



RLI International Newsletter

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March 2013

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions throughout the world. It is not an official program of Rotary International and is not under its control. The RLI seeks to have Rotary Clubs in member districts identify those Rotarians who seem to have the POTENTIAL for future club leadership (not necessarily as club presidents) and provide those so identified with a quality education in Rotary knowledge and leadership skills for voluntary organizations.

Quote of the Month

“A leader's role is to raise people's aspirations for what they can become and to release their energies so they will try to get there.”

—David Gergen, *courtesy of Binod Khaitan, Exec. Vice-Chair of the RLI India Org.*

Editor's Note: Every month or more, Binod Khaitan finds the most incisive and inspiring quotes that he posts on the RLI South Asia pages on Facebook. They are a wonderful collection of excellent quotes on leadership and allied subjects.

Lisbon is the Place to Be for the Rotary International Convention

RLI members from all over the world will join many thousands of Rotarians that will gather in Lisbon, Portugal at the end of June, 2013 for a great convention. One cannot easily know about the great world of Rotary without attending an International Convention.

Monday, June 24, 13:00 to 16:30 (1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.), small group meetings at the Tivoli Oriente Hotel, Madreus Room. That hotel is within walking distance of the Convention Center.

Advance scheduling is required and may be made by contacting RLI Executive Director Michael Rabasca at m.rabasca@comcast.net. The meetings will discuss RLI with prospective member district leaders and discuss any problems raised by existing members, etc. Normally meetings will be scheduled for half-hour periods.

THE ANNUAL CONVENTION BREAKFAST MEETING will be held on Wednesday morning, June 26 at 07:00 to 08:45 at the International Fair Congress Center (Convention Center) at Pavilion 3, Built Room, 3007. A FULL buffet will be served. The principal speaker will be Past Rotary International President Jonathan Majiyagbe. Other participants will be Rotary International Directors Anne Matthews, Shekhar Mehta and Jacques di Costanzo. Many R.I senior leaders are expected to attend.

THE FIRST R.I. BREAKOUT SESSION for RLI on the topic of Strengthening Rotary through RLI. It will be held on Wednesday afternoon, June 26 at the Convention Center, Pavilion 3, Room 8, from 13:00 to 14:00 (1:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Of the 60 minutes allocated to RLI, 55 will be devoted to ROUNDTABLE Discussions. There will be tables provided for English speakers and for other language speakers. To be sure there will be a table for your language group, contact PDG Tam Mustapha, RLI Intl. Vice-Chair, at Mustapha@berk.com or PDG Frank Wargo, RLI Intl. Vice-Chair at frank.wargo@snet.net. Table leaders and recorders will come from a number of countries/continents. This is an opportunity to discuss and learn from your peers and the Roundtables will use the same discussion leader methods used in RLI courses.

April-June Training Visits Planned for International RLI Trainers

The next three months are normally a busy time for RLI International Training Team member. Planning is now underway for faculty orientation visits to the Czech/Slovak Division, the Croatia Division, Malaysia and Texas, USA. Other visits are in the early stages of planning. All will be reported after they occur.

District 5040 of the Pacific Northwest Division of RLI will have an online discussion on April 4 about RLI for Rotarians to ask questions, etc. about the RLI program. It will be led by DG Rebecca MacPherson, District RLI Chair, John Vokes and Division Chair, Chris Offer. Chris is also the Chair of the RLI Intl. Online Courses Committee that recently had its first meeting.

Egypt RLI Division Chair, Colette Haggart is doing a wonderful job in both holding courses in Cairo, Alexandria, etc., but also professionally conducting faculty orientation sessions. She has been commended by RLI leaders in the region.

The new RLI International effort to encourage all Rotary Clubs to send their new members to an RLI course during their first year of membership will officially begin on July 1. The effort was developed to assist in improving membership retention, a serious problem in Rotary. Statistics show that if a new member reaches his/her first year of membership without being enthusiastic about and engaged with Rotary, the chances continually increase that the member will leave. This, of course, is in addition to the regular program of RLI to open up the world of Rotary to all club members and to improve the leadership skills of those who may lead our clubs in the future.

Jim Henry Blog

Rotarians interested in "Membership Retention" are encouraged to read Jim Henry's blog on that subject. It may be found once or more a month on <http://zone34retentioncentral.blogspot.com/>.

PDG Jim of Sarasota, Florida, USA, was the founding Chair of the RLI Sunshine Division and served R.I. as a Zone Membership Coordinator and Rotary Coordinator.

He has served for a number of years as a member of the RLI Intl. Curriculum Committee and his insights are often reflected in the RLI curriculum. We heartily recommend his blog for serious thinking about the subject of Rotary's retention efforts. Jim clearly explains the problems that lead to membership losses and, in the opinion of the editor, "tells it like it is". Whether one totally agrees with him or not, he has dealt with the important issues.

RLI Recommends Frank Talk IV on leadership.