

# Newsletter from Ann-Britt

RI DIRECTOR ANN-BRITT ÅSEBOL, JUNE 2014



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Ann-Britt and successor  
Per Høyen, new RI Director

## Dear Fellow Rotarians in zones 15 and 16

It is almost the end of a Rotary Year and my two years as RI Director are about to end. It has been two very busy and exiting years that have taken me to different districts and clubs in the zones. I have met so many enthusiastic Rotarians with a lot of energy to do good in the world.

I have tried to be your voice in the Rotary Board and I am especially glad over the facts that we have taken the decisions to make two new districts: Lithuania on its own and Ukraine/Belarus and Poland separated. I do wish you all the best for the future! We still have a lot of challenges in our zones: to work intensely with membership and especially with retention. We do need to keep our members and in order to achieve that we need to create a friendly environment in our clubs. Remember that Rotary is all about friendship and fellowship.

And fellowship is something that we feel together with all our friends in our zones even if we have a political argument between countries. We are there to be friends and remember that we are members in a non-political and non-religious organization. Let us help each other when we are in need!

I will be glad to still be invited to visit you districts and I will happily come. And I will do everything in my power to support my successor Per Høyen from Denmark.

### Thank you...

To all for your work for Rotary in zones 15 and 16 – to presidents, DG's, PDG's, coordinators and all Rotarians for all the effort you put into our organization.

A special thanks to PDG Lars Åke Carlsson for editing my newsletters.

*I wish you all a good summer! And a successful new Rotary year!*

*Ann-Britt*



## Jan Karski Eagle Award

**Jan Karski** (24 June 1914 – 13 July 2000) was a Polish World War II resistance movement fighter and later professor at Georgetown University. In 1942 and 1943 Karski reported to the Polish government in exile and the Western Allies on the situation in German-occupied Poland, especially the destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the secretive German-Nazi extermination camps.

After his death there has been an award established to his memory: the Jan Karski Eagle.

This award has been given to Nobel Peace Laureates and other famous persons and organizations that are working for peace and understanding in the world. This year the prize was given to Rotary for our international work.

**I had the pleasure during the District Conference in Krakow, Poland to receive the Prize for Rotary. I was most honored. And we Rotarians are acknowledged for all the work we do around the world to make it better.**



District Conference in Krakow  
DGE Olexiy Kozhenkin DGN Barbara Pawlisz and DG Janusz Potępa from district 2230



District Conference i Krakow; Ukrainian rotarians

## Highlights of action taken by the Rotary Foundation Trustees

### **June 2014**

The Rotary Foundation Trustees met on 5 June 2014 in Sydney, Australia. The following are highlights of actions taken. At this meeting the Trustees reviewed reports from three committees and recorded 31 decisions.

### **Fund Development**

The Trustees endorsed a 2014-15 worldwide Annual Fund goal of US\$123 million.

### **Programs**

The Trustees

- expressed their deep appreciation to Robert S. Scott, Chairman of the International PolioPlus Committee for his eight years of outstanding service on behalf of PolioPlus and The Rotary Foundation.
- approved PolioPlus grant funds to
  - o World Health Organization African Region
  - o World Health Organization Mediterranean Region
  - o World Health Organization Southeast Asia Region
  - o UNICEF
 for surveillance support, operational support, social mobilization, and technical assistance.

### **Finance**

The Trustees approved the 2014-15 budget for revenues of \$297,824,000 and expenses of \$274,708,000, including program awards of \$229,257,000

## Highlights of actions taken by the Board of Directors at its June and "July" meetings

The 2013-14 RI Board of Directors held its fourth and final meeting on 26-30 June 2014 in Leura, Australia. The 2014-15 RI Board held its first meeting on 6-7 June 2014 in Sydney, Australia. At these meetings the Board reviewed reports from 12 committees and recorded 98 decisions.

### June 2014 Board Meeting Highlights

#### CLUB AND DISTRICT MATTERS

The Board endorsed a new membership development business plan that identifies strategies for addressing key membership-related issues, including membership trends, the RI governance structure, regional membership plans, dues, and membership resources. The Board also agreed that the regional membership plans that it had approved in 2011 should be an ongoing effort and not expire on 30 June 2015 as originally approved.

The Board agreed to consider district governor allocation expenses at its annual January meeting to provide governor-elects sufficient advance notice of their allocation amounts.

In reviewing districting matters, the Board reorganized clubs in Districts 3051 and 3052 (India) into new District 3054, effective 1 July 2017; and Districts 4835 and 4865 (Argentina) into new District 4849, effective 1 July 2014. District 3720 (Korea) was reorganized into two new districts: 3721 and 3722, effective 1 July 2016.

#### RI ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES

The Board agreed that all Council on Legislation representatives must complete mandatory online Council training before attending the Council, and further agreed that RI will not fund the travel expenses of those representatives who have not completed the training.

The Board amended its policy on what constitutes "failure to function" status for a Rotary club to include clubs that maintain in their membership any Rotarian who initiates or maintains litigation against RI before any of the club's members have exhausted remedies provided for in RI's constitutional documents.

The Board authorized the president to designate conveners and meeting places for RI director nominating committees that will meet in September 2014 to select directors-nominee for election at the 2015 RI (São Paulo) Convention. Directors will be selected from Zones 2, 8, 11, 15, 19, 21A, 24, and 33.

The Board agreed that the ability of the Nominating Committee for RI President to select the best qualified Rotarian would be enhanced by interviews with the candidates and therefore, requested the 2014 committee to conduct interviews via video conferencing with each candidate.

The Board adopted the 2014-15 RI budget, reflecting revenues of US\$97,353,000, use of general surplus funds of \$3,388,000, use of convention reserves of \$557,000 and expenses of \$100,928,000, resulting in an excess of revenues, general surplus funds, and convention reserve over expenditures of \$370,000.

**RI PROGRAMS, COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board expanded membership eligibility in Rotary Action Groups to include all participants and alumni of RI and Foundation programs.

In support of the 2013-18 polio eradication endgame strategic plan, the Board, in accordance with the RI Bylaws and by a three-quarters vote of all directors, approved use of US\$3.09 million from the general surplus fund to sustain comprehensive end-of-polio communications activities from 1 July 2014 through 30 June 2016.

The Board amended its policy regarding Friendship Exchanges to emphasize flexibility. The Board agreed that these exchanges provide participating Rotarians and their families the opportunity to host and visit one another internationally (funded individually), with the goal of facilitating new connections and friendships and, when possible, to build a foundation for collaborative service projects.

Noting unforeseen circumstances and the rising costs for RI to participate at Expo Milano 2015, the Board agreed to cease funding for Rotary International's participation at this world exposition.

**"July" 2014 Board Meeting Highlights****RI ADMINISTRATION AND FINANCES**

The Board welcomed the 2014-15 appointments of Celia Elena Cruz de Giay as RI vice president, Holger Knaack as treasurer, and Larry A Lunsford as Executive Committee chairman.

The Board established the 2014-15 RI committees and approved their terms of reference. The Board agreed that Zones 1, 5A, 9, 14, 18A, 23A, 25, 28, and 31 shall select committees in 2014-15 to nominate RI directors for election at the 2016 RI convention in Seoul, Korea.

The Board confirmed the 2014-15 RI budget. In accordance with RI Bylaws section 17.050.6. and by three-quarters vote of all directors, the Board authorized the use of \$1,630,000 from the general surplus fund for operational and other strategic initiatives in the 2014-15 as specifically approved by the Board.

The Board further approved The Rotary Foundation's 2014-15 programs budget of \$89,023,000 for programs that are funded with unrestricted Annual Programs Fund contributions.

**RI AWARDS**

The Board supported President Huang's plan to present the Rotary Award of Honor to Taiwanese Buddhist nun, teacher, and philanthropist Dharma Master Cheng Yen. The RI Award of Honor may be granted to deserving individuals including heads of state. Up to five awards may be granted each Rotary year by the president. In 1966 Cheng Yen founded the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation. The foundation's motto is "Instructing the rich and saving the poor." In more recent years, the foundation has also become involved in international disaster relief, bone marrow donations, environmental protection, and community volunteering.