**September 2023 Webinar Speaking Notes**

**Slide 1 (Neville)**

*Introduction with country specific welcome*

Introduction of presenter(s)

This presentation will provide you with a summary of some of the key changes that will be happening as part of the Zone 8 Regionalisation Pilot over the next few months. We’ll also explore several ways you can take part and have your say as the Pilot progresses.

**Slide 2 (Neville)**

As part of the Pilot, we are testing out a new operating model to provide greater support to clubs and increase collaboration across the Zone so we can grow our membership and enhance our impact.

Looking at this new operating model, you’ll notice clubs and members are at its core. That’s because YOU are the lifeblood of Rotary and Rotaract.

Clubs and members are the ones who deliver the amazing projects that change lives in their community and communities around the world.

Clubs and indeed their members just like you are the ones who nurture potential members and turn them into lifelong Rotarians and Rotaractors.

As club members you will still get to decide when, where and how you hold your club meetings, and the best way of running your club. You’ll still have the same leadership roles within your club, and you’ll still get to run the projects and programs that you and your fellow members are passionate about.

What will change is the support network around you.

This support network will include the three new types of volunteer roles that have been developed as part of the Regionalisation Pilot model and were part of the initial concept design:

* First is the Regional Council, which will represent and support clubs in Zone 8 with a consistent strategy and voice.
* Second are Rotary Community Leaders, who will facilitate collaboration between groups of clubs and connect clubs and members to the support resources they need.
* Third are Rotary Specialists. Each Specialist will be an expert in a particular field, drawing on their proven skills and knowledge to advise and support clubs who request their guidance in their field of expertise.

If you currently hold a club or District leadership role, or even if you’ve never held a leadership position in Rotary or Rotaract, you can apply for these new volunteer roles. The main priority is that these roles are filled by members who have the required skills for their chosen role.

**Slide 3 (Neville)**

In this timeline, you’ll see that we have some key Pilot milestones approaching in the coming months.

In particular, we have:

* The establishment of the Regional Council early next year, after clubs have voted to select the individuals who will hold nine key roles on the Council.
* The formation of Rotary Community Groups, and the election of the Leaders who will facilitate and support them.
* The selection of Rotary Specialists, who will begin their roles mid next year.

**Slide 4 (Ian)**

Here is an overview of the Regional Council’s structure and the key roles that will allow it to function.

The Chair will be responsible for leading and managing the Regional Council. This includes ensuring the Council focuses on its agreed mission, vision, and strategies without preference to geography or interest.

While preparing for their future role as Chair, the Chair-Elect will be responsible for developing, communicating, and managing the Zone Strategic Plan and ensuring the voices of all countries and regions are heard.

There will be six Portfolio Leads in key areas such as Service Projects and Programs, Membership, and Major Fundraising and Grants.

The Rotaract Nominee will be tasked with ensuring Rotaract is considered as the Regional Council develops new programs and initiatives.

There will also be a Multi-National Advisory Committee made up of representatives from different countries in the Zone to ensure the diverse voices in our region are heard.

The Rotary Community Leader Nominee will be elected in 2024, after Rotary Community Leaders have been selected.

The Corporate and Administration role will be a *non-voting position* on the Regional Council. Its role description is currently being finalised.

Please note that existing District structures will remain in place during the pilot.

**Slide 5 (Ian)**

Applications for the nine roles on the Regional Council that will be up for election in October have now closed. The Application Review Panel will now review all submitted applications to ensure each candidate meets the selection criteria for their chosen role.

You can review the nominees when they are made public on the *Creating Tomorrow* website on Tuesday 3 October.

Voting opens on Tuesday 17 October and closes on Tuesday 31 October, with votes to be submitted by Club Presidents.

It’s essential that all clubs ensure the email addresses of their Club Presidents are correct in My Rotary so they receive the ballot and can submit their club’s vote.

If you’re a Club President and won’t be able to vote during the election period, please email Zone8Elections@rotary.org to let us know which Club Officer will be voting instead, and provide their correct email address (ensuring too that it is correct in My Rotary) so they can receive the ballot.

Club Presidents and Secretaries will receive an email on 3 October with instructions on how to vote, including an explanation of the preferential voting system that will be used.

The Regional Council is an important chance to have your say, so make sure you discuss with your club who you think is the best fit for each role on the Council.

**Slide 6 (Allan)**

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.

**Slide 7 (Allan)**

Clubs will tell us how they want to be grouped via the Club Preferences form that was sent to Club Presidents and Secretaries on Wednesday 20 September.

There will be multiple opportunities 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.

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. Each club will submit one form only.

The Regionalisation Team and District leaders will use the responses provided in the form to determine the best groupings for clubs.

Club preferences will be accommodated as much as possible. Where that’s not possible, we will engage with the clubs involved to discuss available options and assist them with finding their best fit.

**Slide 8 (Allan)**

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

* The vision for their RCG
* What leadership and support they will need
* How and when they will meet and work together

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 RCLs will be opened.

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

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.

**Slide 9 (Tania)**

Many Rotarians and Rotaractors already offer their talents and time to their clubs, their Districts and the global Rotary community, whether in formal committees or positions, in projects or at events.

The new Rotary Specialist role being introduced as part of the Pilot is another way for you to use your skills to help clubs reach their goals.

Rotary Specialists will act as volunteer consultants, providing expert advice in their area of specialty. They will direct clubs and members to online resources and other specialists, give guidance, and support clubs with their projects, events and general functioning.

It is not an operational role. If you become a Rotary Specialist, this will not prevent you from becoming involved in other positions in the Regionalisation Pilot operating model.

There may be numerous specialists in the same subject area to cover the geography of Zone 8, and we hope to attract people with expertise in a wide range of fields.

This role is open to members who may not have previously had the opportunity to share their expertise outside of their club environment.

We also hope that members who have supported clubs in District positions will consider applying to become Rotary Specialists.

Applications will open in February 2024 and members who have specialist expertise in a particular area can apply.

**Slide 10 (Tania)**

These are some examples of the wide range of fields in which Rotary Specialists may have expertise:

* Club compliance
* Collaboration software
* Conflict resolution
* Marketing/public image
* Membership recruitment and retention
* Rotary Insurance
* Event management
* Club visioning and strategic planning
* Specific Rotary programs and projects such as the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

This list is not exhaustive. If your field of expertise is relevant to clubs, then you could be a Rotary Specialist.

**Slide 11 (Tania)**

Here you can see four examples of people who could be Rotary Specialists.

Some of these people have formal qualifications such as a diploma or university degree, while others do not.

Some have gained experience in their area of expertise through their involvement in Rotary, or outside Rotary through their careers.

Some have held leaderships positions in Rotary at a District or club level, but others have not.

Despite their different backgrounds, these people are all suitable to take on the role of Rotary Specialist.

**Slide 12 (Andy/Tony)**

The Membership Regionalisation Establishment Team has identified the development of new clubs as a top priority because it is a key means to grow and diversify our membership base.

If we look at the members of all the new clubs formed in Zone 8 since 1 July 2020, the impact of creating new clubs becomes clear. These new clubs had considerably more members under the age of 40 and more female members than the Zone average. Almost 85% of members were first-time Rotarians.

We have therefore established a New Club Development Team to help start new clubs.

With a wealth of hands-on experience, the team’s goal is to start 20 new clubs in the Zone this Rotary year.

If you have an idea, suggestion, require more information or would like support, please contact any of the New Club Development Specialists listed on the Creating Tomorrow website.

To complement this, we will soon be establishing a Zone-wide Club Culture Transformation Team to help Rotary Community Groups and Rotary Community Leaders assist existing clubs to attract and retain members.

In October, we will distribute a survey to District Membership Chairs and Assistant Rotary Coordinators to identify gaps in current membership training materials. Based on this feedback, we will develop a Zone-wide Membership Training Manual to address these gaps and provide consistent guidance to clubs throughout our Zone.

**Slide 13 (Marie-louise)**

A key component of the Pilot is to have the Regional Council provide governance and operational support at a Zone-wide level. Starting in early 2024, certain duties and functions currently carried out by Districts and District leaders will gradually be transferred to the Regional Council, Rotary Community Leaders and Rotary Specialists.

This change is intended to foster more consistent and efficient provision of support to clubs across Zone 8, and to establish a more unified voice for Rotary and Rotaract.

The transformation of select functions to the Regional Council, Rotary Community Leaders and Rotary Specialists will occur mostly during the 2024-25 Rotary year but will extend into 2025-26 for some functions. This process must be carefully managed and communicated to ensure there is no confusion about who is responsible for each function.

Districts and District Governors will remain in place, working with the Regional Council and other key actors in the Pilot’s operating model to ensure clubs are supported at all times during this transition.

Current club and District arrangements regarding The Rotary Foundation will also remain in place.

The order in which certain functions will be transferred has been determined based on the biggest impact and complexity of each function, allowing more time to prepare for the transformation of more complex functions.

Ongoing consultation with the Governor group, especially District Governors Elect, is being used to develop a plan in a transparent and orderly way. This plan is currently being finalised for approval by the Pilot Steering Group and will be shared in next month’s webinars.

Certain duties and functions related to Membership and Public Image will move to the Regional Council and Rotary Community Leaders as part of the first transfer. These two fields have been identified by the Governor group, the related Regionalisation Establishment Teams and the Steering Group as key areas where the Pilot’s operating model can help Zone 8 achieve its goals.

**\*OPEN UP FOR QUESTIONS (REMOVE PRESENTATION)\***

**Slide 14 (Neville)**

For regular updates on the Pilot, visit the *Creating Tomorrow* website, look out for our monthly email updates in your inbox, and follow the Pilot’s new Facebook page.

You can reach out to the Pilot team with any questions or feedback at RotaryRegionalPilot@gmail.com.

If you have a specific question about elections, email Zone8Elections@rotary.org.

The Regionalisation Pilot is all about empowering and supporting clubs in our region to ensure you can continue your amazing work for many years to come.

Let’s work together to secure the future of Rotary and Rotaract.