

President-Elect Receives Training in Seattle

Ed Kolybaba

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Barb Penner, the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise's President-Elect, was one actively engaged Rotarian during the annual Northwest President-Elects Seminar (NWPETS) held in Seattle, WA, from February 15-17, 2013. The event organized for the sole purpose of preparing President-Elects for their year starting on July 01 as President, provided Barb and her some 600 colleagues and from nine districts from California, Washington, Oregon, British Columbia, Idaho and Alaska with pre-session electives and key mandatory courses and many outstanding plenary sessions.



Barb was joined at NWPETS by Bruce Falkins, District Governor Nominee Bruce Falkins and Donna Falkins. Both are members of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise. In his role as DG Nominee, with District Governor duties to commence on July 01, 2014, Bruce was actively engaged in providing leadership for the District meetings.

Pre-session elective courses included 90 minute sessions on such topics as Rotary 101 (Rotary Basics), Revitalizing your club, Fundraising that works, Leading and motivating volunteers, Effective service projects, Club operations and administration, Effective club meetings, Planning and goal setting, and New Generations, and a Rotaract Breakout.

The mandatory 90 sessions for all president-elects included sessions in membership development, the workings of The Rotary Foundation,

particularly the new model, and establishing a desirable public image. Barb, her colleagues, and attending Governor Assistants and PETS instructors were entertained and motivated by an Opening Plenary session with a presentation from Jennifer Jones, the Vice-chair of the Rotary International Communication Committee, the President and CEO of Media Street Productions Inc. in Windsor, ON, and a feature speaker at this event for the past three years. Her topic of Public Image/Brand stimulated the interest and concern for the need of a positive public image among the attending delegates.

Other Plenary Sessions were provided by Rick King, RI President in 2001-02, who spoke on "Leadership," Paul Kingsman, a professional motivational speaker and executive coach who spoke on "How to maintain focus to achieve outstanding results," Bryn Styles and Steve Snyder, both Director Elects, who updated the delegates on current Rotary International business, Remesh Farris, a Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Whitehorse Rendezvous and a polio survivor who shared his personal story of his contact with the polio virus, his rehabilitation and his focus on polio eradication, and Kristi Govertsen, who classifies herself as a 'membership nerd,' and who enjoys a career as a speaker, teacher and author, and who in her second attendance at NWPETS spoke on "Membership engagement through relationships."

Barb also participated in District 5060 meetings during the NWPETS event which were held throughout the three days.

Ed Kolybaba, also a member of the Rotary Club of Kelowna Sunrise, served as an instructor at the NWPETS event, facilitating five 90 minute sessions in 'Club Operations and Administration' and 'The Rotary Foundation' on Friday and Saturday. In his preparation for his responsibilities, Ed spent countless hours in preparation at home and at workshops in January and February in Seattle, WA. This was Ed's second term as a PETS instructor, having provided instruction back in 2011.