

District Rotary Foundation Committee Chairs

February 2006

Dear Amigos,

The most important link in emphasizing the value of The Rotary Foundation (and requesting Rotary club support for it) lies between districts and clubs. And the key player in that link is the District Rotary Foundation Committee chair.

Under the leadership of the district governor, the Rotary Foundation Committee chair is charged with the key role of helping the governor promote The Rotary Foundation and serving as the true Foundation expert, equally for the governor and all Rotarians in the district. Because of this significant role, the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation have made this position a three-year assignment in order to provide continuity and to enhance stewardship. The committee chair has the awesome responsibility of providing the authorizing signature for the use of District Designated Funds (DDF). These funds — provided by the Rotarians of that district — are the district's portion of funds raised by the district three years earlier for use in projects. The signature of the committee chair represents all of the constituencies of those who contributed to the Foundation. The chairs of eight District Rotary Foundation subcommittees make up the membership of the District Rotary Foundation Committee and represent all of those constituencies. For example, the Group Study Exchange (GSE) subcommittee chair represents the donor who has given because of an interest in GSE and the District Grants Subcommittee chair represents the donor who has given because of an interest in Matching Grants. The District Rotary Foundation Committee chair's signature also represents the consensus arrived at by the committee members. The interest of the Trustees in being "fair to all concerned" is to ensure that anyone who gives is represented when the spending takes place and that spending decisions are not made by a one person.

The Trustees rely on another key player on the Foundation team to work with the district governor and the District Rotary Foundation Committee chair to provide them with the most current information available: the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC). The RRFC participates in a weeklong training session at Rotary's world headquarters each year in order to receive the most current information available. The RRFC has a team of volunteers that help with fundraising and program promotion. Members of the RRFC team include Annual Program Fund strategic advisors, Major Gift advisors and Rotary Foundation Alumni coordinators. This team is responsible for working with the district to provide information necessary for the district to be successful.

All of this is a part of The Rotary Foundation network available to Rotarians to answer any questions and provide any support desired. This network allows information to cascade down to the uninformed Rotarian. At the same token, any break in this network will mean that Rotarians will not get the necessary information to understand the value of their Rotary Foundation.

The network is in place. It is important that we use it to help our Foundation have the best year in its history.

Your Amigo in Mexico City,

Frank Devlyn

The Rotary Foundation Trustee Chair, 2005-06
Rotary International President, 2000-01

