

## 2 THE DISTRICT

A district is a group of Rotary clubs in a geographical area that are linked for administrative purposes. The activities and organization of a Rotary district exist solely to support Rotary clubs and enhance their efforts. (RCP 17.010.1.)

### DISTRICTING

#### Number of Clubs and Rotarians in a District

Because districts with a large membership base have distinct advantages over districts with a small number of clubs and Rotarians, and because small districts have a detrimental effect on RI's administration and finances, the Board prefers all existing districts to have at least 75 clubs and 2,700 Rotarians. (RCP 17.010.2.)

#### Changing Districting

The RI Board is authorized to establish new districts, consolidate districts, and change the boundaries of existing districts. No change in the boundaries of any districts with 33 or more clubs and 1,100 or more Rotarians shall be made by the RI Board over the objection of a majority of the clubs in the district or districts that would be affected. The RI Board may eliminate or change the boundaries of any district with fewer than 33 clubs or fewer than 1,100 Rotarians. (RIB 15.010.)

The RI Districting Committee assists in establishing additional districts, realigning clubs within districts, and consolidating existing districts. The districting proposal form, which details the required information and procedures in submitting a proposal, is available from your Club and District Support representative ([www.rotary.org/cds](http://www.rotary.org/cds)). Districts submitting a proposal should note the following:

- 1) The Districting Committee considers proposals throughout the year. Proposals should be submitted at least 90 days before an RI Board meeting, if the proposer wishes the Board to consider the item at that meeting.
- 2) The committee looks favorably on proposals to create additional districts with at least 60 clubs or 2,100 Rotarians that demonstrate a potential growth to at least 75 clubs and 2,700 Rotarians in the next 10 years. (RCP 17.010.4.)

### GOVERNOR

The governor is the officer of RI in the district, functioning under the general supervision of the RI Board. The governor leads and supports the clubs in the district by inspiring and motivating them and by ensuring continuity within the district. (RIB 15.090.)

#### Candidates for Governor

In order to assure the best possible candidates for the office of governor, governors shall invite the clubs in their districts to propose suitable candidates. All clubs are provided with the status, qualifications, and duties of the governor to inform their proposals for nomination as governors.

### Status

The governor is an officer of RI nominated by the clubs of a district and elected by the convention of RI. The governor's term of office begins on 1 July and continues for one year or until a successor is elected and qualified. (RIB 6.060.1.)

### Qualifications

In addition to the qualifications of governor-nominee, a governor, at the time of taking office, must have completed seven years of membership in one or more clubs and have attended the governors-elect training seminar and International Assembly. (RIB 15.080.)

### Duties

The district governor's responsibilities can be found in [\*Lead Your District: Governor\*](#) (233). This manual is updated annually. In addition to fulfilling their responsibilities, district governors are expected to adhere to the [\*Rotary Code of Ethics\*](#).

## GOVERNOR-ELECT

### Attendance at Governors-elect Training Seminar

Governors-elect training seminar (GETS) attendance is mandatory for governors-elect. (RCP 19.050.4.) The RI Board has adopted a two-day training program for governors-elect at the zone level to be held in conjunction with Rotary institutes. The training programs integrate topics approved by the RI Board and the Trustees. (RCP 19.050.3.) For additional information on this event, see the "Meetings" section of this chapter.

### Attendance at International Assembly

Attendance at the International Assembly is mandatory for governors-elect. Every governor must have this training to function effectively as the officer of RI in the district and to provide leadership, guidance, and counsel to clubs.

Each governor shall emphasize to all candidates for governor and to all clubs of the district the requirement that the governor-elect attend the governors-elect training seminar and the International Assembly as necessary preparation for assuming the office of governor. The nomination cannot be accepted unless the candidate can and will attend both for the full duration. The RI president-elect may excuse attendance on behalf of the Board in extenuating and mitigating circumstances with the provision that the governor-elect attend alternate training as provided by the general secretary. (RCP 19.050.1.)

### Other Preparation

During the year before taking office, the governor-elect should receive from the governor:

- 1) Specific responsibilities in connection with district committees or district organization
- 2) Invitations to attend as an observer all district meetings where the governor-elect is not otherwise designated as a participant
- 3) Consideration for assignments to participate in the district conference program (RCP 19.050.10.)

The governor should include the governor-elect in district meetings and communications and introduce the governor-elect to past district leaders in preparation for the incoming governor's year in service and to ensure continuity in leadership.



- (e) all financial transactions of the governor by or on behalf of the district;
- (f) all expenditures of the district's funds; and
- (g) all funds received by the governor from RI.

The annual statement and report shall be presented for discussion and adoption at the next district meeting to which all clubs are entitled to send a representative and for which 30 days notice has been given that the statement and report of district finances will be presented. If no such district meeting is held, the statement and report shall be presented for discussion and adoption at the next district conference.

**15.070. Qualifications of a Governor-nominee.**

Unless specifically excused by the board, no person shall be selected as nominee for governor unless the Rotarian has the following qualifications at the time of selection.

**15.070.1. Rotarian in Good Standing.**

The Rotarian must be a member in good standing of a functioning club in the district.

**15.070.2. Rotarian Maintaining Full Qualifications of Membership.**

The Rotarian must have full qualifications for such membership in the strict application of the provisions therefor, and the integrity of the Rotarian's classification must be without question.

**15.070.3. Rotarian's Qualification as Past President of Club.**

The Rotarian must have served as president of a club for a full term or be a charter president of a club having served the full term from the date of charter to 30 June, provided that this period is at least six months.

**15.070.4. Rotarian's Ability to Fulfill Duties of Governor.**

The Rotarian must demonstrate willingness, commitment, and ability, physically and otherwise, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of governor as provided in section 15.090.

**15.070.5. Rotarian's Certification of Qualifications.**

The Rotarian must demonstrate knowledge of the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of governor as prescribed in the bylaws and submit to RI, through its general secretary, a signed statement that the Rotarian understands clearly such qualifications, duties, and responsibilities. Such statement shall also confirm that the Rotarian is qualified for the office of governor and willing and able to assume the duties and responsibilities of that office and to perform them faithfully.

**15.080. Qualifications of a Governor.**

Unless specifically excused by the board, a governor at the time of taking office must have attended the international assembly for its full duration, been a member of one or more Rotary clubs for at least seven years, and must continue to possess the qualifications in section 15.070.

**15.090. Duties of a Governor.**

The governor is the officer of RI in the district, functioning under the general



control and supervision of the board. The governor is charged with the duty of furthering the Object of Rotary by providing leadership and supervision of the clubs in the district. The governor should work with district and club leaders to encourage participation in a district leadership plan as may be developed by the board. The governor shall provide inspiration and motivation to the clubs in the district. The governor shall also ensure continuity within the district by working with past, current, and incoming district leaders in fostering effective clubs. The governor shall be responsible for the following activities in the district:

- (a) organizing new clubs;
- (b) strengthening existing clubs;
- (c) promoting membership growth by working with district leaders and club presidents to establish realistic membership goals for each club in the district;
- (d) supporting The Rotary Foundation with respect to program participation and financial contributions;
- (e) promoting cordial relations among the clubs and between the clubs and RI;
- (f) planning for and presiding at the district conference and assisting the governor-elect in the planning and preparation for the presidents-elect training seminar and the district training assembly;
- (g) providing for an official visit meeting individually or in multi-club meetings conducted throughout the year to take place at a time that maximizes the governor's presence for the purpose of:
  - 1. focusing attention on important Rotary issues;
  - 2. providing special attention to weak and struggling clubs;
  - 3. motivating Rotarians to participate in service activities;
  - 4. ensuring that the constitution and bylaws of the clubs comply with the constitutional documents, especially following councils on legislation; and
  - 5. personally recognizing the outstanding contributions of Rotarians in the district;
- (h) issuing a monthly letter to each club president and secretary in the district;
- (i) reporting promptly to RI as may be required by the president or the board;
- (j) supplying the governor-elect, as soon as possible following his or her election prior to the international assembly, full information as to the condition of clubs with recommended action for strengthening clubs;
- (k) assuring that district nominations and elections are conducted in accordance with the RI constitution, these bylaws, and the established policies of RI;
- (l) inquiring on a regular basis about the activities of Rotarian organizations operating in the district (Friendship Exchanges, intercountry committees, Global Networking Groups, etc.);
- (m) transferring continuing district files to the governor-elect; and
- (n) performing such other duties as are inherent as the officer of RI.