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## RLI International Newsletter

March 2017

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions throughout the world. It was recommended by the R.I. Board of Directors and strongly endorsed by the Council on Legislation at three of their triennial meetings. RLI conducts a series of quality leadership development courses for potential club officers and other club members, including those who have recently joined a Rotary Club. The courses emphasize both leadership skills and knowledge of Rotary around the world. All course sessions are completely interactive. The 81 RLI Regional Divisions believe that leadership education has a positive impact on membership retention by creating enthusiasm and furthering engagement for Rotary.

### **March 2017**

**NOTE: R.I. has revised the location and numbers of some Exhibit Booths at Atlanta. RLI will now be at Booth No. 2426 in the House of Friendship. All Rotarians are cordially invited to visit and chat about RLI.**

### **Registrations Are Coming in Strong for the RLI Breakfast at Atlanta**

Almost every day has been bringing in registrations for the RLI Breakfast at the Atlanta Convention, according to Breakfast Chair, PDG Michael Rabasca, the Intl. Executive Director. The event, to be held on Wednesday morning, June 14, will be held at the Omni Hotel, connected to the Convention Center. Doors will open at 7:15 a.m. and will conclude before 9:00 a.m.

As has previously been announced, the principal speaker will be Past Rotary International President and two time Chair of the Rotary Foundation, Luis Vicente Giay of Argentina. Also speaking will be R.I. Director Dean Rohrs of Canada. PDG Ann Keim of

Pennsylvania USA will give the Thought for the Day. Ann is Chair of the 25 district Northeast America Division of RLI.

To register, see the Breakfast flyer on the home page of [www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org](http://www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org) . For further information, please contact Mike Rabasca at [m.rabasca@comcast.net](mailto:m.rabasca@comcast.net).

### **Odds and Ends About RLI**

Questions have been asked about the effect of the Rezoning Plan adopted by the R.I. Board of Directors on RLI Divisions. While the rezoning to take effect in 2020 will not directly change RLI division lines, it could have some ultimate effect.

Division borders are initially determined by the International RLI along with the officers of a new RLI division. The lines can be changed with the approval of the International RLI, but always at the request of an existing division. Divisions work best when there are common interests by the member districts.

Part of that interest is usually cooperation within an existing zone, because RLI leaders/members interact with each other on many different areas of zone activities. They certainly get to know each other at zone institutes, multi-district PETS and other events of multiple districts.

IF ANY DIVISION has any concerns about problems that may arise when zone boundaries change, the division leaders should contact an International RLI officer to discuss the situation. We will always work with our member divisions/districts to make any changes that will benefit the RLI program.

### **Online Courses Ready to Go**

The work of the Online Courses Pilot Program Committee has been completed and Standards for the program have been adopted. Information will be sent to the Chairs of all RLI Divisions shortly.

We continue to emphasize that it is the opinion of the International RLI that regular face to face course meetings are far superior to online courses to meet the goals of RLI. However, where Rotarians are unable to attend the regular courses because of distances, online courses may be a reasonable substitute. The decision to hold online courses should be made by the relevant division.

### **The International RLI Announces New Officer**

PDG Daniel T. Spencer, Jr. is now the RLI International Coordinator for Special Projects. Dan is an experienced R.I. leader, having served in a number of important Rotary positions, such as International Training Leader and General Chair of a Rotary Institute for Zones 31 & 32. He has been a RLI discussion leader

for many years and is considered one of the most effective Rotarians in that position.

**New Chair for the Lone Star Division of RLI**

PDG Sherri C. Muniz has become the Chair of the Lone Star Division of RLI. The Division covers the entire U.S. State of Texas, one of America's largest states. Parts of Zone 21 and Zone 27 are within that division. She succeeds PDG Ed Mullen whom we thank for his dedicated service.

**Welcome to District 5930 as a Member of the Lone Star Division**

RLI is pleased to welcome District 5930 as a Member of the Lone Star Division. The Agreement of Membership was signed by District Governor Deborah G. High and Countersigned by Sherri C. Muniz, Chair of the Lone Star Division (See above announcement). The new member district is located in Southeastern Texas.

**Around the RLI World.....**

Seven new RLI facilitators were certified recently in Shipshewana, Indiana, USA for the North Central Division. On March 17 that division will be offering RLI Part I for Club Presidents-nominee attending PETS, although for a separate program. Said Division Chair, Renee Merchant, "typically, we have about 35 PNs, so we have two rooms side-by-side. The effort has received good reviews."

Many RLI newsletters as well as articles in district, Rotary Club and zone newsletters publish excellent articles about the activities of RLI. A good example is the Three Rivers Times of the Rotary Club of Three Rivers of the Republic of South Africa. A recent issue noted a RLI course held by the Rotary Clubs of Durban, South Africa at which RLI officers Beth Thomas and Shirley Downie of the Three Rivers club participated.

The annual meeting of the RLI French Division was held in Lyon, France. 11 vice-presidents (district RLI leaders) attended the meeting and 3 member districts in French speaking Africa sent information concerning RLI activity. 1562 Rotarians have attended French Division courses since its inception. As has been previously announced, French Rotaract has joined the RLI French Division. The division will participate in DGN training in September. The Chair of the French Division is PRID Jacques di Costanzo of Marseille. Jacques is also the RLI Regional Chair for most of Europe.

**RLI Discussion Group on Rotary International Discussion Groups Website Keeps Growing**

We urge RLI members to join the RLI discussion group on the

R.I./My Rotary/ Discussion groups. The RLI site is called, "Rotary Leadership Institute/RLI". At the time of the writing of this eBulletin, 787 Rotarians have joined the site and 30 plus discussion topics have been opened. Any Rotarian may join the group.

**HELP ROTARY IMPROVE RETENTION RATES - SEND ALL NEW ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS TO A RLI COURSE DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP!**

**Join Our Mailing List!**

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