



General Meeting minutes

On May 30th, 2020 at 2 pm German time, Rotex International held his Annual general meeting. The meeting took place via Zoom. About 30 people were participating.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the last general meeting
3. Structural Changes to Rotex International
4. Changes to the constitution
5. Adaption of the bylaws
6. Adaption of the voting procedure
7. Finances of Rotex International
8. General guidelines
9. Position of Rotex in Rotary International
10. Other

1. Welcome

Mauricio welcomes everyone to the meeting in this difficult time of COVID-19. Like many other things, we're connected online – like the theme of Rotary "Rotary connects the world". He thanks the Rotary Club of Bavaria International for providing us with the Zoom room. For clarity, everyone should put their name and district in the settings so everyone can see who's talking.

Mauricio presents the board that is leading the meeting today:

- Emil Schenkyr, Germany, Co-president
- Utsav Sachdev, India, Head of Networking
- Noora Liimatta, Finland, Head of Leadership and Development
- Christoph Grüter, Switzerland, Secretary and Treasurer
- Maruicio Bottas Pelini, Brazil, Co-President

From the PR-Committee we have present:

- Albert Hönisch, Germany
- Leonie Kommoss, Germany

From the former Board of Rotex International:

- Shang-Hans Lee, Taiwan
- Helen Salminen, Finland
- Sophie Richter, Germany

During the meeting, the documents we are talking about will always be sent in the Zoom chat. Many documents are in German and English. The German version we need to register in Germany while the English version is a translation so everyone can understand. In the case of small differences, the German version is to consider.

2. Minutes of the last general meeting

Christoph shares the meeting minutes from the last official meeting in June 2019 in Hamburg. There were about 40 people present. The minutes have been kept. So far we didn't get any questions about it, if anyone would wish to do so, they should contact us.

What the board has worked on since the last meeting:

- Voting procedures
- Preparing for the official non-profit organization registration as an association in Germany with all the required paperwork
- Initial financial plan
- Website (www.rotex.org) has gone online. There is some information already but there will be more content coming in the future.
- Supporting some Rotex clubs with the founding and registration as Rotary Alumni Association
- Position of Rotex in Rotary International
- Considerations and changes due to COVID-19 situation

There aren't any comments or changes to the minutes to the last meeting. We hereby silently adopt the meeting minutes.

3. Structural Changes to Rotex International

We move on to the most important and technical part of this meeting. At the moment, Rotex International (RXI) is registered with Rotary International (RI) as Rotary Alumni Association. To do so, there was the necessity to include a number of people who are members of the organization with the right to vote. These members needed to be natural persons. There are 14 members. To change the structure to adapt to the current reality, we foresee to change that Rotex Clubs become members. These clubs then get the right to vote. The structural changes adapt to the way we have already been functioning at the convention. To change this, the current board called this meeting. The proposed constitution, bylaws, guidelines for RXI and general voting procedures have been sent out.

Some broad information:

- Registration as association in Germany. This is not possible internationally. To choose a place we have the knowledge regarding registration in Germany within the board, we decided to do so. German associations are usually accepted abroad as well.
- There are two different organs to RXI: Board and General assembly. The general assembly is the highest organ and gives the outlines where the board should go with its work. Invitations to the assembly are handled by the board at least once a year. As currently, the board will consist of 5 members from different countries. The roles are: 2 co-presidents, 1 secretary/treasurer, 1



representative for membership management and development, 1
representative for networking.

- The constitution is split up into 2 parts: constitution and bylaws. Once registered, changing the constitution more difficult than changing the bylaws. For this, we kept the central points in the constitution while points that might change in the future are included in the bylaws so adopting amendments are easier. Guidelines show the smallest common denominator on which we can all agree what Rotex's position is with RI, RYE, and the exchange students.
- All the Rotex Clubs that want to be members of RXI should be a registered RI Alumni Association. There is the freedom for a Club to join who is in the process of registering but hasn't done so yet.
- The voting of RXI will be done by the member associations (Rotex Clubs). These vote on the board members, goals, etc.

How we will discuss this: There are 14 members of RXI currently. Those present can vote. First, we will discuss the points with everyone to come to conclusions. Then the vote will only be with the official members.

4. Changes to the constitution

The document is shared in the Zoom chat for everyone to see. The German version is the official one, the English version is so everyone can understand.

Two amendments that the board suggests:

The place of the association needs to be in Germany. As there is no RXI office, we talked with the Rotary magazine that provides us their address for official mail. Since sending out the constitution, the magazine has moved. The first amendment is for the new address which will be: Rotex International e.V., c/o Rotary Verlags GmbH, Ferdinandstrasse 25, 20095 Hamburg, Germany.

The second amendment is for the addition of a new paragraph after §11. The current §12 becomes §13.

The new paragraph would read as follows:

(1) Diese Satzung wird am 30.05.2020 auf Basis der bis dahin bestehenden Alumni Association Rotex International verabschiedet. (2) Diese Satzung tritt in Kraft, sobald mindestens sieben Rotex-Vereinigungen die Satzung unterschrieben haben.

The English translation reads as follows:

(1) This constitution is adopted on May 30th, 2020 on the base of the until then existing Alumni Association Rotex International. (2) This constitution will be effective as soon as at least seven Rotex associations have signed the constitution.

We want to include this because in Germany there is the requirement of 7 members that can vote. As the current members (individuals) are no longer able to vote, we start again from 0 members.

Question regarding the membership: Don't the members have to be natural persons? No. They only have to be "persons in front of the law". This will work as Rotex Germany's constitution works in the same way.

Question regarding general assembly invitations: How are invitations to the assembly handled? Email? In the constitution, §11 (12): prescribed written form can be substituted by email. Yes, invitations will be handled by email.

Open floor for questions regarding the constitution:

Helen: It should be mentioned that on the board there can only be one representative per country.

It's stated in the voting procedures which is referred to in the constitution. For simplicity, we will add it clearly in the constitution.

A consideration for semantics: it should be used either "zipper system" or "staggered system" for coherence.

Question regarding umbrella associations: We will talk a few different options for this when we discuss the bylaws.

Question from Robert regarding §7 of the constitution: It states that decisions at assemblies are possible when half of the member associations are present at the assembly. When there are many more member associations, we need a high number of participants. If this minimum number can't be reached, no decisions would be possible, even though the invitations were sent out correctly. Wouldn't it be better to have an absolute number instead of a percentage? Good consideration, this makes sense. Comment that it would be better to have the percentage stated and make hybrid-meetings possible for people to vote. Democratic decision-making is good. The change to a number would be to make decision-making possible. Clubs unable to participate can be represented by other people participating (max. 1 representation per participating club).

Consensus: It should be possible that we reach the numbers necessary. Just ensure in documents that we reach the numbers needed to make decisions in meetings → this to ensure that the board can move on with its work.

Question from Lukas regarding §5 (4) of the constitution: Who is a by RXI recognized association and what defines the "loss of this status"?

This § talks about the board members and who is allowed to be a board member.

Board members have to be members in one of the members in by RXI recognized association. If the association loses membership, the member on the board also loses their position. Do associations need to be recognized associations or should they be member associations of RXI? The consensus is that members of any Rotex organization should be able to run, not just from member associations. This allows for engaged and interested people to get involved even if their association might not be strong enough to become a RI alumni association.

Follow up: How does RXI recognize the associations? There are many different



associations in the world. A possibility could be that they need to be RI alumni association.

Conclusion after different points in the discussion: we cross out §5 (4) as it doesn't apply anymore if we leave the candidacy open and not member association related.

Question from Hans: Is it ok if the members of the association are clubs and not individuals? In Germany it works the same. Isabel has discussed this with Logan for Rotex Germany. He told her, that the application as alumni associations has changed and it is now easier and not a problem to have associations as members. No member list of individuals is needed.

Comment from Sophie: "member" should be defined clearly either in constitution or bylaws. Members in RXI are associations, at the assembly, a member of the associations can represent his/her association.

Voting (Constitution)

How we will vote: Current RXI members are able to vote, of whom there are 8 people present today. We ask you to vote in the best interest of everyone. We will do two votes, one for the amendments and one for the constitution itself.

The amendments:

- New address
- New §12
- Deleting §5 (4) from the constitution

8 people vote in favor of the amendments. 8 people vote in favor of the constitution.

The new constitution with the amendments is hereby adopted and will be put in place as soon as we have 7 members to RXI.

Comment from Hans: It would be nice to have a version of the old constitution to show what has been changed with the new one.

Comment from Lukas: It is a bit strange that we have this constitution put in place now that might not be accepted by all the members joining in the future. Shouldn't the new members make a constitution? No one would want to become a member of an organization where it's not clear what it would work like. For this, we establish a structure that we seem fitting but could be modified after by the members if they wish to do so.

5. Adaption of the bylaws

Umbrella organizations so far have not been included or defined in any documents. How will this work within Rotex International? The board has come up with three different options as a basis for today's discussion:

1. Umbrella organizations replace the Rotex Clubs they represent in Rotex international
Instead of multiple memberships, the umbrella organization is considered the member → The umbrella organization only pays the membership fee once, but only has one vote as well
2. Rotex Clubs remain the only members in Rotex International
Every Rotex Club has its own vote and Umbrella organizations have the same status as regional networks such as NAYEN in RI Youth Exchange, there is no official linkage to Rotex International
3. "Parliament setting"
Rotex Clubs remain the members in Rotex International (with voting right and paying fees) → Umbrella organizations can be granted observer status with speaking rights in Rotex International (no voting right and fees) → Members of umbrella organization can work together like parliamentary groups in parliament

Comment from Hans: What can we learn from the structure of RI? There are various levels in Rotary but for central discussions, it is still the case that every single Club has to vote.

Comment from Emma: Umbrella organizations should not replace the Clubs. Clubs should keep their individual voting rights.

Comment from Lukas: In Germany it is different. Rotex Germany has been put in place and collects the ideas and opinions of all German clubs. With this, they can then carry a common point of view to RXI. The more meaningful and efficient structure would be through umbrella organizations.

Comment from Isa: The Rotex Germany board likes the parliament system the most. In the future, RXI could work better if umbrella organizations are the members of RXI. Start with the documents now but then only register as association once the umbrella organizations are put in place.

Comment from Pea: Disagrees with the umbrella organizations. Votes would go missing. For example, in Germany: If the 14 Rotex Clubs in Germany have just one vote in RXI they have less force. With other places that don't have an umbrella organization and thus have a vote for every club, they could outvote Germany easily. The parliament setting seems to be the fairest and equilibrated form.

Comment from Mauricio: At the moment there are only three umbrella organizations: Rotex Germany, Rotex Brazil, and Rotex North America. In the other places, it is just clubs that are set up in a district or multidistrict system.



Different comments in the chat also favor the parliament setting with the clubs keeping the right to vote.

Comment from Hans: We should set up a level (according to RI districts) which includes the umbrella organizations.

Lukas suggests setting up a two-chamber-system. One for the clubs and one for the umbrella organizations. With this everyone can be included.

With just three umbrella organizations in place, this set up doesn't seem necessary.

There are a few other comments contributing to the discussion. An often mentioned fear is that going with an umbrella organization system would reduce votes and not let every club be represented individually which then leads to inequality. Others think that looking in the future it would be useful to have the umbrella organizations.

As a conclusion, most comments support going with the parliament system for now. With the club as the smallest unit in RXI, it is important to keep this also for the future. Potentially in the future, more umbrella organizations could be put in place. A general assembly would then be able to change the way it works and make umbrella organizations substituting the clubs the members of RXI.

Suggestion: Adding a new §9 "Umbrella organizations" in the bylaws. The current §9 would become §10 and so on. After a brief discussion it would read as follows:

(1) Umbrella organizations of Rotex Clubs have to be granted observer status in Rotex International. (2) The observer status is granted by the board upon formal application by the umbrella organization. (3) The observer status grants umbrella organizations the inclusion in meetings and speaking rights are not connected to membership fees and do not grant voting rights.

Comment from Hans: It would make sense to include a definition of "umbrella organization" in the constitution. To make changes in the future it is better to keep it in the bylaws. Defining it now could limit potential future umbrella organizations.

Question from Lukas regarding §6: Does it have to be the chairmen? What happens if there are no elected chairmen in place in the member association? What if there is no constitution in place to define such positions in the Rotex member association? To leave it more open we change the wording of §6 (2) which will read as follows:

Member associations are represented by a representative.

§6 (3) will be deleted.

We will vote on the bylaws after the discussion on voting and finances as they are part of the bylaws. For this, we discuss the voting procedures and guidelines next.



6. Adaption of the voting procedure

We have this document to codify the voting for the board in general. This year is a special case due to COVID-19 for which the board has some suggestions as well which will be discussed later.

One important aspect we included that wasn't included before: In Taiwan, there were multiple candidates from some countries. The voting clubs couldn't vote for multiple people from the same country as the board needs to consist of members from 5 different countries. Due to this, the chances of getting elected are worse if there are multiple candidates. For this reason, the board added to the voting procedure that there shall only be one candidate per country for the board to assure equal chances of getting elected.

Question from Isabel regarding the voting procedures: What is happening with a district that stretches over two countries? Could the candidate represent either country?

So far, the candidates always stated what country they are running for. Also, someone originally from one country and living in a different country could run for either. The decision remains to the candidate.

Comments in the chat: How would the logistics for identifying the running candidate work? If RXI sets up rules for this, it can be restrictive for some countries. With this, it would be left open to the country. If required RXI remains available for support. Not all candidates would be able to attend the convention. We should have an option for people to candidate that are not at the convention through a connection via zoom or such. The opportunity to run as a candidate from the distance has always been there but never used yet.

Comment from Lukas: The voting procedure needs strict rules that are also valid for candidates that are not participating in the convention to ensure a fair process. In the voting procedure, it states that members of RXI member associations can run for the board.

We should change this as we changed it in the constitution.

Comment from Emma: We should move up the deadline to make it a bit longer. The voting procedure is set out for an election at a convention. The timeline has been put in accordance with the situation there. With this, participants can get to know the candidates.

There is a small discussion of changing the deadline to make the time between candidates and the election a bit longer. Some mention that often people run last minute at the convention. If the deadline is too early there might not be enough candidates but at the same time, we need enough time so the countries can define who will be running for them.

There should be a fixed time slot which is announced beforehand when countries have to announce their candidate. If there are multiple candidates, this is the



responsibility of the country or umbrella organization to decide who will run. RXI shouldn't intrude on the countries' selection processes.

Comment from Isabel: RXI should inform every Rotex known to them about what we are planning and structuring. This also that they know that they could run.

Bringing things together we can set the deadline one week before the election as a soft deadline. If no one is nominated, a candidate can be nominated until midnight before the election. How this is handled is left up to the countries. RXI's task is to make sure that there is only one candidate per country.

The voting procedure should be more codified in the future to possibly include it in the bylaws. A breakout session at the next convention dedicated to this could help. For the moment the board thinks it is better to keep it in the narrative form.

There is one amendment for the voting procedures: Candidates shall be nominated one week before the election. We will keep this as a soft deadline to allow late applications.

Voting (Voting procedure)

The first voting is for the change of the deadline from two days to one week.

8 votes in favor of the amendment to the voting procedure.

8 votes in favor of the voting procedure.

The voting procedure and the amendment are hereby adopted.

After 3 hours of discussions, we have a 10-minute coffee break.

7. Finances of Rotex International

We have postponed the voting on the bylaws as the finances form part of it as well.

Question from Leon: Why is the power to decide for reimbursements only in the hands of the board? Why are there only definitions per car kilometers and no others for planes/trains etc.? Why are there no caps in place? Valid points which we should talk about. Nonetheless, we will present what the board has come up with so far.

Christoph presents what the board has been working on. There are very many variables that we don't know yet how much they will be. Everything is still subject to change. The website cost is for the infrastructure so eventually, it becomes a very complex site and Rotex Clubs should be able to run their pages over the same host. The board thinks a zoom room would be a good element for board meetings. With this, we don't always depend on other people's rooms. The room would be made available to member organizations of RXI to hold their own meetings. Programs and licenses can contribute to the efficiency of the work of RXI. Costs of those are unsure as there are some free programs and some discounts for NPOs which we would be after the registration. Conferences materials include brochures, shirts and such, used



in conferences for representation. Conferences contributions include financial support to an RXI board member taking part in the conference as representative of RXI to lower their costs a little. Potential incomes we see in membership fees, the sale of merchandise, or incomes. At the moment we see a fix annual cost of about 1500€. This consists of 240€ for the website, 240€ for the zoom room, 400€ for conferences materials and 600€ for conferences contribution. The conference contribution would be for the EEMA, NAYEN, and RI conferences where 200€ would be available for each. This to support an RXI representative but not to cover all the costs, which would exceed the possibilities of Rotex International. With 30 Clubs contributing 48€ per year, we would cover the cost of about 1500€. For the time being, we still have a bit lower costs and the number of member clubs will grow. For this reason, the board proposes a membership fee of **36€ per year per club**. This is a proposal that can still change. The board asks for some feedback. Optimally the board would propose a slightly higher fee to support an additional participant at the conferences for networking and having a direct connection to RI and RYE key people. The one participant is what we consider the basis, all more would be nice to have.

A bank account will be set up once we are registered. It will most likely be in Germany. We also need to make sure that no money is lost in transfer when clubs pay the membership fees.

A few answers to comments in the chat:

RXI is considered official in the eyes of RI as Alumni Association. This doesn't allow for sponsoring from RI though.

What are the concrete benefits of being a member of RXI?

RXI provides support and assistance for Rotex clubs worldwide. Helping with the founding of clubs and their registration as Alumni Association, supporting clubs with particular problems, and helping out with knowledge and tips from experience and practice are daily work of the board. RXI will be able to provide the Clubs with a website in the future so we have a unified system and continuity. Rotex clubs will be listed in the club directory with contact information. Voting rights to participate in the shaping of how Rotex will develop in the future. Support a unified voice of Rotex on an international level. A lot of personal commitment has been made by past and present board members to participate in Rotary events and connecting to Rotarians and RI leadership. This connection is a great potential for Rotex in the future.

Comment from Isabel: The board should decide on an association currency and how reimbursements will be made in other currencies, to set a final exchange rate as well. For selling merchandise we need to be aware of how this could work as a charitable organization as to not have issues with the financial authorities.

Question from Lukas: Rotex Germany is funded by the youth exchange committee. Why should that not work with RXI and RI? The past board has tried a lot and we are continuously in touch with RI staff, but they are not able to provide funds. The committee in Germany is not an official Rotary group which makes it not part of the system. It is defined in Rotary's code of policy that Rotary Alumni Associations are

financially independent of Rotary foundations. Hans has talked about this with Barry and Holger. We will need to be independent, Rotary funds are not available for this. The same goes for the RXI Convention where no Rotary funds are available too. RI is financially carried by the Clubs, so expenses need to be explained. The Rotary Foundation has a lot of money, but the funds are strictly connected to social projects.

The board is trying its best to get the membership fees down to make it possible for every club. If a club is not set up yet or doesn't have a financial concept it is possible to make exemptions of the fees for a limited time. In this period, they can get organized before needing to pay RXI fees.

The fee of 36€ per year – 3€ per month – is quite low. Of course, there can always be reductions to make it cheaper, but in the end, there is also the aim to grow stronger as an organization which is not possible without any funding.

There has been the idea of a buddy program where a well set up Club could support a Club which has difficulties to pay the fees. This would need to come from the Clubs and can't be imposed by RXI.

Comment from Hans regarding bylaws §3 (2): It should be very transparent where the money goes, so maybe member organizations can have a look at the finances any time when they want to see how the financial state is, not just the board. There is an audit that checks the books annually and prepares a report which needs to be adopted by the general assembly.

Comment from Leon: There is the interest to more clearly define the reimbursement possibilities and limits. Percentage rates for reimbursements could be defined. Make sure that the board can't abuse its powers for reimbursements. A specific limit for every category should be set up. What will be reimbursed? The board thinks it would principally be the conference participation/ticket. With the funds foreseen, we can't go much further with reimbursements.

Comment from Robert: A differentiation between events with and without a fun part should be made. EEMA, NAYEN, and the RI convention are more work-oriented, the RXI convention more fun. Rotex International Conventions should not be reimbursed as to not create differences as every Rotex would want to attend the RXI convention.

Question in the chat: Who can be reimbursed?

So far, we didn't foresee any limitation to that. With this also non-office holders can get a reimbursement if they are in a representation function in the name of RXI.

Comment from Emma: It would be good to put a limit for every category that can be reimbursed.

There expenses for the event itself, travel and accommodation. Other expenses are direct costs for RXI and not reimbursements (per example flags etc.)

Thus far we calculated that at least one board member at NAYEN, EEMA, and RI convention. This participation allows connecting to key Rotarians. The limits need to be number limits to be clear that no one has the right to participate.



Comment from Robert regarding more people participating in events: If there is more than one person at an event, Rotex can be in more places and has a stronger appearance. Not every person attending should get the same amount. The first person could get for example get 500€, the second 250€. An additional person doesn't bring the same value as the first, but still brings a plus-value.

The reimbursement has to be considered in relation to other Rotex present, the cost of the event, and other criteria. We could decide on predefined amounts of reimbursements which can then be paid to one or split between multiple Rotex people. For now, we thought of the 200€. Higher expenses would require additional incomes and modification of the previously thought 36€.

Codify in the way "reimbursements up to xx€ are possible for each event.

Rotaract decides at the end of the year if a certain amount of the money left over at the end of the year could be reimbursement.

Comment by Leon: There is no limit to how far back reimbursement requests can be made.

Some discussions on what this limit should be.

Recap of the finances part: the general assembly decides to go with the foreseen concept and see next year how it went. There is a general consensus to set the membership fee at 36€ per club. A breakout session in Curitiba dedicated to the finances could bring some good ideas and concepts.

A new §3 (7) reading as follows:

Reimbursement requests need to be handed in within 30 days from the last day of the event.

8. General guidelines

The purpose of these general guidelines (referred to in bylaws) is to define basic rules for the quality of Rotex worldwide. They touch on the connections, relationships, and responsibilities Rotex has with different stakeholders (RI, RYE, clubs, exchange students, host families,...)

Comment by Lukas: Make sure that the paragraph numbers referred to in the guidelines are still right after the changes to constitution and bylaws.

Yes, this should still be right.

Comment by Hans: Generally the relationships are well explained. It would be good to adapt the Rotary regulations in general as well as part of our guidelines. Follow the regulations from Rotary, which change every year. There are some cases where groups have been excluded from Rotary because of not obeying the rules.

New wording from Hans in the Guidelines: §3 (3) Rotex respects and abides by the policy established by Rotary, Rotary Youth Service, and its programs.



Training programs from RI are great tools. It could be good to promote those in the future. We could establish the strict following of those for Clubs.

The Guidelines are a public document that will be shared on the website.

Voting (Guidelines)

8 votes in favor of the amendment of §3 (3) of the Guidelines

8 votes in favor of the amended Guidelines

The guidelines are hereby adopted.

With this, we have adopted the Guidelines, the voting procedures, and the constitution. With this we can go back to the voting on the **bylaws** where we have several amendments:

1. Change the costs in §2 (1) from 100€ to 36 €.
2. New §3 (7) which reads as follows: *Reimbursement requests need to be handed in within 30 days from the last day of the event.*
3. In §6 (2) we change the expression "*their Chairman*" to "*a representative*"
4. According to §6 (2), we change §6 (3) to read as follows: *Member associations must notify the Board of Rotex International within two weeks of a change of representatives.*
5. New §9 which read as follows: *(1) Umbrella organizations of Rotex Clubs have to be granted observer status in Rotex International. (2) The observer status is granted by the board upon formal application by the umbrella organization. (3) The observer status grants the umbrella organization the inclusion in meetings and speaking rights, is not connected to membership fees, and does not grant voting rights.*

Voting (bylaws)

8 votes in favor of these 5 amendments in the bylaws

8 votes in favor of the new bylaws.

The modified bylaws are hereby adopted.

Effect of changes in structure:

Rotex Clubs are now able to become members of RXI. The association will be registered in Germany.

9. Position of Rotex in Rotary International

An institutionalization of RXI within the RYE program is not possible.

As an alternative, the board has come up with two suggestions that should contribute to alumni retainment in the future.

1. **Rotex-dedicated Rotary Club:** This Club supports Rotex in a district and is at least partially focused on RYE. If you're a member you can choose to be a member of Rotex, Rotary, or both of them. This club can be a regular club or

one with an alternative form as provided by RI. Rotex and RYE have to be considered certain importance.

2. Join existing Rotary or Rotaract Clubs: As an alumnus, you're encouraged to join an existing club. Alumni can join either or both types of clubs. With this, you can get engaged in a Club and promote Rotex and RYE although for the club it might only have little importance.

These two models can be connected. With the growing retainment of alumni, the board thinks that Rotex and RYE can grow even stronger on a global level.

Another Idea is the foundation of a Rotex Passport Club. For people who would want to join a Rotary Club but don't have the possibility to join a local club, this would be an option. The Club needs to have a home district due to which we are not sure if it is possible to get engaged on a district level in a district other from the home district of the club. There are still many considerations on how this could work, but we would like to get feedback on what the general assembly thinks about all of this.

Question from the chat: What is a Passport Club? Rotary is breaking up the old-style club models for more flexibility. If you are a member of this club, usually an e-club, people can take part in meetings of the Passport Clubs or join the meeting of any Rotary Club. Being a Rotarian it is easier to get around and participate in various meetings of different clubs. This could help as Rotex have sometimes difficulties with being taken seriously. If one is a Rotarian, it is a different base for communication and can open up other doors.

To implement this in RXI, we need a process. It needs to be thought through and discussed with Rotary and within our organization. Being a type of Rotary Club, membership fees would arise.

Comment from Pea: Rotex dedicated Rotary Clubs could also be Rotaract clubs. If you build a club with just Rotex people, outside people might not understand what your ideas are. It is important to let outsiders know what they are doing and what there are dedicated to.

Comment from Lukas: Agrees with Pea and interesting to think about. It seems better to join existing clubs and take on functions there. This as opposed to making up a new chapter of Rotary. An infiltration of existing Rotary Clubs for spreading the idea could work better.

Comment from Isabel: Isabel likes the conclusions that the board arrived at. Everybody has individual interests and focus. For this, we should not make a decision and focus on one option but rather offer and advertise all the possibilities.

Very important in all these considerations is not to give up the Rotex Clubs but it should be an extra to it.

Comment from Hans: In a bigger picture, one of the biggest struggles is that when we create a dedicated club, there is one club with many Rotex, which affects 50 people who are already into the idea. Infiltrating different clubs, many more people that are out there but not connected to Rotex/RYE yet. We need to ask ourselves



what the best way to logistically institutionalize Rotex in RYE. We need to have a program perspective.

Bruce Goldsen joins the meeting and has a few comments. If you join an existing club you have to compete against other agendas within a Rotary club that some members are fond of, achieving much can be more difficult. A dedicated Club that is just dedicated to RYE and Rotex you have 30 people or so who are working towards the same target → more force. If the Club is associated in Germany, how does it work to get a function in another district in Brazil, the US, or anywhere? Normally districts should be happy to accept dedicated Rotarians for functions but need to be made sure this works.

The Board would want to know from the assembly is whether it would be worth pursuing this idea as there are always pros and cons?

Comment from Lukas: Before working on the position with Rotary it is important to gather together all the Rotex associations that we have worldwide. There are 23 people on the call and about a third from Germany. For this, we should get in contact with more Rotex. In this sense focus on Rotex first and strengthen it in the districts.

Comment from Robert: The idea of this Club would be to facilitate the foundation of new clubs on some level. Creating this does not make it impossible continuing the work with Rotex International. It is rather a multi-level approach.

Comment from Bruce: With COVID-19, many exchange programs are on hold. This gives us the potential to achieve something now working on improving the alumni associations and in terms of working with RI. To institutionalize Rotex, Rotarians need to be involved. For this, a Passport club (or other) could become a stronger widespread idea and support of an institutionalizing. Many Rotex don't have "skin in the game". Bruce and his wife are setting up a new passport club as they don't have a convenient place to regularly participate in the meetings of a normal club. You need a certain group of Rotex that wants to get involved and pursue this idea. If those form a Rotary club, it becomes more difficult for Rotary to ignore us, as you are one of them. Use this period for Rotex to become a lead role in becoming a Rotarian.

Comment from Lukas: He doesn't see what way there is for RXI to push people to join Rotary clubs. There is only so much we can achieve. In the end, it comes down to the individuals.

There are some comments in the chat that support focusing on Rotex first, some more comments think it would be good to continue looking into the formation of a global Rotex passport club.

In conclusion, we decide that the board will further look into what an international Rotex Rotary Club could look like. With this as a better base, we could see at the next meeting who is interested in joining. Lukas mentions that this could also be with a sub-committee close to the board if there are some people interested as to not put something additional on the RXI board agenda. As the board has already worked on

this, it will pursue this research and checking with key people in Rotary in the broader topic of the position of Rotex in RI.

10. Other

There are a few things the board wants to touch upon.

Volunteer hours

It could be nice to have an overview with key figures of Rotex members, events, and volunteer hours. This to be used for publication and promotion.

5th RXI Convention, Curitiba

A small update from Mauricio. Due to the COVID-19 situation, the organization committee and the board have decided that it is in the best interest to postpone the convention to 2021. It will take place from the 5th to 8th of August 2021 in Curitiba. At the current time negotiations are going on with the sponsors and other stakeholders. They are aiming for starting the sales of tickets again in August, but this is no fixed date and depends on the situation. More information will follow. Keep updated on our social media channels.

Board mutations 2020

3 members of the board would be due to step down. As the elections preferably take place at a convention the board has come up with an alternative plan. To successfully go through with this plan, the board calls another **general meeting on the 8th of August at 2 pm German time**. The proposal is as follows:

1. Hold the general meeting, which should have taken place during the Convention in August, online. It shall take place in early August as well.
2. Three of our two board members are scheduled to leave the board this year. Two of them (Utsav Sachdev and Mauricio Pelini) have been able to serve their whole term. They shall leave the board as scheduled.
3. Christoph Grüter, who was scheduled to leave the board as well, shall remain on the board for another year. He has only been able to serve for half of his term since he replaced Marcy Desotelle after she only served half of her term.
4. Therefore, two positions on the board would free up. There shall be an online vote, including a proper presentation of the candidates beforehand, to fill these two positions.
5. At the postponed convention in 2021, there shall be a vote for all five board members again, with three of them starting right ahead, and two of them starting in the following year (2022).
6. With this proposal, we would keep the principle of having a staggered board, ensure the operability of the current board and keep online voting, which has multiple deficits compared to voting during a convention, to a minimum.

Question from Lukas: If someone wants to stay on the board, will he automatically be the new candidate? Is a second term possible? A second term is possible. In the

country, there still has to be a voting process to see if he/she remains the running candidate.

Comment from Isabel: How will the nomination of candidates and presentation of the candidates work? We are planning on having a meeting before the election to do this. In this, the candidates present themselves and participants can ask them questions to get to know a bit about their background. On the 8th of August, we then proceed with voting.

Voting (Special voting procedure 2020)

8 votes in favor of this modified election process.
This process is hereby adopted.

Next host of Convention 2023

For the convention after the Convention in Curitiba, it would be a possibility to start with the promotion for Rotex Clubs interested in hosting and preparing the convention.

Upcoming conferences

- Rotary Virtual Convention in place of Honolulu convention will take place from the 20th to 26th of June
- ABIJ Conference 2020 has been canceled
- The EEMA conference in Maastricht has been postponed to 2021
- The NAYEN conference in Washington has been postponed to 2021

With this, the board has addressed all the points it wanted to touch upon.

The Floor is open

- Lukas thinks it is essential to connect all Rotex associations that are out there in order to connect everyone. The board should focus on connecting and bringing everyone together to grow stronger. The upcoming agenda should contain finding all the missing Rotex.
If anyone knows about a Rotex club or people planning to set one up that we have not yet connected with, please let the board know!
- Isabel agrees with Lukas. Where will the protocol be uploaded? Where can everyone find it?
We have not decided yet, but it will ever be shared on the website and also via a link on social media.
- Emma asks when the information regarding the next meeting will be sent out. Everyone will be informed at least one month before the said meeting will take place via mail and social media.
- Lukas mentions that it is difficult to stay informed with what is going on within the board and that a newsletter could be interesting. This would help the entire organization to connect and grow stronger.
We are trying to keep everyone informed as well as possible. We've started with the quarterly reports, but a newsletter could be interesting too. The board will look into that. The database will help us with this.

- Isabel has a comment on Rotex week. It is a great project that should be continued. The information about when and how it will take place so should be sent out earlier for the Rotex clubs to prepare.
We have tried to improve from last year, but haven't quite achieved this. We will look into how we can do this.

We're closing in on almost 6 hours with a 10-minute break and there is still many people present.

In the name of the board, Emil wants to thank everyone for their participation and inputs. We have had some great inputs and good ideas to work with going forward. A thank you goes to the PR-team for controlling the waiting room and letting people in.

A thank you goes to Utsav for doing the livestream.

A thank you goes to Christoph for taking the minutes of all 6 hours.

A thank you goes to Noora for taking care of the voting.

A thank you goes to Mauricio for taking over when Emil's connection dropped out and the contribution during the meeting.

Mauricio thanks Emil for leading today's meeting.

The board looks forward to the next meeting in August.

The meeting is hereby closed and ends at 8 pm, with about 6 hours the so far longest meeting of Rotex International.