



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Rotary International District 6780 College of Governors Virtual Meeting May 8, 2021

In attendance: DG Ron Appuhn, DGE Cindy Gammons, DGN Alan Clark, DGND Susie Cantrell, PDG Greg Maciolek, PDG Bobby Davis, PRIP John Germ, PDG Frank Rothermel, PRID Karen Wentz, PDG Harry Fields, PDG Bobby Davis, PDG Jack Bailey, PDG Debbie Alexander Davis, PDG Jerry Wear, PDG Jim Buckner, Treasurer Jenifer Campbell and Secretary Patty Daughtrey.

Call to Order:

DG Ron Appuhn

DG Ron called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. He welcomed all the participants and wished Jack Bailey a "Happy Birthday". Ron called on Karen for a moment of silence, who reminded us of the Rotarians we had lost this year, including two past district governors, (Shot Nunely and Don Collette), and she then inspired us with quotes about mothers.

Secretary's Report:

Patty Daughtrey, District Secretary

As there were no corrections to the Nov. 14 minutes, John made a motion that the minutes be admitted as written and a host of attendees seconded. Ron called for a show of hands vote and the motion passed.

State of the District Report:

DG Ron Appuhn

Ron took the opportunity to thank many Rotarians individually for their service and support during the year. Key highlights he shared on the status of the district include:

* **District Membership** stands at 2832. While we have lost 160 members since the Rotary year began, possibilities exist for the formation of one new club as well as one new satellite club tied to Toastmasters. Clubs are remaining optimistic and many clubs are proactively seeking new members. Most clubs are continuing to serve their communities.

* **Rotaract** has had a challenging year to meet and have focus. RI is also having problems with tech changes and communication.

* **The Four-Way Test Speech Contest** was held virtually and had good participation with great students.

* **Communications:** District newsletter has an upgraded lay-out, (thank you Anne Lewis); the district Facebook page is interesting and energetic, (thank you Andrea Ludden); RI insurance rep Cyndi Jeffers is providing regular information to clubs.

* **Youth Services:** RYLA and Youth Exchange had to be cancelled; the Interact conference was held virtually and the district awarded seven Brown and Bomar scholarships.

* **TRF** giving is lagging a bit, but the year is not over! Many clubs have committed to support the Mexico 100 in 100 projects.

* **The Leadership Development Team,** under the guidance of Beth Stubbs, has handled all the training challenges very well. DLA will graduate its entire class and RLI has continued to attract participants virtually.

* **Upcoming Events:** District Training Assembly is upcoming, (May 15), and will be held live for the Presidents-elect and virtually for other club officers. June 26 will be a year-end celebration event at the Webb School of Knoxville and will also be offered virtually.

* **Service Above Self Award:** Ron recently presented this award to Dr. Elaine Bunick of the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge.

The Rotary Foundation Report:

DRFC Debbie Alexander Davis

Debbie reported that annual fund giving is down -10.8% through the third quarter, but PolioPlus giving is up +11%. In the Zone our district ranks #1 in annual giving fund total; #1 in annual fund per capita giving and #1 in PolioPlus giving. This year there were 34 district grants approved with 37 clubs participating and the total DDF allocated equaled \$165,276. Six global grants were approved for the year. A new District Foundation Subcommittee will be named for 21-22 to oversee long term use of district designated funds. The district held two virtual celebration events; one for Major Donors/Bequest Society members and the other for members of the Paul Harris Society. In the Rotary year 2019-2020, our district ranked #1 in the Zone for total number of members in the PHS and ranked 17th in the US. Ron added that 24 teams teed off on May 7 for the district golf tournament and proceeds are expected to be \$10,000 for PolioPlus. Next year our district will join other districts, including a Heart to Heart partner in Mexico on a global grant to supply water to a Navajo reservation.

Please see [Debbie's full and updated report attached with these minutes.](#)

Leadership Development & Education Report:

**Ron Appuhn for PDG Beth Stubbs,
District Trainer**

The DLA is graduating 12 future district leaders this year, and we had 23 Rotarians complete RLI I; 13 students completed RLI II, and 20 complete RLI III. Nine Rotarians completed our own district designed graduate course. We participated in a four district virtual RLI training this year which included districts in Tennessee and Alabama.

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer Jenifer Campbell

Jenifer reported that as of March 31, we have \$274, 456 in total assets with \$8,000 in deficits, (scholarship reserves.) Our change in net assets, (income) to date is \$29,895. While our planned income is down -\$60,780, so are our expenses. Bottom line, we planned a deficit for the year, but

will likely end the year with \$27,550. Jenifer reported that we cashed in a CD and moved \$81,000 to our checking account with plans to reinvest when the financial landscape improves. The financial reports for 2020-21 were approved at the April District business meeting as was the budget for Cindy's year.

Finance Committee Report: PDG Bobby Davis, 2020-21 Chair

Bobby reported that district dues were reduced this year by half because of the substantial reduction in expenses due to the pandemic. He also reminded us that there were no Mid-South PETS charges to clubs since the training was virtual. PDG Beth Stubbs will move to the chair spot for 2021-22 and will serve alongside PDG Fred Heitman. Bobby made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation of PRID Karen Wentz to replace Bobby on the finance committee for next year. The motion passed. He has enjoyed his service on the Finance Committee.

Nominating Committee Report: Ron Appuhn for PDG Fred Heitman, Chair

Ron reported that the nominating committee had received two nominations from clubs for District Governor 2023-24; Devrin Kuipers from the Oak Ridge Sunset Club and Susie Cantrell from the Rotary Club of Cookeville Sunset. The committee chose Susie Cantrell. Members of the 2020-21 nominating committee included Fred, Jerry Wear, Karen Wentz, Greg Maciolek and Bobby Davis. Ray Knowis was the first alternate.

Resolutions Committee Report: PDG Bobby Davis, Chair

Bobby reported that the committee, (he and mostly Karen), had done a complete review and overhaul of the district Rules of Procedure. The revisions were all approved at the district business meeting on April 24. While additional work will be required to iron out all the details of both the replaced and new chapters #9 and #10, (Harassment and Youth Protection), the changes were all in keeping with RI guidance and were necessary to make us less vulnerable legally. Most of the other updates were made to reflect current practice. Awards were revised and in some cases renamed, and July 1 will be the new date to calculate membership members to assess District dues.

Remarks by DGE: DGE Cindy Gammons

Cindy thanked Ron for his leadership in a very tough year and noted that next July her team would be the "changemakers". She plans to join other clubs in the Zone to focus on human trafficking as a way to support RI President Shekhar's goal to Empower Girls. Cindy will make all official club visits in person. The District Conference will be held in Murfreesboro April 21-23 which will include the district golf outing on the Thursday prior. PDG Jerry Wear has accepted the role of Rotaract chair with PDG Jim Roxlo assisting to set up area coordinators, much like the AG format to involve Rotaract more with local Rotary clubs. In July of 2022, Rotaract clubs will be allowed to apply for Grants. There are 11 official Rotaract clubs in the district with another currently functioning but not yet chartered. **Please review the district calendar of events Cindy sent out prior to the meeting.**

Remarks by DGN:**DGN Al Clark**

Al said he has been taking lots of notes this year, and he has a plan in place for his year of service and will share with everyone at the 2022 District Conference. Al also plans to use survey questions often to determine the interests of Rotarians in the district.

Remarks by DGND:**DGND Susie Cantrell**

Susie first comment was, "WOW", saying that looking out across the zoom format was like looking at a Rotary Mount Rushmore. She expressed excitement for her journey and thanked everyone for their faith in her.

Invited Comments:**PRIP/Incoming Trustee Chair John Germ**

John began by thanking Ron for his service on the RI Finance Committee. He reported that Rotary and the Rotary Foundation gave \$33M in Grants for COVID personal protection equipment as well as \$5M in partnership with the USAID for the Northern parts of Europe. We also lent expertise with infectious diseases to the labs fighting the coronavirus. The trustees approved the transfer of \$7.5 M from the operating reserve to the World Fund to fund Global grants for the remainder of the year and asked RI to match these funds, (\$3M will be held for global grant scholarships.) The trustees have been looking for cost savings everywhere possible, including but not limited to a 25% reduction in travel and changing the funding model for grants beginning in July, 2021 by reducing the World Fund Match to 50% from the 1 to 1 match for global grants, and to reduce the World Fund match for DDF from 100% to 80%. This was necessary to provide funds for the increased number and scope of global grant requests from clubs. Other points of interest John shared included: an endowment has already been set up for the seventh area of focus, *Protecting the Environment*; a fully funded Peace Center in the Middle East & North Africa is staffing now; a Program of Scale, (\$2M), using money from the World Fund, is planned in Zambia to reduce malaria; District Governors and Directors will be reimbursed for travel expenses starting next year; the health and safety of Rotarians remains a priority; a new RI award will be named for Sylvia Whitlock, the first female club president; Rotary does not expect a decrease in support from the Gates Foundation due to the impending divorce of Bill and Melinda, (we have a contract with the 2 to 1 match through 2023); there have been only 2 cases of polio this year, one each in Pakistan and Afghanistan, and the goal is to certify the eradication of polio by the 2026-27 Rotary year.

Invited Comments:**PRID Karen Wentz**

Karen noted that her four-year term on the RI Operations Review Committee was coming to close on June 30 as was her term on the Audit Committee. She will begin a new appointment on the Peace Center Committee which will be charged with selecting Peace Fellows and provide oversight to the Peace Centers. She continues to serve as the District Representative to the Council on Legislation. The Council on Resolutions is scheduled for this fall and the COL will be meeting next April. Karen will serve as the President of the District Bomar Foundation Board of Directors starting

in July. This year the charter and by-laws were restated to meet 501c guidelines, and next year the plan is to focus on improving the returns on our investments.

Old Business: None

New Business/Additional Comments/Adjournment:

Greg Maciolek shared a letter from former Youth Exchange student, Kaitlynn Sherwood who was sponsored by the Clinton Rotary Club as an outbound student to Peru four years ago. Her life changing experience and gratitude to Rotary for it was very moving.

John Germ stipulated that in order for a Rotaract Club to participate in a global grant, it must work with a Rotary Club to qualify.

Bobby Davis thanked everyone from our district for the support and service with both the planning and virtual training for Mid-South PETS.

Karen Wentz thanked Ron for all his hard work during the year and shared how well he adapted to the pandemic situation which affected every aspect of his district leadership.

Harry Fields complimented DG Ron for his motivating virtual club visits.

Ron thanked everyone for their attendance and adjourned the meeting at 11:53 am, (EDT)

Respectfully Submitted by: Patty Sergeant Daughtrey, Secretary