

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of Fellowships in Los Angeles

The Annual General Meeting of the Fellowships was held on June 16, 2008.

In the absence of the Chairman Abe Gordon, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Phyllis Nusz at 1:34 pm. She introduced Enrico Carozzi, the only other member of the committee present. A total of 54 members were present from 18 Fellowships. (There were 31 Fellowships represented at the Convention). Enrico described the ill fate of four members of the Flying Fellowship who perished in Italy, and the gathering was asked to stand up in silence in their memory.

Regarding the complaints about not receiving the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, Phyllis mentioned that they were sent out to the Chairs by Jesse Allerton on July 11, 2007 and also that she had brought the same today. The minutes were approved and seconded by the representatives from the Internet Fellowship and Recreational Vehicles Fellowship.

Phyllis reported on the meeting of the Fellowship Committee, which met on January 7-8, 2008 at Evanston as follows:

1. First face to face meeting at the Head Quarters versus meeting by email.
2. Twenty Fellowships that has requested for termination , and inactive ones were terminated and now there are 66 vibrant Fellowships.
3. Recognized the new Fellowship of the Rotarian Singles in November, 2007.
4. RI is in the process of hiring a staff member to work with Fellowships only.
5. Beginning this summer, those who wish to form new Fellowships will be able to publicize on the RI web site.
6. New Fellowship Brochure has been re-designed.
7. Special; " Sharing the Magic of Membership Retention" brochure, highlighting the importance of Fellowships were designed and distributed at ALL eight US Membership Conferences last summer.

Phyllis mentioned about the concern of some who could not find the booth of General Fellowship as in previous years. Two numbers were given for the General Booth, but in actuality there was no General Fellowship Booth this year. Materials are being displayed at the Musicians Fellowship booth.

The self introductions were done in two parts as President Wilf Wilkinson was greeted very warmly by the members.

The following Fellowships were represented at the self introductions. They are: Amateur (a membership of 55) , Bird Watching, Bridge (200 members). Computer users(700 members), Convention Goers , Drug Abuse prevention, Flying (1,000 members), Internet (1,500 members), Musicians (500 members), Physicians(200 members), Recreational vehicles, Rotary on Stamps (240), Scouting(1,000), Singles (70), Skiing (420). Travel Agents(276) and Yachting(3,000 in 80 countries).

President Wilf Wilkinson expressed that he is a firm believer in Fellowships for membership retention. He said although Rotary has gained over 100,000 members this year, we have also lost a lot. The Fellowships can contribute a lot for retention of members. He also accepted some questions from the group. He suggested that we should tell our stories and change the mandate at the COL .

PRIP Cliff Dochterman, Fellowship's old time favorite then took the floor. He suggested a "Fellowship of Aging Gracefully"!! He has been a member of a number of Fellowships over the years and has had a lot of fun. Also believes that they are good for retention of members. He gave us suggestions on how to improve our status: look for stories, write them in the "Rotarian"

etc., exposure at PETS, GETS, and selling in general. If it is not done, do it again. The clubs and stories on the Internet etc. He also said that some Directors may not know about Fellowships. Have to accept that we have to keep on working with them. The programs of Rotary never started from the Board of Directors, but from the clubs. President DK Lee and RIPE John Kenny will continue to support us.

Marc Crotts, Past RI Chair of Fellowships for three times (the only other Chair present was Tin Tin Nu Raschid) also expressed his strong view that the Fellowships are the main reason for Rotarians attending the Conventions.

Regarding the concerns.

Bryan Skinner, Chair of Yachting Fellowship was unhappy because only one booth was given to them.

The other concerns remain the same as in previous years!:

- Not able to promote at the District Conference, PETS, GETS, and Zone Institutes
- Local Rotarians to pay full registration fee to help in the booths
- Fellowships of long standing attendance at the Convention to give preference in the location of booths.
- Minutes of this meeting be sent out on July 11, 2008.
- Larger and more space for booths.
- Clarify the hours of duty at the booths.
- More rooms for Fellowships meetings.
- Proper facility and more chairs at each booth.

Finally, Tin Tin Nu Raschid, Past Chair introduced herself and requested that everyone who spoke should send in writing, their names, and comments, in to her. But no one, except Ron Nethercutt, responded and as such she apologizes in advance for any misreporting.

Looking forward to seeing you in Birmingham, UK on June 21 to 24, 2009

Minuted by Tin Tin Nu Raschid, Past Chair 2004-05