

General Meeting minutes

On August 8th, 2020 at 2 pm German time, Rotex International held a general meeting. These are the minutes of that meeting. For the first part with Holger Knaack and Maria Letícia Ferreira, please refer to the separate summary of that part of the meeting. The meeting took place via Zoom. About 50 people, including the full board attended.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the last general meeting
3. Update on the registration of Rotex International
4. Presentation of the concept for a potential Rotex International Rotary Club
5. Presentation of the RXI Committees
6. Election of two new board members
7. Discussion on the RXI Convention 2023
8. Other

1. Welcome

Emil welcomes everyone to the meeting. A special welcome goes to 2020/2021 RI President **Holger Knaack** and 2019/2020 Youth Exchange Committee Chair **Maria Letícia Ferreira** who participate in the first part of our meeting. They both take a moment to address the audience. After that there is time to ask them questions and discuss.

From the board leading today's meeting:

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

Our special guests:

- Holger Knaack, Germany, Rotary International President 2020/2021
- Maria Letícia Ferreira, Brazil, Youth Exchange Committee Chair 2019/2020

Presenting for the committees:

- Albert Hoenisch, Germany, PR-Committee
- Maya Povhe, Canada, ISP-Committee

Candidates running for the Rotex International Board:

- Emma Mulhern, USA, North Star Rotex

- Emiliano Giles Cabrera, Mexico, Rotex D4185
- Karime Soares, Brazil, Rotex D4770
- Meet Shah, India, Rotex D3131

The first hour of the meeting is dedicated to our special guests. The summary of that can be found in the other file.

After this interesting interaction with our guests we return to our **general meeting**.

Noora Liimatta quickly shows the rest of the agenda. She asks all club representatives to register their club to vote. To keep the meeting relatively short and interesting for everyone, participants should consider their contributions and keep them to the point.

2. Minutes of the last general meeting

Christoph Grüter briefly talks about the minutes of the meeting on May 30th. There are no immediate comments or requests for changes from the audience.

The minutes are hereby silently approved and adopted.

Following a comment we received from a Rotex D1950 beforehand we will reconsider the structure and try to put full names with statements from the audience in future meeting minutes.

3. Update on the registration of Rotex International

We spent a lot of time on this during the last meeting. There were two minor formal changes required in §2 which has already been modified. The fiscal authorities approved it after the preliminary check.

The board now asks Rotex clubs to register with us to become members of Rotex International. To do so, we require a written application to info@rotex.org from the clubs after which RXI will get in touch again. Clubs are required to accept the RXI paperwork and send us their Rotex Club's constitution. The board will be there for help and support during the process. Registration is open as of now. Once we have seven member organizations, we can officially register in Germany. Nonetheless for now, nothing has changed yet.

4. Presentation of the concept for a potential Rotex International Rotary Club

This idea was brought up at our last meeting, where we talked about different options for Rotex to stay engaged and join Rotary. The board was tasked with looking into the matter.



Mauricio Pelini presents some research and explanations regarding a passport club. Within Rotary there are different options of Club models. One of them, which allows a lot of flexibility, is the passport club model. This model encourages their member to visit and attend meetings of many different clubs. Members are not required to attend all of their home club's meetings. Generally, passport clubs operate more freely and are a bit less strict in their organisation than traditional clubs. The club dues in a passport club are often around half of those of a standard Rotary Club, as some expenses, like for in-person meetings, are not necessary as they often function on virtual platforms.

The board would like to know if there are any people interested in going ahead with this.

It doesn't seem like a very pressing matter at the moment, so the board won't focus on this for now and put it on hold. However, if there are people interested we can take it up again at any time. Let the board know if you are interested in becoming a member and founding such a club.

Comment from Pea Schroven: Giving this opportunity to everyone is great. But it could become a club with just a lot of talking. How could it provide and do service? This would need to be considered in the outline of the club. It might not be the easiest to focus on action, but there are also global projects that could be supported. It could also open the door for people to become a Rotarian and get involved in a service project/RYE committee in their own districts.

→→→ COFFEE BREAK ←←←

5. Presentation of the RXI Committees

Utsav Sachdev introduces the different committees that RXI has.

PR Committee

Albert Hoenisch presents for the team. They are working well and will keep on improving the Rotex social media presence. Please feel free to share the stories and posts on your personal sites and let us know if you have any comments or ideas. If there is anyone interested of joining the committee, they can always contact the PR Team directly.

Charity Committee/ISP committee

Maya Povhe presents for the committee. The International Charity committee started with a few people in 2018. Recently it has been modified and transformed into the ISP (Inbound Service Project) committee. The focus lies on the promotion and the strengthening of the ISP and reinforcing the idea of service with exchange students during their time abroad. An informative subpage and database of projects will be implemented on the RXI website. RXI wants to promote and strengthen the ISP globally. Because of this the board would like to increase the number of members in the committee.

People who are interested in joining the ISP committee team can reach us through the RXI social media channels or directly through the RXI Board.

In the meeting chat, District 3054 states that their members are looking forward to assisting the ISP and have social project experience. Utsav Sachdev will get in touch with them.

LGBTQ committee

This committee started in Taiwan in 2018, headed by Benjamin Moon. Right now it is not very active but the RXI board would be happy to see the committee repowered and stronger going forward. Benjamin has asked the board to find someone to lead this committee.

In the meeting chat, Districts 4770 (Karime Soares) and 4100 (Guillermo García) express their interest.

IT committee

After the 2018 convention Hans Lee and Paul Schubert started the Rocket Chat communication channel. It has not been used very much and faced some difficulties. Hans has taken over the committee and set up the infrastructure for our website rotex.org. This website will continue to grow.

Anyone interested in joining one of the committees, please get in touch with us!

6. Election of two new board members

At the meeting on May 30th we decided that this year we will vote for two new board members online. Information on how to apply for the board was published on our different channels. There was an online interview with three candidates (Emma Mulhern (USA), Emiliano Giles (Mexico) and Karime Soares (Brazil)) one week ago. A recording of the interview is available for anyone to see on our Facebook page. Since then there has been one more candidacy from Meet Shah (India). Starting with today's procedure, every candidate has three minutes to present themselves to everyone.

Following the introductions, there is time for questions to the candidates. The board asked its questions in the previous interview and won't be posing any more today. There is only one question from Pea Schroven who asks Meet Shah what she asked the other candidates in last week's meeting. *Do you have enough time on your hands over the next two years to focus on the work in the Rotex International Board?* Meet says he will be able to dedicate the time required to work for Rotex as he is working with a liberal schedule that allows him to take the time when needed.

As there are no more questions, we move on to the casting of votes. Everyone who has registered should cast their votes via the designated channel. Once the votes are handed in, we will have another break to count the votes. The voting link is shared in the chat and representatives are asked to cast their two votes. The candidates don't run for a particular position within the board.

→→→ **QUICK BREAK** ←←←

Mauricio presents the results of the voting. There were 28 clubs that voted. **Emma Mulhern (19 votes) and Emiliano Giles (16 votes) have been elected** and will replace Utsav Sachdev and Mauricio Pelini on the Board of Rotex International.

Congratulations and a warm welcome go to the new board members. Emil also thanks Karime and Meet for their candidacies.

7. Discussion on the RXI Convention 2023

Mauricio talks about hosting the convention. This journey started in 2012 in France, which was planned to be a European Rotex Convention. With many participants from abroad, it became the International Convention which is held every two years. The next convention, the 5th Rotex International Convention, will take place in Curitiba, Brazil in August 2021.

To host the convention, you need a strong and engaged Rotex club with a lot of support. It takes a lot of work to organize such an event. If there is no support from the local district and key Rotarians, it will be difficult to coordinate. Hosting the convention and all of the preparation is a 2-year commitment starting in August 2021. Candidatures for hosting the convention will be published at the convention in Curitiba where Rotex will vote for the next host.

Please be aware of what a candidacy means and what it requires. Hosting the convention allows for a lot of promotion and publicity at various Rotary events. With

this you can improve and strengthen your Rotex Club and district, but this doesn't come without effort.

If you have any questions about hosting the convention, feel free to directly contact people who have experience with it from the past. You can also get in touch with the board and we will connect you to the right people.

It can also be multiple districts to organize it jointly. The location of the 2023 RXI Convention will be chosen in Curitiba. The board is looking forward to the candidacies from districts.

8. Other

We are now through with the agenda and thank everyone for staying until now. Any questions, feedback or comments can be made now.

Emil thanks Utsav and Mauricio for their dedication and hard work on the RXI board for the last two years. It has been a great time working together on the board. Past Co-president Helen Salminen thanks Utsav and Mauricio as well for their work and congratulates Emma and Emiliano for their election.

Karime Soares invites everyone to the virtual Rotex Brazil convention. If there is enough interest from Rotex outside of Brazil they would see about getting a translator to help non-portuguese speakers to follow. More information can be found on the Rotex Brazil Instagram page.

Christoph reminds everyone that the meeting minutes will be published on the official website with a reminder on our social media platforms.

Utsav reminds everyone to get in touch with the board if someone is interested in joining one of our committees.

Emil thanks everyone for their participation and contribution at this meeting. At 5:20 pm CEST, he closes the meeting.