



***District Assembly
April 2013
President Elect Nominees Workshop***

Ready - Set -- Go

This time as President Elect Nominee (PEN) is a unique period when you can think and plan. We encourage you to take full advantage of it. It is less a time of doing than of learning. It is a time to get ready for your year as club president. From now until July 2014 you will have many opportunities to learn so that you can fulfill the objectives of Ready-Set-Go! Mid-Terms, District Conferences, District Assemblies, Foundation, Grant and Membership Seminars will provide you content to assure that you have the core knowledge necessary to get READY for your year as President. PETS will give you the insight and tools to help you get SET. By July 2014 you will have the knowledge you need to GO. There are a very few “**to do’s**” required early on as PEN. If you start now, everything else will fall into place in a natural progression.

Put things into perspective: You have about fifteen months before you become President of your Club. You’re in a preparatory cycle, so here is a list of seven (7) general rules to keep in mind as you get READY and SET to GO into your year.

1. **Have Fun!** (This is Rule #1). Take a deep breath, step back and relax. There’s plenty of time before you have to rush out and flail in all directions. Remember: You’re having fun! RI Past President Cliff Dochterman has long preached that having fun in Rotary is critical because Fellowship leads to Service... “The business of Rotary is Serious, but Rotarians don’t have to be.” Enjoy yourself and what you do and you will inspire others by your actions.
2. **It’s All About CONTINUITY!**
 - **You are a steward for your club for one year.** In the past you may have heard: “It is your year. Do what you want”. In actuality, most Club and Rotary Programs last for several years and overlap one leader to another. A significant effort such as Polio Eradication lasted over many international Presidents, Governors and Club Presidents. Grants from the Rotary Foundation now take multiple years to plan, execute and report. Membership programs such as Ignite are multiyear initiatives.

So, we recommend that you develop collaborative working relationships with your predecessors and successors, and that you keep the long-term success of your Club and District in mind.





- **Don't put your spike marks on their back!** Until you become President of your Club, you have ***no "Rotary" authority***. It is critical that you coordinate your activities before your year begins with your sitting President and the President Elect who precedes you. During your year, you will not want Rotarians unduly distracted from tasks they agreed to do for you. Naturally, you will want to extend that same courtesy to your President and President Elect, and carefully consider any appointments, plans and decisions that may tend to interfere with their activities.
 - **When in doubt, ask.** Your ***close cooperation*** with your President and President Elect (and ultimately your successors) will make your planning and preparation more efficient. Be their biggest supporter and aide, and your successors will do the same for you! Strive for continuity and cooperation over the years. By the same token, you will appreciate the cooperation with your successors once you are President or President Elect.
 - **Meet.** Make yourself available to start meeting on a regular basis with your President and President Elect.
 - **Visit other Clubs as often as you can.** You will gain access to a whole world of Rotary knowledge and different perspectives about how other Rotary Clubs approach serving their communities and the world around them. You may even find partners for future projects.
 - **Lend a helping hand!** As you become President Elect and President, mentor and support those coming behind you! Be cooperative, considerate and understanding. Remember you were a rookie once! By showing them how to help those coming along, they in turn will be encouraged to do the same for those behind them.
 - **It lasts a lifetime!** You and your colleague President Elect Nominees will soon be Past Presidents. The cooperation and respect that you show to each other as you go through this exciting and sometimes stressful experience during the next fifteen months will impact you, and quite likely, your Rotary partner, for the rest of your lives.
3. **Beg, Borrow and Steal and Share Ideas.** Think outside the box, but even "new" ideas usually come from somewhere else, so you don't have to reinvent the Rotary wheel! Sit down with those who preceded you and ask for their input, opinions and suggestions. They went through the same process and will have empathy for your efforts. Develop a "mentor" group as you meet with the experienced Rotarians in your Club, District and throughout the Rotary world. Talk to people about what is of interest to you. You generate ideas and enthusiasm from others by letting them know your goals and interests.
4. **Learn about the members of your club.** The most important person in Rotary





is the club member. Find out why they became Rotarians and what they expect to get out of Rotary. Learn about their passions and their concerns. Use one-on-one or small group interactions, fireside chats or other approaches to interacting with your members. Their expectations will help shape your year. You will be successful if your members believe they have had a successful Rotary year.

5. **Be Yourself.** You are leading and inspiring Rotarians during your Presidential year. Now is the time to formulate your plan of action: How do you want to be remembered? What do you want to help your Club and Rotarians achieve for the world, for their community and for themselves. Focus on those actions and activities that will accomplish those goals. You were chosen to be President to contribute your unique abilities, interests and goals to the Club. Past Presidents will provide invaluable suggestions and opinions, but it is you who is going to be President of your Club...so, accept their advice, but lead in your own unique way. And, as Cliff Dochterman says as his parting advice at PETS every year: ***“Don’t do something just because that’s the way it’s always been done.”***
5. **Lead and inspire your volunteers.** A Club President leads by example and motivation. As you develop your goals and choose your team----be aware that you can accomplish more if your team agrees with and is going with you. Know what your Club and Fellow Rotarians want to accomplish, and help them achieve their goals. Don’t forget to acknowledge the works of others. Recognition, appreciation and “thank you’s” are keys to motivating volunteers and accomplishing your goals during your Year.
6. **What are your Club’s goals?** Where is the Club now, and what actions need to be taken to move it in the direction you feel it needs to go? Are there things that need to be in place with your predecessors that will help you benefit from the change process?
7. **Involve Your Partner.** Involve your partner in as much of your planning and Rotary activities as is consistent with your partner’s interest and availability. Identify a Fellow Rotarian in your club as a mentor on whom you can trust for assistance and counsel.
8. **Have Fun!** Back to where we started...Rule #1. If all else fails, try to relax and Have Fun. Remember: The most effective and best-remembered Club Presidents are those who made it fun to be in Rotary and made club members proud to be Rotarians.
9. Information for you is on the District 5240 website
www.rotarydistrict5240.org
Select District then Rotary Year 2014-2115 Information

