**October 29, 2022 Forum**

**Advice, Notes, Chat**

*Club Presidents, Assistant Governors and others met by zoom on October 29, 2022 for the first Presidents’ Forum of 2022-23. A video recording of the Forum is at* [*https://youtu.be/CQe4tFc\_DC8*](https://youtu.be/CQe4tFc_DC8)*. Below are comments, notes and chat from the session.*

Powell River Rotary President Ross Cooper gave a brief presentation on “What is required to be an Effective Club President?” and provided the following notes.

* Show up
* Know your Role
* Listen
* Communicate
* Check in regularly

1.) SHOW UP

You took the position, whether you were voted in by a majority or no one else wanted the job…You ultimately said yes. You are now responsible for the well being of your club and club members. Overwhelming? Not if you show up in your head and in your heart. You have one year at the helm of an amazing service club and if you show up fully you will have a great year. I’ve seen Presidents that have gone in half hearted, excuses like “too busy at work” or “not knowing what to do”. I remember those years with those Presidents because they affected my enjoyment of that year. I also remember very well those Presidents that seemed to lead effortlessly, everything ran smooth, what seemed like ‘all members felt a part of something bigger than of themselves’. Those Presidents affected me in a positive way because they decided to show up. The effort brought energy and conversely the energy brought effort. The hard work you put into planning will make an easier year for you as President.

2.) KNOW YOUR ROLE

You took on the position of President. It shouldn’t be any more than that because being President you have a very important role that no one in your club does. You manage, coordinate and plan for everyone. If you decide to take on an additional role, let say program coordinator you are taking away from your role as President and you are taking away another member’s chance of being program coordinator. I’ve heard many times from Presidents,” It was just easier if I take it on”. This distracts you away from what you should really be doing, President stuff. Your role is to find the right person for each of the pieces of the puzzle. Sometimes it’s an effort to make that happen but when everyone is working at their role, magic happens. Even if a chair is away for holiday. Your role as President is to encourage the committee chair to find a replacement for them during absence. You might be getting in the way of a quiet member that is just waiting to shine in that temporary role if given a chance. Your role as President is to place the people in the roles where they are best served and support them to do their job.

3.) LISTEN

Each time you are in front of a member is an opportunity to hear the health if the club through them. Just a chance discussion at a club meeting over dinner or in a more formal setting like a Monthly Board meeting. In each encounter be open to listening. Your members will be speak to directly or indirectly if there is a issues to be addressed. Be neutral, listen and you will learn lots.

4.) COMMUNICATE

The biggest complaints I’ve heard are around communication. You, as President want each of your members to be on the same page. If all members are being communicated to equally, the club is healthy and going in the right direction. If a member says “I didn’t know that” or “Nobody told me”. They might as well be saying “ I, as a member I’m not important enough to let me know”. Good full communication to all members makes them all feel equally valued. Good strong concise messaging cuts down inefficiency. This is where you are playing catch up in order to get everyone on the same page.

5.) CHECK IN REGULARLY

Finally, keep checking in. The plan is a working plan, you don’t just build your club leadership and let it go for a year. You have to keep talking, supporting, fixing if needed. Your role is to get everybody to the finish line at the same time.

Thank you to Sechelt Rotary President Sheila Tyner took these notes in the breakout room discussion of “What is required to be an Effective Club President?

Show up - this is essential

* every year is different so even if you're a repeat president you will learn something new
* if you fail to give 100% to your role the club will suffer
* you are allowed to take a vacation but make sure you have someone to lead while you're away
* ask the PE first, but if they are unable then utilize the past presidents in the club

Know your role

* learn to delegate - you can't be an effective president if you are also coordinating speakers, planning fundraisers and chairing committees
* Listen, communicate, check-in; allow 3 days for an email response, if none received try again, if still no response make a phone call
* have one on one face to face meetings with the directors - eg have coffee with them

Squamish Rotary President Lynda Rocha gave a brief presentation on “what it takes to run a good, fun club meeting in a vibrant club.”

Once again thank you to Sechelt Rotary President Sheila Tyner who took these notes in the breakout room discussion of running engaging, fun club meetings.

Fun meetings

* be consistent in your routines (eg Rotary moment, birthdays/anniversaries, thought of the day)
* have an agenda and share it with the club
* have interesting speakers (suggestion - base the speakers on the monthly theme)
* get to know what's going on in your members lives to mark milestones
* try a new location for a fellowship meeting and invite family/friends to attend
* do social activities with other clubs

Thank you to Nancy Eidsvik, District Executive Administrator, for her notes from one of the breakout groups on running engaging, fun club meetings

* Question regarding making meetings fun with personal lives information. Need to be cognizant not to be intrusive.
* How to accomplish this can be by "Happy Dollars", "Wellness Check". The value of wellness check is that it shows empathy with those not there
* Other comment "stir the pot" - meet off site - changing of venue such as lunch, picnics, "do goodery" meet to send cards to shut ins.
* Social - do up bingo cards with experiences.
* One participant was going to be President after only 1 1/2 years in Rotary and was concerned he does not know enough about Rotary.
* Suggestion: to ask members in Club who are experienced. Members like to be asked.
* Also, contact anyone in District who are willing to assist and if we do not know the answer, we certainly know who to contact.

CHAT

10:16:26 From Lorne Calder IPDG 5040 : We are looking into improving the technology to hold Hybrid meetings. We have a number of snowbirds and need this to be improved. Complaints is that they cannot hear the speaker or the group

10:18:39 From Lorne Calder IPDG 5040 : Many of the HYBRID meetings force the speaker to stay by the technology and behind the podium which is less interactive...