

DRAFT MINUTES
2010 Annual Meeting
Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention
Tuesday, June 22, 2009 - 7:00 AM
Palais de Congres
Montreal, Canada

1. **Welcome:** The meeting was opened at 7:10 am by Dr. Ken D. Tuck, Chairman of the RAG. There were 18 members of the RAG present at the meeting who then introduced themselves. Dr. Tuck then invited PRIP Frank Devlyn to give a brief welcome to all present.
2. **Minutes:** Minutes of the 2009 Annual meeting were presented for review. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's report was presented by the Exec Sec in the absence of the RAG Treasurer. It was moved and seconded that the report be approved as presented. Motion carried.
4. **Executive Secretary's Membership Report:** The ExecSec presented the annual membership report as follows:

a. Membership on June 30, 2009:	227
b. Members who resigned or were deceased:	6
c. New members as of July 1, 2009:	9
d. Members as of June 22, 2010:	230
5. **Resignations:** Chairman Tuck announced the resignation of Patrick Devlyn and introduced Selvarajah Sunderaval as the newest Board member. He requested that the membership "certify" the Board's selection of the new board members. Moved and seconded that the new Board member be certified. Motion Carried.
6. **Revised Bylaws:** Chairman Tuck explained that prior to the 2010 annual elections, it was discovered that there was a loophole in the RAG Bylaws that could be detrimental to the overall function of the RAG. As a result, the Board postponed the elections for one year and extended the terms of all Board members and officers by one year. Chairman Tuck then explained the loophole and presented the changes to the Bylaws that the Board had approved at their annual meeting to correct these errors in the Bylaws. The recommended revisions are as follows: *(Note: Chairman Tuck explained each Bylaw change as it was presented and the reasoning behind it).*
 - a. Only Officers and Board members will be eligible to nominate individuals for Officers and Board positions *(time frames shall be established by the Executive Secretary)*. There was no discussion. Moved and seconded that this bylaw change be approved. Motion carried.
 - b. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall have previously served a minimum a 3-year term as a Board member or an officer to be eligible to election to the office of Vice Chairman or Chairman. There was no discussion. Moved and seconded that this bylaw change be approved. Motion carried.
 - c. The Vice Chairman shall automatically fill the position of Chairman following a 3-year term as Vice Chairman. There was a brief discussion after which it was moved and seconded that this change to the bylaws be approved. Motion carried.
 - d. There will be no need for online elections unless there is more than one nominee for any vacant office. There was not discussion. Moved and seconded that this change to the bylaws be approved. Motion carried.
 - e. To be eligible to serve as a Board member, a RAG member shall have attended a minimum of 2 RI conventions during the previous 10 years. Following a brief discussion it was moved and seconded that this change to the bylaws be approved. Motion carried.
 - a. Each year, all elections will be certified by the Officers and Board members at the annual Board meeting and then be presented to the membership at the annual meeting. After a brief discussion, it was moved and seconded that this change to the bylaws be approved. Motion carried.

7. **Future of the RAGS:** Chairman Tuck and Executive Secretary Schloer then discussed the RAG Chairs meeting that was held on Saturday, June 19, 2010. They explained that the future of the status of the RAGS is currently in limbo with RI and we will not know the future status of the RAGS until the November 2010 Board meeting. There was little discussion on this topic as it was realized that at this point the RAGS have little input regarding this discussion / decision. A proposal will come from the RI RAG committee (following input from the RAG Chairs gained from the Saturday meeting) and then it will be up to the RI Board to determine the future of the RAGS. Once the RI Board makes its decision we will know what our status will be and if the RAGS will be allowed to continue to function, we will forward our application to the IRS so we can obtain non-profit status.

One of RI's concerns regarding the RAGS is that there are some RAGs that are paying CEO's , Executive Directors, etc. annual stipends of \$80,000 - \$100,000 a year plus expenses to serve as the chief administrators of the RAG. At the BP-RAG Board meeting on June 18, 2010 the RAG Board once again reiterated its firm stance against such paid positions and annual stipends. They believe that the mission of the RAGs is to support the clubs and districts in their work in the area of Blindness Prevention and NOT TO fund individuals to "promote the work of the RAG". Work in Rotary is to be voluntary and no individual should be compensated for such work. This is the Board's position.

(NOTE: At the BP-RAG board meeting, the Board members did not support the request from other RAGS to support funding of the position of a CEO, Executive Director, Executive Secretary, etc. that would receive a "stipend plus expenses" to manage the work of the RAG. Our RAG Board, including our ExecSec are 100% opposed to this proposal and believe that the CEO, Exec Sec, Exec Dir positions for all RAGS should only be reimbursed for personal expenses incurred in performing work for the RAG at the direction of the RAG Board of Directors.)

PRIP Frank Devlyn (a Board member and the Immediate Past Chair of the RAG) then spoke to the membership and encouraged them to consider retaining the services of an individual who will be able to devote all of their time to promoting the work of the RAG just as other RAGS have done.

In response to the PRIP Devlyn's comments, Exec Sec Schloer re-stated the Board's position as agreed to at the June 18, 2010 Board meeting. RAG Chairman Tuck then inquired of those present if they wished to amend or overturn the Board's position/decision. There was no discussion and no motion to overturn the decision of the Board, therefore the decision of the Board of Directors at the 2010 Board meeting shall stand as approved.

ES Schloer recommend that PRIP Devlyn bring his proposal to the RAG Board at the 2011 Board meeting in New Orleans and to include information related to said recommendation, including how the recommended position would be funded, thereby enabling the Board to address this recommendation with the necessary facts to make an informed decision. Currently, our Bylaws do not allow any of the RAG officers or Board members to receive any compensation.

8. **Trachoma / River Blindness Project:** RAG Vice Chair, PDG Tom Kwako discussed the Trachoma and River Blindness Project that is going on in Central America with USAID. He explained that the RAG cannot "partner" with USAID on this project but he encourage all present to have their clubs and districts consider participating in and supporting the project as it will have far reaching ramifications in the area. He passed out materials for all present to take back to their clubs.
8. **Exhibiting at future events:** Chairman Tuck and ExecSec Schloer then presented the Board's decision on exhibiting at future AAO meetings. Chairman Tuck explained the Board's position regarding all future exhibits (with the exception of the RI Convention) until the RAG is financially able to support its participation in these events. A motion to support the Board decision was seconded. Motion carried.
9. **Annual Member Assessment for Convention Exhibitions:** Chairman Tuck reminded the members that at last year's annual meeting, those present had approved an annual "assessment" of \$25.00 per member to help support the RAG exhibiting at the annual RI convention and the AAO meeting. This assessment will continue to be necessary until the RAG has received IRS "tax exempt" status and can apply for grant funding to cover all administrative expenses including exhibiting at the annual RI

Convention, the AAO convention and other conventions as determined by the RAG Board of Directors.

10. **Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund:** RAG Board member and BP-DAF Administrator, PDG Walt Schloer presented his annual report on the grant activity by the BP-DAF for the past year. He answered numerous questions on the process of getting a DAF grant. This will be discussed further during the Blindness Prevention workshop on Monday. Those interested in a DAF grant were invited to visit individually with PDG Schloer at the RAG booth.
11. **Special Presentation:** Following PDG Schloer's presentation, RAG member Gowri Rajan (Sri Lanka) requested of Chairman Tuck that she be allowed to make a special presentation. Rotarian Rajan stated that during the past year, PDG Schloer and the BP-DAF have made it possible for the RC of Kandy (Sri Lanka) to complete numerous BP projects to establish eye care clinics throughout Sri Lanka thus bringing eyecare to the most remote areas of the country. Gowri presented PDG Schloer with a engraved custom-made silver plaque in recognition of his help in assisting the RC of Kandy to complete their projects. In addition, she encouraged all present to apply to the BP-DAF for funding assistance for their MG projects as the DAF can play a significant role in helping to bring TRF Matching Grant projects to fruition. (NOTE: Rotarian Rajan was one of the presenters at the annual Blindness Prevention Workshop.)
12. **2011 Annual Meeting:** ExecSec Schloer announced that the date for the 2011 Annual meeting during the 2011 RI Convention in New Orleans would be announced to the membership via email and the RAG web site as soon as the date had been confirmed with Rotary International.
13. As there was no further business to come before the annual meeting of the RAG membership, Dr. Tuck thanked everyone for attending and adjourned the meeting at 8:15 AM in order open the booth in the House of Friendship.

Respectfully Submitted,
Harriett Schloer


Executive Secretary.