There is a new kid on the block! A new RI fellowship, informally known as the PDGs Fellowship, is the first one to focus its attention on the past district governors of the Rotary world. It was developed by the 2010-11 class of DGs, but it is now open to all past district governors of Rotary --- and to their friends as noted below!

The purposes of the PDGs Fellowship, as stated in the bylaws, are as follows:

The primary purpose of the fellowship is to improve and enhance the existing friendship and fellowship among Rotarians who have served as district governors by increasing the number of reunions and similar events at all levels of Rotary, including the annual conventions. The secondary purposes are to provide additional opportunities for past district governors to remain actively involved and connected at the international level of Rotary and to motivate past district governors to support important Rotary activities, such as PolioPlus, TRF fundraising, international service projects, and membership growth.

The zone institutes have evolved into training sessions for current and incoming district governors, leaving less time for PDGs to socialize and converse on their own. There is a real interest by PDGs in seeing their classmates, and the PDGs Fellowship will experiment with some new ideas to provide alternate reunions for PDGs with less travel and lower costs.

The PDGs of the world also need additional opportunities to exchange ideas and discuss proposals, which will be provided at the annual general meetings of the PDGs Fellowship in conjunction with the RI conventions. The annual meetings will be low in cost and will provide an alternative to the international institutes, which are tightly scheduled and expensive. The first annual meeting of the fellowship will be held at the Lisbon convention on Friday, 21 June.

Membership in the PDGs Fellowship is open to all Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors, and the cost of membership will be kept low. The membership fees will be decided at each of the annual meetings, and the membership fee for those who join prior to the 2013 convention will be only $10 for the remainder of the 2012-13 Rotary year.

The PDGs Fellowship is a grassroots organization, and the members in attendance at the annual meetings will determine the programs and objectives for the following year.

New members may now join and enter their data on the website at www.PDGsFellowship.org. All Fellowship members will soon be able to register for the fellowship’s first annual meeting in Lisbon on Friday, 21 June. Just check the website from time to time to monitor our progress!

For questions about the fellowship, please contact the chair, Ray Klinginsmith, at rayklaw@sbcglobal.net or the secretary, Ann Lee Hussey, at annlee001@yahoo.com.

Come join us ---- We are breaking new ground for the benefit of PDGs!