

DRAFT MINUTES
of the Annual Meeting of the
International Eye Care Fellowship of Rotarians
(now the "Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention")
Wednesday, June 14, 2006 - Bella Center
Rotary International Convention - Copenhagen, Denmark

The meeting was called to order by Fellowship Chair, Dr. Ken D. Tuck who welcomed all present and then introduced the officers and Board members who were present. They were as follows:

Chairman:	Ken D. Tuck
Honorary Chair:	PRIP Frank J. Devlyn (who arrived during the meeting)
Secretary:	Harriett H. Schloer
Board Member:	Tom Kwako
Board Member:	Patrick Devlyn
Board Member:	Rekha Shetty
Board Member:	Kulasegaran Sabaratnam

Minutes: The minutes of the 2005 Annual Meeting were unanimously approved as printed and provided to all in attendance.

Treasurer's Report: As the Fellowship Treasurer, Dr. David Gallagher, was not present in Copenhagen, he provided a written financial report that was presented by the Secretary. The report was unanimously approved as printed by all members present at the meeting.

Secretary's Report: Fellowship Secretary, Harriett Schloer, presented the following report on the Fellowship's membership:

a. Number of members as of June 1, 2006	193
b. Number of Members registered during the 2006 Convention	4
c. Total number of Registered Members	197
d. Number of members present for the 2006 Annual meeting	8

Fellowship Newsletter: It is the desire of the Fellowship to have a quarterly newsletter with articles based on the work that the fellowship's members are doing around the world. The Chairman discussed the appropriate format for submitting articles and items for inclusion in the Fellowship Newsletter . . . "Visions" in order to insure they will be published. The following guidelines must be followed if fellowship members wish to have their articles included.

1. Submit all articles in Microsoft Word format
2. Send the Word document as an attachment to Email (not as a part of the email itself)
3. Photos which are to be included with the article also need to be sent as attachments to email (not included as part of the Word Document)
4. All items are to be submitted directly to the Chairman for review prior to publication. The chairman will then forward all approved items to the Secretary to produce the newsletter.
5. Articles sent as an email message only will not be used

Someone asked why the fellowship even needed a newsletter. The secretary stated that as a Rotary Fellowship we are REQUIRED to produce at least one newsletter annually in order to retain our fellowship status. The Secretary must submit a copy of this newsletter(s) to RI when filing the annual fellowship report.

Fellowship Web Site: A discussion was held on the proper format for submitting items for posting to the Fellowship web site. The Chairman stated that the same format needs to be followed for submitting items for the web site that is used when submitting items for the newsletter. However, items for the web site can be sent to either the Chairman or the

Secretary who also serves as the fellowship's webmaster. Once again, Email messages will not be accepted for inclusion.

New Business

1. **Becoming a Rotary Action Group:** After discussion it was moved and seconded and unanimously approved that the Eye Care Fellowship be converted to a Rotarian Action Group. The actual name for the group will be left to the Board to decide. Once the new name has been selected, the Secretary will inform Rotary International and will process any and all paperwork necessary to make the change. As the 2006-2007 RI Official Directory has already been printed, the IECFR will not appear as a RAG until the next Rotary year.
2. **Participation in the AAO Convention:** One of the fellowship members asked why the fellowship participates with a booth at the annual American Academy of Ophthalmology Convention. It was explained that it gives the fellowship excellent exposure to tens of thousands of Ophthalmologists and suppliers of products used by them and that we are able to develop partnerships and recruit volunteer doctors for projects and get items donated. Those present agreed that this participation should continue in the future as it is beneficial to the overall work of the Fellowship.
3. **Custom Booth for Fellowship Use:** A discussion was then held on the feasibility of purchasing a custom-built booth that could be used for all future conventions in North America as well as the annual AAO meeting and various Zone Institutes. The cost would run between \$1500 - \$2500. The Secretary will work with various companies to get bids on the booth. In order to decrease the cost, the bid will be joined with two other Rotary booths for conventions in order to get a price break. The Secretary and Chairman will make the final decision on the booth. This was unanimously approved by the fellowship.
4. **An invitation for membership in the International Agency for the Prevention of Blindness (IAPB).** Chairman, Ken, stated that we had been invited to become a member of the IAPB. A discussion took place on whether or not a Rotary Fellowship could, indeed, "join" a group such as this. Honorary Chair, Frank J. Devlyn, stated that he would check with Rotary International on the feasibility of this. There is a \$1000 annual cost and the question of financing this cost was also discussed. The group present agreed that if we could find funding for this membership on an annual, we should become a member. However, the matter was referred to the Board pending a response from Rotary International to determine whether or not we should become a member of this organization.
5. **Promotion of new members to the Fellowship:** A discussion was then held on how to best promote membership in the Fellowship / RAG. It was decided that we need an individual who will serve as the Fellowship Membership Chair. As there were no other volunteers, Board Member, Patrick Devlyn, agreed to fill this position. Ways of growing the membership will be handled by the Board.
6. **Interface between IECFR and The Rotary Foundation and the ABDAF:** It was discussed how best to help individual eye care projects with funding from The Rotary Foundation with additional funding support from the Avoidable Blindness Donor Advised Fund. Board Member Kula moved, and Board Member Rekha seconded that ONLY projects which are sponsored by a member of the IECFR should be granted funding from the ABDAF. Motion carried with one no vote from the Secretary. The decision of the IECFR shall now be referred to PRIP Frank Devlyn. *(Note: The ABDAF is not controlled by the IECFR and the IECFR cannot make decisions of this nature regarding the fund. The ABDAF was set up by PRIP Frank Devlyn, who, along with the fund manager PDG Steve Brown are the only individuals who can determine which projects will be provided with ABDAF funding. The IECFR in making their decision needs to "refer" this decision to PRIP Devlyn for consideration . . . not implementation.)*

7. **WHO and blindness prevention:** A discussion in participating in the World Health Organization's Blindness Prevention program was tabled until the 2007 annual meeting when we would have additional input to present to the members.
8. **Special recognition for District 5320:** Chairman Ken recommended that a letter of appreciation be sent to DG Bill Peloquin and District 5320 for their contribution of \$25,000 to the Avoidable Blindness Donor Advised Fund. All agreed that the letter should be sent. The Secretary will prepare it for the Chairman's signature.
9. **Other issues of interest and concern to the membership.** Board Member Rekha Shetty presented a brief report on the Avoidable Blindness work being done in her area of the world. At the end of her report, Chairman Ken recommended that all such reports would be much more appropriately presented in writing by each of the Board members so they could then be placed on the Fellowship web site for everyone to view. An action group member (name unknown) so moved and the Secretary seconded the motion. The motion passed. Effective July 1, Board members will file their annual reports in writing (date to be specified), so they may be placed on the Fellowship web site. Oral reports will no longer be presented at the annual meeting.
10. **Date and location of the Fellowship's 2007 Annual meeting:** The next annual meeting of the Fellowship / RAG will be held during the Rotary International Convention in Salt Lake City, Utah in June of 2007. The Chairman and the Secretary will prepare all paperwork to get the meeting on the Convention Schedule. Once confirmed, the date will be posted on the Fellowship / RAG web site.
11. **Other Business:** The Chairman announced that the 2006 Board meeting would be held immediately following the Fellowship Annual Meeting.

Adjourn: As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned one hour after it started in order to clear the room for another fellowship that was holding its meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,



Harriett Schloer
Fellowship Secretary