

Why a District–Wide Rebate for the LA2008 Convention?

Some Rotarians may ask: “Why has the Board agreed to pay a rebate to districts who register more than two percent of their 1 July 2007 membership at the LA2008 Convention?”

Today’s fiscal constraints make it essential that the annual conventions not result in deficits. When the LA 2008 convention committee met last year, it recognized that the adjusted average of attendance for recent Rotary conventions in North America is less than 24,000. Therefore, it agreed to recommend a balanced budget for LA 2008, utilizing an attendance figure based on the recent average attendance.

The committee also recognized that when the attendance exceeds the budgeted number, the incremental cost per registrant decreases, thus providing the opportunity to offer a rebate. To do this on an individual or club basis is extremely difficult, but it can be easily facilitated on a district basis. Please see the example in the box below.

A total of 24,000 registrants represents two percent of Rotary’s worldwide membership of 1.2 million. Therefore, it was determined that districts that register Rotarians and non-Rotarians in excess of two percent of their membership will qualify for a rebate on an escalating schedule. Registrations exceeding 2 percent but less than 4 percent will generate a rebate of \$15.00 per registrant. Once the number of a district’s registrants reaches 4 percent, the rebate will increase to \$25.00 for those additional registrants. The rebate increases to \$35.00 for all registrations at 6 percent and over.

This is how the rebate would be calculated for a district that has 2000 members as of 1 July 2007 and registers 200 persons:

1. On the first 40 registrants, no rebate would be earned.
2. On the next 40 registrants, a rebate of \$15.00 would be earned for a total of \$600.
3. On the next 40 registrants, a rebate of \$25.00 would be earned for a total of \$1000.
4. On the additional 80 registrants, a rebate of \$35.00 would be earned for a total of \$2800.
5. The total rebate would be \$4,400.

Here are some important conditions:

1. Only full adult registrations will be counted for the rebate.
2. Cancellations will be deducted from the gross number.
3. Rebate checks will be sent to districts before 30 September 2008.

The rebate can be spent in whatever way the district decides. It may be used to subsidize travel costs for registrants, offset the cost of sending an incoming club or district officer, offer an incentive to clubs or individual Rotarians, or help finance a district project. The checks will be made payable to the districts and sent to the 2008-09 district governors.