

2023 Newsletter – January

Message from Chairman Robert A. Stuart, Jr.

DNA RAG – Happy New Year! There is a lot happening and I will bring some of the important points to your attention.



Notes from the Chair:

Your Board of Directors has set a meeting schedule for balance of the Rotary year. By setting the meeting schedule in advance all members of the Board and the members in general will know in advance when the meetings are to take place. This allows your Board to be better prepared to meet and will hopefully allow more member participation.

We have scheduled the DNA-RAG annual meeting (AGM) for 22 June 2023 at 1900 US Central Time. In addition, the following dates have been set up prior to the AGM:

- 26 April - Solicitation of nominations for Board members from membership
- 9 May - Nominations to nominating committee
- 23 May - Ballots sent to membership
- 9 June - ballots due from membership to balloting committee for count
- 22 June (at annual meeting) - announcement of results of balloting

This will all be posted on our website, www.dna-rag.com.

iMembers - our new data management system allows us the ability to enter data as to specific skillsets of our members. We will be sending a questionnaire to our members so we can capture this information and load it into our system. Some of the questions that you can expect to see are:

- Tell us about your experience with Disasters.
- Tell us about your experience with Disaster Recovery.
- What skills do you possess that would be helpful in the event of a disaster?
- Have you prepared or helped prepare Global Grants?
- Have you prepared or helped prepare a Disaster Recovery Grant?
- Do you have any specific certifications relative to Disaster Planning or recovery?

- Do you serve on a Disaster Committee at the Club\District\Zone level? If yes, please specify.
- Do you have experience presenting at Disaster Preparedness seminars\webinars?
- Do you have materials on training or club or district policies and procedures inclusive of grant guidelines and forms that may be shared and utilized as examples for others?

Committees:

Some of our members have asked how they can become more engaged in the activities of the Rotary Action Group. We have discussed the formation of some committees to review and maximize engagement (see the following section for a list of committees and members involved). If you have a desire to serve on one of the committees, please contact Phil Lustig phil.lustig3@gmail.com<mailto:phil.lustig3@gmail.com> or myself at rstuart@bhslaw.com<mailto:rstuart@bhslaw.com>.

1. Membership - we currently have approximately 220 active members - we have discussed allowing Rotaractors to join, forgiving dues for the first year.
2. Partnerships - we are in discussion with ROAR, DisasterAid, Shelterbox, Australia's and New Zealand's existing Rotary Disaster entities
3. Communication - including social media - Jimmy Johnston, Jeff Brennan, Enio Belle and Anni Carracedo.
4. Training - presentations and materials with a goal of putting more on our website - Keshav Kunwar, Michael Terrelonge, Martha Collins and Phil Lustig.
5. Development of Regional and country teams - to enhance participation globally, this committee is responsible for developing and promoting teams geographically aligned with other Rotary organizations.
6. Global Grants-we need to be able to have an ongoing committee set to assist clubs and districts with global grants relating to response grants and also global grants in rebuilding following disasters.

Rotary International Convention:

Similar to last year in Houston's RI Convention, the Rotary Action Group's Council will host a second "RAGtime" event for all Rotary Action Group members, Senior Rotary leaders (last year in attendance were past RI presidents Ian Riseley and Barry Rassin together with RI President Elect Gordon McNally). This year's RAGtime is planned for Thursday May 25 7PM - 9PM at the Botanic Gardens in Melbourne. Light hors d'oeuvres and beverages will be served, and everyone will have an opportunity to share ideas and

fellowship. This is a great way to start off the Convention in fellowship. More details on the event will be forthcoming.

We will have a booth at the Melbourne House of Friendship. We need YOUR HELP manning the booth. If you are going to the convention let us know if you will be available to spend some time in the booth.

WE TRULY APPRECIATE YOUR CONTINUED COMMITMENT AND SUPPORT!!!

Bob Stuart
Chair
Disaster Network of Assistance - Rotary Action Group