

Transitioning From a Fellowship to a Action Group



The 2005-2006 Rotary year was a very busy one for our organization and it also brought about a major change for our Fellowship. During our annual meeting at the Copenhagen convention, we unanimously voted to become a Rotary Action Group. Our new official name is the *Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention*. With the name change came a new web site address. You can now locate us on the web at <http://www.rag4bp.org>.

The decision to convert to an Action Group more accurately reflects the fact that we are an organization that does the "work of Rotary" through our blindness prevention projects and seminars worldwide. The switch will change the manner in which we operate in the future with additional changes being made during this Rotary year.

New RI Standard ByLaws for Action Groups

In late November, we were notified by Rotary International that we will need to make significant changes in our Action Group ByLaws (all Action Groups will need to do this) in order to be in compliance with the new Rotary Standard ByLaws for Action Groups that were approved by the RI Board of Directors at their October meeting. A draft of new ByLaws has been prepared and provided to the Action Group Committee on the RI staff for review prior to having them voted on at our annual meeting in Salt Lake City. RI must now approve all Action Group ByLaws before they can be adopted and implemented. The new ByLaws will reflect changes needed to meet the requirements of the new RI Standard ByLaws. Some of them are as follows:

- There will now be annual elections rather than bi-annual elections. (*Officers would be elected for two-year terms and Directors would be elected for three-year terms. An officer may serve a maximum of three consecutive terms in the same office and a Director may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.*)
- There shall be a "ballot by mail for all elections and resolutions (such as ByLaw changes) and this must be done PRIOR to the annual meeting at the RI Convention. (*We are looking into making it possible for all of our members to vote online prior to the annual meeting using an online secured voting service. This will be much less expensive and time consuming than printing, posting and mailing individual ballots to all of our members worldwide and will make it possible for all of our members to vote.*)
- We will be increasing our Board from 8 to 9 Directors. Each will serve a 3-year term with 1/3 of them being elected each year. This will improve continu-

ity on the Board. All Directors will be elected this year. At the annual Board meeting in Salt Lake City, it will be decided which members will serve 1-year, 2-year and 3-year terms of office.

- We will now open membership in our organization to spouses of Active Rotarians as well as members of Rotaract. This will help us grow.
- We will increase the number of members of the Executive Committee from 5 to 7 by having the Board elect two of the Directors to serve on the committee for a 1-year term. This will occur each year at the annual Board meeting to be held during the RI Convention.

There will be additional changes which will be included in the final set of revised ByLaws for membership consideration. Once we have approval of the RI review committee to proceed with our draft proposal, it will be presented to our Executive Committee for further review and then presented to the entire Board for final review before it is presented to the membership for adoption.

Annual Report of the Action Group to RI

A 33-page Annual Report was prepared by our Secretary and submitted to RI in October. The report included a list of all projects which had been provided to us for inclusion in the report along with several photos. A summary of these projects is available on our Action Group web site at <http://www.rag4bp.org>.

Booth Staffing at the 2007 RI Convention

Our Brand new Action Group trade show booth will be on display at the RI Convention in Salt Lake City in June of 2007. We are going to need a LOT of help staffing the booth as we are expecting a BIG turnout for the Salt Lake Convention. Early registration is at an all time high with nearly 10,000 Rotarians and guests having registered by December 1. If you have not yet made plans to attend, NOW is the time to do so. Register online at the Rotary web site to get discount rates before March 31. Once you register go to our web site and sign up to do a shift in the booth. It will be fun and you'll meet a lot of great people. Our goal this year is to add at least 50 new lifetime members to our Action Group during the convention and with your help we can probably do more.

Once again this year, our booth will be located adjacent to the Convention Goers booth so we can share resources and cut costs. Be sure to sign up and experience so great fellowship during the Convention.

