



Rotary Zones 30-31

Heart of America

October, 2020 Newsletter

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a grassroots, multi-district leadership development program whose mission is to strengthen Rotary clubs through quality leadership education. Districts participate in the RI Zones 30-31 Regional Leadership Institute – Heart of America Division.





HOA-RLI — Board Members

RLI develops leaders!

Excellent leadership is the key to successful service to our communities and the world.

RLI was founded to improve Rotary knowledge and the leadership skills of future club leaders.

Rotary clubs depend on outstanding leadership to harness the talents and skills of their members to reach high levels of accomplishment.

This requires the constant effort to prepare more and more Rotarians for the responsibilities of leadership.

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HOA-RLI — Chair, Paul Bucurel

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the Heart of America Rotary Leadership Institute newsletter. The leadership of HOA-RLI, the publisher, along with our staff, are excited to be able to publicize, cheer and share all of the great ideas and happenings going on in Rotary Zones 30 and 31 RLI.



We all know that we have some great district leadership, participants, and graduates of RLI.

Now we look forward to sharing the successes, innovations, and timeless best practices from the twenty-four districts that currently make up the Heart of America Rotary Leadership Institute.

We hope this newsletter will become a conduit for creating relationships not just in our own districts, but across both of our zones. Just think, a network that encompasses the entire central United States.

Covid-19 has shown us how valuable relationships and cross communication is in our personal lives, the business world and in the world of Rotary.

We welcome your ideas and input and look forward to hearing from you as we move forward with our new publication.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Paul Bucurel



HOA-RLI — How It Began

Bob Stuart, Rotary International Director 2005 — 2007

The concept of the Rotary Leadership Institute was the brain-child of David Linett who was an RI Director from New Jersey. He was active with President Frank Devlyn.



I met David in 2000 when we were both active with PRIP Frank's task forces. David shared the concepts of RLI with me and I came back to our two zones. I found when I mentioned the concept that there were questions as to the need for RLI in light of staff driven PETS and District Assembly as well as several districts within the zones had established "academies" for volunteer training of Rotarians beyond PETS and Assembly.

In anticipation of serving as Director in 2005, I approached Keith Lape of my district and we discussed getting input from the District Governors-elect. I felt strongly that this process had to have the buy-in of the individual DGEs and districts. It should not resemble in any way a directive from the Director or even the DG. It should remain totally Rotarian driven from the bottom up. We realized the grassroots concepts and recognition of RLI might take at least the two years of my term as Director.

David Linett flew into St Louis and laid out to numerous DGEs, the variance from district academies, PETS and District Assemblies. Based on reflections following the St Louis meeting, the participating DGEs believed that RLI could be beneficial to the Zones.

Subsequent to the St Louis meeting, gatherings (such as that held in Metropolis, Illinois) occurred for discussion, development and design of RLI within the Zones on a district-by-district basis, so that any district which had an existing functioning academy could honor their own tradition and system.

Just as RLI was not a product of the RI Board or RI staff, the Heart of America RLI was created and remains a voluntary structure created and controlled by the volunteer Rotarians who create and control the content of its sessions.

David and his right hand man, Frank Wargo, came in to train the Instructor/facilitators after we were initially organized. Geographic limitations were not imposed and individual Rotarians crossed district boundaries to attend those sessions they desired and needed.

Some of the early leaders in my neck of the woods included Chuck Farrar in District 6460, Dick Wagner in 6490, and Salim Najjar and Steve Leonard in 6560.

*Editor's note: District 6190 was represented at the Metropolis, IL meeting by then-DGE Bob Molloy and PDG Jane Molloy. Early in its development, Jane chaired the HOA-RLI division. **If your district had early leaders, send a note to jabmolloy@bellsouth.net, and we will recognize them in the next newsletter.***



We Need Your Input!

Readers' Forum

In planning for the future, several changes/ improvements to the RLI Experience have been suggested.

**We would like to hear comments from you on —
whether/or not/or how —
the curriculum should be changed?**

How long should the sessions last?

How are you handling RLI in the time of Covid-19?

If you are doing training on line — how is it working? What suggestions do you have?

What assistance can the RLI newsletter provide?

Send your ideas/responses to News Editor

Jane Molloy — and we will start a “Reader’s Forum”

jabmolloy@bellsouth.net



Virtual Summit and RLI



Rotary International Director, Floyd Lancia

Summit Chair, Katherine Yank

The virtual Summit was a great success. Presentations were professional and Zoom allowed some interaction when appropriate. Congratulations to all involved.

All that was missing — was talking with Rotary friends at the breaks and at meals.



Elizabeth Usovicz, Rotary International Director-elect and RLI Curriculum Chair, led the interactive and informative RLI presentation on “Evolving learning strategies in this environment”.

As advertised: Over the past six months, Heart of America RLI has adapted its format and content to meet the needs of Rotarians living in a COVID-19 environment. Through this process of adaptation, RLI has provided innovative online delivery and content that reflects the social, economic and public health realities of Rotary clubs in our Zones. In a series of two micro-panels, Moderator and RLI Curriculum Chair Elizabeth Usovicz will explore the experiences of RLI participants and RLI district coordinators in participating in and organizing RLI sessions in this new environment. RLI leaders will conclude this breakout with updates on RLI as we move toward our Post COVID19 “Next Normal.”



Everyone was “glued” to the screen and presentation. “Super job” Elizabeth and crew!



Virtual Training Tips

Happy Fall everyone. I think everyone is getting more versed and more in online training as time goes on. Elizabeth Usovicz did a presentation to the HOA-RLI facilitators this summer and has accumulated many useful tips in online training. I asked Elizabeth for her permission to publish these tips in the HOA-RLI newsletter. And, she agreed. I hope you enjoy them and continue RLI Training Online.

Julie McCoy, RLI Coordinator for District 6040

TIPS FOR TRAINING ONLINE — Elizabeth Usovicz

- Everything takes longer online! Plan out your time accordingly
- Have a technical host for every session
- Have the technical host or another facilitator monitor the chat
- Set up 2 practice sessions before going live with a session
- Rehearse any video you use in advance and have a non-video backup plan
- Use a standard slide master for all sessions in your district
- Plan your poll questions, chat questions and breakouts in advance
- Ask powerful questions, think through them in advance
- Poll questions should be simple: yes or no/only 3 multiple choice options work well
- Hand raising can be used to engage participants or get to know them better
- Use your slides for visuals, and limit the number of slides
- Identify any handouts/homework you want participants to have in advance of your session
- Keep breakouts simple: Give participants only one or two questions to discuss
- Remember that slides are not visible in the breakout rooms
- When reporting out from a breakout ask:
 - Ask participants to speak using 20 words or less
 - Ask participants to answer in one breathe of air
 - Ask participants to use the chat to add to report out
 - Assign a leader and a reporter for the breakout group



What Is RLI?

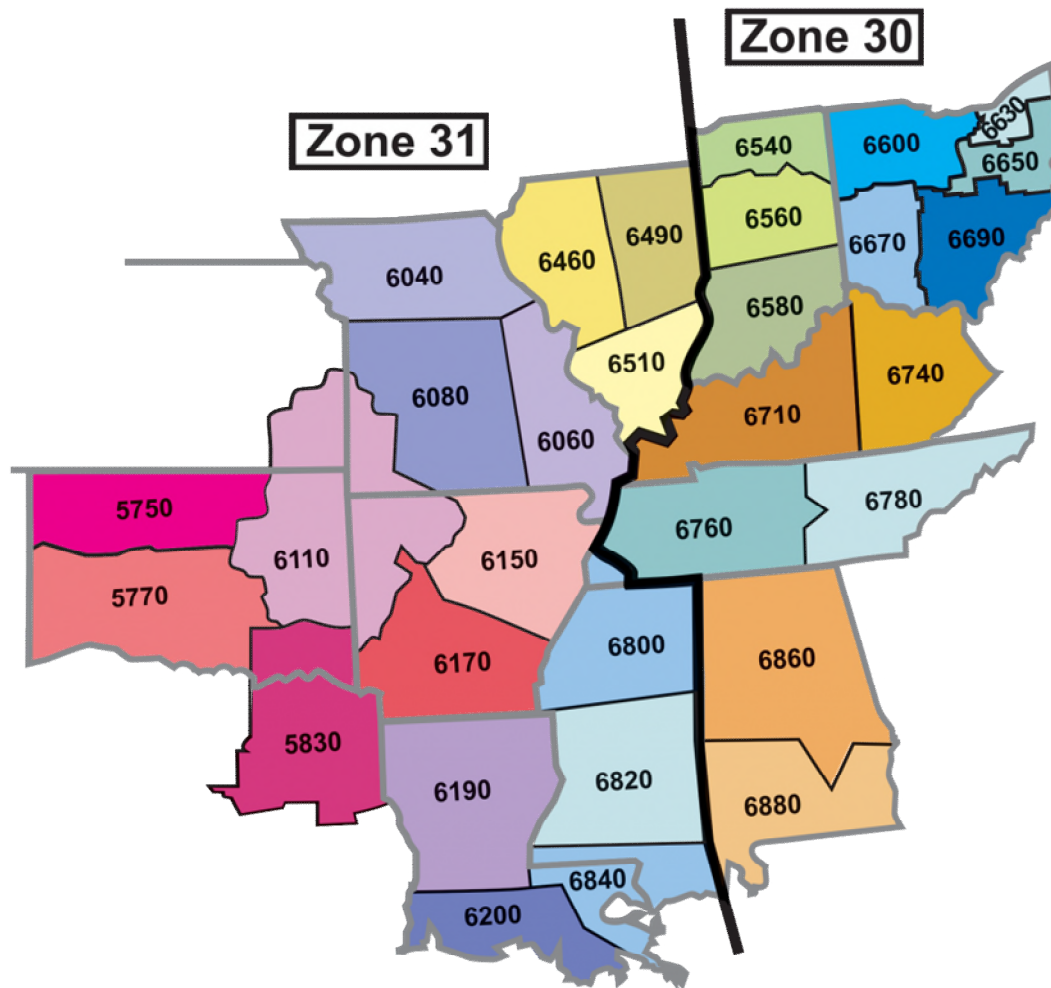
The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots, leadership development program organized into regional divisions in various parts of the world.

RLI is a recommended program of Rotary International.

The Rotary Leadership Institute is not an official training program of Rotary International.

We Are the Heart of America regional division

HOA-RLI ROTARY ZONES 30-31





RLI — The Details

RLI was founded to assist in improving the Rotary knowledge and leadership skills of future Club leaders. Excellent leadership is the key to successful service by our clubs to our communities and the world. Rotary is blessed with members of high quality, but all Rotary clubs depend on outstanding leadership to harness the talents and skills of our membership to high levels of accomplishment. The rapid turnover of leadership positions in Rotary caused by annual elections requires constant effort to prepare more and more Rotarians for the responsibilities of leadership.

RLI provides a recommended curriculum for a basic course in three full days. The three days are called Parts I, II and III and are taken consecutively in order for the participants to gain perspective through their club activities in between the Parts.

RLI also recommends a program of graduate seminars for those who have completed the three basic Parts. Since the founding of RLI, the curriculum has been continually reviewed, updated and revised as the result of experience and the evaluations of the attendees.

Although any Rotarian may attend RLI courses, RLI recommends that Rotary Clubs encourage Rotarians who have the potential for future club leadership, not necessarily as club presidents, to attend. The ideal candidate is early in their Rotary career, has a strong interest, and is prepared to be exposed to the larger world of Rotary outside of the club.

Faculty members are carefully selected. Many are present and past Rotary International directors, district governors, presidents and those with experience in special areas. Each new faculty member must attend a full day training program and various periodic reorientation programs. The results of course evaluations help to improve the course content and instruction.

If your club cares about its future, it will want the best leadership possible. This is an outstanding opportunity for each club to improve the Rotary knowledge of its key people, who will also be exposed to new ideas of leadership.

The exchange of ideas with other experienced Rotarians alone makes the courses worthwhile.

For more information on RLI see <http://www.hoa-rli.org/>