



## RLI International Newsletter

September 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.**

### **IN MEMORIAM**

RLI joins the Rotary world in mourning the untimely passing of Sam Owori of Uganda. As everyone knows by now, Sam was serving as President Elect when he died suddenly after an operation. His passing is a great loss to Rotary in many ways. Those of us who attended the RLI BREAKFAST in Atlanta had the privilege of hearing from him with his wonderful words for the future of Rotary. We send our condolences to his wife Nora and family. We shall always remember Sam.

### **Quote of the Month**

Here is a quote from a long time Rotary leader from India who attended an RLI course session in Agra, India (home of the Taj Mahal). In writing to India Division Executive Vice-Chair Binod Khaitan, he said, "Indeed it was a very enlightening exposure to RLI at Agra. I must admit, though I attended one in Kanpur sometime in the year 2007, I never took this programme very seriously. I attended one session at the time of Sidney Convention as well, but the sessions at Agra were eye openers.....Since I

served Rotary thirty years back, very many new things have been brought in. I learned a lot of new things. I sincerely hope and pray that more and more of such sessions be held in our district as we lack Rotary knowledge....."

### **NEA Celebrates 25 years of RLI**

Our oldest and now the largest, RLI Division, the Northeast America Division, celebrated its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary at its Annual Meeting in Park Ridge, New Jersey on September 8,9, 2017. The division grew from RLI's first district 7510 in central New Jersey in the Spring of 1992 and now has 25 district members along the northeast coastal states of the USA. PDG Ann Keim is the current Chair.

### **ORLANDO INTERNATIONAL CURRICULUM/BEST PRACTICES MEETING**

Division leaders/representatives are invited to attend the above meeting in Orlando, Florida USA on January 26-28, 2018 at the Hilton Garden Inn Airport. The agenda will include a complete review of the three-part basic curriculum (performed every 3 years)together with proposals for Best Practices for certain relevant subjects-to be determined. At the last session in Orlando Best Practice Reports were prepared for the operation of Divisions and Holding Courses. These reports may be reviewed, possibly revised, and additional topics discussed.

**It will be helpful if our Divisions suggest changes/additions in advance for discussion at the meetings. Such suggestions and comments should be directed to International Vice-Chair and Secretary, PDG Knut Johnsen at [knutjohnsen@att.net](mailto:knutjohnsen@att.net).**

Divisions may register up to four representatives. Information about costs, registration procedures, etc. will be provided by the Sunshine Division leaders, Robert Arnold, Chair and Brenda Wendt, Event coordinator.

A similar Session will also be held in Mumbai, India in February, 2018. More information on that event will appear in the eBulletin next month.

### **South Asia Becomes a 100% RLI REGION with the Admission of District 3080**

RLI is very pleased to welcome District 3080 in the Chandigarh Region of Northern India. That admission brings our South Asia Region to 100% status. The Region includes not only India, but also Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, and Maldives. The District Governor for 3080 is Tarsem Kumar Ruby. The Division Chair for Northern India is PDG Ramesh Agarrwal. We thank PDG Subhash Saraf, Secretary of the South Asia Organization, for his efforts in facilitating the membership of District 3080.

(We have previously honored two Continents for becoming 100% RLI -with all districts as RLI members, but because Asia is so large,

we honor South Asia for becoming 100% RLI and will honor East Asia and Southeast Asia when that occurs.)

### **We Also Welcome Two Districts in the Heart of America Division**

RLI is also pleased to welcome Districts 6510 (Southern Illinois) and 6150 (Northeast Arkansas), both USA, to the Heart of America Division (Zones 30-31). They were member districts some time ago and have been reactivated. That Division now has 20 member districts under the leadership of PDG Jerry Venters of Missouri, USA.

### **Additional Officers Join the RLI International Leadership**

Due to the extensive growth of RLI around the world, the International part of RLI has added several leaders to assist in providing support to all our divisions.

PDG Gregory Roche, who is finishing his term as Executive Director of the NEA Division has been appointed as Communications Director. He will be in charge of the International RLI database, communication assistance, advisor for the RLI websites and more to move RLI further into the digital world.

Intl. RLI Vice-Chair Dr. Tamton Mustapha, who has been on leave, has agreed to currently handle some projects for RLI. We hopefully look forward to his full return.

As announced previously, PDG Paul Muczynski has assumed the position of Publisher of our Intl. eBulletins and will serve on several International RLI Committees. He begins that important service with this issue.

### **Division Personnel Updates:**

**Each year at this time, our Divisions often change some personnel whose terms have expired, etc. We summarize some of those below for your information. We extend our sincere thanks to those stepping down after productive service to RLI.**

DGN Myung jin Shin has succeeded PDG Jungho Cho as Vice-Chair of the Korea Division. PDG Jungho was very active in the early promotion and expansion of quite a number of new districts for that Division. We wish him well in his future Rotary endeavors. PRID Kwang Tae Kim is the Chair of the Korea Division.

PDG Salvador Rizzo of Mexico has undertaken another 3 year term as Regional RLI Chair for the Northern Latin America Region. Serving with him as Regional Co-Chairs are PDG Adriana de la Fuente of Mexico and PDG Santiago Ancona, recently retired as Chair of the Mexico Division. Both will serve a 3 year term concurrent with that of PDG Rizzo.

Personnel changes in the five RLI Divisions in the Northern Latin America Region include PDG Jesus Valdez, Chair of the Mexico Division;

PDG David Mercado, Co-Chair of the Mexico Division;

PDG Jaime Humberto Solano, Chair of the Colombia Division;

PDG Alvaro Reyes, Co-Chair of the Colombia Division;

The continuing Chairs in Northern Latin America are:

PDG Rodolfo Bianchi, Central America Division

PDG Miguel Angel Tallaj, Dominican Republic Division

PDG Ruben Luna, Venezuela Division

Two of the five divisions in India have appointed successor Chairs. For the Northern India Division, Ramesh Aggarwal has succeeded Atul Dev and for the Western India Division Arun Prakash Gupta has succeeded Ulhas Kolhatkar. All are PDGs. We thank Rotarians Atul and Ulhas for their dedicated service.

PDG Pieter Schut is the new Chair of the Netherlands Division. He succeeds PDG Rob Klerkx whom we thank for his dedicated service. DGE Niwel Davila Picon is the new Chair of the RLI Peru Division, succeeding PDG Juan Carlos Contreras Caceres. We are grateful to PDG Juan Carlos for his work in strengthening the Peru Division and look forward to Niwel Davila's tenure. Niwel was among the Rotary leaders who attended the RLI Breakfast in Atlanta.

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

RLI is pleased that PRID Jose Antonio Salazar conducted an RLI session for the Colombia Division of RLI in early September. He had been part of the organization of the Colombia Division.

Interesting Annual Reports have been received from some RLI Divisions/Regional Chairs, including comprehensive reports from our Nigeria Division by Division Chair, Chief Yomi Adewunmi and the Regional Chair for Zones 15-16, Grethe Christensen.

A RLI regional meeting for most European Divisions will be held at the Montpellier Rotary Institute in France on October 18. Further information may be obtained from European Regional Chair, PRID Jacques di Costanzo at [jacquesdico@aol.com](mailto:jacquesdico@aol.com). These regional meetings are very important in helping our divisions to continue moving forward.

### **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, 989 Rotarians have joined the site and almost 50 discussion topics have been opened. Any Rotarian may join the

group and open a discussion topic or comment on an existing topic.

**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!**

, PRID David Linett, International RLI Chair,  
PDG Michael Rabasca, International Executive Director, PDG Paul Muczynski, e-Bulletin  
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