

Article 42. Global Networking Groups

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42.010. Rotary Fellowships

42.010.1. Terms of Fellowships

A Rotary fellowship is a group of Rotarians who unite themselves to pursue a vocational or recreational activity. The primary purpose of a fellowship shall be to further friendship and fellowship for those who share a common interest. Fellowship activities must be conducted independently of RI, but must be in harmony with RI policy, including the use of the Rotary Marks. Fellowships may not be used to promote religious beliefs, political issues, or other organizations. Recognition of a fellowship by RI in no way implies legal, financial or other obligation or responsibility on the part of RI, or any district or club. A fellowship may not act on behalf of RI, or represent or imply that it has authority to act on behalf of RI. A fellowship is not an agency of RI. Fellowships must be self-sustaining financially, administratively, and otherwise. Fellowships may not exist or function in any country in violation of the laws of such country. Individual Rotary Fellowships are not covered by RI insurance and are encouraged to assess their own risk and secure coverage as appropriate. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: January 1966 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; November 1999 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 172; *Amended by* June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

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 by the fellowships committee, if practicable, and approved by the general secretary. A fellowship shall be organized with at least three officers, one of whom shall be the chair (president or other administrative head) and serve as a non-voting member-at-large of the RI fellowships committee. The chair must be an active Rotarian. A fellowship's membership shall be open to all Rotarians and spouses of Rotarians. Fellowships are encouraged to open their memberships to Rotaractors. Only Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors may be members of fellowships. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

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

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 Rotary Fellowships 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 Rotarians representing at least three countries who share a common interest in a specific worthwhile activity which advances the Object of Rotary. The Board may reduce or waive the number of countries represented
- 2) Be organized in accordance with RI policy
- 3) Not duplicate the purposes of an existing fellowship, unless approved by the Board.

Groups that are denied recognition may not reapply for a period of two years from the date of such denial. (*October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 43*)

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. See also November 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 106

42.010.4. Termination of Recognition

The Board may terminate a fellowship's recognition by RI, with or without the consent of the fellowship's officers or members, for failure to 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*)

Source: November 1989 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 96; October 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 85; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; November 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 58; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2006 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 35

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*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244

42.010.6. Incorporation of Fellowships

Fellowships are encouraged to incorporate. The advisability of incorporation is a matter the members should determine in light of the fellowship's activities. Applications for incorporation must be submitted to and approved by the general secretary. The articles of incorporation, or equivalent corporate document, of a fellowship must include a statement to the effect that the fellowship is not an activity or agency of RI. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: January 1976 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 161; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.010.7. Fellowships at RI Conventions

An annual joint meeting of all fellowships should 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*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; January 1973 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 168; June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; January 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 201; May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 244; May 2012 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 277

42.010.8. Fellowship Information in the *Official Directory*

The name, address and website of each fellowship, and the name, contact information and classification of the chair of each fellowship, shall be listed in the *Official Directory* each year, provided that such information is submitted by the date set by the general secretary. No further descriptive information shall be included. (*May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381*)

Source: January 1986 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 193; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381

42.010.9. Promotion of Fellowships

Clubs and districts are encouraged to promote fellowships, especially during June, Rotary Fellowships Month. 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 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*)

Source: January 1970 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 129; Amended by May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381

42.010.10. Rotary Fellowships Logo

An official logo for the Rotary Fellowships program is included in the “Voice and Visual Identity Guidelines.” The general secretary shall include the logo on appropriate publications, and make the logo available on the RI website for downloading. *(October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 63)*

Source: June 1998 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 354; Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 394; November 2002 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 102; May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; October 2013 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 63

42.010.11. Statement in Publications

Fellowship newsletters, publications, brochures, and websites must prominently display the statement “This fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International” or similar language approved by the general secretary. Following is an approved example of how such language may be incorporated into a statement describing the fellowship.

“The International Golfing Fellowship of Rotarians is a group of Rotarians dedicated to promoting golfing as an opportunity for fellowship. This fellowship operates in accordance with Rotary International policy, but is not an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International.” *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: May 2003 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 381; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.010.12. Agreements with Other Parties

Any agreement between a fellowship and other parties must clearly state that the fellowship is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International, an Illinois corporation, and that Rotary International is not liable for the activities of the fellowship. Any such agreement must also clearly state that Rotary International is not a party to the agreement, and that Rotary International is not liable for the performance of, or any obligation under, the agreement.

A fellowship may not enter into cooperative relationships with other organizations on behalf of RI. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.010.13. Fellowship Dues

Fellowship dues must be of a reasonable amount and limited to that necessary to cover administrative costs. Each fellowship shall disclose how dues are used in their governing documents, and on their membership application materials. *(June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302)*

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 257; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.010.14. Fellowships and Other Organizations

In order to ensure coordination and cooperation with Rotary entities that may be involved in similar activities and avoid conflicts of interest, Rotary Fellowships approaching other organizations for funds in excess of US\$25,000 or other cooperative relationships shall

notify the general secretary in advance of any applications. This provision also applies to funds that will be disbursed to a third party organization working with the group. (*June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302*)

Source: June 2004 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 258; Amended by March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302

42.010.15. 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. (*November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32*)

Source: March 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 205; Amended by June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 38; November 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 32

42.010.16. 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*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; November 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 78; January 2008 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 164

42.020. Rotarian Action Groups

42.020.1. Purpose

A Rotarian Action Group shall be an association of Rotarians who have as their purpose the advancement of the Object of Rotary by providing assistance and support to Rotary clubs, districts, and multidistricts in planning and implementing large-scale, community development and humanitarian service projects. (*January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137*)

Source: June 2005 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 302; Amended by January 2011 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 137