



# Rotarians For Mine Action

WELCOME !!

As this is the first Fellowship newsletter, it will focus on the background and the early future plans for the Fellowship.

The Fellowship of Rotarians for Mine Action came out of a meeting of various interested Rotarians and their organizations at the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona in June 2002.

Several Districts had displays in the Projects section of the House of Friendship. Their representatives formed an informal organization which they called Rotarians for Mine Action with Scott Fairweather as the initial chair.

Then District Governor of District 5030 Rosemary Barker Aragon organized a Rotarians Landmine Conference in Seattle in October of 2002. This brought together a number of Rotarians, government and NGO's to learn, share and discuss how Rotarians could become more involved. The Rotarians by resolution called on Rotary International to establish a task force on this issue.

Rosemary took the lead to organize a meeting of the informal Rotarians form Mine Action group at the Rotary International Convention in Brisbane in May

of 2003.

At that time then D 7070 District Governor brought forward a proposal to form a Mine Action Fellowship. The assembled Rotarians supported the proposal which was submitted to the Rotary International Board in June of 2003. The RI Board considered and approved the proposal at it 's October meeting. A charter executive committee was established.

January saw the official launch of the Fellowship's website and its charter membership campaign. The executive committee met in January at the time of the South Florida Landmine Action Group's conference and festival in Coconut Grove, Florida.

By March of 2004, Rotarians from some 15 countries have already signed up and paid their membership dues. Charter members annual dues will be valid until June 2005.

The executive committee is in the process of recruiting regional representatives to the Fellowship Board of Directors. They will be featured in the next quarterly newsletter.



## MOVING FORWARD

Rotarians have been hard at work for many years now, trying to make the world a better place by dealing with the legacy of landmines left behind from recent and long since past human conflicts.

The Fellowship website and this newsletter will focus attention on what Rotarians, Rotaractors and their clubs are

currently doing. By sharing this information, we hope to encourage cooperation and partnerships amongst members of the Rotary family and with other non-Rotarian organizations. Where Rotarians wish to start new initiatives, we hope they can use the Fellowship network to advantage.

**Volume 1, Issue 1**  
**Spring 04**

**Inside this issue:**

*What is a Fellowship* 2

*Name this Newsletter* 2

*Meet the RFA Executive* 3

*Next Issues* 4

*RFA Purpose* 4

*Logo Competition* 4

*Overcoming landmines* 4

**Special points of interest:**

*Rotary Fellowship for Mine Action—adopts RFMA as its short-title.*

*AustCare declares the week of May 14 to 23, 2004. Landmine Action Week in Australia.*

*Nepal indicates it is preparing to sign the Ottawa Landmine Treaty*

## Moving forward (cont,)

The Fellowship will not itself get directly involved in projects. Rather we will try to bring information to members about projects and potential partners.

The Fellowship will try to link members to information sources, so as members you can learn more about the issue, where to go for expert advise, where to source assistance, products, services and the like.

The United Nations and its agencies play a major role in land mine action, as do a number of national governments

and multi-national bodies. There are many national and international non-governmental organizations involved and of course, academic institutions.

Sharing this information with each other will help us achieve our goals of eliminating the harm caused by land mines and other unexploded ordinances to civilians. It will assist us help those individuals and communities who have been injured or other wise by the presence of land mines.

## newsletter name?

We need a name for this newsletter. So what better way than a little competition?

So send us your suggestions—the member who suggests what becomes the chosen name—will receive a special gift. If the name chosen has been suggested

by more than one name, a draw will be conducted to choose a winner.

Please send you suggestions to [info@rotariansformineaction.org](mailto:info@rotariansformineaction.org)

THE DEADLINE—JUNE 1/04.

## WHAT IS A FELLOWSHIP?

The Rotary Fellowships program is a structured program of Rotary International that comprises more than 75 independent fellowships.

A Fellowship is a group of individual Rotarians and Rotaractors and their spouses who unite themselves to pursue a particular worthwhile activity which advances the Objectives of Rotary... Fellowship activities must be conducted independently of Rotary but in harmony with Rotary policies.

Fellowships may not be used to promote religious beliefs, political issues or other organizations.

A fellowship may not act on behalf of RI or represent or imply that it has the authority to act on behalf of RI.

Fellowships must be self-sustaining financially, administratively and otherwise.

A Fellowship must be organized with at least three officers. The chair must be an active Rotarian. The Chair shall be a non-voting member of RI's Fellowship Committee.

For more information on Fellowships, check RI's Code of Policy on the RI Website.



**"Of all the tasks involved in setting a nation on a new road to peace and prosperity, perhaps none has the immediate urgency of mine clearance...no attempt to restore a sense of community and security can succeed without effective landmine removal."**

*-Boutros Boutros-Ghali  
Former Secretary General to the UN*



Above: The Rotary International Fellowship Program Logo

## Meet your executive



President, Richard Clarke is a member of the Parkdale—High Park Rotary Club in Toronto, Canada. A Rotarian since 1984, Richard has served as President of 2 clubs

and served as DG for District 7070 in 2003-03. Richard is current a member of his District's land mine committee. He is also serving as the District Membership Chair, and as the District representative on the Canadian Rotary Committee for International Development,

President-Elect Rosemary Barker Aragon a third generation Rotarian has been a member of the Rotary Club of University District of Seattle since 1987.

Rosemary served Rotary as District Governor for District 5030 in 2003-03. During her term as governor, Rosemary sponsored a very successful Rotary Landmine Action Conference in Seattle. Rosemary has co-lead a Polio NID to Ethopia, and been to Mexico twice and Guatemala three times on humanitarian projects.



Treasurer, Sandy Boucher joined the Toronto Rotary Club in 1999 after relocating from Hong Kong. Since joining he has played an active role in his

club's International Service Committee and was chair in 2001. He is also a founding member and captain of the club's Dragon Boat Team – now in its fifth year, and is currently on the club's board of directors. Sandy serves on District 7070's land mine committee where he has actively supported the District's successful Night of 1000 Dinners.

Secretary, Terri Clark is a member of the Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka since 1992, Terri Clark served as District 5130 Governor during the 2002-2003 Rotary year. She and her husband, Marty Lay, also a Rotarian, have made their home in Humboldt County (northern California) since the 70's. They have participated in the Festival of Brotherhood, a project fair in Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico since 1997.



**TERRI CLARK**  
District Governor 2002-2003  
Rotary Club of Southwest Eureka

Coral Gables Rotary Club helped sponsor the recent Landmine Awareness Festival in Coconut Grove, Florida. Below is the colorful promotional poster.



*The executive would like to extend a huge vote of thanks to Scott Fairweather, of the Toronto-Forest Hill R.C. and CEO of Adopt-A-MineField Canada and his staff member, Ms Niki Quach for their assistance in getting the Fellowship launched.*

Check out RFMA at [www.rfma.org](http://www.rfma.org)



## Rotarians For Mine Action

---

### Rotariens pour l'action contre les mines

### Logo Competition

The logo above was used by the forerunner to the formation of the fellowship. It is time to choose one for the fellowship. We could use the one above or choose a new one.

We invite your submissions—design a new logo and win a prize. Just remember the Rotary International logo must not be obscured and its official colors must be used. ( For more info check your Manual of Procedure and the Code of Policy)

Send you submissions by email to [info@rotariansformineaction.org](mailto:info@rotariansformineaction.org)

Deadline - August 1, 2004.

The creator of the chosen design will be receive a thank you gift for their efforts.

### RFMA PURPOSE

**Purpose:**

The purposes of the RFMA Fellowship include:

Promotion of fellowship of Rotarians and Rotaractors interested in the issue of landmines

Increasing Rotarians and Rotaractors awareness and knowledge of landmine related issues; and,

Encouraging Rotarians, Rotaractors and their clubs to become involved and/or share in projects to:

- Promote landmine risk education in countries afflicted with landmines and other unexploded ordinances,
- Support the removal and decommissioning of landmines,
- Provide survivor assistance to landmine victims and their families, and
- Support the rebuilding of sustainable community development in landmine cleared communities.

### Next issue

Future issues of this quarterly newsletter will focus on different aspects of landmine action.

Our planned schedule is:

Summer 04 issue will focus on Survivor Assistance

Autumn 04 will focus on demining

Winter 04 will focus on community rebuilding and recovery

So please send us you stories and projects, current and planned to [info@rotariansformineaction.org](mailto:info@rotariansformineaction.org)

### Overcoming landmines

Progress is being made by the humanitarian effort to rid the world of land mines and assist those who have been affected by them. It continues, with considerable effort and commitment each and every day.

Trained deminers are in field every day that conditions permit, risking their lives to search for and destroy anti-personnel land mines and other unexploded ordinances. Around the world trained dogs risk their lives too, as they join in the search for hidden mines.

Rotarians and other humanitarians are assisting land mine explosion survivors recover from their injuries, forging ahead on the often extremely difficult road to rehabilitation, help agencies often with Rotary support are providing artificial limbs and job retraining. Other organizations are helping communities replace lost infrastructure and to rebuild sustainable communities.

All this is a Herculean task, it will take a tremendous effort—but together we can do it. We can make the globe a much safer place in the 21st Century and we can address the harmful legacy of the 20th century.

Rotary with more than 30,000 clubs in almost every country of the world is in the position to play an important role in this undertaking. As part of the world community we can join with other organizations to Overcome Landmines.

As members of RFMA we can actively pursue projects to help find and remove landmines, and to deal with the aftermath of landmines. We can encourage other Rotarians and Rotaractors and indeed other humanitarian and service organizations to get involved. We can work locally to enhance public awareness and garner public support and monies for our and others efforts.