



## RLI International Newsletter

July 2017

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions throughout the world. It was recommended by the R.I. Board of Directors and strongly endorsed by the Council on Legislation at three of their triennial meetings. RLI conducts a series of quality leadership development courses for potential club officers and other club members, including those who have recently joined a Rotary Club. The courses emphasize both leadership skills and knowledge of Rotary around the world. All course sessions are completely interactive. The 81 RLI Regional Divisions believe that leadership education has a positive impact on membership retention by creating enthusiasm and furthering engagement for Rotary.

**July, 2017**

### **END OF YEAR (2016-17) EDITION**

Note: The next issue of the International RLI eBulletins will be distributed in September, 2017.

### **ANZO (a common term for the Continent of Australia/New Zealand/Oceania) is now a 100% RLI Continent**

Just prior to the opening of the Rotary Convention in Atlanta, District 9550 filed an Agreement to Join the RLI Northern Australia Division, chaired by PRID John Boag. That brought RLI to every Rotary district in ANZO, making it only the second continent to have that distinction. Africa was the first such continent one year ago.

9550 covers the Australia Northern Territory, part of Queensland and the Democratic Republic of Timor Leste. The Agreement was signed by District Governor Ida Portella. We thank PDG Cathy Roth, our RLI Regional Chair for ANZO (now on a leave of absence) for a truly outstanding achievement in bringing RLI to the continent. For New Zealand and Oceania, we thank PDG Beryl Robinson, Chair of that Division.

More on that achievement in future editions. We plan a special celebration at the Toronto RLI Breakfast, hopefully with the participation of 2017-18 R.I. President Ian Riseley who encouraged and supported Cathy Roth to pursue RLI.

**The RLI BREAKFAST at the Atlanta Convention was unique in that it broke a previous RLI record for attendance with 475 registrants representing 42 countries.**

The Omni Hotel at CNN Center, adjacent to the convention center, was the site of a very lively and enthusiastic RLI Breakfast with truly outstanding speakers. Speakers welcomed by the attendees included R.I. President Nominee Sam Owori of Uganda and R.I. Director (now R.I. Vice-President) Dean Rohrs of British Columbia, Canada. The Chair of the RLI Northeast America Division, RLI's largest, PDG Ann Keim, eloquently provided the "Thoughts for the Day".

The principal speaker was Past R.I. President and twice Chair of The Rotary Foundation, Luis Vicente Giay of Argentina, who challenged the Rotary International leaders and RLI members present to think deeply about the future of our organization. (As the expression goes, you could hear a "pin drop" during Luis' wonderful speech.)

**Five RLI International Awards Presented at RLI Breakfast**

RLI traditionally presents four or five awards each Rotary year, usually at the Annual RLI Convention Breakfasts. This year's awards were given as follows:

The Distinguished Service Award is usually given each year to just one Rotarian for exemplary service to RLI and in furtherance of its ideals. It is RLI's highest award. For 2017 that Award was presented to PDG James R. Henry, Jr. of Sarasota, Florida. Jim was basically the founder of the Sunshine Division of RLI, one of RLI's finest divisions. Jim is a great organizer and has the talent of vividly expressing Rotary's and RLI's philosophies and goals. He today writes a blog on membership retention that to many Rotary leaders has articulated the best and most effective approaches for the growth of Rotary.

Each year RLI also presents 3-4 Awards for Outstanding Achievement. These Awards for 2017 were given to the following:

PDG Leila T. Ristelli of Finland. Leila was the founder of the Finland Division and over the past several years has expanded the division from her own district to five of the six Rotary districts in that country. In a country with large distances among districts and weather challenges, Leila chose quality over expediency and now leads a very effective group of Rotarians and their districts to improve the leadership skills and Rotary knowledge of Rotarians in the member districts.

PDG Fernando Dias Soprano of Brazil. Dr. Soprano, despite a very busy professional schedule, has been a very active RLI Regional Co-Chair for Brazil and has both formed several new RLI Divisions and reactivated some divisions. He has traveled throughout Brazil to assist Regional Chair, Antonio Hallage (for South America) and has created enthusiasm for Rotary and RLI wherever he goes. He has contributed greatly to the expansion of RLI in Brazil, the largest country in South America.

PDG Elizabeth "Beth" Thomas of South Africa, has developed RLI throughout Africa and was a key Rotarian, along with PDG Tunji Funsho, in the North, who guided RLI to become the first 100% RLI Continent. She currently holds the position of RLI Regional Chair for Southern and Western Africa. She was honored at the Kenya Institute in 2016 for her role in expanding RLI into a large part of Africa, and is truly deserving of our Award for Outstanding Achievement.

PDG William Francisco Torrico Hurtado is the founder of the RLI Bolivia Division. He is also a member of the RLI International Curriculum Committee. William not only founded the Bolivia Division, but led it to be a very effective unit for the presentation of excellent RLI courses for the benefit of the Rotarians in that country.

### **The RLI Exhibit Booth at the ATLANTA World Congress Center's House of Friendship Was a Very BUSY Place.**

The RLI booth committee was chaired by RLI Intl. Executive Director Mike Rabasca along with RLI Intl. Vice-Chairs Frank Wargo and Knut Johnsen. A steady stream of Rotarians visited the booth and spoke with RLI officers, looked for their district numbers on the handouts showing RLI districts, etc. and brought questions to RLI officers and other volunteers. The RLI booth was one of the busiest of the very large number of such booths in the House of Friendship.

During part of the time the RLI booth was open, Jeffry Weinrach spoke with Rotarians interested in the Online Course program of RLI. Standards for the use of online courses have been sent to all 87 chairs of RLI Divisions. Jeff also distributed written technical advice about the use of the Zoom online program.

### **PDG Aaron Stein Completes Service as RLI Publisher**

As previously announced PDG Aaron Stein has completed seven years of service as the Intl. RLI Publisher of these ebulletins. Said RLI Chair David Linett, "We will miss Aaron's excellent work for RLI in a sometimes difficult position. He is a great Rotarian and exemplifies dedication and skills not just for RLI but for Rotary in general."

### **RLI Welcomes PDG Paul Muczynski as our new Publisher**

To replace PDG Aaron Stein, PDG Paul Muczynski of Plains, Pennsylvania, USA, has been appointed RLI Intl. Publisher. Paul has been very active in the Northeast America Division of RLI and has

recently been the choice of the Division nominations committee to be the Division Chair during 2018-21.

### **PRID Hallage Announces his new Book About Rotary**

RLI Regional Chair for South America, PRID Antonio Hallage of Brazil has published a wonderful book entitled "StraightForward Thoughts ---Sharing thoughts and ideas about Rotary". It covers many, many aspects of Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation with many insights worth our thoughts. On page 117 Tony refers to RLI as "a systematic methodology already in use in more than 300 districts (as of today 395districts)." He goes on to further explain the work of RLI. Those interested in the book may contact Tony Hallage at [hallage@avalon.sul.com.br](mailto:hallage@avalon.sul.com.br)

### **RGHF Presents the PDG Usama El Barghouthi Award**

At its Reception and Meeting at the Atlanta Convention, the Rotary Global History Fellowship presented two awards. One was the newly formed PDG Usama El Barghouthi Award named for that Rotarian of Jordan who had recently passed away. According to the RGHF, Usama was "especially influential in the training of Rotarians via the RLI experience." Accordingly RGHF established the award for excellence in training. The first award was presented to PRID David Linett, RLI Founder and International Chair by RGHF President and Board Chairman Steve Hellersperk.

### **CALENDAR ITEMS**

**January 26-28, 2018, Orlando, Florida, USA -RLI International Curriculum/Best Practices Committee.** Because the three year curriculum cycle will be completed on July 1, 2018, that committee will review all three parts of the basic RLI curriculum for possible revision. Each Division is entitled to send representatives to that meeting. Details will be sent to all Division Chairs and other leaders about September 15.

NOTE that the name of the committee has been changed to add Best Practices. As noted in previous eBulletins, one advantage of an international organization is to be able to share ideas worldwide. The 2017 curriculum committee also developed some "best practices" that will be shared to all divisions. The process will be ongoing.

### **February 22-25, 2018, Mumbai, India**

Because of travel distances and costs as well as some regional differences, etc., RLI has decided to also hold curriculum/best practices meetings from time to time in various parts of the world. The first such meeting outside North America will be held in Mumbai, India. India Co-Chairs will be PDG Ulhas Kolhatkar and PDG Subhash Saraf. South Asia RLI Organization Chair, PRID and Trustee Sushil Gupta and RLI Regional Chair Binod Khaitan will also participate. The International RLI will be sending officers to also participate in the meetings.

RLI will consider proposals from other regions of the world for a 2019 meeting. Suggestions should be sent to RLI Chair, David Linett at [ginlin@aol.com](mailto:ginlin@aol.com).

### **RLI Discussion Group on Rotary International Discussion Groups Website Keeps Growing**

We urge RLI members to join the RLI discussion group on the R.I./My Rotary/ Discussion groups. The RLI site is called, "Rotary Leadership Institute/RLI". At the time of the writing of this eBulletin, 959 Rotarians have joined the site and 35 plus discussion topics have been opened. Any Rotarian may join the group, add comments and open a discussion topic.

**HELP ROTARY IMPROVE RETENTION RATES - SEND ALL NEW ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS TO A RLI COURSE DURING THEIR FIRST YEAR OF MEMBERSHIP!**

### **RLI PHILOSOPHY**

"Having leadership skills does not alone assure good Rotary leadership. An effective Rotary leader must ALSO have Rotary knowledge, perspective about where Rotary has been, where it is now and a vision of what Rotary can be."

**Join Our Mailing List!**

, PRID David Linett, International RLI Chair,  
PDG Michael Rabasca, International Executive Director, PDG Paul Muczynski, e-Bulletin  
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