



Visions



June 2010 Volume #7

“The gift of sight . . . Protect it, Save it, Restore it”

A Message from our Action Group Chairman

My Fellow Rotarians

This year, during our annual convention in Montreal, Quebec, Canada our Blindness Prevention workshop focused on successful Matching Grant projects that had been spearheaded by members of our RAG and received funding from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund. (BP-DAF). As part of these presentations, we demonstrated how these projects would be funded under the TRF Future Vision plan which will go into effect on July 1, 2013. Our presenters included Board member PDG Rekha Shetty (*Holding Successful Avoidable Blindness Conferences*), RAG member Gowri Rajan (Sri Lanka) (*Vision Clinics in Sri Lanka*), and RAG member DGE Todd Lindley (*Successful Cataract Surgeries in India*). In addition, RAG Board member and BP-DAF Administrator, PDG Walt Schloer, gave a presentation on the BP-DAF and how to request funds from the DAF and how the DAF will work under The Rotary Foundation's Future Vision Plan.

This year, the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised fund assisted 20 blindness prevention matching grant projects by providing additional funding. These projects were wide and varied and the support of this fund has enabled clubs and districts around the world to serve those with the greatest need. We have included an article on how to apply to the BP-DAF for help funding your project.

At the 2010 annual meeting and Board meeting, changes to our Bylaws were recommended and approved by both the Board and the membership. We've included copies of the minutes in this newsletter from the Board meeting and the

Annual meeting so you will better understand how we are changing. In addition, we've included the newly revised and approved RAG Bylaws.

Our Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention is changing . . . and growing . . . to create new opportunities for service. On page 8 of this newsletter there is an item entitled “Do You Facebook?” We would like your thoughts and ideas as to whether or not our RAG should establish a presence on Facebook, LinkedIn and Twitter. How would you see us using these networks to grow our organization? Rotary International is using all of these as well as YouTube in its effort to increase communication within Rotary as well as attract new, younger members. I look forward to hearing from you as we take our RAG one step closer to the future.

Yours in Rotary Service,

Ken D. Tuck, MD
Chairman
Rotarian Action Group for
Blindness Prevention



Officers

- Chairman**
Dr. Ken D. Tuck, MD
- Immediate Past Chair**
PRIP Frank J. Devlyn
- Vice Chairman**
PDG Tom Kwako
- Executive Secretary**
Harriett Schloer
- Treasurer**
PDG David Gallagher
- Board Members**
Selva Sunderavel
PDG Rob Ketron
PDG Bill Peloquin, MD
PDG Walt Schloer
PDG Phyllis Nusz
Kula Sabaratnam
Philippe Caron
PDG Rekha Shetty
Dr. Ravi Venkatasubbiah



Be sure to check all of the RAG news on the RAG web site

Draft Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT MINUTES

2010 Board Meeting

Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention

Friday, June 18, 2010 - 6:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Le Dauphine Hotel (Board Room)

Montreal Quebec Canada

1. **Welcome and Introductions:** The meeting opened at 6:00 PM with Chairman, Dr. Ken Tuck introducing himself and then asking everyone to introduce themselves. Present were the following:
 - **Chairman:** Ken D. Tuck, MD
 - **Vice Chair:** PDG Tom Kwako
 - **Executive Secretary:** Harriett Schloer
 - **Current Board Members:** PDG Walt Schloer, Selvarajah Sunderavel (Board Member-Elect)
 - The following officers and Board members did not attend the Montreal Convention: (Patrick E. Devlyn (resigned), Philippe Caron, Dr. Ravishankar Kowshik Venkaatasubbiah).
 - The following Board members attended the convention but did not arrive in time to attend the Board Meeting or were not able to attend the meeting due to other commitments: (Board Members - PDG Bill Peloquin, PDG Rob Ketron, PDG Rekha Shetty, PDG Phyllis Nusz, and PRIP Frank Devlyn).
2. **Minutes:** The minutes of the 2009 Board meeting were presented for approval. No additions or changes were required. Moved and seconded that the minutes be approved as presented. Motion carried.
3. **Treasurer's Report:** As Treasurer PDG David Gallagher was not attending the Montreal Convention, the Executive Secretary presented the Financial report. Moved and seconded that the financial report be approved as presented. Motion carried.
4. **Executive Secretary's Report:** Harriett Schloer presented the Secretary's annual report. Following is the brief summary:
5. **Membership:**
 1. **Membership June 30, 2009: 227**
 2. **Members who resigned or were Deceased: 6**
 3. **New members as of July 1, 2009: 7**
 4. **Members as of June 18, 2009: 228**
(Note: 2 more members were added during the Montreal Convention)

Executive Secretary Activities: The Executive Secretary reported that she had prepared and submitted the Annual Report to RI (copies available at the meeting); handled all applications for

exhibiting at the 2010 RI Convention; processed the 2010 Convention Workshop application; arranged for transport and shipment of all booth materials to and from the Montreal Convention; arranged for additional furnishings, internet and electricity to be brought to the booth, scheduled the annual meeting for the 2010 Convention; scheduled the annual Board meeting for the 2010 Convention; renewed annual Non-Profit status with State of Oregon and filed annual report with the Oregon Department of Justice; arranged for printing of all material to be used in the booth during the convention and the AAO meeting; duplicated more copies of the DVD for hand-out at the convention and AAO meeting; created a RAG promotion business card to be used in making luggage tags; ordered luggage tag packets and loops and small laminating machine to make luggage tags at exhibiting events; managed the RAG web site and kept the site updated and current. Chairman Ken moved and PDG Walt Schloer seconded that the Secretary's report be accepted as presented. Motion carried.

6. **Resignation of Board Member:** As reported to all RAG officers and board members earlier this year, Board Member Patrick Devlyn resigned as a Board member because he has left Rotary. The Executive Secretary recommended that the Board vote to appoint Selvarajah Sunderavel (an Advisor to the Board) to replace Patrick Devlyn and complete the remainder of his term (1 year). Moved and seconded that Selvarajah Sunderavel be appointed to fill the remainder of Patrick Devlyn's term of office as a Board member. Motion carried unanimously. The Secretary announced that Treasurer, PDG David Gallagher will be resigning effective June 30, 2011. It is recommended that Board Member, PDG Phyllis Nusz (who lives very close to PDG Gallagher), fill the remainder of PDG Gallagher's position as Treasurer (after resigning as a Board Member herself) effective July 1, 2011 and that Selvarajah Sunderavel fill the remainder of PDG Nusz' Board term (as his term will also expire on June 30, 2011). The Board approved this proposal and recommends that the Board vote on this at the May 2011 Board meeting in New Orleans.
8. **Annual 2010 Elections:** By a vote of the Executive Committee taken via email in January 2010, it was unanimously decided to not hold elections this year (due to a lack of qualified candidates and qualified successors to our Chairman and Vice Chairman) and to extend all

Draft Board Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

current Board and Officers positions for one additional year. The annual election will once again be held in 2011 following recommended changes to the RAG Bylaws by the Board and anticipated approval of these changes by the RAG members at the annual meeting on Tuesday, June 22, 2010 during the RI Convention in Montreal.

9. **BP-DAF Report:** DAF Administrator and Board Member PDG Walt Schloer presented the annual BP-DAF report. During the 2009-2010 Rotary Year, the BP-DAF did the following:
 - a. 20 = Number of Grants Awarded
 - b. \$40,000 = Total amount of Grants Awarded
 - c. \$2,202.59 = Administrative fee paid to TRF
10. **Exhibit Report:** Walt and Harriett Schloer transported the custom booth as well as the new pop-up display banners to San Francisco in October 2009 for the annual AAO convention. We gained 5 new members from that convention and numerous names that we can use for contact purposes. Luggage tags were laminated for more than 300 attendees. As agreed to last year, we are no longer exhibiting at the Vision West convention. Due to a schedule conflict for both Walt and Harriett with the AAO Convention in Chicago in 2010, it was agreed that unless funding can be obtained for other Board members to represent the RAG and unless Housing can be obtained with local Rotarians while in Chicago, the RAG should consider NOT exhibiting at the 2010 AAO meeting in Chicago. The Chairman and the Executive Secretary will work on this to see if it is at all possible and if funding can be obtained. The Booth, all booth supplies and the pop-up display banners continue to be stored in Bend, OR, USA at the home of PDG Walt and Harriett Schloer.
11. **Application for Non-Profit Status with the IRS:** The IRS non-profit application is currently “on hold” awaiting a decision from the RI Board in November 2010 on the status of all Rotary RAGS. There will be a RAG officers meeting on Saturday during the Montreal Convention to discuss the RAGS strategy in presenting their position to the RI Board. *(NOTE: The RAGS are not in agreement and there is great contention among them as to what is the “role” of the RAGS. There is no indication of what the outcome of tomorrow’s meeting will be or what the potential fu-*

ture of the RAGS will be.) We will need to wait until November 2010 to determine if RI is going to continue with RAGS (in a modified format) or if they will be disbanding them entirely. If they are allowed to continue their work and if it is feasible for our RAG to continue, we will then complete and submit the non-profit application to the IRS.

12. **Changes to RAG Bylaws:** The Executive Secretary reported that this year, when it came time to hold our annual elections, she realized that we had a serious problem. She discovered a “loophole” in our current bylaws that would allow any RAG member to run for the office of Chairman or Vice Chairman, or Treasurer whether or not they had any BP-RAG Board or Officer experience and whether or not they had ever attended an RI Convention. As a result, she contacted the Executive Committee members and recommended that the annual elections be delayed for one year and that the terms of the current officers and board members be extended by one year until the Board could meet in Montreal and change the bylaws. There was a unanimous vote by the Executive Committee of the Board (and then of the full Board), via email to delay the elections for one year and to extend the terms of all officers and board members by one additional year.

After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided on the following changes to the Bylaws:

- 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*)
- b. The Chairman and the Vice Chairman shall have previously served a 3-year term as a Board member or an officer to be eligible to election to Vice Chairman or Chairman
- c. The Vice Chairman shall automatically fill the position of Chairman following a 3-year term as Vice Chairman
- d. Online elections will not need to be held unless there is more than one nominee for any vacant office.
- e. To be eligible to serve as a Board member, a RAG member shall have attended a minimum of 2 RI conventions during the past 10 years.
- f. All elections will be certified each year by the Officers and Board members at

Draft Board Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

the annual Board meeting.

Trachoma / River Blindness Initiative: Vice Chair, Tom Kwako, discussed the Trachoma / River Blindness initiative that is taking place in South America with USAID. RI sent at email to the Executive Secretary expressing “concern” that a partnership was being formed by the RAG with USAID on this project when RI had already identified USAID as one of their “primary partners” and as such was an organization that could not be contacted by clubs, districts or RAGS for “partnering”. The EXECSEC contacted Jesse Allerton at RI headquarters and explained that there was no “partnership” in place with USAID and assured Allerton that the BP-RAG does NOT enter into such “partnerships”. Rather the email / memorandum that had been sent out to members of the RAG was to “inform” individual members that if their club / district was interested in participating in the project they were encouraged to do so as it was a project that the RAG felt was “worthwhile” even though it (the RAG) is not part of the multi-district, multi-organizational partnership. Allerton replied that he appreciated the phone call, would make a note in the file, and that the call had “satisfied RI’s concern”.

12. **Covering of Board Members’ Expenses after Obtaining IRS Tax-Exempt Status:** The ExecSec stated that once the RI Board makes its decision on RAGS in November, if the RAGS will not be dissolved, we can file our Tax-Exempt application with the IRS. Once this has been approved, she will be able to write grants that will help us cover administrative costs for attending and exhibiting at conventions. As such, once grant funding is received, she asked the Board to consider and approve the following:
 - a. First, to reimburse the expenses of the ExecSec to attend the annual Rotary International Convention and the annual convention of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. She asked the Board to approve this as the ExecSec is “required” by the RAG to be present at the RI convention due to various commitments on behalf of the RAG during the convention (Board meeting, Annual membership meeting, Booth in the House of Friendship, and Annual Blindness Prevention

Workshop) and at the AAO meeting in order to represent the RAG and Rotary International. She stated that these expenses should not be reimbursed until there are sufficient funds in the RAG treasury to do so and that the Bylaws should be rewritten to address this. *(Moved, seconded, and approved by the Board)*

- b. Second, to cover the expenses of one Board member (in addition to the ExecSec) or two Board members (not including the ExecSec) to attend the AAO meeting in order to insure that there are at least two RAG Board members present during the AAO meeting to cover the booth for the four-day event. *(Moved, seconded, and approved by the Board)*
 - c. The Board voted to approve both of the above proposals with the understanding that all of these expenses would only be reimbursed when, at such time, there were sufficient funds in the Treasury through additional grant funding to cover them.
 - d. The allowed expenses for the above will include but not be limited to: registration, travel, transportation, housing, meals and other expenses all of which shall be approved by the Chairman and the Treasurer prior to reimbursement.
13. **Future Potential Exhibits:** The Board then discussed exhibiting at the following events:
 - a. **2010 AAO Meeting in Chicago:** A lengthy discussion was held on exhibiting at the AAO this year in Chicago in October as both Harriett and Walt Schloer will not be able to attend the meeting due to a date conflict with required District meetings. Other than Chairman Dr. Ken D. Tuck who is an ophthalmologist and attends the AAO meeting annually for professional purposes, none of the Board members agreed to attend unless their expenses could be covered. It was decided to see if we could get members in the Chicago area to staff the booth and make arrangements to have the banners, etc. shipped to a Chicago address. If this cannot be arranged, we will not exhibit this year.
 - b. **2011 AAO Meeting in Orlando:** It is hoped that by the 2011 AAO meeting in Orlando, we will have grant funding to cover our expense for participating in

Draft Board Meeting Minutes (cont'd)

the AAO and to pay the expenses of two board members to attend and represent the RAG. This will be discussed again at next year's Board meeting.

- c. **2011 RI Convention in New Orleans:** The ExecSec as well as Chairman Tuck, Vice Chairman Kwako, Board Members Walt Schloer, Phyllis Nusz, and Selvaraja Sunderaval will be in New Orleans for the Convention. This is the last RI convention in North America until 2017. We will ship our booth to New Orleans and then store it for 6 years until New Orleans.
- d. **Future RI Conventions:** Future RI conventions will be held in Bangkok, Lisbon, Sydney. Attendance by current Board members is questionable at this time. This will be discussed again at next year's Board meeting and plans for exhibiting at future RI conventions will be made annually and will be dependent upon the RAG obtaining grant funding to cover administrative expenses and convention participation expenses.

14. **Duty of the RAG to its Membership:** Once again, the Board reiterated the following duties of RAG Membership which are not included in our Mission Statement. These are as follows:

- a. **Celebrating World Sight Day:** This occurs each year on the Second Thursday in October. Through its membership, the RAG will encourage each and every Rotary Club to hold a Blindness Prevention activity of some type during October as close to World Sight Day as possible. This could be a speaker at a club meeting, a community awareness activity, or a project specifically related to Blindness Prevention.
- b. **School Vision Screening:** Much of the world's blindness could be prevented by performing vision screening early with all school children. RAG members will be asked to work with their clubs and districts to establish vision screening programs in schools to enable early identification of vision problems in order to prevent blindness.
- c. **Getting Involved:** All RAG members will be asked to become "proactive" and take an active part in Blindness Prevention, not merely be a BP-RAG member in name only. Just as the RAG has respon-

sibilities to its members, members have a responsibility as well and that is to take on the mission of the RAG to the greatest extent possible in order to help in the prevention of avoidable blindness.

- d. **Organize an ABC in Every Rotary District:** It shall be the responsibility of the RAG Board of Directors and all RAG members to establish lines of communication with each and every Rotary district in the world and endeavor to organize Avoidable Blindness Conferences on a Bi-Annual basis. Kula and Rekha are the "experts" in this regard and have been asked to develop a "generic" program that can be offered to each and every RAG member for each and every Rotary district to begin the process of developing Blindness Prevention programs and organizing ABC's.
- e. **Collection and Distribution of Eye Glasses:** Collecting and distributing used eye glasses is one of the easiest possible ways in which to help with vision problem. Refractive error can be easily corrected and the collection / distribution of eyeglasses is a well established program that has many models that can be replicated. Information on these programs will be made available on the RAG web site for all to use.

15. **Annual Meeting of RAG:** After getting a full consensus of those present that it is best to hold the Board meetings on the Friday prior to the start of the Convention, the Executive Secretary announced that the 2011 RAG Board meeting will be held at 6:00 PM on Friday, May 20, 2011 in New Orleans. As soon as a location has been determined, all Officers and Board members will be informed.

16. **Adjournment:** As there was no further business to come before the board at this time, the meeting adjourned at 9:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



a. Harriett Schloer
Executive Secretary

Draft Minutes of Annual Meeting—June 2010

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 addition, these changes will bring our Bylaws into alignment with the RAG Recommended Bylaws and required by RI. The recommended revisions are as follows: *(Note: ExecSec Schloer explained each Bylaw change as it was presented and the*

reasoning behind it).

- Only Officers and Board members will be eligible to nominate individuals for Officer and Board positions *(time frames shall be established by the Executive Secretary).*
- 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.
- The Vice Chairman shall automatically fill the position of Chairman following a 3-year term as Vice Chairman. .
- There will be no need for online elections unless there is more than one nominee for any vacant office. There was not discussion.
- 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.
- 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.

Following a brief discussion it was moved and seconded that these bylaw changes which have already been approved by the Board be ratified. 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

Draft Annual Meeting Minutes—June 2010

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 to include information related to said recommendation, including how the recommended position would be funded, that would allow the Board to address this recommendation with the necessary facts to make an informed decision.

7. 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 en-

courage 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 Blind-

Annual Meeting Minutes

ness 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.

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 to open the booth in the House of Friendship.

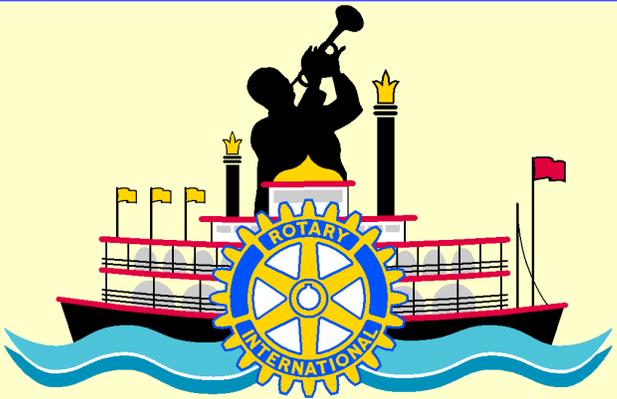
Respectfully Submitted,



Harriett Schloer

Executive Secretary.

June 22, 2010



ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
NEW ORLEANS USA
21-25 MAY 2011

**Attend the 2011
Rotary Convention in
New Orleans, LA, USA
Register Online at**
<http://www.rotary.org>

We Need News!



Each year our RAG Executive Secretary struggles to fill the pages of the annual Newsletter. She would like to publish the newsletter more frequently but in order to do so she needs articles about all of the great work our members are doing around

the world.

If you are one of those that has been fortunate enough to receive funding from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund to complete your TRF Matching Grant project, we'd like you to tell us about it. Send a one-page article to in2dtp@empnet.com along with any photos that you have of the project and we'll include it in the newsletter. If we get enough articles we'll publish more than one issue a year. In addition to having your article placed in the newsletter, we'll also add it to our RAG web site for all to read.

Do you "Facebook"?

All of us who read *The Rotarian* magazine have become aware that Rotary International has taken a strong interest in "Social Networking". It is easy to understand why. Everywhere you look, there are icons like the one below that link you to Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, YouTube and dozens of other Social Networks on the web.

Rotary International has official pages on all of the four networks shown below. Take some time to visit them and then let our RAG secretary know if you think our RAG should have a FaceBook page and why. Rotary hopes to grow its membership through its social networks. Do you think we can grow our RAG by participating in one or all of the same networks that Rotary does? Send your comments to in2dtp@empnet.com



RAG Bylaws—Revised June 22, 2010

ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP FOR BLINDNESS PREVENTION BYLAWS

As approved June 22, 2010
(Annual Meeting – Montreal, Canada)

ARTICLE I - NAME

Section 1.1. The name of this Rotarian Action Group shall be the Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention.

Section 1.2. The office of the action group shall be located at 61835 Walter Court, Bend, Oregon 97702 (USA). The email address of the action group shall be in2dtp@empnet.com.

ARTICLE II - PURPOSE

Section 2.1. The purpose of this action group shall be...

To bring together, in fellowship and service, those Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who have an active interest in the prevention of blindness and the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide.

To provide both a platform and a forum to discuss ideas and develop appropriate cooperative programs to further our shared goals.

To promote international understanding and peace through our common purpose and efforts.

This Action Group is an outgrowth of the former Avoidable Blindness Task Force, the Fellowship of Eye Care Professionals, and the Eye Care Fellowship of Rotarians. All Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Interactors interested in preventing blindness and improving eye health are invited to become members of this official Rotary Action Group.

This action group shall operate in compliance with the requirements for recognition of Rotarian Action Groups as set forth from time to time by Rotary International (RI), but it shall not be an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.

ARTICLE III - MEMBERS

Section 3.1. Membership in the action group shall be open to all active members of Rotary Clubs (Rotarians) in good standing, spouses of Rotarians in good standing, and members of Rotaract Clubs (Rotaractors) who are in good standing. The action group shall assume no liability for services rendered by its members.

Section 3.2. Membership shall only be on lifetime basis, with no expiration. Each member (Active or honorary) shall receive a membership pin and a certificate of membership. Membership fees shall be as follows:

- \$100 one time fee for Lifetime membership for all active Rotarians

- \$100 one time fee for Lifetime membership for spouses / partners of Rotarians

- \$50 one time fee for Lifetime membership for active Rotaractors. Upon a Rotaractor becoming a member of a Rotary club, they shall pay the remaining \$50 of the one time fee to become full lifetime Rotarian members of the RAG.

- Honorary members (non-Rotarian medical personnel) shall be admitted as non-voting members to the RAG and will not be required to pay a fee. Only the Board of Directors shall have the authority to bestow Honorary Membership on an individual.

ARTICLE IV - BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 4.1. The governing body of the action group shall be known as the Board of Directors. The board of Directors shall consist of the officers of the RAG as well as the nine elected Board members and the Executive Secretary who shall be appointed by the Board. The full Board of directors shall consist of the following Officers and Directors:

- Chairman
- Vice Chairman
- Immediate Past Chairman
- Executive Secretary (appointed by Board)
- Treasurer
- Nine Directors

The number of Directors shall be determined by the Board of Directors and shall be increased or decreased in a manner approved by the Board of Directors, but in no event shall there be fewer than three Directors. At least one member of the Board of Directors shall be a past district governor of RI. All directors shall be active Rotarians.

Section 4.2. A simple majority of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at a meeting of the Board of Directors. Attendance by conference call or via Internet shall be considered the same as attendance in person to the extent permitted by law.

Section 4.3. Directors shall serve until their successors are chosen and qualified.

Section 4.4. Terms for Officers and Directors shall be three years with 1/3 of the Board Members being elected each year in order to promote continuity. The Chairman and Vice Chairman shall also serve three-year terms with the Vice Chairman succeeding to the office of Chairman following his/her 3-year term as Vice Chairman. All Officers and Board Member terms of office shall commence on July 1 of the calendar year in which they were nominated and certified.

ARTICLE V - OFFICERS

Section 5.1. The Officers of the action group shall include a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Immediate Past Chairman, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer and other such officers as may be

RAG Bylaws—Revised June 22, 2010

deemed necessary by the Board of Directors. The terms of office shall be three years and shall coincide with the Rotary year. The Board shall establish an “executive committee,” composed of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Immediate Past Chairman, Executive Secretary, Treasurer and two members of the Board to act on behalf of the Board when necessary and convenient to do so.

Section 5.2. The Officers shall perform the duties and functions usually attached to the title of their respective offices, together with those fixed by law, and such other duties as may from time to time be prescribed by the Board of Directors.

Section 5.3: No officer, board member or the Executive Secretary shall be paid any type of compensation. The Executive Secretary shall be reimbursed for all RAG administrative expenses related to exhibiting as explained in Article VIII, Section 8.5 and other expenses as required by the RAG throughout the year. In addition, the Executive Secretary shall be reimbursed for all personal expenses related to the RI Convention and the AAO convention as explained in Article VIII, Section 8.6.

ARTICLE VI - ELECTION AND/OR APPOINTMENT OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 6.1. Nomination Process: Only RAG Officers and Board Members shall be eligible to nominate individuals to fill the position of Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Executive Secretary and Board Member. In January of each year, the Executive Secretary shall notify all officers and Board members to submit their nominations of individuals to be considered for election to any of the following vacancies which may occur at the end of the Rotary year: Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer, Executive Secretary, and Board Members. All nominations must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than March 1 of each year. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to certify each nomination based on the requirements of each position that will become vacant at the end of the year. All nominees must have indicated their willingness to serve and their willingness to attend the RI Convention and RAG Board Meeting and Annual Meeting at no expense to Rotary or the BP-RAG by the March 31 deadline to be considered a valid nominee for election.

Section 6.11: Nomination and Election of Vice Chairman: Current RAG Officers and Board Members are the only ones eligible to nominate Board members and Officers. To be eligible for the position of Vice Chairman (3 year term) and thus, automatic succession to Chairman (3 year term) following the completion of the term of Vice Chairman, the nominee must be a Member of the RAG in good standing in his/her Rotary Club. In addition, the individual shall have previously served a minimum of three years as either a Board Member or Officer of the BP-RAG and state his/her willingness (in writing) to attend all conventions of Rotary International during his/her term of office (total of six years) at no cost to Rotary or the BP-RAG. All nominations must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than March 1 of the year prior to the Rotary year in which the position of Vice Chairman shall become vacant. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to certify each nomination based on the requirements of

the position of Vice Chairman. All nominees must have indicated their willingness to serve by March 31 of the year prior to which the position of Vice Chairman shall become vacant to be considered a valid nominee for election.

Section 6.12: Succession to Position of Chairman: Current RAG Officers and Board Members are the only ones eligible to nominate Board members and Officers. To be eligible for automatic succession to the position of Chairman (3 year term) the nominee must be a Member of the RAG in good standing in his/her Rotary Club. In addition, the individual shall have served a term as Vice Chairman and/or a total of three years as either a Board Member or Officer of the BP-RAG and state his/her willingness (in writing) to attend all conventions of Rotary International during his/her term of office (3 years) as Chairman at no cost to Rotary or the BP-RAG. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to certify the nominee based on the requirements of the position of Chairman. The nominee must have indicated his/her willingness to serve by March 31 of the year prior to which the position of Chairman shall become vacant to be considered the valid nominee for election.

Section 6.13: Nomination of Treasurer: Current RAG Officers and Board Members are the only ones eligible to nominate Board members and Officers. To be eligible for the position of Treasurer (3 year term) the nominee must be a Member of the RAG and in good standing in his/her Rotary Club. In addition, the individual shall be a citizen of the United States (for banking purposes) and have experience in bookkeeping and accounting commensurate with the position of Treasurer and state his/her willingness (in writing) to attend all conventions of Rotary International during his/her term of office (3 years) at no cost to Rotary or the BP-RAG. All nominations must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than March 1 of the year prior to the Rotary year in which the position of Treasurer shall become vacant. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to certify the nominee based on the requirements of the position of Treasurer. The nominee must have indicated his/her willingness to serve by March 31 of the year prior to the year in which the position of Treasurer shall become vacant to be considered the valid nominee for election. The Treasurer may be re-elected every three years by the Board with no limitation on the number of years the individual may serve.

Section 6.14: Appointment of the Executive Secretary: The Executive Secretary shall be appointed to the position by the Board of Directors and shall continue to serve at the pleasure of the Board with no term limit with reappointment every three years. To be eligible for the position of Executive Secretary the individual must be a Member of the RAG and in good standing in his/her Rotary Club. In addition, the individual shall be

RAG Bylaws—Revised June 22, 2010

a citizen of the United States (for IRS and administrative purposes) and have administrative experience commensurate with his/her position.

Section 6.15: Nomination of Board Members: Current RAG Officers and Board Members are the only ones eligible to nominate Board members and Officers. To be eligible for the position of Board member (3 year term), the nominee must be a Member of the RAG and in good standing in his/her Rotary Club. In addition, the individual shall have attended a minimum of two Rotary International Conventions in the previous 10 years and state his/her willingness (in writing) to attend all conventions of Rotary International during his/her term of office (3 years) at no cost to Rotary or the BP-RAG. All nominations must be submitted to the Executive Secretary no later than March 1 of the year prior to which the Board positions shall become vacant. It shall be the responsibility of the Executive Secretary to certify each nomination based on the requirements of the position of Board Member. All nominees must have indicated their willingness to serve by March 31 of the year prior to which the Board position shall become vacant to be considered a valid nominee for election.

Section 6.2. Election of Officers and Board Members - The names of the certified nominees for all vacant positions shall be posted on the RAG web site no later than March 31, with photos and full Rotary resumes available for online viewing. In addition, all members in good standing shall be notified of the posting of the nominees on the web site.

Section 6.21 If there is only one nominee for each vacant position, no online voting will be required and the nominee shall be declared “elected”.

Section 6.22. If more than one individual has been nominated for any vacant position, an online election shall be held. No later than April 15, each active member of the RAG shall be emailed a link to cast their vote online for those nominated for election. Online elections will be closed on April 30. The online voting system shall tally the votes, and provide proof of voting accuracy.

Section 6.23. Prior to the annual meeting of the membership which shall be held during the annual convention of Rotary International, the Officers and Board of Directors shall meet and certify the election results for the RAG for those who shall assume office on the first day of July following their election: Announcement of the Election results shall be placed on the RAG web site following the annual convention of Rotary International.

Section 6.3. A vacancy in the Board of Directors, or any office, shall be filled by action of the Board of Directors. A vacancy in the position of an Officer-elect, or Board of Directors-elect, shall be filled by action of the members of the Board of Directors.

Section 6.4. A Director or Officer may be removed from office for cause by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors, or, by a two-

thirds vote of the membership.

ARTICLE VII - MEETINGS

Section 7.1. An annual meeting of the members shall take place during the annual convention of Rotary International at which time the business of the organization shall take place. The exact date, time, and location of the annual meeting of the members shall be announced to the members at least 30 days prior to the meeting, and such date, time and location shall be set by the Executive Secretary based on the schedule made available by Rotary International. The date time and location shall be posted on the RAG web site at least 30 days prior to the meeting.

Section 7.2. The annual meeting of the Board of Directors shall take place prior to the annual meeting of the members and shall be open to any member on a space available basis. The exact date, time, and location of the annual meeting of the Board shall be announced to the members at least 30 days prior to the meeting, and such date, time and location shall be set by the Executive Secretary based on the arrival of the Board members prior to the RI convention. The newly elected Directors and Officers shall be inducted at this meeting and shall have voting authority at this meeting. The date, time, and location for this meeting will be posted on the RAG web site.

Section 7.3. Special meetings of the Board of Directors may be called at any time by the Chairman, by the Executive Secretary, by any three members of the Board of Directors, or by one-third of the membership.

Section 7.4. Any action required or permitted to be taken by the Board of Directors under any provision of law, or otherwise, may be taken without a meeting if all of the members of the Board shall individually or collectively consent in writing to such action.

ARTICLE VIII - FISCAL MATTERS

Section 8.1. The fiscal year (Rotary year) of the action group shall be 1 July through 30 June.

Section 8.2. Binding contracts shall be signed by any two of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, Executive Secretary, and Treasurer.

Section 8.3. Funds shall be deposited in a United States financial institution approved by the Board of Directors.

Section 8.4. Unless otherwise ordered by the Board of Directors, disbursements of the action group's funds shall be by check, signed as follows:

- Disbursements not exceeding US\$1500.00, by the Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Chairman or Vice Chairman
- Disbursements of US\$1500.00 or more, shall be signed by two of the following, Treasurer, Executive Secretary, Chairman, or Vice Chairman

Section 8.5: The decision as to whether to exhibit at the annual RI Convention or other conventions shall be dependent upon the amount of funds available in the treasury to cover all expenses related thereto including: shipping, postage, paper, printing, carpet, furnishings, electricity, internet, signage, booth supplies, etc. Prior to deciding to exhibit at any of these events, a thor-

RAG Bylaws—Revised June 22, 2010

ough review shall be made of funds available in the RAG treasury to insure there will be enough to cover all of the exhibit costs. Reimbursement for all administrative expenses related to exhibiting at conventions will be paid to the Executive Secretary upon providing receipts for all related expenditures.

Section 8.6: Because the RAG Board requires the Executive Secretary to be in attendance at the RI Convention and to represent the RAG at the annual AAO convention, he/she shall be reimbursed for all personal convention expenses related thereto including registration, travel, transportation, housing and all other expenses as approved by the Chairman and the Treasurer upon providing receipts for all related expenditures. Reimbursements for the Executive Secretary's personal convention expenses shall not be made until such time as grant funds have been obtained to cover RAG administrative expenses.

ARTICLE IX - COMPLIANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS FOR RECOGNITION BY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Section 9.1. The action group shall comply with the requirements for recognition of Rotarian Action Groups, as set forth from time to time by RI, including, but not limited to:

- 1) Publishing a newsletter (which may be distributed solely by electronic means) for members at least once during each Rotary year, and file the newsletter and other important communications and documents with the RAG committee and general secretary of RI.
- 2) Holding an annual forum by way of an annual meeting, or other activity appropriate to the action group, through which members can interact.
- 3) Responding to inquiries from members, potential members, and the general secretary of RI.
- 4) Submitting an annual report of activities, including a summary of service projects completed, cost of membership dues and a financial statement showing revenues and expenditures during the previous Rotary year, and a statement of funds on hand at the time of the report, to its members with a copy to the general secretary of RI by 1 October in each year.
- 5) Providing an annual financial statement and report, that has been independently reviewed by a qualified accountant, to the members, and supply a copy to the general secretary of RI by 1 October in each year, if its annual gross receipts or expenditures amount to more than US\$25,000 or equivalent.

If an audit committee approach is selected, then it must:

- (a) *be composed of at least three members;*
- (b) *have all the members be active Rotarians;*
- (c) *have at least one member who is a past governor;*
- (d) *have at least one member with accounting and audit experience;*
- (e) *not allow current officers to serve on the audit committee; and*

(f) have the members selected by the action group at its annual meeting in accordance with the procedures established by the Rotarian Action Group.

- 6) Submitting a copy of any grant applications for funds in excess of US\$25,000 or memoranda of agreements or partnerships with third parties to the general secretary of RI.
- 7) Maintaining minimum membership requirements for Rotarian Action Groups as may be set forth by RI.
- 8) Regularly undertaking service projects that fulfill the purposes of the action group, as set forth in Article 2.1 above.

The action group understands and accepts that recognition of the existence of the group by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any RI district or Rotary club. The action group, and its members, directors and officers shall not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that they have authority to act on behalf of RI and agree to comply with RI policies on the use of the Rotary Marks by Rotary Entities, as set forth by RI from time to time.

ARTICLE X - AMENDMENTS

Section 10.1. These bylaws may be amended at any duly called regular or special meeting of the Board of Directors by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. Written notice of such proposed amendment(s) shall be given to the Board of Directors and to the membership at least thirty days prior to the meeting. Such meeting shall be open to any member then in good standing.

Section 10.2. These bylaws may also be amended at any duly called regular or special meeting of the members of the action group by a majority vote of all members. Written notice of such proposed amendment(s) shall be given to the Board and to the membership at least thirty days prior to such meeting. Such meeting shall be open to any member then in good standing.

Section 10.3. Notwithstanding the above provisions, these bylaws may not be amended so that they conflict or are in any manner inconsistent with the standard bylaws for Rotarian Action Groups as promulgated by RI from time to time.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

I hereby certify that these bylaws were approved by the RAG Board of Directors on June 18, 2010 and ratified by the membership at the annual meeting of the RAG held on June 22, 2010 in Montreal, Quebec, Canada during the Rotary International Convention.

Officer's Signature:

Printed Name:

Harriett H.



Schloer

Office:
Executive Secretary

Ex-

Date:

June 22, 2010

The RAG for Blindness Prevention at Work



Booth on display at AAO convention in San Francisco, 2009

RAG Chairman, Dr. Ken D. Tuck, MD and RAG member Carolyn Fortino at AAO convention in New Orleans 2007



**2009-2010 Blindness Prevention Projects
Performed by Clubs of BP-RAG Members
With funding support from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund**

Date	Charity	Status	Amount	In Name Of	Special Instructions	Purpose
7/20/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,202.59	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	Annual Programs Fund - World Fund (Annual administration fee Payable to TRF)	Annual Programs Fund - World Fund
8/14/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	No information available in the DAF database maintained by TRF	MG# 69136 Hosted by RC of Hooghly West Bengal, India (District - 3291)
8/14/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	No information available in the DAF database maintained by TRF	MG# 69103 Hosted by RC of Navsari, Gujarat, India (District 3060)
8/18/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG# 70549, Hosted by RC of Mumbai Borivali East, Mah, India, D 3140. International Partner: RC of Stevenage Grange, Hertz, England, D 1260. Grant Coordinator: Agne Jankauskaite.	1,665 cataract surgeries
9/2/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG# 70469, Hosted by RC of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata, W. Bengal, India, District 33291. International Partner: RC of Stevenage Grange, Herts, England, District 1260. Grant Coordinator Colleen O'Donnell.	To organize Eye Check up camps and successfully conduct 1000 IOL operations.
9/5/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG# 70901, Hosted by RC of Bangalor Koramangala, Karnataka, India, District 3190. International Partner: RC of Ballwin, MO, USA, District 6060. Grant Coordinator Agne Jankauskaite.	To provide 2569 IOL surgeries to poor people.

Date	Charity	Status	Amount	In Name Of	Special Instructions	Purpose
9/5/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG# 70894, Hosted by RC of Santa Elena, Guayaquil, Santa Elena, Ecuador, District 4400. International Partner: RC of Coos Bay-North Bend, North Bend, OR, USA, District 5110. Grant Coordinator: Valerie Pereira	Help fund eye care equipment for Virgen del Cisne Hospital
9/9/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG# 70867, Hosted by RC of Varanasi Central, Varanasi, Utt. Pr. India, District 3120. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Guildford, Surrey, England, District 1250. Grant Coordinator: Colleen O'Donnell	Provide 1000 cataract operations free of costs in Varanasi, India
9/11/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#70988, Hosted by RC of Chalisgaon, Chalisgaon, Mah. India, District 3030. International Partner: RC of Kelowna, Kelowna, BC Canada, District 5060. Grant Coordinator: Agne Jankauskaite	Provide medical equipment for cataract and glaucoma treatment.
9/11/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#69190, Hosted by RC of Dondaicha, Dondaicha, Maharashtra, India, District 3050. International Partner: RC of Nazareth, Nazareth, PA, USA, District 7430. Grant Coordinator: Colleen O'Donnell	Help provide free diagnostic eye camps and complete 620 IOL's
9/11/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#70986 Hosted by RC of Tegucigalpa Sur, Tegucigalpa, Fco Morazan Honduras, District 4250. International Partner: RC of White Rock Surrey, BC Canada, District 5050. Grant Coordinator: Mireya Morales	Provide a YAG Laser to COVA eye clinic in Tegucigalpa

Date	Charity	Status	Amount	In Name Of	Special Instructions	Purpose
9/18/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#70509, Hosted by RC of Hooghly, Hooghly, West Bengal, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Guildford, Surry, England, District 1250. Grant Coordinator: Colleen ODonnell	
9/18/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#70433, Hosted by RC of Calcutta South City, Kolkata, W. Bengal, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Guildford, Surry, England, District 1250. Grant Coordinator: Colleen ODonnell	Provide 1000 cataract operations.
9/18/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#70412, Hosted by RC of Calcutta Bhowanipore, Kolkata, W. Bengal, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Guildford, Surry, England, District 1250. Grant Coordinator: Colleen ODonnell	Provide 1000 cataract operations in Kolkata
9/18/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#70441, Hosted by RC of Calcutta Metropolitan, Kolkata, W. Bengal, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Guildford, Surrey, England, District 1250. Grant Coordinator: Colleen ODonnell	Provide 1000 cataract operations.
10/4/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#69889, Hosted by RC of Karachi South, Karachi, Sindh Pakistan, District 3270. International Partner: RC of Spring Township Centennial, Reading, PA, USA, District 7430. Grant Coordinator: Christian Pepera	Provide 820 cataract operations.
11/10/2009	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG# 70310, Hosted by RC of Kandy, Kandy, Central Sri Lanka, District 3220. International Partner: RC of Newtown, Pipersville, PA, USA, D 7430, Grant Coordinator Lauren Marquez	To help provide a clinic for diagnosis and treatment of eye related problems for the poor people in Dickoya, Central, Sri Lanka

Date	Charity	Status	Amount	In Name Of	Special Instructions	Purpose
1/14/2010	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#70949 Hosted by RC of Dhaka North, Dhaka Bangladesh, District 3280. International Partner: RC of Tokyo Kobushi, Tachikawa, Tokyo Japan, District 2750. Grant Coordinator: Agne Jankauskaite	Provide medical equipment for eye surgeries in Kushtia, Bangladesh.
2/19/2010	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	This Grant is to be designated for MG#72157, Hosted by RC of Delhi Imperial, Delhi, India, District 3010. International Partner: RC of Towson/towne, Maryland, USA, District 7620. Grant Coordinator: Agne Jankauskaite	Provide eye testing on 35,000 children in low income public schools in Delhi, India.
5/24/2010	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	The Grant is to be designated for MG#72966, Hosted by RC of Calcutta Victoria, Kolkata, West Bengal, India, D-3291. International Partner: RC of New Milford, New Milford, CT, USA, D-7890. Grant Coordinator: Colleen ODonnell	1,000 cataract surgeries in Calcutta, West Bengal, India
6/30/2010	TRF	Completed	\$ 2,000.00	The Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund	The Grant is to be designated for MG #72454, hosted by RC of Parwanoo, Parwanoo, India, D-3080. International Partner: RC of Gronau-Euregio, Netherlands, D-1870. Grant Coordinator: Agne Jankauskaite	Help fund 600 cataract surgeries at ESI Hospital in Parwanoo.

Tools for Promoting our RAG

To help promote our RAG to other Rotarians and to non-Rotarians at the various events where we are an exhibitor (RI Convention, AAO Convention, etc.), we have a variety of promotional materials. Here are some of them.

Luggage Tags

For the past year we have made free luggage tags with the individual's business cards on the reverse side. These are very popular and the lines are long but during the past year we've give away more than 1000 of these to Rotarians and non-Rotarians. During the Montreal convent about 400 individuals went home with a RAG luggage tag on their suitcase, golf bag, purse, briefcase, etc. We use the promotion "business card" shown on the right and then back it with the individual's personal business card. HUGE success and a great marketing technique.



DVD's

For the past three years we have distributed free DVD's illustrating various RAG projects worldwide. In addition, the DVD was running on a computer that had been set up in the booth.

This DVD was created from a PowerPoint presentation that was given during our Blindness Prevention workshop in Salt Lake City in 2007. Our Executive Secretary took the PPT, animated it, added background music and then converted the PPT to DVD format. She then produced more than 1500 copies which have been given away during the past three years at the various events we have exhibited at (RI Convention each year and the American Academy of Ophthalmology Convention each year. Even though it is now three years old (the PPT is not dated), it is still as effective today for promotional purposes as it was when it was created

The BP-Donor Advised Fund Helps Fund Projects

PDG Walt Schloer is a RAG Board member as well as the administrator of the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund (BP-DAF). This fund is a sub-entity of The Rotary Foundation and is used to provide support funding to various Blindness Prevention Projects.

During the 2008-2009 Rotary year, the BP-DAF helped to fund 36 Blindness projects worth more than \$75,000. These funds are then matched \$.50 on the dollar by The Rotary Foundation prior to the final funding for the Matching Grant.

Even in these difficult economic times, BP projects are still being completed around the world. But now, more than ever, projects need funding assistance from every possible source. Blindness Prevention is our organization's #1 mission and the DAF supports that mission through its financial resources.



RAG members can request assistance from the BP-DAF by completing the paperwork that is necessary and then submitting it to PDG Schloer.

All of the information necessary to complete the paperwork is available on the RAG web site at

<http://www.rag4bp.org/daf.htm>

If you have additional questions, you can contact PDG Schloer at the following:

[Email: wschloer@empnet.com](mailto:wschloer@empnet.com)

In addition, Schloer recommends that all who are seeking funding for projects, post their projects on the Matching Grants web site at <http://www.matchinggrants.org>

Funds will continue to be scarce for a while, but there are others ways to get your projects funded. You just need to think creatively.

RAG Exhibits at Montreal Convention

Just as we have for the past five years, our BP RAG partnered with the Convention Goers Fellowship to setup and staff a joint booth, in a prime HOF location, during the 2010 RI convention in Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Again, this year, we did not use the 10 foot custom display booth due to the cost of taking it over the border into Canada. Instead we used our two pop-up display banners which were transported by our Executive Secretary and BP-DAF administrator by car over the border thereby avoiding import fees. This year, the booth space came pre-equipped with blue Velcro-receptive panels for the wall which enabled us to attach laminated photos and posters to represent our organization.



Photo of the 2009 booth display at the RI Convention in Birmingham, UK



RAG Board members at the 2009 RI Convention in Birmingham UK (L-R) Board member, Selva Sunderavel, Immediate Past RAG President, PRIP Frank Devlyn, Executive Secretary, Harriett Schloer, Board Member and BP-DAF Administrator, PDG Walt Schloer.

Orleans., LA USA Three years ago (2007) the RAG exhibited at the AAO convention in New Orleans at the Morial Convention Center. It was just a year after Katrina and it was the first convention to be held in the Center after the hurricane. It is a GREAT convention venue with everything on the same level and in the same building.

The New Orleans convention will be the last convention held in North America until 2017 when it will be held in Atlanta to celebrate the 100th anniversary of TRF. It will also be the last time that we'll use our 10 foot custom display booth as the next five conventions will all be held overseas. We'll be using our pop-up banners for all of those conventions. So, come to New Orleans, spend some time helping us in the booth and getting to know some of your fellow RAG members. A booth staffing schedule will be posted in early 2011 so watch for it.

2011 New Orleans Convention

Next year, the RI Convention will be held in New



Attend the 2011
Rotary Convention in
New Orleans, LA, USA
Register Online at
<http://www.rotary.org>

Our Mission . . .

It shall be the mission of the Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention to:

- Bring together, in fellowship and service, those Rotarians and Spouses and Rotaractors who have an active interest in the prevention of blindness and the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide.
- Provide both a platform and a forum to discuss ideas and develop appropriate cooperative programs to further our shared goals.
- Promote international understanding and peace through our common purpose and efforts.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Action Group members must be Rotarians in good standing, spouses of Rotarians in good standing or members of Rotaract in good standing. They may be eye care professionals (ophthalmologists, optometrists, opticians) or other individuals interested in blindness prevention and eye care.

Annual membership is \$25/year or you can become a **Lifetime member** for \$100 and never pay dues again! **JOIN TODAY** on our web site at <http://www.rag4bp.org>

Seeking Help

The RAG for Blindness Prevention is interested in expanding the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide. Our organization has regional representatives and coordinators that work with our Board and officers to develop various eye care projects.

If you are interested in becoming part of this worldwide network of eye care volunteers, please contact our Chairman, Dr. Ken D. Tuck or our Secretary, Harriett Schloer and let them know of your interest. Their email addresses are as follows:

Ken D. Tuck, MD
Email: kendtuck@aol.com

Harriett Schloer
Email: in2dtp@empnet.com

The Blindness Prevention Action Group at work around the world



Conferences
Eye camps,
800,000+
Cataract
surgeries,
Scholarships
Eyeglasses,
World Sight
Day,
Matching
Grants,



Conventions,
the AAO.
All of this is
the RAG4BP.
Become part of
it. Join us in
helping to
preserve sight.

