



POETS 2020 - 2021

Handbook and Administration

SLIDE : District Handbook

To confirm what Carl-Heinz mentioned this morning, we will be printing copies of the District Directory and Handbook for 2020-2021 and will distribute three copies to Clubs for Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers. In addition there will be copies for District leaders and anyone who wants a printed copy. I am aware that the District Directory is out of date the day it is printed as people change and they change addresses and contact details, but this is not significant and can be managed. The main thing is that the Handbook section contains important RI and District information to assist Clubs in the running of their organisations.

Due to lockdown I am not sure when we will be able to have copies printed but before the start of the new Rotary year we will have the Handbook on our website and I plan to have electronic copies sent to each Club.

Enough of that, let me now address some of our Administration issues.

Under normal conditions we discuss and ratify our Annual Financial Statements for the previous year at the District Assembly. As the District Assembly at Melkbos was cancelled this year we have not been able to do so. But fortunately for us RI asked us to get Clubs to approve the June 2019 Financial Statements in October last year. The statements were sent to Clubs and were approved. So we have taken care of that task but I need to have it recorded here in case of any queries.

Similarly, the District budget for the coming year is discussed at the District Assembly but again we could not do so this year. However, the District Treasurer sent out copies of the budget to all Clubs in February in anticipation of the discussion at Assembly. He also asked for questions and comments from Clubs at that time but there have not been any serious objections or dissatisfaction with the budget. In order to save time we will not debate the budget here but should any incoming President want a copy of the budget we will send him or her a copy and we can discuss any issues at a later venue.

SLIDE 2

However, an important item comes out of the District budget and that is the District per capita levy that Clubs will have to pay next year. In terms of the RI bylaws the levy must be approved by 75% of the incoming Presidents at either a District Assembly or a Presidents Elect Training Seminar such as this one. So let us look at the levies for 2020-2021.

The levy is made up of three items

The Administrative levy which covers the cost of running the District like AGs and DGs allowances, District meetings, Club Runner, Insurance etc

District Service Centre levy covers the cost of running the office where the main costs are rent and salaries.

The Conference levy. Each Rotarian in our District pays a conference levy which is in lieu of a registration fee for Conference.

According to the budget sent to Clubs the total levy for the running of the District next year is R670 per Rotarian.

Subsequent to sending out the budget the RI Convention in Hawaii was cancelled which resulted in a saving for the District which the Finance Committee decided to use to reduce the levy for this year to R635 per Rotarian.

This final levy needs to be approved by the incoming Presidents at this Seminar. To do this I am going to ask incoming Presidents who do not approve of the levy for next year as stated to press the 'chat' button in the middle of the tool bar at the bottom of your screen and please type "NO". This will give us an indication of the level of acceptance or rejection and we will announce the result before the end of the seminar.

I also want to point out the position of new members joining during the year and the payment of the levy. At the Knysna Conference in 2014 it was resolved that new members joining between 1 July and 31 December would be required to pay a per capita levy of half the annual levy. This would be payable in January the year following. Members joining between 1 January and 30 June would not pay a levy for that year. Clubs are billed in January for their new members according to the RI membership record as at 31 December.

Details of the all of the above are in the Handbook.

SLIDE 3

Also in the Handbook are details of other payments that have to be made to various departments in Rotary. Dues to RI, levies to District, subscriptions to Rotary Africa all have to be paid into different accounts. Please ask Treasurers to check that the correct account is used as there is utter confusion when a Club insists it has paid its dues or levies only to find that it has paid into a wrong account.

Similarly with The Rotary Foundation. Please check the Handbook before paying as there are different accounts for EFT payments and cheque deposits and then Clubs banking with FNB have to use a different account number.

Another tip is to please be careful what you put in the narration on an EFT. For Foundation payments you must use your Club number so that RI can identify what you are paying eg. a GG payment, a contribution to the general programmes fund, or a contribution to become a beneficiary. It is important.

All this is in the Handbook.

SLIDE 4

Carl-Heinz earlier this morning mentioned the RI President's Citation. All the information you need including the 25 goals of which you are to select 13 are set out in the Handbook.

And so are the details and the criteria for the District awards that are made at conference each year. I just want to highlight one and that is the Bulletin awards of which there are three. A bulletin includes traditional e-mail newsletters and online communications between Clubs and its members. Please include the Bulletin adjudicator Myra Goldenbaum on your mailing list early in the year so that she gets to know your Club communication and can make a fair judgement for the awards at the end of the year

SLIDE 5

My final slide highlights some important dates. In the handbook are the dates of all District meetings and important regional and RI meetings but there are likely to be changes because of the current situation. However, I just want to underline two important dates.

Next year on 21 April Rotary will have been in Africa for 100 years. The Rotary Club of Johannesburg was chartered on that date in 1921 and D9400 is going to celebrate next April. We are all invited to join the celebration.

But importantly for us is: Where and when are we going to have our Conference next year? DGE Carl-Heinz is proposing to have it in Oudtshoorn on 30th April and 1st May 2021 but he needs the approval of the incoming Presidents to make it certain. This is usually done as a formality by way of a resolution at Conference but this year we will ask incoming Presidents to indicate their approval or otherwise by using the 'chat' button to indicate their acceptance.

