

General Meeting Minutes

On August 7th, 2021 at 2 pm CEST, Rotex International held a general meeting. These are the minutes of that meeting. The meeting took place via Zoom and was simultaneously streamed to Facebook. About 35 people, including the full board, attended the meeting.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the last general meeting
3. Recap of the last year
4. Rotex International membership updates and changes
5. Election of three new board members
6. Rotex International Convention 2022
7. Other

1. Welcome

Emma welcomes everyone to the online General Meeting of Rotex International. She is happy to see everyone interested and shortly introduces how we will go about with the meeting and what we have on the agenda.

From the board leading today's meeting:

- Emil Schenkyr (Germany), Co-President
- Emma Mulhern (USA), Co-President
- Emiliano Giles Cabrera (Mexico), Head of Networking
- Noora Liimatta (Finland), Head of Leadership and Development
- Christoph Grüter (Switzerland), Secretary and Treasurer

Candidates running for the Rotex International Board:

- Aaryaman Upasani (India), Rotex D3141
- Alberto Domenighini (Italy) Rotex D2050
- Leonie Kommoß (Germany), Rotex 1940
- Roosa Julia Töytäri (Finland), Rotex Finland

2. Minutes of the last general meeting

Christoph Grüter shares the link to the minutes in the chat and asks whether there are any questions or feedback. There are no comments and the minutes are hereby accepted.

3. Recap of the last year

Position in RI

During the past year we have worked on the position of RXI in Rotary International. The key points are increasing the participation in RI and especially Rotary Youth Exchange. This includes the participation in different events and conventions such as the RI Convention, the RYE Preconvention, EEMA, and NAYEN.

For EEMA, a number of Rotex will serve as moderators for different breakout sessions. This initiative comes from the EEMA committee, which wants to include younger generations and expand the Rotary Youth Exchange numbers.

Another point is that we support the re-establishment of the RYE board of RI which was discontinued in 2020. A group of Rotarians and RYE leaders are currently working to re-establish it and we support their initiative, as we believe it will be beneficial and could provide Rotex with a form of permanent representation thereafter. We will keep everyone informed on how things develop.

PR team

Albert Hönisch gives a short recap on what happened during Rotex Week. During the year, Alexandra Kotchubei became part of the PR team which has been very beneficial.

Rotex Week 2021 took place online and focused on online activities that have taken place during the past year. Rotex Week is growing more successful every year. We've reached about 10,000 people with our different posts. There has been positive feedback from Rotex people as well as Rotarians.

Albert thanks everyone for the participation during Rotex Week as well as during the rest of the year.

Committees

Christoph talks about the work of the different committees.

The PR committee has already given their recap, but the board wants to thank them for their work and the great collaboration.

The ISP committee has been re-established during the past year. For now, there is work going on with the project database, to which you can send projects that you would like to add. Other than that, it has been a bit slow this year since there aren't any inbounds.

Hans from the IT committee does a lot of great work for us on the website and IT infrastructure for which we are very thankful.

If anyone would be interested in joining a committee, reach out to us.

Long term goals

In January the board met to discuss potential pathways for RXI and as a result created a few different goals for the future. Emma Mulhern talks about the goal of better connecting Rotex clubs around the world with each other as well as with Rotex International.

The board believes that there is so much one club can learn from another. Because of this, RXI wants to help promote interactions between clubs and strengthen the international Rotex community.

In addition, the board aims to better connect Rotex clubs with RXI. Rotex clubs in certain areas of the world are not very well connected with RXI. We want to connect with all clubs so that we can learn about problems in the community that we can work to improve as well as get to know the different people behind each Rotex club.

Personal meetings

The board has been having personal meetings with Rotex clubs all around the world. We want to meet with Rotex to collect their latest contact information, but also to build stronger connections and relationships. Knowing each other makes it easier to interact.

We have been working on this for a while but haven't met with everyone yet. If anyone hasn't met with us, leave us a message and we are happy to get in touch with you.

We also want to learn from and about you, keep you informed on what is going on with RXI and help you however we can.

Summer workshop series

Emil talks about the workshop series we introduced to make up for the lack of the in-person convention. We didn't want to do an online convention but instead decided to break it up in different sessions on a variety of topics at different times during June and July.

There were sessions covering topics focused on Rotex club improvement, networking and personal development. The participation was mixed, but we think it was a success. There were discussions on important topics, and we learned a lot that we can use going forward. What we learned will be used as a reference for planning the next convention in Curitiba.

The recordings of the videos can be found on our Facebook page.

We planned a session on humanitarian law and one on building your personal brand which we intend to hold during the next year, so stay tuned.

4. Rotex International membership updates and changes

Noora Liimatta introduces a few changes regarding the RXI membership. For now, we have six clubs signed up to be a member club of Rotex International. We ask everyone else who is interested to get in touch with us.

Since starting this process, a few things have changed. One of this is that the Rotary Alumni Association certificate is no longer required to become a member. For the registration requirements, please get in touch with us and we will help you get started.

Emil explains the work and target to become an association. He quickly goes through a few changes to constitution and bylaws. The changes were the following:

- Constitution §2:
 - (1) The Association is the international federation of all Rotex associations. All Rotex associations can become members. ~~Only one Rotex Association can become a member per Rotary district.~~

- Bylaws §2:
 - (1) According to §3 (2) of the statutes, members pay an annual membership fee of ~~36~~ 24 € to the association.
 - (2) The membership fee is to be determined anew every two years at a general meeting.
 - (3) In justified cases, the Executive Board may exempt a member from paying the membership fee for a maximum period of four years.
 - (4) The membership fee is payable at the beginning of the financial year.
 - (5) If a member joins or resigns during the current financial year, the membership fee shall be calculated pro rata on a monthly basis. Each month begun counts as a whole month.

- Bylaws §7:
 - (1) According to §3 (1) of the statutes, the executive committee decides on the admission of members upon written application.
 - (2) As a prerequisite for membership, the association objectives of the Rotex Association must be in agreement with the association objectives of Rotex International e.V.. This is checked by the board of directors on the basis of the statutes and association rules of the Rotex Association.
 - ~~(2) The registration of the Rotex Association as a Rotary International Alumni Association is a prerequisite for membership. The registration must be proven to the board of directors.~~
 - ~~(3) In justified exceptional cases, Rotex associations which are not yet registered as Rotary Alumni Association can also be admitted. This is only possible if the Rotex Association is currently in the process of registration. In this case, the Rotex Association must provide credible evidence to the Board of Directors that the registration will take place promptly.~~

- Bylaws §9:
 - (1) Individual persons have the possibility of a supporting membership.
 - (2) A supporting membership requires an annual donation of at least 50 €.
 - (3) Supporting membership entitles the holder to participate in general meetings and to receive information material. Supporting membership is not the same as regular membership and does not include voting rights.

- Bylaws §11:
 - (4) According to §5 (1) of the statutes, the executive committee is elected **every two years** at a general meeting for a period of two years. ~~Three board members take office directly, while two board members take office with a one-year delay.~~ Board elections take place at the annual general meeting. Depending on the year, either two or three board members are elected to take office directly. This staggered election ensures greater continuity in the work of the board.

These are small changes that were made to facilitate an easier membership sign up and simplifying processes.

There are no comments or questions.

The board will adapt these changes and update the documents on the website.

5. Election: three new board members

Everyone should register for voting. Anyone with problems should contact the board.

We have four candidates for three spots who now introduce themselves briefly.

- Aaryaman Upasani (India), Rotex D3141
- Alberto Domenighini (Italy) Rotex D2050
- Leonie Kommoß (Germany), Rotex 1940
- Roosa Julia Töytäri (Finland), Rotex Finland

The audience has the chance to ask questions to the candidates. There are no questions.

The registration is now closed. The link for voting is shared with the audience again.

There is a 15-minute break during which people can get coffee and hand in the votes. After the break we close the voting.

→→→ COFFEE BREAK ←←←

The votes are being counted. All votes were legitimate.

Noora introduces the results. The following people have been elected:

- Leonie Kommoß (Germany)
- Aaryaman Upasani (India),
- Roosa Julia Töytäri (Finland)

These three new board members will join the RXI board where Emma and Emiliano will continue to serve for another year.

Emma thanks everyone for running and for voting!

Emma also thanks Noora, Emil and Christoph. The outgoing board members in return say a few words and thank everyone for the joint work. They really appreciated the friendship and productive work which they are confident will keep going with the new board. They are looking forward to serving as advisors and working with the new board. They hope to meet in person soon at the next convention.

6. Rotex International Convention 2022

Mauricio Pelini gives a short update on the convention which is planned to take place in Curitiba, Brazil next year. Due to the ongoing pandemic, contracts have to be renegotiated. There is nothing definitive yet and ticket sales have not yet started. More information will be communicated on the convention and RXI's social media as soon as possible. If there are any questions in the meantime, you can get in touch with the organizers.

Mauricio also thanks the outgoing board members for their work and efforts.

RXI Convention 2024

Looking further into the future, there will be another convention after the one in Curitiba. The board invites everyone who might be interested in organizing the convention in 2024 to present at the Curitiba convention. If there are any questions, those interested can contact the RXI board or the current organizing team with Mauricio.

7. Other

Albert asks the new board members to say something.

Leonie thanks everyone who voted and is looking forward to everything and working with Emma and Emiliano.

Roosa is still a bit speechless and happy but is looking forward to the new role.

Aaryaman unfortunately seems to have lost the convention.

Emma thanks everyone for the participation and closes the meeting at 3:30 pm CEST.

The recording and minutes will be shared online soon.