

Highlights of RI Board decisions - May, June, and July 2021



Board minutes - May 2021

The 2020–21 RI Board of Directors met virtually on 7 and 21 May and on 10-11 June. At these meetings the Board recorded 35 decisions.

In addition to reviewing reports from the general secretary, Board treasurer, Rotary Foundation Trustees, COVID-19 Task Force, and Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Task Force, the Board reviewed reports from the following committees: Audit, Constitution and Bylaws, Districting, Election Review, Finance, Leadership Development and Training, and Strategic Planning.

The 2021–22 Board met virtually on 18–19 June and recorded 12 decisions.

Club and District

The Board

- designated the conveners and sites for the 2021–22 Director Nominating Committees in Zones 4, 6, 10C, 12, 15, 24B, 26, and 30 and further authorized conveners to conduct all or a portion of the meeting virtually;

- reaffirmed its policy that no in-person Rotary meeting or event shall be mandatory for any participant who may feel uncomfortable attending because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Programs and Awards

The Board

- made several changes to its policy regarding the president's representative program to strengthen the requirements for serving as a representative, increase representative training, and to better provide for feedback on how the program can best provide value to Rotarians;
- amended its policy to allow for the use of the Rotary Marks in the promotion of the Programs of Scale projects by Programs of Scale awardees.

Administration and Finances

The Board

- considered several opportunities to adjust its travel costs and agreed:
 - the Operations Review Committee will only meet virtually and its chair's report to the Board will be presented virtually;
 - the Strategic Planning Committee will only meet virtually;
 - the Shaping Rotary's Future Committee will only meet virtually;
 - the International Assembly Committee will only meet virtually;
 - the Young Past Governors Committee will only meet virtually;
 - to adjust 2021–22 directors' allocation budget by an additional 10 percent;
 - to adjust the president's 2021–22 airfare budget—including the president's special representatives budget—by 17 percent;
 - to adjust the president-elect's 2021–22 airfare budget—including the special representatives of the president-elect's budget—by 21 percent;
 - to adjust the 2021–22 president's representatives to district conferences budget by 10 percent;
 - to adjust individual regional leader and assistant coordinator allocations by 10 percent;
 - the training planning meetings for 2021–22 Regional Leaders Global Institute (RLGI) will be virtual;
- to better guide Rotarians in their Rotary-related travel as pandemic threats continue to change and more communities adjust their pandemic restrictions, and to ensure the safety of all participants in Rotary programs, meetings, and events, made several amendments to its travel policy, including:
 - agreeing that virtual or hybrid meetings should continue to be implemented;
 - encouraging districts to appoint a COVID-19 adviser with a public health background for assistance in monitoring local guidance with respect to meetings, events, social distancing, vaccination progress, and masking protocols;

- agreeing that all RI/TRF committee meetings shall be conducted virtually (and not in person) through 30 September 2021;
- agreeing that no personal travel shall be approved in conjunction with any Rotary-funded travel through 30 September 2021;
- agreeing that governors-elect and governors-nominee may be reimbursed by their district governor funding to attend GETS/GNTS and that governors may use district governor funding to attend Rotary Institutes;
- adopted a new commitment statement to replace its diversity, equity, and inclusion statement as follows:

Our Commitment to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

At Rotary, we understand that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to realizing our vision of a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change.

We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.

Recognizing that individuals from certain groups have historically experienced barriers to membership, participation, and leadership, we commit to advancing equity in all aspects of Rotary, including in our community partnerships, so that each person has the necessary access to resources, opportunities, networks, and support to thrive.

We believe that all people hold visible and invisible qualities that inherently make them unique, and we strive to create an inclusive culture where each person knows they are valued and belong.

In line with our value of integrity, we are committed to being honest and transparent about where we are in our DEI journey as an organization, and to continuing to learn and do better.

- recommended that districts appoint an optional Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion District Committee;
- made several changes to the Nominating Committee for RI President procedures to help ensure that the committee has the proper tools and training to select the best qualified Rotarian to be RI president.

From the 2021–22 Board’s first meeting:

The Board

- noted with approval President Mehta’s selection of Valarie Wafer as the 2021–22 Rotary International vice president;
- noted with approval President Mehta’s selection of Virpi Honkala as the 2021–22 Rotary International treasurer;

- agreed that assistant regional Rotary Foundation coordinators, assistant Rotary coordinators, and assistant Rotary public image coordinators may be funded to travel per the COVID-19 Travel Policy;
- confirmed the fiscal year 2021–22 RI budget, reflecting US\$116,063,000 in revenues, \$3,047,000 in RI reserve use, \$1,600,000 in convention reserves use, and \$120,104,000 in expenses, resulting in an excess of revenues, reserve use, and convention reserve over expenditure of \$606,000.

Following the business session of this meeting, the Board entered into a discussion on several topics that President Mehta plans for the Board to focus on in 2021–22, which resulted in the Board creating six working groups to study the following topics:

- Empowering girls
- Regionalization
- Valuing our organization
- Improving Rotary’s stature
- Rotary Marks Use
- Growing Membership

Source: Rotary International