

Visions



RAG for
Blindness
Prevention

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

RAG seeking new Exec. Secretary & Funds for BP-DAF



Greetings:

The 2014-2015 Rotary year was a year of changes for our RAG as well as the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund. As has been tradition since we were first founded as a fellowship and then a RAG, we have always held our Annual meeting during the annual Rotary Convention. However, for 2015 very few of our members (as well as officers and Board members) attended the convention in Sao Paulo so no annual meeting was held. We were aware of this in advance and did the majority of our work via email communication, carrying all matters that needed to be tabled or voted on deferred to the 2016 convention Board Meeting and RAG Annual Meeting.

We had a booth in the House of Friendship, but without our ExecSec, we were not equipped to staff the booth properly and enroll any new members. It was a “different” convention for all exhibitors and we did the best that we could.

Harriett Schloer has been our Executive Secretary since we were reorganized in 2001. She is the one responsible for designing and manufacturing our custom booth which we use for exhibiting when the

convention is in North America. We have exhibited on a continual basis at RI Conventions since 2001. For each of those years, our Executive Secretary has created a double booth (with our “sister” organization, the Convention Goers Fellowship) using either our custom booths or creating our own custom design for each convention using Velcro, popup banner displays, photos, colored roll paper, additional tables, a podium, postcards, luggage tag cards, etc. for our double display. Then, she and PDG Walt have packed all of the booth materials and equipment into three large rolling duffel bags which they ship on the same flight that they take to the convention.

In spite of the time and work involved in all of her responsibilities each year, Harriett has truly enjoyed performing all of these tasks as she and Walt have attended 13 RI Conventions.

In this newsletter, we have provided a complete description of the duties which she has assumed as our Executive Secretary. I ask that you take time to review this and determine whether you would be willing to assume some of these duties from. We don’t want any one person to take on all of her duties as realistically, it is too much for one person to be responsible for. However, if you are interested in assuming some of

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Officers (2014-2015)

Chairman
PDG Shehzad Ahmed

Immediate Past Chair
PDG Walt Schloer

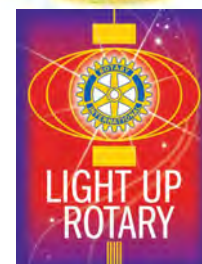
Vice Chairman
(currently vacant)

Executive Secretary
Harriett Schloer

Treasurer
PDG Phyllis J. Nusz

Board Members

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



ExecSec (cont'd.)

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these duties, please contact Harriett via email at in2dtp@gmail.com or by phone at 1+541-388-7342 and she will work with you to see which components of her “job” would be a “fit” for you. Then she will work with you to insure that you are well trained and ready to take on responsibility for the tasks.

Since 2001, the Blindness Prevention Donor Advised Fund through the contributions of committed Rotarians has funded more than 200 blindness prevention projects worldwide. These projects have covered the globe and included cataract surgeries, glasses, vision screening equipment and surgical equipment as well as the furnishing of equipment to eyecare centers throughout Sri Lanka. In June of 2015, the DAF awarded its final \$2000 grant and its funds are now depleted and unable to assist in helping to fund eyecare grants in the future.

This newsletter will serve as a call for contributions to the BP-DAF in order to restore its funds and allow the BP-DAF to continue to fund grant projects worldwide. If you are from the US or Australia, a direct contribution to the BP-DAF will be eligible for a tax credit in your country. In other countries you may not be able to receive this credit. For additional information on giving to the BP-DAF contact the BP-DAF administrator, PDG Walt Schloer at wschloer@gmail.com or by phone at +1-541-388-0769.

Our Executive Secretary will shortly begin the process of preparing for our Annual meeting in Seoul, South Korea. As plans are made and approved by RI, they will be posted to our web site @ www.rag4bp.org.

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 other 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 2016 annual newsletter.

PDG Shexhad Ahmed

Chairman, RAG for BP

ExecSec Job Description

Following is the “Job Description” for the position of Executive Secretary.

- Attend the annual RI convention each year (as MUST!)
- Prepare an annual report for RI and submit by Oct. 1 each year (*RI provides the form for the report*)
- Prepare an annual Newsletter to be submitted to RI along with the Annual Report. (*We have a newsletter template that can be used. It is formatted in Microsoft Publisher software.*)
- Complete form with names of officers for annual inclusion in the RI Directory and a listing of officers on the RI web site.
- Arrange for Annual Meeting space at the RI Convention each year once the call for meeting space goes out to the RAGS and Fellowships. (*This space goes very quickly and a response will be needed within 2-3 days of notification to insure space is acquired.*)
- Work with Treasurer to prepare a Financial Report for the Board meeting.
- Prepare an annual Secretary’s Report for the Board meeting.
- Prepare a meeting agenda in coordination with the RAG Chairman.
- Forward Agenda for Annual Board Meeting along with all necessary attachments to all officers and Board members at least 30 days prior to the convention.
- Take complete minutes during Board meeting and then distribute to all Officers and Board members within 30 days of the Board meeting.

Convention Booth Space

- **Make Request for Booth Space:** As soon as the call goes out from RI for Convention Booth Space, apply for it immediately. Work with the ExecSec of the Convention Goers on this so you have a double booth.
- **Arrange for shipment and decoration of booth** (*either custom booth which is in storage between North American conventions, or personalized booth space using materials that can be transported on the flight to the convention. We have three large rolling duffel bags to transport all of the booth materials.*) Work with ExecSec of the Convention Goers to coordinate the equipping and decoration of the booth as well as determine what additional furniture will be needed. The cost for all materials and equipment is shared by the two sister organizations.
- **Setup Booth at the Convention:** It will be the responsibility of the individual in charge of the booth to arrive at the convention on Wednesday, pick up registration materials on Thursday and then arrive at the convention center early on Friday in order to get the booth setup. They will be issued an “early entry” wrist band and can also list two additional individuals to receive these bands and assist with the booth setup on Friday.
- Booth teardown takes place early Wed. afternoon.

2014-2015 BP-DAF Grants Awarded

BP-DAF Gants 2014-2015

DATE	Charity	EIN	Status	Amount	In Name Of	Special Instructions	Purpose
9/13/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1414791 hosted by the RC of Moshi Kilimanjaro, Tanzania D-9211. International Partner: RC of Mirfield, W. Yorks, England D-1040. Regional Grants Officer: Rebecca Mendoza	To improve the way of life for people with Albinism in the Northern and Lake Zones of Tanzania
1/28/2015	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1412242, Hosted by RC of Hooghly, West Bengal, India D-3291. International Partner: RC of Baker, Louisiana, USA District 6200. Reional Grants Officer: Jennifer Berg	To help provide financing for 2500 IOL surgeries for needy and under privileged patients in West Bengal, India
1/20/2015	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1525313, hosted by RC of Komkal, Guildford, Surrey, England, D-1250. Regional Grants Officer: Laura Bradley.	To help provide financing for eye testing and surgical equipment for Beldanga Eye Hospital.
7/1/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1414581, Hosted by RC of Hooghly, West Bengal, India D-3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Surrey, England D1250. Grant Coordinator: Jennifer Berg	To help provide 2500 IOL surgeries to underprivileged patients in West Bengal India.
7/1/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1417939, Hosted by RC of Sundarbans, West Bengal, India District 3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Surrey, England, District 1250. Grant Coordinator: Jennifer Berg.	To help provide eye surgeries and medical care to underprivileged patients in West Bengal, India.

BP-DAF Grants (cont'd.) BP Project Photos

BP-DAF Grants 2014-2015

BNP	Charity	EIN	Status	Amount	In Name Of	Special Instructions	Purpose
7/30/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$142.62	BP-DAF	Annual Admin Fee for TRF	
9/16/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1415663, Hosted by RC of Calcutta Yuvis, West Bengal, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Guildford, Surrey, England, D1250. Regional Grants Officer: Jennifer Berg	To help provide 2500 IOL surgeries to underprivileged patients in West Bengal, India
10/9/2014	TRF	36-3245072	Completed	\$2,000.00	BP-DAF	This grant is designated for GG1414825, Hosted by the RC of Purulia, West Bengal, India, District 3291. International Partner: RC of Kuching Central Sarawak, Malaysia, District 3310. Regional Grants Officer: Jennifer Berg.	To help provide 2500 IOL surgeries to underprivileged patients in West Bengal, India.



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,



AAO meetings,
RI Convention
All of this is
the RAG4BP.
Become part
of it.

Join us in
helping to
save sight and
prevent
blindness.

