



Rotary International District 6780 College of Governors Meeting May 17, 2024

In attendance: PRIP John Germ, VG Al Clark, DG Susie Cantrell, DGE Rob Dansereau, DGN David Carroll, DGND Deb Birdsall, PDG Bobby Davis, PDG Frank Rothermel, PRID Karen Wentz, PDG Ron Appuhn, RID Beth Stubbs, PDG Cindy Gammons, PDG Dave Freudenberg, PDG Jerry Wear, PDG Ray Knowis, PDG Jim Buckner, District Secretary Patty Daughtrey, and Treasurer Jenifer Campbell.

Call to Order:

DG Susie Cantrell

DG Susie called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM. She welcomed all the participants and invited Jerry to give the invocation.

Secretary's Report:

Patty Daughtrey, District Secretary

John Germ moved that we dispense with the reading of the October minutes and accept as written. Multiple attendees seconded the motion. The motion passed.

State of the District Report:

DG Susie Cantrell

Membership: Our District membership includes 2923 Rotarians in 61 clubs. There are 3 clubs with under 20 members.

Club Visits: Susie hopes to complete all club visits very soon.

Initiatives: **Mental Health Awareness**-Susie compiled a list of Rotarians who are willing to lend an ear for members experiencing difficulties. **Building Peace**-There are now 9 clubs who have pledged to become Peace Builder clubs vs. a 10-club goal. **District Engagement**-Zoom meetings held monthly for the Governor's committee, the AGs and new Town Hall meetings for club presidents to discuss opportunities and share ideas. **A Disaster Ready Response** committee was established in the four corners of the district. **The Empowering Girls Initiative** established in the Rotary year 21-22 is on-going.

Public Image/Raising Rotary's Profile: Clubs are doing a great job using social media to share community projects and promote fund-raisers. Our District Facebook page was taken down by Meta for a curious reason, (not meeting community standards), but Greg plans to start a new page.

Training/Learning: Regional learning efforts have been well received by clubs. New facilitators were trained to help with regionalization.

Opportunities/Weak Spots: Internal bickering in some clubs, weak clubs opting to disband.

Comment: VG AI offered an opinion that we should institutionalize the role of the VG with more specific responsibilities which would include a change in the District's ROP. John reminded the group that RI initiated the role due to the possibility of an unexpected death or incapacitation in leadership.

The Rotary Foundation Report:

DRFC, PDG Bobby Davis

Bobby reported that we are down compared to last year in annual fund giving. Giving to date is \$437,155. (Bobby has asked for assistance from the AGs to contact the 7 non-giving clubs.) The district has given \$210,003 to polio and is ahead of last year, and we currently have 187 members in the PolioPlus Society. We are closing out the 34 district grants totaling \$144,379 awarded in 23-24 and we have 37 approved District Grants for the 24-25 year. Joe Mikulecky, Maryville, will replace David Carroll as District Grants Chair. Ron noted that TRF will not allow for DDF carryovers to continue past five years beginning in 2025-26. Any monies not spent by clubs will be moved to the World Fund. There was a \$27,500 error in DDF allocation that was corrected in April bringing our total to \$400,553. \$78,000 was given to support Polio Plus and \$25,000 to become a peace building District. It was noted that there is an on-going need to educate clubs about how the Foundation works. Please see Bobby's full report.

Leadership Development & Education Report:

PDG Cindy Gammons

Cindy recapped training events for 2023-24:

DLA-Ten Rotarians will graduate this year. Devrin Kuipers, has a goal of 30 graduates next year.

RLI-Moving the training around the district has been very successful. Classes continue to grow.

CLA-70 club leaders attended the event in April.

Emerging Leaders @Zone- District is sending six Rotarians.

Facilitator Training-12 new RLI facilitators and 20 new Visioning Facilitators completed courses.

DGND Deb has suggested that we use trained facilitators to conduct club presentations on Public Image, Membership, and the Foundation.

Treasurer's Report

Jenifer Campbell, Treasurer

Jenifer reported that the District has \$241,771 in assets. \$25,150 is held for distribution, re: scholarships. There are two clubs who have not paid district dues. All Districts included in Mid-South PETS were assessed \$10,000 last year to replenish PETS reserves. Jenifer, as PETS treasurer will recommend returning some money back to Districts now that the PETS reserves are more than needed. Our income YTD is \$-17,238 versus a budgeted income of \$-35,525. *Please see Jenifer's full report.*

Finance Committee:**PRID Karen Wentz, Chair**

Karen reported that the finance committee has proposed the name of Ron Appuhn to replace her starting in July for a three-year term. The COGs voted to approve. Ron will be joining Cindy Gammons and Al Clark as the PDGs serving on the committee. Regarding the budget for 24-25, both Jerry Wear as incoming chair prior to his health issues, and Cindy as his replacement for Chair had spent a great deal of time on the planning. The Finance Committee spent hours reviewing it line by line and approved the budget which plans a -\$41,000 deficit. Karen reminded the College of Governors that deficits have been the norm for several years. Cindy added that costs have gone up and the DG allocation had gone down for Rob's year. Rob emphasized most increases were planned in training with additional investments in Membership and Public Image

Remarks by DGE:**DGE Rob Dansereau**

Rob reiterated the priorities for his year: membership (increases in numbers and new clubs), education and the Foundation. His AG team is in place after naming 6 new assistant governors. All PEs have been identified. He has used the District Team Training Assembly and the Club Leadership Assembly to inspire clubs and district leaders to improve the member experience. Rob hopes to add four new clubs via a 'club launch' group; add 100 new members; identify future leaders, name an *action plan* champion, and raise \$1,000,000 for the Foundation. His District Conference will be held in Chattanooga on May1-3 and will include the Eastern Kentucky and North Alabama districts. Barry Rasin will serve as the President Representative thanks to the help of John Germ.

Remarks by DGN:**DGN David Carroll**

David continues to prepare for his term. He is confident that bringing training and education to the club level will improve all aspects of Rotary membership.

Remarks by DGND**Deb Birdsall**

Deb thanked the nominating committee for the selection of her as DG and is appreciative of the confidence placed in her.

Invited Comments:**PRIP John Germ**

John began his comments with the fact that most club members do not understand the Rotary Foundation and more communication is imperative. District Rotarians have donated \$4.5 million dollars to end Polio. There are 5 wild polio virus cases this year to date. The target year remains 2026 for 0 cases anywhere in the world. Funds are \$3m behind last year due to last year's donation from the Church of Latter-Day Saints. 170 Dunkin stores participated in the Purple Pinkie fundraiser. Certificates of thanks will be presented to them. This year, the Peace Centers received

1400 applications! Karen serves on the RI committee to find a new center in Asia and work with universities on curriculum development.

Invited Comments:

RID Beth Stubbs

Beth shared some of highlights of recent meetings of the RI Board of Directors.

- Strongly encourage clubs to set three-year rolling goals for continuity.
- Rotary Club Central will have 6 basic goals for simplification.
- Approved two new strategic initiatives for 24-25: *The Club Experience* and *Evidence-based decision-making*.
- Incorporation of Great Britain and Ireland
- Alignment of all Rotary Programs
- Collaboration with the Carter School at George Mason University

The Finance Committee where Beth was selected as Treasurer, set the budget for 2024-25 with reports from all General Managers including:

- IT, Programing and Engagement, Finance, Investment, Legal, Audit Committee, Operations, Member and participant experience, Membership, Polio and Philanthropy, Senior Leader Support, Governance, Communication

Old Business: The IRS has approved our District application to establish a 501c3 foundation. Beth noted that we will need to set up a bank account and requested \$3-5,000 in start-up money. The governance of it will be similar to that of the Bomar Foundation. John made a motion to approve \$5000 in a special project line and the motion passed.

New Business: None

Closing Remarks:

DG Susie thanked everyone for their attendance and closed the meeting at 11:00.

Respectfully Submitted by Patty Daughtrey, Secretary