translation of Rotary documents into Hindi as publications are developed and/or revised, beginning 1 July 2008.

The Board selected 150 recipients for the 2007-08 Service Above Self award, which recognizes exemplary humanitarian service provided on a continual bases by Rotarians who might otherwise go unrecognized. The name of the recipients will be announced at the end of the Rotary year.

INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS

The Board approved the theme, “Bound for Birmingham,” for the 2009 convention and also approved the inclusion of a Rotary World Peace symposium as an official pre-convention event at the 2009 convention. The Board also looked with favor on the 2015 and 2016 RI conventions being held in either Latin America, Korea, or the western United States.