

General Meeting Minutes

On August 6th, 2022, 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 the Rotex International Facebook page. About 30 people, including the incomplete board, attended the meeting.

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Minutes of the last General Meeting
3. Recap of 2021-2022
4. RXI membership update
5. RXI Convention 2024
6. RXI committees
7. Discussion and adoption of changes to the board
8. Board elections
 - a. Candidates presenting themselves
 - b. Secret discussion of the candidates
 - c. Discussion and questions asked with the candidates
 - d. Voting for the new board
 - e. New board members announced
9. Other business
10. Meeting ends

1. Welcome

Julia welcomes everyone to the online General Meeting of Rotex International. She is happy to see everyone interested and shortly explains how we will proceed with the meeting and what is on the agenda.

From the board leading today's meeting:

- Emma Mulhern (USA), Co-President
- Roosa Julia Töytäri (Finland), Co-President
- Leonie Kommoß (Germany), Head of Networking

Candidates running for the Rotex International Board

- Albert Hönisch (Germany), Rotex 1940
- Saloni Girdhari Bagwani (India), Rotex 3030
- Shanti Fukasaku (Japan), Rotex 2790
- Kyla Christianson (Canada) Rotex 5060

2. Minutes of the Last General Meeting

Alberto Domenighini shares the link to the minutes in the chat. Emma briefly goes through what happened at the last general meeting and asks whether there are any questions or feedback. At this point, nobody has any doubts or questions about the minutes.

3. Recap of 2021-2022

The RXI Board

Julia explains the current board situation, who joined last year and which complications we faced. She mentions the loss of momentum that we have experienced as Rotex, such as during Rotex Week and at online events. She also mentions the small number of tickets sold to the later cancelled Rotex International Convention 2022.

Difficulties Faced Last Year

Leonie talks about difficulties RXI had to face this past year, mainly including the general loss of momentum and knowledge transfer as well as commitment within the board. She further explains RXI's long-term goals.

Rotex International Convention

Leonie also speaks about the cancelled RXI convention and gives reasons why the board was forced to make this decision (low ticket sales and loss of overall momentum).

Rotex Week

Rotex Week is the next topic that Leonie addresses. She mentions both our successes and setbacks and encourages the present clubs to participate in next year's Rotex Week.

International Conferences

Emma reports about the international RYE conferences that she attended this past year. Those include virtual conferences such as EEMA, where Rotex served as moderators as well as virtual ABIJ and NAYEN. Emma also attended in-person conferences, such as the RI Convention and YEO Preconvention, where Emma Mulhern gave a speech at the general session and held a workshop on Rotex learnings and perspectives during the COVID-19 pandemic. This convention was a good opportunity to build positive relationships, work with the Rotary Youth Network and has led to many projects that are now in the works.

Alumni Association Award

Alberto introduces to us the Alumni Association Award his Alumni Association achieved during its first year of establishment. He presents two of the major projects of his association, "Rotex 2050 for the Philippines" and "Extremism and Hate Explained – the Asian Case."

Upcoming International Conferences

Emma informs all participants about the 2023 YEO Preconvention and the RI Convention and that there is now an event page on rotex.org, enabling all Rotex to know about upcoming events and important dates. Alberto sends the link to this page into the chat. Emma explains that we as Rotex International would be happy to be tagged in stories and posts of future participants of these events.

RI Youth Exchange Committee

Emma continues with the introduction of the RI Youth Exchange Committee and emphasizes its importance for RYE-related, direct communication with Rotary International. It was unfortunately disbanded in 2019 and the proposal for its reestablishment was defeated this year at COREL. However, other proposals were approved at COREL, such as one that allows the RI Board to approve and establish their own committees. Recently, the RI Board approved the Youth Advisory Council, which will include participants and alumni from all Rotary youth programs (such as RYE, Rotaract and RYLA).

Defining Rotex

Emma further brings up the topic of how to define Rotex more uniform, including standardized terminology and abbreviations. This will be an upcoming project for the RXI board.

4. Official Registration of RXI

Emma explains how the official registration of RXI has taken more time than expected and states that RXI hopes to figure out the registration process this next year.

5. RXI Convention 2024

Julia takes over and shortly introduces the RXI Convention 2024. She announces that a workshop on how to host an RXI convention will be held on August 21 at 3 PM CEST. More information about the application process will be posted in the coming weeks.

6. RXI Committees

PR Committee

Alexandra introduces herself and tells about her experience on the PR committee. She mentions how she discovered Rotex International and how she joined the committee. Alex explains the PR committee's role in creating social media content for RXI and appeals to people to apply for a position in the PR committee.

Training and Development Committee

Julia takes over again and introduces a committee Rotex International hopes to establish in the near future. The Training and Development Committee is expected to create content for our RXI knowledgebase, plan and organize workshops and events and discover the best practices of clubs around the world.

Other RXI Committees

Julia introduces the other RXI committees and appeals to participants to get in touch with us to help us reactivate and re-establish these committees, which have not been recently active or do not have enough manpower.

7. Discussion and Adoption of Changes to the Board

Julia explains how both Leonie and Aaryaman will be stepping down after their first year on the board. Because of this, the board has proposed to bring Alberto on board to complete Leonie's term and have Emma remain on the board for another year to complete Aaryaman's term. Julia announces that there will be an approval procedure for the participating clubs.

Logic Behind These Changes

Emma further explains why these changes are necessary and what is the board's logic behind this decision. She mentions that there is no legislative background referring to such a situation and that there is a need to ensure accurate and sustainable RXI knowledge transfer.

She states why Alberto and Emma are suitable candidates in order to complete the board and why this is the only possible solution in order to keep the Rotex International Board stable. Based on past experience, the board can confidently say that they believe this proposal to be the best for Rotex International. Past and current board members strongly agree with this decision.

2:50PM Frederik Pinkau from Germany (Rotex 1800) asks about the usual Quarterly Reports and why they have not been published for this year yet.

Julia answers the question and explains that this year, there will be a report covering 2021/2022 and that the board is still unsure about how we will continue with the reports.

2:50PM Emma reads out a question from the chat: "How will you continue, after both Co-presidents stepping down, then you have a total transfer of knowledge again, right?" (Isabell Hebel, 1950, RXDE)

Emma answers the question, explaining that positions are not fixed and that it will still need to be discussed, who takes which position, once all new board members are elected.

Julia adds that Alberto doesn't necessarily have to continue in the position of Leonie either.

Julia then asks all representatives to register for the approval, using the form submitted in the chat by Alberto. They are given 8 minutes to complete the form and are asked to have it submitted by 3:00 CEST.

BREAK UNTIL 3:10 PM

Julia continues to speak and announces the approval results:

- Alberto has been approved from 15 representatives, 1 abstained.
- Emma has been approved from 14 representatives, 2 abstained.

Therefore, Alberto will step up to the board and Emma will continue for another year.

8. Elections

Emma explains some general information about the board elections, such as, who cannot run, which Rotex Clubs are eligible to vote, that the representatives will cast a ballot on behalf of the Rotex Club and that candidates do not run for a specific board position but that those will be distributed by the board after the elections.

The candidates introduce themselves in alphabetical order.

Emma informs all participants that the voting registration is closed (**3:25 PM**) and that the secret discussion will start.

Secret Discussion of the Candidates

Emma assigns everyone that is not a candidate, Rotarian or Rotaractor to a breakout room and starts explaining the rules of the secret discussion. Julia shares an informative sheet about the secret discussion. Emma resumes explaining who can take part in the secret discussion and what the discussion format looks like.

The discussion is anonymous, and each candidate will be discussed by the group.

4:22 PM Emma shares notes from the secret discussion with each of the candidates. Each candidate then addresses any questions or concerns brought up.

Emma informs the meeting participants about the voting procedure and that they are now allowed to vote.

4:55 PM Voting has closed. Albert asks how many clubs have registered to vote.

Julia informs him that there have been 30 clubs who registered a representative.

Julia announces the results:

We received a total of 25 votes but some of them didn't count due to double votes etc.

- We are happy to announce that the most votes, 17, go to Kyla.
- The second elected board member is Albert with 14 votes.

9. Other Business

Julia gives updates on how to keep up with Rotex International. She introduces the yearly survey, talks about the upcoming convention workshop and mentions the Fall General Meeting (date to be announced).

Isabell Hebel from Germany (Rotex 1950) announces that she hopes for a tight relation with the EEMA team and Rotex presence at the event.

Shang Hans Lee from Taiwan, residing in Germany, adds details about the current status of the organization of EEMA. He mentions how price is an issue but that he is working on accessibility for Rotex.

Isabell Hebel asks why there hasn't been any newsletter sent out or if there is even a newsletter. Julia replies that there hasn't been a newsletter this past year but that we are working on organizing the next issue.

Isabell Hebel asks how we are going to proceed with the Rotex International legislation and registration in Germany. Emma and Julia reply that this is still to be worked out and that there will be a separate meeting in order to clarify and work on this.

Julia thanks Aaryaman and Leonie for their work at Rotex International. Leonie says some words about her year in the board and announces that she will remain on the PR committee.

Emma thanks everyone for joining. The meeting ends around 5:15 PM CEST.