

Forming Rotary Community Groups: Speaking Notes

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Introduction with country specific welcome

The purpose of this presentation is to give you the information you need to understand how Rotary Community Groups will be formed.

It is intended for club leaders and members, District leaders, and regionalisation representatives/champions in Districts.

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This presentation includes:

- A quick recap of the Regionalisation Pilot
- An explanation of Rotary Community Groups and Leaders
- An outline of the processes for forming Rotary Community Groups and electing Rotary Community Leaders
- Frequently asked questions
- An indicative timeline for the implementation of Rotary Community Groups and Leaders

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The Pilot is introducing a new operating model which features three new volunteer roles that will support members, clubs and Rotary Community Groups to achieve their goals.

First is the Regional Council, which will be the leadership and governance body for Zone 8, enabling the Zone to grow Rotary, speak with one voice, increase our impact and operate more efficiently.

Secondly, there are Rotary Community Leaders, who will facilitate collaboration in Rotary Community Groups, provide support to clubs, and connect clubs and members to specialists and support resources as required.

Third is the Rotary Specialist, a very important role where volunteers provide their skills, knowledge and experience to members, Clubs, and Rotary Community Groups.

Clubs, members and Rotary Community Groups are at the centre of this operating model.

We're now going to explore how Rotary Community Groups will be formed.

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As part of the Regionalisation Pilot, a new way of grouping Rotary and Rotaract clubs will soon be introduced. Each group will be known as a Rotary Community Group (RCG).

These groups are designed to foster greater collaboration among clubs so they can work more effectively and at a larger scale than they could on their own.

RCGs will be based on what clubs have in common, such as geography, type of club or common feature. They will meet in person, online, or a combination of both, and will choose how often they meet.

Clubs will also be able to nominate a secondary way they prefer to be grouped. Secondary groupings are optional, informal and will mainly be online.

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Each Rotary Community Group will elect their own Rotary Community Leader (RCL), a facilitator who will provide and access support for the clubs in their group as needed.

Rotary Community Leaders will support clubs to:

- Establish larger scale partnerships
- Increase community impact
- Build a higher public profile within their community
- Attract new club members
- Increase club member engagement and satisfaction

RCLs will provide support for RCGs and individual clubs directly, and will also access more specialised support from the Rotary Specialist Network. The Specialists from this network will be a combination of local and Zone-wide experts. Local experts who are supporting clubs now will be invited to join the Rotary Specialist Network.

Current arrangements regarding The Rotary Foundation will continue for the duration of the Pilot.

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Clubs will tell us how they want to be grouped via the Club Preferences form. The Regionalisation Team and District leaders will then use the responses provided in the form to determine the best groupings for that District.

Club preferences will be accommodated as much as possible. Where that's not possible, we will include the clubs involved to discuss available option/s.

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Club Presidents and Secretaries will receive a link to complete the Club Preferences form. Each club will submit one form only.

It is expected that clubs will have a club forum or workshop to discuss the questions together and gather members' views. A club's preferences are not up to a club's President or Board to decide alone.

The responses in the Club Preferences form need to reflect the majority view of club members.

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These are the main questions in the survey:

- What are we most passionate about?
- What are our biggest strengths and challenges?
- What do we imagine our club could achieve with increased support and collaboration?
- What is our preferred primary way of being grouped with other clubs?
- Are we interested in being part of a secondary grouping? If so, on what shared interest?

There is also a question for the person submitting on behalf of their club to verify that the responses reflect the majority view of members, and to specify how the views of their club members were gathered.

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Once Rotary Community Groups are formed, they will meet to discuss:

- The vision for their RCG
- What leadership and support they will need
- What arrangements will work for their group

The outcomes of this discussion will be documented and circulated to all clubs in the RCG. It will supplement the position description for their Rotary Community Leader, which will give potential candidates a better sense of what the role will entail. Once this is complete, nominations for the RCLs will be opened.

Only the clubs in a specific RCG will vote to elect their own Rotary Community Leader, with each club submitting one vote.

A preferential voting system will be used.

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These are some of the common questions that have been asked so far.

We welcome any other questions.

(Go through questions and answers)

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The timeline for identifying Rotary Community Groups and Community Leaders is:

- In the week of 18 September, the Presidents and Secretaries of Rotary and Rotaract clubs will be emailed the link to the Club Preferences form, which they will use to indicate how they would like to be grouped together.
- From 24 – 29 September, there will be three options to attend an online workshop for Presidents, Assistant and Area Governors, the G-train, and Regionalisation District Representatives who would like to support clubs to discuss how they would like to be grouped.
- The Club Preferences form must be completed by 29 October.
- District leaders and the Regionalisation team will review the survey results together and work on the groupings, liaising with clubs where needed.
- The new Rotary Community Groups are expected to be advised to clubs in November.
- RCGs will then meet to determine how they will collaborate and how the RCL role will work for their group. This is likely to be in February.
- Club members will then be invited to express interest in nominating for a Rotary Community Leader role in their Community Group. This is likely to be in late February.

- Community Leaders will be elected by late March/early April 2024 to enable them to participate in a learning program in preparation for their new role to commence in July 2024.

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The *Creating Tomorrow* website is your primary source of information for the Regionalisation Pilot. It is now being updated regularly with the latest news on the Pilot's progress.

If you have any questions, you can email the Regionalisation Pilot Team directly at

RotaryRegionalPilot@gmail.com.