

The Rotary Club of Des Moines Executive Planning Team (EPT) was created in 2017 with a 2-fold purpose:

1. Encourage planning to span multiple Rotary years and provide continuity.
2. Give upcoming presidents a place and time to onboard in preparation for their Rotary year.

A new president each year is a blessing because it provides new perspective, focus and personality for our club. The opportunity for a future president to onboard for several years on this team gives them the time to learn the history of initiatives and the details of the club workings. This knowledge equips incoming presidents to create focus and initiatives that have a high chance of success, and if the initiative is one that can be carried forward by the following president(s) then the reward and success is multiplied!

The onboarding provided through the EPT allows the new president and Executive Director to focus on the rotary year plans without an intense focus on the training of the president.

The design of the team was for the Executive Director to be the team lead since they are the consistent element of the club and can guide the team to discuss topics and ideas that will or can affect future presidents, membership as well as help provide a historical perspective/institutional knowledge on topics.

*I thought the EPT meetings were a great way to learn more about the workings of the club and about some issues with processes and some specific committees and members in a relaxed, informal setting. It's easier to ask questions and discuss details in this setting, rather than take too much time in a board meeting. **Doug Saltgaver President 2020-2021***

*I found the EPT valuable in terms of the continuity it helps to foster for RCDM board leadership. In an organization with a volunteer board and new board president each year, there's a risk of feeling as if the Board, if not the Club itself, is lurching from one direction to the other. The EPT provides an opportunity for senior board leaders to have Club-focused conversations that help to maintain momentum for the Club's goals and priorities. The EPT also provide a wonderful bonding opportunity for senior board leaders. **Catherine Staub President 2021-2022***