

Rotex 5060 Provides Support for Graduates and Future Students of RYE

Story by Ed Kolybaba on May 03, 2021



Rotex 5060 is an organization of past Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) alumni, made up of past outbound students who have enjoyed their exchange program in other countries after having been sponsored by Rotary clubs from Rotary District 5060. The organization provides a foundation and support network for graduates of the Rotary Youth Exchange Program and serves as a support system for future RYE students.

The interest to develop Rotex 5060 came about after Susan McIntyre, 2020-21 District 5060 Alumni Chair and member of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, had identified past Youth Exchange Students and then invited them to a Zoom meeting. Following the meeting, two past exchange students, Treat Bartholomew Schubert, who had been sponsored by the Rotary Club of Wenatchee Confluence which enabled him to enjoy his exchange in Japan during 2018-19 and Miguel Lefevre, 2018-19 RYE student sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise who participated in his exchange in Switzerland, both who already had an interest in forming a Rotex Club, provided the initiative to proceed with the development of the club. By the end of December, 2020, a club had been formed based on the Rotary Rotex International model.

Meet the Rotex 5060 Executive



Treat
Co-President



Allison
Co-President



Miguel
Vice-President



Luke
Treasurer



Kyla
Secretary

Under the leadership of Allison Brown (2013-14 RYE student to Italy, sponsored by the Rotary Club of West Kelowna Daybreak), and Treat Bartholomew Schubert as co-Presidents, Miguel Lefevre as Vice President, Kyla Christianson (2018-19 RYE student to Taiwan sponsored by the Rotary Club of Kamloops) as Secretary and Luke Grigg (2011-12 RYE student to Peru sponsored by the Rotary Club of Quincy) as Treasurer, by the end of April of 2021, the club had already registered 54 members and was well on its way to establishing its purpose and establishing goals for its success.

In addition to Susan McIntyre, Past District 5060 Governor Peter Schultz, and current Rotary District 5060 President Richard DeRock provided support and guidance. Following permission from President DeRock to have the district's permission to proceed, the new Executive submitted an application to Rotary International to the Alumni Association Branch and Rotex International for final approval.

During the course of early deliberations the stimuli to proceed with the formation of a district Rotex club, was generated by the RYE alumni who expressed many reasons why a Rotex club would have made a difference for them prior to their program experience and how it could assist students going on the exchange program in the future. Comments such as, *"I lost track of my Rotary Club after I came back; I would like to give back; I had a bad experience on exchange and my Rotary Club would not help me find a new host family but thankfully the Rotex Club in my host club helped me; my Rotary Club has permanently closed and I want to stay involved in Rotary; I did not have the best support system during my exchange and I would like to provide that support to people on exchange; I want to stay more involved with Rotary; and I want to have a positive impact on the RYE program,"* obviously served to generate the need for an organization such as Rotex.

Rotex International enhances experience with experience through guiding and connecting Rotex clubs worldwide and ensuring that their work with Outbound, Inbound, and Rebound Rotary Youth Exchange students is well-supported and executed, ever-adapting to shared best-practices, and in accordance with Rotary values. Rotex International is formed by an executive board comprised of five Rotexers elected at the Rotex International Convention organized every two years in different countries.