

German Chapter of the Rotary Action Group for Peace Bylaws

Article I – Name and Seat

The Name of the entity shall be *Rotary Action Group for Peace German Chapter*.
Thereafter referred to as Chapter.

The seat of the Chapter shall be Berlin.

Article II – Purpose

The Chapter's primary purpose is to support and encourage Peacebuilder efforts by German Rotary Districts and Clubs. The Chapter understands itself as a service provider to Rotary Districts and Clubs and aims to facilitate information sharing and exchange of Rotary Peacebuilder initiatives in Germany. The Chapter recognizes the essential importance of local, grass root initiatives and hence sees it as vital to foster the development of local initiatives. The Chapter aims to increase the number of Peacebuilder clubs in Germany and raise the awareness for the RAGFP. Aside from its primary role to support Rotarian actors the Chapter may also facilitate exchange and cooperation with the Rotary Peace Fellowship Alumni Association and national and international organisations and actors which are thematically related. In order to avoid duplicate activities, depending on the location of the actor the respective district should be contacted for a coordinated joint approach. Moreover, the Chapter understands itself as part of the international sphere. It is connected to the RAGFP and supports its endeavours as well as shares its goals. Thus, it is a specific concern of the Chapter to promote the qualification of Rotarians to Peacebuilders and Rotary Clubs to Peacebuilder Rotary Clubs. The Chapter also helps with Peace Project and Fellowship questions. Primary point of contact for interested/potential fellows remain the districts.

Article III – Membership

Section 3.1.

Membership in the Chapter shall be open to any interested individual. Full members shall be active Rotarians and Rotaractors, Rotary Peace Fellows and Rotary Peace Fellow Alumni, Rotary Clubs, Rotaract Clubs and Rotary Districts that are based in Germany and members to the Rotary Action Group for Peace if possible (full members).

Section 3.2.

Full members are strongly encouraged that the recommended RAGFP training is completed and the Peacebuilding Primer is read in accordance with the RAGFP curriculum.

Section 3.3.

Associated members constitute interested non-Rotarian individuals and organizations and entities that are also working in areas related to Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention. All associated memberships should be agreed upon by the Leadership Team.

Section 3.4.

Membership may be offered on an annual basis. Multi-year and/or lifetime memberships may be offered at the discretion of the Leadership Team.

Article IV – Leadership Team

Section 4.1.1.

The Chapter shall be governed by the Leadership Team (i. e. “Vorstand” in accordance with German Law) comprised of the Chair, Vice Chair (usually Chair Elect), Secretary, Treasurer and a maximum of six Peacebuilder Coordinators. All members of the Leadership Team are full members of the Chapter and shall have demonstrated relevant experiences and qualifications as peacebuilder (in accordance with the profile as stated in the Chapter’s Constitution).

Section 4.1.2.

The Peacebuilder Coordinators of the Leadership Team shall take over the following duties and functions at least required to achieve the Chapter’s mission and goals:

- Peace Training and Qualification of Peacebuilder Clubs
- Peace Project Support for Clubs
- Liaison Rotaract
- Liaison RAGFP, RAGFP Chapters and RAGs
- Liaison Strategic Partners and Associated Members
- Public Relations and Social Media

Section 4.1.3.

The Leadership Team shall consist of equally men and women.

Section 4.2.

The past Chairs form a task force through which they support the current Chair assuring sustainability of the Chapter’s goals. The task force suggests suitable candidates for the Chair Elect.

Section 4.3.

Besides the Peacebuilder Coordinators of the Leadership Team, there may be additional Peacebuilder Coordinators to perform additional duties and functions as agreed in the Leadership Team. They shall have demonstrated relevant experiences and qualifications as peacebuilder (in accordance with the profile as stated in the Chapter’s Constitution).

Section 4.4.

The Peacebuilder Coordinators shall perform the duties and functions attached to the title of their respective offices, together with such other duties as may be prescribed by the Leadership Team. They will fulfil different roles and take on certain tasks in different areas according to what is needed and desired. The goal is to distribute the work of the Chapter equally and to fit the interests and abilities of the Peace Coordinators.

Section 4.5.

The Peacebuilder Coordinators may build a team for his/her duties and functions consisting of individuals that are full members of the Chapter. He/she may select a deputy (Vice Peacebuilder Coordinator).

Article V – Rotation

Section 5.1.

The Chair is annually rotating between the qualified districts. A district qualifies by being active in Rotary Peacebuilding (e.g. Peacebuilder District, District with Peace Fellowship Sub-committee, District with Peace Global Grants, etc.) and a full member of the Chapter.

Section 5.2.

The Peacebuilder Coordinators shall remain in office for at least three consecutive years. Terms are renewable for up to six years. After six consecutive years of service, the Peacebuilder Coordinators are ineligible to serve until three years have passed.

Section 5.3.

The terms of the Peace Coordinators shall be staggered and coincide with the Rotary year, i.e. 1 July through 30 June.

Article VI – Meetings

Section 6.1.

An annual meeting of the members shall take place organised by the Chair and her/ his sending district. At this meeting the election of the Peacebuilder Coordinators, the installation of incoming members of the Leadership Team and other business shall take place. The exact date, time, and location of the annual meeting of the members shall be set by the Chapter's Leadership Team and announced to the members at least 60 days prior to the meeting.

Section 6.2.

The Leadership Team will meet jointly at least once every two months online.

Section 6.3.

The Chapter seeks a frequent exchange with the representatives of RAGFP. This includes online meetings with directors of RAGFP on a regular basis.

ARTICLE VII – Election of Leadership Team and additional Peace Coordinators

Section 7.1.

The qualified districts shall propose candidates for the Chair and the Peace Coordinators. Each qualified district may nominate up to two candidates for the Peace Coordinators of his district. All nominees must indicate their willingness to serve by a specified deadline to be considered valid nominees for election.

Section 7.2.

The chair will select a vice-chair and secretary to support her/him in office. Upon completion of the chair's one year term, the Chair becomes past-chair. A chair is identified a year prior and holds the function of chair-elect.

Section 7.3.

The qualified districts appoint an individual as Election Coordinator independent from the Leadership Team and additional Peace Coordinators and so indicate in a notice to the full members. Notice sent by mail or transmitted via email to the last known address of the members shall be considered good and sufficient notice.

Section 7.4.

The nominating districts will suggest a number of candidates equal to the number of vacancies, and full members may suggest a like number of candidates to the nominating districts for screening and recommendation. The Election Coordinator will coordinate these processes.

Section 7.5.

When the Leadership Team determines that incoming Peace Coordinators possessing a specific skill set will fill an unmet need on the Chapter, the Leadership Team may direct the nominating districts to seek and nominate candidates with the relevant background.

Section 7.6.

The names of the nominees for positions of the Chair and the Peace Coordinators shall be received and distributed by the Election Coordinator to the full members, along with a voting ballot, at least 30 days prior to the annual meeting of the members. Ballots may be sent by mail or transmitted via email to the last known address of all members in good standing. Ballots shall indicate that they must be returned to the Election Coordinator at least seven days prior to the annual meeting.

Section 7.7.

The Election Coordinator shall tally the votes cast and announce the newly elected incoming Chair and the Peace Coordinators prior to the annual meeting of the members.

Section 7.8.

The newly elected Chair and the Peace Coordinators shall become officers-elect on the first day of July following their election and shall take office on the next 1 July.

Section 7.9.

A vacancy in the Leadership Team, or any office, shall be filled by action of the Chapter's Leadership Team.

Section 7.10.

A member of the Leadership Team or the additional Peace Coordinators may be removed from office by a two-thirds vote of the Leadership Team, or, by a two-thirds vote of the full membership.

Article VIII – Fiscal Matters

Section 8.1.

The fiscal year of the German Chapter shall be the same as the Rotary year, i.e. 1 July through 30 June.

Section 8.2.

The Chapter's membership fee shall be set by the Chapter's Leadership Team and shall be due on 1 July of each year. The Chapter's membership fee shall be of a reasonable amount.

Section 8.3.

Funds shall be deposited in a financial institution approved by the Leadership Team.

Article IX – Compliance with RI Policies

Section 9.1.

The Chapter shall comply with Rotary International's policies as set forth in the Rotary Code of Policies. The Leadership Team and Peace Coordinators shall familiarize themselves with these policies and any amendments to these policies as adopted by the RI Board of Directors from time to time.

Section 9.2.

As affiliated with the RAGFP this Chapter shall operate in compliance with Rotary International's and the RAGFP's policies but it shall not be an agency of, or controlled by, Rotary International or the RAGFP.

Article X – Amendments

Section 10.1.

These bylaws may be amended by the annual meeting of the members (majority vote).

Section 10.2.

Notwithstanding the above provision, the Chapter may adopt administration procedures not in conflict with the provisions of these bylaws and the constitution and bylaws of Rotary International.

Agreed by the Governors of the founding districts 1810, 1880 and 1940
as of January 30, 2021