

Annual Meeting Minutes
Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention
Monday – June 18, 2007 – 8:00 AM
Salt Palace Convention Center – Room 251C
Salt Lake City, Utah (USA)

1. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order promptly at 8:00 AM by RAG Chairman, Ken D. Tuck, MD. Chairman Tuck welcomed all present and thanked them for rising early to attend the annual meeting. He then introduced all of the current Board members who were present as well as the incoming Board members who were present. There were a total of 37 individuals present during the meeting.
2. **Approval of the 2006 Annual Meeting minutes:** Copies of the 2006 Annual meeting minutes were provided to all present. Chairman Tuck asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, it was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as written. Motion carried.
3. **Secretary's Report:** The RAG Secretary's report which had previously been approved by the Board of Directors was approved as presented.
4. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report, which had previously been approved by the Board of Directors was approved as presented.
5. **Unfinished Business**
 - a. **Conversion to RAG:** The RAG Secretary informed the membership that based on the vote of the membership at the 2006 Convention, the former IECFR officially converted to the RAG for Blindness Prevention on July 1, 2007. As such we are now bound by all requirements for RAGs as mandated by Rotary International.
 - b. **Participation in AAO and other Conventions:** The Chairman reported on the RAGs participation in the 2006 American Academy of Ophthalmology meeting and the RAG's commitment to participate in all future AAO meetings and Vision Expo meetings which are held in Las Vegas. He explained that the RAG has a Rotarian in Las Vegas that now helps coordinate shipments of the booth, and schedule booth staffing for the annual Vision Expo. It will be the Secretary's responsibility to handle all of the logistics for the annual AAO meeting as its meeting location changes each year. It was moved and seconded to approve participation in these events. Motion carried.
 - c. **RAG Custom Booth:** The RAG Secretary reported on the manufacturing and cost of the new custom booth which is currently on display during the RI convention and will be used for all future AAO and Vision Expo (West) conventions. The booth is for use in North America only as the cost to ship it overseas would be prohibitive. She presented the Board's proposal to build a second booth that would be used throughout India and Asia to further the work of the RAG. It was moved and seconded that the booth will be manufactured locally in the India / Asia area and that the RAG will be responsible for the expense, not to exceed \$2000 (US\$). Motion carried.

- d. **Membership in the IAPB:** Chairman Tuck reported that following the 2006 Annual Meeting in Copenhagen, Immediate Past Chair – PRIP Frank Devlyn, had contacted Rotary International to see if it is permissible for Rotary organizations such as RAGs to officially become “members” of other organizations such as the IAPB. RI has ruled that this is not appropriate and that no RAG should endeavor to become a “member” of any such organization. Therefore, based on this decision, our RAG will not be “joining” any of the other international organizations that are working in the area of Blindness Prevention.
- e. **Participation in the WHO Blindness Prevention Program:** Chairman Tuck reported that this item was also a carryover from the previous Convention and falls under the same ruling by RI regarding the IAPB. We cannot “officially” join in the WHO Blindness Prevention Program, however, we are not prevented from using the resources that the WHO program can provide with regard to developing international “partnerships” for various Blindness Prevention Projects. Each one will need to be reviewed and considered on an individual basis.
- f. **RAG Newsletter:** The RAG Secretary reported that a single 18-page issue of the RAG newsletter had been published in December 2006. She stated that she would like to publish quarterly but without sufficient articles and content this will not be possible. She once again requested that all RAG members forward articles for consideration to her via email.

6. New Business

- a. **Online Election Results:** The RAG Secretary explained the process used to conduct our elections online this year and explained that under the new RI ByLaws all RAGS must hold elections annually and all elections must be held PRIOR to the RI Convention and that all members must have the opportunity to vote. The cost to the RAG of the online voting procedure was \$126. This is much less than it would have cost to print and mail paper ballots and it is much more time-effective for the Secretary who is responsible for handling these elections each year. Some access issues to the system were discussed which were had been individually resolved during the elections so anyone who wanted to vote could vote. Overall, based on comments from those present at the meeting, the membership feels this is the best way to insure that all members have the opportunity to vote in elections which will now be held annually and that it is the responsibility of each member to insure that the RAG has a current, accurate Email address for communications purposes. It was moved and seconded to approve holding all future RAG elections online. Motion carried.
- b. **Election of 9th Board Member:** Chairman Tuck explained that with the expansion of the Board from 8 to 9 members (per an amendment that was approved in the 2007 elections), it was necessary to select one additional Board member. There were three eligible candidates, but two of the candidates withdrew their names leaving PDG Rekha Shetty as the only remaining candidate. The Board selected Rekha as the 9th Board member at its meeting earlier in the week. Chairman Tuck asked for approval of the Board’s decision. It was moved and seconded that PDG Rekha Shetty be approved as the 9th Board member with a one-year term of office. Motion Carried. PDG Shetty will

be eligible to run for re-election in the 2008 elections for a 3-year term of office.

- c. **Board Member Roles and Responsibilities:** Chairman Tuck then announced the areas of responsibility that have been assigned to various Board members for the 2007-2008 Rotary year and approved by the Board at its meeting earlier in the week. They are as follows:
 - i. **Membership:** PDG Phyllis Nusz and Patrick Devlyn
 - ii. **Communications:** Philippe Caron
 - iii. **Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund:** PDG Walt Schloer
 - iv. **Trachoma:** PDG Tom Kwako
 - v. **River Blindness:** PDG Tom Kwako
 - vi. **Cornea Transplants & Cornea Banks:** PDG Rob Ketron
 - vii. **Refractive Error:** Robert Martin
 - viii. **Cataracts and Strabismus:** PDG Bill Peloquin
 - ix. **Education:** Chairman, Ken D. Tuck, MD
 - x. **Avoidable Blindness Conferences:** PDG Rekha Shetty
- d. **Advisors to the Board:** Chairman Tuck also announced that the Board was interested in retaining the input and services of former Board members Selvarajah Sunderavel and Kulasegaran Sabaratnam. Therefore, the Board has approved the appointment of these members as “Advisors to the Board of Directors”.
- e. **New Rotary ByLaws for Rotarian Action Groups:** Chairman Tuck announced that the RAG will need to revise its ByLaws to comply with the new RI ByLaws for RAGS no later than 12/31/08. The following individuals will be working on the ByLaws in order to bring these into compliance: Harriett Schloer, Ken Tuck, Tom Kwako, David Gallagher, and Walt Schloer. They will request additional input from other Board members as needed. Once the ByLaws are in a Draft form, and have received the approval of RI, they will be posted on the RAG web site for review and input by the entire membership.
- f. **Membership Fees for Rotaractors and Spouses / Partners:** Chairman Tuck announced that the Board had approved the following Membership Fees structure based on the eligibility of Spouses/Partners and Rotaractors. This is based on the new RI ByLaws for RAGS. In addition, the members overwhelmingly voted to discontinue Annual Membership as a category of Membership in our RAG:
 - i. **Rotarian Lifetime Membership:** \$100 one-time fee with no annual dues
 - ii. **Spouse / Partner Lifetime Membership:** \$100 one-time fee with no annual dues
 - iii. **Rotaract Lifetime Membership:** \$50 one-time fee while they remain in Rotaract. Upon becoming a Rotarian, they will be required to pay the additional \$50 fee in order to retain their Lifetime Membership.
 - iv. **Honorary Membership:** For non-Rotarian eye care professionals that the Board / RAG feels will be worthy of such membership in terms of their partnering capabilities as well as their desire to participate in Blindness Prevention activities.
- g. **RAG Endorsement Policy:** Chairman Tuck explained the need for the RAG Endorsement Policy that had been endorsed by the Executive Committee in 2006 and approved by the

full Board earlier this week. It was moved and seconded that the policy be approved by the membership. Motion carried

- h. **Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund:** Chairman Tuck introduced incoming Board Member, PDG Walt Schloer who is also the Administrator of the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund. PDG Schloer briefly explained to the members how the DAF works and encouraged them to initiate Blindness Prevention projects that would qualify for funding from the DAF.
- i. **Blindness Prevention Workshop:** Chairman Tuck provided an overview of the Blindness Prevention Workshop that would be held later in the day and encouraged all to attend.
- j. **Application for Non-Profit Status:** The RAG Secretary presented the Board's decision to apply for non-profit status with the IRS. It was moved and seconded to proceed with the application for non-profit status in order to apply for grants to help with administrative expenditures and obtain grants to help support Blindness Prevention projects. Motion Carried.
- k. **Executive Secretary/Director:** Chairman Tuck announced that the Board had approved the appointment of Harriett Schloer as the Executive Secretary/Director of the RAG to handle all administrative business of the RAG. It was moved and seconded to approve Harriett Schloer as the new Executive Secretary/Director. Motion Carried.
- l. **Development of a Strategic Plan for the RAG:** Chairman Tuck announced that the Board had voted to approve the development of a Strategic Plan for long-term future planning for the RAG. He announced that the members of the SP committee will be: Ken Tuck, Harriett Schloer, Tom Kwako, Rob Ketron and Patrick Devlyn. They will obtain input from other Board members as needed. The draft proposal of the committee will be presented during the 2008 Convention.
- m. **Good of the Order**
 - i. **Presentations:** Chairman Tuck introduced all of those who had been presented with Awards at the Board meeting and thanked them for their commitment and service to the Fellowship and the RAG.
 - 1. **Retiring Board Members**
PDG Steve Brown
Selvarajah Sunderavel
Kulasegaran Sabaratnam
PDG Tom Kwako
 - 2. **Retiring Vice Chairman**
PDG Rekha Shetty
 - 3. **Service Award**
Secretary, Harriett Schloer: Presented a Paul Harris Fellow by Chairman Tuck
 - ii. **Dates for Board meeting and Annual meeting in Los Angeles 2008:** Chairman Tuck announced that as soon as the dates for the 2008 Board meeting and Annual meeting are confirmed, they will be posted on the RAG web site.

- iii. **2009 Convention in England:** As it appears that the 2009 Convention will be held in Manchester, England, plans for that convention for the RAG will be determined at the annual meeting in Los Angeles in 2008.

7. Adjournment: As there was no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Harriett Schloer".

Harriett Schloer
Secretary
Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention