

Article 42. Global Networking Groups

42.010. Global Networking Groups Committee

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42.010. Global Networking Groups Committee

The RI president shall appoint a seven-member Global Networking Groups Committee to oversee the operations of all Global Networking Groups. The members of the committee shall serve staggered three-year terms, with the exception of the Director and Trustee, subject to reappointment, but not permitted to serve more than five years. A past director shall serve as chair, and other members shall include one RI director, one trustee, one Rotarian Action Groups representative, one Rotary Fellowships representative, one vocational service representative, and one member at large.

42.0120. Rotary Fellowships

42.0120.1. Terms of Fellowships

[text omitted]

42.010.2. Organization and Membership

A fellowship shall have a governing document (charter, constitution, bylaws or similar document) which must be consistent with RI policy. All governing documents, and amendments thereto, must be reviewed and approved by the general secretary in consultation with the Global Networking Groups Committee. A fellowship shall be organized with at least three officers, one of whom shall be the chair (~~president or other administrative head~~). The chair must be an active Rotarian. A fellowship's membership shall be open to all Rotarians, family members of Rotarians, program participants and alumni. (*October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Cross References

40.010.1. Definition of Program Participants

40.090.1 Definition of Rotary Alumni

Source: March 1994 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 169; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; *Amended by* October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58

42.010.3. Criteria for Recognition as a Rotary Fellowship

All fellowships are subject to approval by the general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, for recognition. The general secretary shall consult with the Global Networking

Groups Committee on these decisions. Fellowships formed to promote, participate or be involved in religious or political activities, deal with subjects that negatively affect health or safety, or are not in accord with the Object of Rotary or the overall policy and program of Rotary International shall not be recognized.

To be recognized as a fellowship, a fellowship must:

1) Be a group of at least 25 prospective members~~Rotarians~~ representing at least five~~three~~ countries who share a common interest in a specific worthwhile activity which advances the Object of Rotary.

2) Not duplicate the purposes of an existing fellowship.

Groups that are denied recognition may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of ~~such~~ denial. (*October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58*)

Source: November 1997 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 141; August 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 66; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 101; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; *Amended by* June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43; October 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58. See also November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

42.020.45. Services and Suspension

The general secretary provides the following services ~~may suspend services provided to a fellowship in good standing; with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy.~~ These services include use of the Rotary Marks; listing in the *Official Directory*, program publications, and on the RI website; and provision of a booth and meeting room at the International Convention, on a space available basis. (*May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244*)

To maintain its status as a fellowship, a fellowship must

1) Function in accordance with its recognized purpose and in accordance with RI policy

2) ~~Publish a newsletter (which may be distributed solely by electronic means) for members of the fellowship in good standing, at least once during each Rotary year, and file the newsletter and other important fellowship communications and documents with the general secretary~~ Consistently distribute print or electronic communications to all members of the Rotary Fellowship.

3) ~~Hold an annual forum by way of a newsletter, annual meeting, in person or online, or other activity appropriate to the fellowship, through which fellowship members in good standing can interact~~

3) ~~Respond to inquiries from members, potential members, and the general secretary~~

~~445) Submit an annual report of activities and finances requested by the general secretary, with a copy to its members, by 1 October, including cost of membership dues and a financial statement showing revenues, and expenditures, and available funds during the past Rotary year, and a statement of on hand at the time of the report to its members with a copy in each year. (November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35)~~

42.010.54. Suspension and Termination of Recognition

The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may suspend services provided to a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. To be reinstated, the fellowship must address the concerns communicated by the general secretary within 12 months of the date of suspension.

~~The general secretary, acting on behalf of the Board, may terminate a suspended fellowship's recognition by RI, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to reinstate. function in accordance with RI policy. Failure to respond to communications from the general secretary for a one-year period may result in termination of recognition of the fellowship.~~

~~To maintain its status as a fellowship, a fellowship must~~

- ~~1) Function in accordance with its recognized purpose and in accordance with RI policy~~
- ~~2) Publish a newsletter (which may be distributed solely by electronic means) for members of the fellowship in good standing, at least once during each Rotary year, and file the newsletter and other important fellowship communications and documents with the general secretary~~
- ~~3) Hold an annual forum by way of a newsletter, annual meeting, or other activity appropriate to the fellowship, through which fellowship members in good standing can interact~~
- ~~4) Respond to inquiries from members, potential members, and the general secretary~~
- ~~5) Submit an annual report of activities, including cost of membership dues and a financial statement showing revenues and expenditures during the past Rotary year, and a statement of funds on hand at the time of the report to its members with a copy to the general secretary by 1 October in each year. (November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35)~~

The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotary Fellowship when a group has not communicated with the general secretary for a one-year period, as required by the Rotary Code of Policies, or in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. Disbanded and terminated fellowships shall not donate any remaining funds to The Rotary Foundation. (June 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227)

42.010.5. Services and Suspension

~~The general secretary may suspend services provided to a fellowship, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to function in accordance with RI policy. These services include use of the Rotary Marks; listing in the *Official Directory*, program publications, and on the RI website; and provision of a booth and meeting room at the International Convention, on a space available basis. (May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244)~~

[text omitted]

42.020.7. Fellowships at RI Conventions

~~An annual joint meeting of all fellowships should shall be held immediately preceding or during the convention. An annual general meeting of each fellowship should be held immediately preceding or during the convention.~~ Fellowships are encouraged to arrange pre- and post-Convention activities in connection with the convention each year. The convention committee should assist in organizing such convention-related events and publicizing fellowship activities at the convention. RI will provide gratis booth space and meeting space for Rotary Fellowships in good standing, where possible, with the provisions that no fundraising may take place. (May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277)

[text omitted]

42.010.9. Promotion of Fellowships

Governors are encouraged to promote fellowship activities in monthly letters and to report at the district training assembly or district conference on progress in fellowship activities for the year. Fellowships are encouraged to organize events ~~hold recognition days~~ to increase interest in their activities and in Rotary in general, and to maintain websites that promote their activities and inform their members. (May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381)

[text omitted]

42.020.14. Fellowship Circularization Policy

A Rotary Fellowship desiring to request the cooperation of districts, clubs or Rotarians outside of its own membership in connection with any matter whatsoever, by any means, including telemarketing, shall first submit its purpose and plans to the governor or governors of the involved area and secure his, her, or their approval.

A Rotary Fellowship(s) engaging in these types of activities must comply with RI policy for use of the Rotary Marks, including use of proper identification and qualifying language regarding the Rotary Fellowship(s).

No Rotary Fellowship shall solicit financial assistance or participation in commercial ventures from any Rotary district or club or from individual Rotarians other than its own

~~members unless and until it first secures authorization from the Board. No Rotary Fellowship shall solicit funds on websites, with the exception of membership dues.~~

~~Even within the limits described above, it is not permissible for a Rotarian to circularize other fellowship members on matters affecting his or her individual business interests.~~

42.010.15. Policy Compliance

~~Fellowships that are not in compliance with RI policy are subject to termination of their fellowship status.~~

~~The general secretary may, acting on behalf of the Board, terminate a Rotary Fellowship when a group has not communicated with the general secretary for a one-year period, as required by the Rotary Code of Policies, or in cases where the group has decided to voluntarily disband. Disbanded fellowships should donate any remaining funds to The Rotary Foundation. (June 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 227)~~

42.020.156. Youth Protection

~~Rotary Fellowships must protect the safety and wellbeing of all youth participating in their activities and comply with Rotary International's youth protection policies. A Rotary Fellowship may not grant membership or affiliation to a person who is known to have engaged in sexual abuse or harassment or who is prohibited from being a member of a Rotary club. (Upon obtaining information that a fellowship has knowingly failed to terminate the membership or affiliation of such an individual, the RI Board may terminate the Rotary Fellowship for failure to comply). (May 2015 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 184)~~

42.040. Incorporation Guidelines For Global Networking Groups

The following recommended minimum guidelines, apply to all Global Networking Groups that choose to incorporate:

1. The name of the incorporated Global Networking Group shall be the same as the name approved by the RI Board
2. The corporation shall be a not-for-profit entity, and it shall pay no dividend and no part of its money, property or other assets shall be distributed to its members, directors, or officers
3. Where any provision of the corporate documents of the incorporated Global Networking Group is not in conformity with the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI, the terms of the constitution, bylaws, or policies of RI shall prevail at all times
4. All members of the Global Networking Group shall be members of the incorporated entity
5. The initial membership of the Global Networking Group shall be the members of the Global Networking Group as of the time of the incorporation. The addition or removal of a member from

a Global Networking Group pursuant to the Global Networking Group's governing document shall immediately and automatically result in a corresponding change in the membership of the corporation

6. The board of directors and officers of the Global Networking Group corporation shall be limited to members of the Global Networking Group

7. The number and terms of the directors shall be as required by local law and as provided for by the incorporated Global Networking Group's corporate documents

8. The board of the Global Networking Group at the time of the incorporation shall be the board of the incorporated group. Incorporated Rotarian Action Groups must have at least five board members who are active Rotarians; incorporated Rotary Fellowships must have at least three board members, chaired by an active Rotarian. There shall be at least three officers of the Global Networking Group, one of whom shall be the chair (president or other administrative head). The chair must be an active Rotarian. The current chair shall be the highest officer of the incorporated Global Networking Group and shall serve as chair of the board of directors. The Global Networking Group may elect such other officers as required by local law and as provided for in its corporate documents.

9. The chair shall report annually to the members on the status of the Global Networking Group incorporation

10. The Global Networking Group is not an activity or agency of RI. (*February 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137*)

11. The Global Networking Group corporation shall immediately and automatically cease operations and begin dissolution upon directive of the RI Board or upon the approval of the members of the corporation. The chair shall provide the Board notice of a decision by the Global Networking Group to dissolve the corporation, and shall provide a final report upon the completion of the dissolution process

Source: November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 76

Cross References

31.090.2. General Secretary Authority to Incorporate Global Networking Groups