



“Light Up Rotary”

Foundation of Rotary Clubs (Singapore) Ltd

Vol B Issue 3 – Oct 2014

CHARITY DINNER 2014

FRCS Fundraising Committee, chaired by PP Dr Yap Lip Kee, held a charity dinner on 30 Sep 2014. The organiser-in-chief PP Ong Chee Wee had worked tirelessly and enthusiastically with his team to organise this successful event which took up 18 tables at the Marina Mandarin Hotel. DG Hj Andre Suharto, who graced the occasion with his wife Norzan, gave an interesting run-down on Rotary's development and achievements over the years.

Chairman PDG Dr Wu Dar Ching reminded all that the object of the Foundation of Rotary Clubs in Singapore is to support social and humanitarian causes locally. Funding for our programs and projects come from the generous giving of Rotarians, friends and well-wishers from the public. On behalf of our Foundation and the beneficiaries we serve, he warmly thanked all present for their compassion and continuous support.

The committee is planning two other major fundraising initiatives - a Charity Golf Tournament on 15 Nov 2014 and a Flag Day on 21 Feb 2015.



FRCS RESTRUCTURING

FRCS will hold an EGM at 6pm on 6 Nov 2014 at its Chinatown premises to seek approval for the restructuring proposal. It is an important decision as it will commit the Foundation to function in a radically new form, has generated much debate within clubs, and deserves careful consideration by each and every Rotarian. Hopefully the coverage here will facilitate understanding of the issues involved.

Why FRCS needs Restructuring

Foundation of Rotary Clubs in Singapore (FRCS)

- Set up 20 years ago
- Singapore organization with IPC status
- Runs Rotary Family Service Centre with participation by various Rotary Clubs

- Now runs under Government Program and 99% funded by Government
- FRCS needs to look for new direction, structure and programs to retain IPC status

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FRCS Update

1. Object

- To support social and humanitarian causes
- To work with the Rotary Clubs in Singapore to support social and humanitarian activities both Club projects and Foundation projects

2. Membership in New Entity

- All Rotary Clubs in Singapore shall be members of the new entity

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The idea for restructuring was mooted by PDG Dr Philbert Chin way before we embarked on our strategic planning retreats in May and August 2013. The current proposal still reflect many of his original ideas. PDG Dr Wu has personally taken charge of the restructuring project and visited almost every Singapore club to brief Rotarians on both the restructuring and the proposed nursing home. Some of the key slides he used are reproduced below. The most critical issues have also been listed showing both the arguments for and against restructuring.

FRCS Update

3. Board of Directors

The Board of Directors comprises up to 15 directors:

- Chairman
- 2 Vice Chairmen
- 8 Directors
- 3 Directors co-opted by the Board
- Chairman of Rotary Family Service Centre
- If District Governor is from Singapore, he shall be an ex-officio of the Board.

8 working committees, each chaired by a Director

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FRCS Update

4. Election Process

- Directors are elected by voting delegates at the AGM
- Voting delegates are current Presidents of all Clubs or the designated alternative
- Each club is entitled to at least one vote. Any club with a membership of 25 is entitled to one additional vote for each additional 25, or major fraction thereof, of its members.
- Candidates for election must be certified by the Nominating Committee.

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<i>For Restructuring</i>	<i>Against Restructuring</i>
1. Changing Priorities	
The Rotary Family Service Centre is now not a central focus. FRCS needs to rethink its priorities as an impactful community service provider deserving IPC status.	Rethinking priorities is on-going work in progress activity which cannot be solved by restructuring FRCS's membership.
2. Membership by Clubs not Rotarians	
It is a very difficult task to keep track of individual membership status and update membership records. Rotarians in each club would have their say via their club's collective vote.	Membership updating may be difficult but could be done. Membership by clubs would mean individual Rotarians cannot attend AGMs to voice their say and exercise their vote.
3. Smaller BOD with elected/co-opted Directors	
This would make for more effective Board discussion and decision-making. Independent and co-optation of directors would facilitate recruitment of those with needed specialised expertise.	The proposed 15 directors is not much smaller than the present 23. Some worthy potential candidates may not seek election. Those who do so could possibly have their own agenda.
4. Board Directors not representing Rotary clubs	
Elected Board members would act independently of their clubs and be more effective in their role as directors. They could be removed if found wanting.	Rotary clubs can only exercise their influence at the AGM instead of through their representatives at Board meetings. This would mean both loss of involvement and a sense of ownership.
5. Pre-qualification by Nominating Panel	
This would screen and pre-qualify candidates to help ensure the quality of candidates seeking election.	This would introduce another level of power and influence that may lead to sycophancy and ingratiation.
6. Voting by Presidents, 1 vote per 25 members	
This follows the voting system by RI where where a major fraction of each additional block of 25 members is entitled to another vote.	If membership is by clubs then it should be one club one vote. This is common practice in organisations that have institutional membership.
7. Executive Committee	
This will comprise the Chairman and up to 4 directors from the Board to oversee FRCS's day-to-day operations.	No issue. Adding an executive committee to complement the present system could be all the restructuring that is needed.

MENTAL FITNESS GAME



PR Committee Chair PP To Chee Kan is planning a major project to benefit elders by as well as to raise the public image of Rotary. This will use the Rummikub game to keep senior citizens mentally alert as well as to help improve their social and family bonding. It will be launched at our Chinatown premises over the 3 weekends preceding Christmas, i.e. on 6, 7, 13, 14, 20 & 21 Dec 2014.

Rummikub is a highly popular game among third agers worldwide. It consists of 8 sets of tiles numbered 1 to 13 in four colours. There are also two joker tiles which can represent any number of any colour. The game may be played by two to four players, is very easy to learn yet can be quite complex and challenging. Each player starts with a randomly selected 14 tiles and endeavours to get rid of all his tiles by placing sets of three or more tiles on the table according to certain rules. If unable to do so he or she adds another tile to his lot. The winner is the player who is the first to get rid of all his tiles.

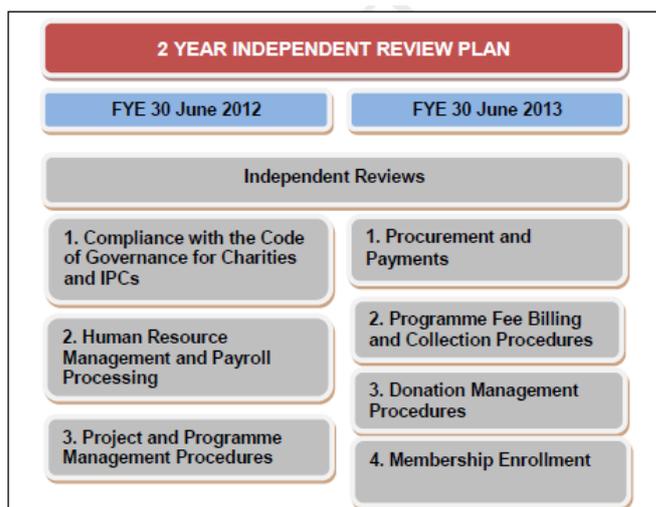
This will be a joint project by FRCS, Rotary Club of Queenstown and U3A Singapore. U3A is a worldwide movement of Universities of the Third Age which provides a range of learning activities for 3rd agers who are generally age above 50. Being a FRCS PR project aimed at increasing public awareness of Rotary and our humanitarian services we hope all other Rotary clubs in Singapore would also participate. Since most Rotary clubs have elders amongst their beneficiaries the more clubs that join in this project the more effective would be our outreach to and impact on elders.



ROTARY RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The former Rotarian Relationships Committee has now been renamed Rotary Relations Committee. Chaired by PP Henry Tan, it is drawing up and will implement a schedule for its members to visit each Rotary club in Singapore to build bonds of friendship and promote greater understanding of the Foundation’s programmes and activities. As one of its objectives for this Rotary year, it will be organising a series of fellowship forums for Singapore Rotarians to network, share experiences and enjoy fellowship. Its committee members include PPs Chris Bek, Dr Yap Lip Kee, Henny Goh, Wong Kwai Wah, Shirin Ghadiali and Rodger Kimpton.

INDEPENDENT REVIEWS



Shared Services for Charities Limited which had been commissioned by us to carrying out the above independent reviews of both FRCS and the Rotary Family Service Centre has now completed all their assignments. For FRCS, the final report on 1. Procurement and Payments and 2. Programme Fee Billing and Collection Procedures was issued on 3 Mar 2014. Their final report on Donations Management Procedures and 4. Membership Enrolment has just been issued on 21 Oct 2014. Each report identified specific areas for improvement which we had already proceeded to implement.