

Minutes

USA-Russia ICC

June 14, 2008

USA Chairman Jon Eiche called the meeting to order at 2 pm and asked that each attendee give his/her own standing introduction (see attached list). Jon then introduced D2220 PDG Andrei Danilenko, who presented an overview of Rotary in Russia as it relates to the current sociopolitical climate. He is grateful to the RI leadership for implementing and showing ongoing support of the new Russian District (2220). This past year, he stated, has been challenging, inasmuch as DG Andrei Veloshin has had a “difficult” time as governor;--not everything, as was hoped, was accomplished. For the future success of Rotary, at least where D2220 is concerned, Danilenko envisions a steering committee composed of past district governors and a centrally-based district office (viz., Moscow) with two full-time staff. The incoming DG, in Danilenko’s opinion, is probably not going to be a strong leader, but the governor-nominee and governor-nominee designate both are “strong.” This past year 2220’s growth was “not impressive” but district projects are continuing. At the district conference the decision was made to make child-related projects the focus for the upcoming Rotary year.

Plans are underway to produce a quarterly Rotary Russian magazine and the D2220 website will be in Russian and in English. Rotary extension within the Russian borders is now ready to become more independent. Over 50% of Rotary clubs in all of Russia exist today because of help from Rotary Clubs from outside the country. Danilenko reminded us that Rotary in Russia may not be perceived the same way inside Russia as it is outside. Today, D5010 continues to show a significant decline in membership with regard to the established Russian Clubs east of the Urals and Danilenko believes that these clubs will continue to deteriorate if they stay in D5010.

From a personal standpoint, he stated that he spent a great amount of his own funds to assure the success of D2220 when he was governor.

Danilenko believes that Putin appears to be in charge (“perhaps forever”) and for Rotary to be a successful organization in the future will depend on:

- 1) the support from “local” Russians
- 2) the knowledge that Rotary (in Russia) may become a vehicle for Russian businesses and overseas investment opportunity(ies)
- 3) compromises that offer potential solutions to stop further deterioration of the Russian clubs
- 4) an understanding that D2220 will probably only show a growth of 2-3% per year until it develops a national credibility
- 5) the need for Rotary in Russia having to show value: assisting where there are social needs; bring credibility to those not only in business but also to those who realize personal growth through humanitarian projects

The ICC will be necessary to maintain close relationships and to complete collaborative projects. It is critical to continue to have exchanges and it is important to show Rotarians in Russia that, from their standpoint, Rotary represents a “Russian” organization that mutually benefits other countries and Russia via joint efforts and projects.

Concluding, Danilenko stated that he believes that the next Rotary in Russia/ ICC Conference should be held next year in Moscow. In the meantime, however, he feels that the ICC should plan and implement a collaborative project that involves all members of the ICC.

Jon gave a short presentation on the current USA-Russia ICC Executive Committee structure and followed with a presentation of Certificates of Charter to representatives from districts 5440, 5490 (AZ), 7430 (PA) and 7870 (NH & VT).

Following a short presentation on the recommended changes to Articles 5 and 6 of the Bylaws, it was moved, seconded and carried to accept the recommended changes.

Tim Kaminsky moved that Article 5 be amended to state that the date of next annual meeting of the USA-Russia ICC be held during the next **Rotary year**, date and time to be determined during the previous year's annual meeting. This was seconded and carried by hand vote.

Financial Report: In Jack Randolph's absence Jon Eiche presented the budget for 2008-09. Total income this past year = \$28,813.92. Expected Total Expenses (including \$3,000.00 for printing of RI materials into Russian) = \$25,213.92. In-kind donations will be noted on subsequent financial reports. Budget was moved, seconded and carried as amended.

PDG Clyde Boyer (D5010) presented his district's analysis of the Rotary in Russia experience to date. He stated that there are approximately 37-40 clubs currently in D5010. At his year's PETS, 90% of president-elects for the Russian Clubs attended, representing a significant improvement over last year's 70% attendance. He noted, too, that of the 44 clubs in D2220 (down from 50) only 12 attended D2220's PETS. This represents only slightly more than a quarter (27%) of the D2220 PE's for next year. Turning to the problem with GSE team participation, he believes that the Russian Rotarians don't understand their obligations to the GSE process. Lastly, he states that the US has offered the option of "freeing" the Russian part of D5010 by the year 2011 so they will become their own district or have to be merged into D2220 to remain in compliance with the RI Bylaws.

PDG Steve Yoshida reported on the status of two very successful programs: the Health Fairs, 3-H Grant supported, continue to be a great success especially in Russia and in Mexico; and the Model UN program in Russia Far East (See Proceedings from the Charter Ceremony, 2007, Evanston, IL)
<http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/5580/html/36367/Russia.pdf>

Concluding the meeting, Chairman Jon present a short report from the Executive Council of ICC's held in Cannes, France this past spring. Twenty different countries are now represented from around the world.

The USA executive committee of the ICC will work with its Russian counterpart to identify 3 or 4 dates for next year's meeting somewhere in Russia. All members will be notified by email when the decision has been made.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ron Goodsite, Secretary 2007-2010

Attachments: Attendance list (in Excel format)