



Visions



June 2014 Volume #11

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

Shehzad Ahmed takes the Helm in Sydney



Greetings:

It has been a busy year for Rotary and our RAG as we continued to support clubs and districts with advice and expertise from our members and financial contributions from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund for BP project

The Board of Directors held its annual meeting in Sydney with ten of our fifteen members in attendance. Vice Chairman Shehzad Ahmed (*Pakistan*) laid out his initial proposals for our RAG for the next three years. The board made changes to the dues structure (*as per new RI guidelines*) as follows: \$50.00US / Annual membership; \$100.00 US / 3-year membership. All of the current Lifetime members will be grandfathered in and will not need to renew.

We again addressed the potential for creating “partnerships” with other related organizations by signing Memorandums of Understanding (*MOU's*) but made no firm commitments.

We also covered improving communications with our membership by determining which individuals are still connected. If there are new email addresses for our members, we want to hear about it, so

please contact our Executive Secretary with your new email at in2dtp@gmail.com

As a followup to last year, we have been able to obtain from TRF an approved statement for “sustainability” for Global Grants being written for cataract surgeries. If you are working on a GG for cataract surgeries and need a qualified sustainability statement, please contact me and I will provide you with a statement that TRF will approve.

Our annual meeting was sparsely attended this year due to a conflict of the meeting time with the convention’s opening ceremony. However, those who were present, discussed ways in which their organizations could work with our RAG to provide funds for future BP projects. This avenue for funding will be pursued and you will be updated as to the progress in our 2015 annual newsletter.

My term as Chairman ends on June 30, 2014 and Vice Chair, PDG Shehzad Ahmed will assume the office on July 1. Shehzad was the unanimous choice of the Board last year to assume this position. He is an outstanding leader in his district and his work for Polio eradication in Pakistan is legendary. In addition his passion for Blindness Prevention has enabled him to work with

(Continued on page 3)

Officers (2014-2015)

Chairman
PDG Shehzad Ahmed

Immediate Past Chair
PDG Walt Schloer

Vice Chairman
(currently vacant)

Executive Secretary
Harriett Schloer

Treasurer
PDG Phyllis J. Nusz

Permanent Honorary Chair
PRIP Frank J. Devlyn

Board Members

- Dr. Dieter Brodhel
- Dr. Zeeshan Cheema
- Mark Harbison
- PDG Todd Lindley
- DGN Gowri Rajan
- PDG Manjit Sawhney
- Kulasegaran Sabaratnam
- Selvarajah Sunderavel
- Samar Das



2014 Convention Booth Photos



Chairman Shehzad w/ the "Pin Man" & Will Beaudry



Our RAG and CGF Double Booth

Blindness Prevention Project Photos



Cataract Surgery in China



Cataract Surgery in Nigeria



Vision Screen in the Philippines



Juvenile Cataract Surgery in Ghana

Shehzad takes the Helm (cont'd) 2014 Sydney Board Meeting Photos

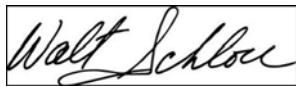
(Continued from page 1)

numerous districts to develop multiple grants in the area of Blindness Prevention, many of which received assistance in funding from the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund.

Currently, we do not have a Vice Chair and the Board voted to delay filling that position until we meet in 2015 in Sao Paulo when more of our Board members will be present. Director Jean Villeval withdrew his name for re-election to the Board for another 3-year term. Samar Das (*United Kingdom*) was recommended to fill the 3-year position and was unanimously elected by the Board.

As I stated in message last year, we are fortunate to have a truly outstanding corp of Officers and Board of Directors and Officers with many of them being internationally recognized eyecare professionals, particularly our past Chairman, Dr. Ken D. Tuck, MD who is a Past President of the American Academy of Ophthalmology. Each is a dedicated and committed Rotarian with enormous passion for Blindness Prevention. They are all actively involved in developing projects around the world to prevent blindness, restore site, and save sight and are diligent in seeking funding from the BP-DAF. Each is determined to further the work of our RAG under the new Grant model and to insure that our work with The Rotary Foundation will significantly increase in the years to come.

It has been my honor to serve as Chairman for the past 18 months as we transitioned into new leadership,. Best wishes for a great Rotary year and I invite you to join us in Sao Paulo in 2015.



*PDG Walter C. Schloer
Chairman, RAG for BP
Administrator, BP-DAF*



2014 Board Meeting Attendees



Board Members Samar Das & Dr. Dieter Brodhel



Chairman Walt Schloer, Sarah Tuck,
Treasurer Phyllis Nusz

Draft Board Meeting Minutes 2014

Draft Minutes

**Rotarian Action Group for
Blindness Prevention
Board of Directors Annual Meeting
Friday May 30, 2014 6:00 PM
Sidney, Australia
(Apartment of Walt & Harriett Schloer)**

The members of the Board along with spouses and guests gathered at 6:00 PM at the Sydney apartment of Walt and Harriett Schloer for cocktails, hors d'ourves, and fellowship. Board members brought international wines with them and PRIP Devlyn arrived with 2 bottles of Mexico's finest tequila for the margaritas. It was great to gather as a group for this annual meeting and renew old friendships.

The Board meeting began at 6:45 PM and was opened by RAG Chairman, PDG Walt Schloer. Those in attendance were as follows: Chair Walt Schloer, Vice Chair Shezhad Ahmed, Treasurer, Phyllis Nusz, Exec. Secretary, Harriett Schloer, Immediate Past Chair, Dr. Ken D. Tuck, MD and Sarah Tuck; Permanent Honorary Chair, PRIP Frank J. Devlyn and Gloria Rita Devlyn, Board Members: Kula Sabaratnum, Samar Das, Dieter Brodehl and Charlotte.

1. **Minutes of June 21, 2013:** The Executive Secretary distributed copies of the minutes of the 2013 Board meeting in Lisbon. After review the minutes were unanimously approved as presented.
2. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer then presented the Treasurer's report. After review the report was unanimously approved as presented.
3. **Executive Secretary's Report:** The ExecSec distributed copies of her annual report to all present. After review the report was unanimously approved as presented.
4. **Donor Advised Fund Report:** Chairman Schloer then presented the annual BP-Donor Advised Fund report. He stated that there would be only enough money in the fund during the 2014-2015 Rotary year to fund approximately 10 projects. The ExecSec stated that the application for 501©(3) status with the IRS should be ready to submit by the end of the calendar year. In addition, as the BP-DAF is already a 501©(3), submitting requests for funds to be deposited directly into the DAF from Rotarians, clubs, districts, as well as blindness prevention

5. organizations, and manufacturers of blindness prevention supplies (through their foundation) is also a possibility. The ExecSec will pursue this and report to the Board at next year's meeting.

6. Unfinished Business

- **Annual Election of Officers:** Our Chairman, Walt Schloer's term as Chair will end on June 30, 2014 and he will be succeeded as Chair by Shezhad Ahmed effective July 1, 2014 who will serve a 3-year term.

As we do not have a Vice Chairman to replace Shezhad, he recommended that we not fill the position for one year and allow other members of the Board who may be interested in stepping forward but are not present in Sydney, to be eligible for consideration next year. It was moved, seconded, and passed unanimously.

All directors whose 3-year terms end on June 30, 2014 were re-elected for another 3-year term effective 7/1/14. As Jean Villeval (Mexico) had notified the ExecSec that he would not be able to serve another term as Director, Samar Das (England) was the Board's choice and was unanimously elected to serve as a director from 2014-2017.

The ExecSec and the Treasurer are just completing the 2nd year of their 5-year terms of office. Effective July 1, 2014, Chairman Walt Schloer will assume the 3-year term of the Immediate Past Chair, replacing past Chairman Dr. Ken D. Tuck, MD who has served the RAG for 8 consecutive years in a leadership position. He was honored by the Board for his dedication to blindness prevention and his commitment to the RAG. Under his outstanding leadership the organization has established itself as an important resource for Rotary clubs and districts as well as assistance with funding for BP projects.

- **Blindness Prevention Project and sustainability requirements:** One of the issues that was of major concern during the 2013 Board meeting in Lisbon was the fact that throughout the entire 3-year period of the Future Vision Pilot Program, not a single Blindness Prevention project for cataract surgeries was approved by TRF, the reason being that they could not meet the "sustainability" requirement. Early in 2014 Board Member, Todd Lindley, (an RRFC) provided the chairman with a statement that had been written by TRF Staff members and

Draft Board Meeting Minutes 2014 (cont'd)

approved for inclusion in BP Cataract surgery grants that would provide an acceptable sustainability clause that had met with TRF's approval. This statement will be made available to all Board and Executive Members following the convention.

7. New Business

- **Vice Chair's Proposals:** Vice Chairman Shehzad then presented some proposals to the Board for consideration.
- **Membership Dues:** RI has asked all RAGs to review their dues structure and rethink annual dues vs lifetime dues. Those RAGs with annual dues are able to easily enroll members and maintain a steady income stream with annual membership renewals. When having only lifetime membership there is no regular income stream and some RAGS have become financially strapped. He recommended that we adopt a new dues structure of \$25/annual members and \$100 for a 5-year membership. A lengthy discussion then occurred on the proposal and when the discussion was finally ended at the request of the Chairman, a vote was taken and unanimously approved to immediately put into effect Annual Membership of \$50.00 and a 3-Year membership for \$100.00 (3 years for the price of 2). All current Lifetime members would be "grandfathered" in and remain Lifetime members with no requirement to pay any dues in the future.
- **RAG Board Responsibilities:** Shehzad asked that the Board consider assigning each Board member a specific responsibility related to the growth and service aspects of the RAG (ie: Membership Director, Communications Director, Fund Development Director, Global Grants Director, Cooperative Partnerships Director, Social Media Director, etc.). In this way, each Board member would have specific responsibilities with the authority to develop programs specifically related to his/her responsibility. The Board agreed that this would be a good idea but delayed appointing specific individuals to fill specific positions until some "job descriptions" were developed for each and members had the opportunity to review them. The ExecSec will work with the Chairman on this and make a final presentation at the Sao Paulo Board meeting in 2015 at which time, if approved, appointments will be made.
- **Improving Regular Communications with Members:** Communicating with our members is an

ongoing challenge. Today, individuals change their email addresses as often as they change the scarves and ties they wear and there is no foolproof way of keeping up with them unless they let us know.

Once an email address goes into cyberspace, that is where it stays, along with all communications sent to that address in the future. Thus . . . a lost RAG member. Shehzad has some ideas on how we can improve this and will work on it during the coming year after he receives the latest membership list with all contact information from the ExecSec.

- **Partnership relationships:** There was no work done during 2013-2014 to investigate potential partnerships. Board members were asked to provide the new Chairman and the ExecSec with the names of organizations, corporations, etc. that we might consider developing partnerships with and potentially sign MOU's. This will be carried over to next year for additional discussion.

8. **Booth staffing:** The ExecSec then requested that all Board members plan on putting in time (at least two hours) in the RAG display booth at some time during the convention. A signup sheet will be available at the booth starting tomorrow.

9. **Annual meeting:** The RAG annual meeting is scheduled for 1:00 PM on Sunday. Check the Convention guide for the location. No speaker is planned for this year as preliminary indication from the membership was that very few RAG members would be attending the Sydney convention.

10. **2015 Board Meeting:** All present are planning on attending the Sao Paulo convention and several who were not able to attend the convention this year will be in Sao Paulo. The Schloer's will once again be renting an apartment and the Board meeting will be held in that location. Details will be sent as soon as the apartment rental has been finalized. The meeting is tentatively scheduled for Friday, June 5, 2015 at 6:00 PM.

As there was no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:00pm and members shared an additional hour of fellowship and photos before departing for the evening.

Respectfully submitted,

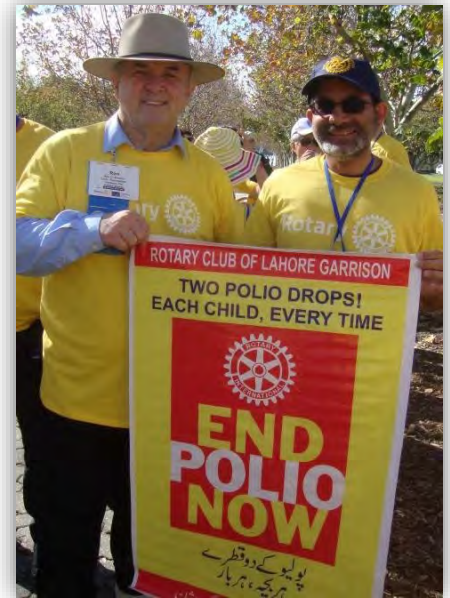


Executive Secretary

2013-2014 BP-DAF Grants Awarded

Date	Charity	EIN	Status	Amount	In Name Of	Special Instructions	Purpose
04/02/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1412455, Hosted by RC of Mumbai Borivali East, India, District 3040. International Partner: The RC of Stevenage Grange, England, District 1260. Grant Coordinator: Janna Glucksman	To help fund 1,000 IOL Surgeries, 4,000 Eye Exams and Auto Lensometer
03/05/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1413196, Hosted by the RC of Purulia, West Bengal, India, District 3291. International Partner: The RC of Guildford, Surrey, England, District 1250.	To help fund 2500 IOL operations in West Bengal, India.
01/22/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1325584, Hosted by RC of Lagos-Palm Grove Estate, Lagos State, Nigeria, District 9110. International Partner: RC of Blythe, California. USA, District 5340.	To help fund IOL surgeries for 1200 patients and distribute 3,000 pairs of eyeglasses.
11/23/2013	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1410603, Hosted by RC of Central Calcutta, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, England, District 1250. Regional Grants Officer: Jennifer Berg	To help financing to provide 2500 cataract surgeries and community awareness training
09/10/2013	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This Grant is to be designated for MG#78670, Hosted by RC of Hooghly, Hooghly, West Bengal, India D-3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Guildford, Surrey, England D-1250. Grant Coordinator: Agne Jankauskaite	To help provide medical equipment to Hooghly Eye Hospital.
07/30/2013	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$321.76	BP-DAF	Annual Grant to Rotary	Annual Grant to Rotary
07/16/2013	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This Grant is to be designated for MG#79676, Hosted by RC of Lahore Midtown, Lahore, Punjab Pakistan D-3272. International Partner: RC of Delhi Chanakyapuri, New Delhi, India D-3010. Grant Coordinator: Sara Mercer	To help provide 377 IOL surgeries to poor people suffering from cataracts in LRBT Hospital Lahore.

07/08/2013	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$1,334.00	BP-DAF	This Grant is to be designated for MG#78498 Hosted by RC of Bangalore J.P. Nagar, Bangalore, Kamataka, India, D-3190. International Partner: RC of Bandar Sunway, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Klang Malaysia, D-3300. Grant Coordinator: Sara Mercer	To assist in the funding to help provide equipment for an Eye Care Center in Agara Village, Kamataka, India.
07/07/2013	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This Grant is to be designated for Global Grant #26205. Hosted by District 3420, Indonesia. International sponsor District 1600, The Netherlands. Grant Coordinator: Laura Bradley	To help provide eye education and basic skills training to local nurses and to provide cataract surgeries to less fortunate in Bali, east Java, Sulawesi and
07/06/2013	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is to be designated for MG#78921, Hosted by RC of Howrah Gangadharpur, Howrah, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Chandlers Ford and Itchen Valley, Winchester, Hants, England, District 1110,	To help provide an eye clinic and eye treatment patients in The Eye Hospital at Gangadharpur, India.



RI President Ron Burton with new Chairman Shehzad Ahmed



Will Beaudry (grandson of Walt & Harriett Schloer) with Shehzad



Exec. Secretary Harriett @ Bd. Meeting

RAG4BP Mission Statement

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 \$50 per year and a 3-year membership is \$100 (1 year free). There is no longer a Lifetime membership classification. You can join online at <http://www.rag4bp.org>

Seeking Help

The RAG for Blindness Prevention is interested in expanding the promotion of eye health and vision worldwide. We have contacted all of the District Governors about providing information to their Rotary clubs about the role of the RAGS in Rotary's organization and structure and how we can assist their district and clubs in completing Blindness Prevention projects.

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

PDG Shehzad Ahmed, Chairman
Email: rotary@promark.com.pk

Harriett Schloer, Exec. Secretary
Email: in2dtp@gmail.com

The Blindness Prevention Action Group at work around the world



Conferences
Eye camps,
1,000,000+
Cataract
surgeries,
Scholarships
Eyeglasses,
World Sight
Day, Matching
Grants, the
AAO meeting,
RI Conven-
tions. All of
this is the
RAG4BP. Be-
come part of
it. Join us in
helping to
save sight
and prevent
blindness.

