

Minutes Annual Meeting 1 November 2025, via Zoom

Board members Attending: Antonio Hallage, Jhinsup JJ Jhung, Margie Kersey, Toni McAndrew, Tim Moore, Leila Ristelli, George Sundararaj, Paul Muczynski, Mike McGovern, Kalcho Hinov, Bryn Styles, Tim Schuler, Jacques de Costanzo, Mary Ellen Bentler

Absent: Binod Khaitan, Tunji Funsho, Kalcho Hinov, Seiji Kita, Nicholas Zalles

Attendees: 75

Votes:

- PASSED To approve the profit and loss statement distributed and posted on rotaryleadershipinstitute.org. Michael Kramer moved, KV Mohankumar, seconded
- PASSED To approve the budget for 2025-26. Motion by Bonnie Black, seconded by George Sundararaj
- PASSED To approve the members of the Nominating Committee: George Sundararaj, Juan Pedro Torroba, Stan Lee, Bryn Styles, and Paul Muczynski. Michael Kramer moved, Margie Kersey seconded

Future Action:

Communications Chair, Margie Kersey is requested to design and deploy a chat room or similar for mutual discussions about RLI topics

The meeting was called to order at 8:03 Eastern time by Chair Antonio Hallage, who welcomed the attendees. He announced the expansion of RLI in Latin America, where he is making an effort to attend several institutes. RI President Arezzo was also in attendance. He is a supporter of RLI. He also announced that Board member, Yinka Babalola, has tendered his resignation because he has been selected as RI President for 2026-27. Chair Hallage reminded us that leadership is critical in RLI. We must develop leaders for today and for the future. Our future leaders should understand that some things are vital: timely action and leading by influence. Hallage expressed his support and preference for onsite RLI sessions rather than online, which requires more research to be effective.

Treasurer Mary Ellen Bentler briefly reviewed the financial statements and reminded everyone that they are available on the website for a detailed review. After calling for questions, she noted that any Division having difficulty making a payment should reach out to her for assistance. She noted that the budget for 2025-26 includes an increased amount for travel. She has also begun using Quickbooks.

Announcements were made by Executive Director, Paul Muczynski. He noted that RLI has expanded and grown over the past year, even though we lost D2430 (Poland). We have over 400 districts in RLI and have expanded in Africa, the Far East, and South Asia. Keep up the good work!

Paul thanked Michael Chen and the Taiwan RLI team for their hard work on the convention in Taipei. The breakfast is set, and we are waiting for the booth application. The breakfast will be at the United Hotel across the street from the Convention on Wednesday, 17 June. We hope that RIPE Yinka will be our speaker. We expect the cost to be in the \$40- \$ 50 USD range. The breakfast is a break-even event, and the cost covers food and contingencies such as audiovisual fees.

Paul noted that we don't have any old business to discuss.

Chair Hallage introduced new business. The discussion revolved around the importance of recruiting and retaining members, engaging members, and expanding knowledge. A suggestion was made to create "Avatar" clips on common Rotary topics. We were also reminded to "acknowledge, appreciate, and applaud" our members to build loyalty. Another reminder was to ensure that RLI is represented at District and Zone events. All Divisions were asked to send information to share in the RLI International newsletter. RLI can be an excellent tool for the orientation of new members. Make sure your Governor line is familiar with RLI.

To support this focus, Communication Chair Margie was asked to research the creation of a "chat room" for RLI people to share best practices and ideas.

A request was made to document the impact RLI has on retention and membership. Hallage then asked all Division Chairs to solicit feedback from their areas on how RLI helped Rotarians and on its impact in clubs.

Hallage then presented the Nominating Committee:

George Sundararaj - India

Juan Pedro – Argentina

Stan Lee - Taiwan

Bryn Styles - Canada

Paul Muczynski – USA

There are seven directors whose terms end June 30 (names in the agenda). One has advised us that he cannot continue due to health issues. We are waiting to hear from one last member.

Margie Kersey requested that all Divisions send in information for the newsletter. She will begin researching a chat room to share best practices and reminded everyone the podcast is available. She announced that our website, RLI Files.com, is now closed. The committee worked to move everything to the main website. All basic modules have been updated and are now posted along with supporting PDF files. Graduation certificates are also posted. The team is now beginning work on the Graduate courses. There is a “white paper” of best practices for online RLI.

We are reminded to thank our team and our participants! It was suggested that RLI International send thank-you certificates to each Division leader. Margie requested that everyone email the name of their Division Chair to ensure the database is updated.

Treasurer Mary Ellen announced that the PayPal link to pay dues or order pins is now on the website. Paul and Mary Ellen emphasized that you must identify yourself and your district number.

Chair Hallage announced two new districts that have joined RLI: 4590 and 4560.

Chair Hallage thanked everyone for attending. The Zoom recording and minutes will be available on the website.

Meeting adjourned at 9:10