

District 5830 Visioning 2021

District Governor Welge has made it a priority for all clubs in District 5830 to complete the Visioning process and establish long range plans in keeping with Rotary International's (RI's) Strategic Priorities and Objectives: "Increase our Impact, Expand Our Reach, Enhance Participant Engagement, and Increase Our Ability to Adapt".

RI and DG Welge are not asking Club's to do something that they have not done themselves:

RI's Vision Statement reads "Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

The District's Vision is "District 5830 Leaders promote the Core Values of Service, Fellowship, Diversity, Integrity, and Leadership, resulting in Rotary Clubs that are Growing, Vibrant and Engaged; filled with Rotarians passionate about Service."

A Visioning Event is a very important step for clubs that have not already completed their vision development and strategic planning process. Clubs which conducted Events within the past three years are also encouraged to consider a second round to help measure progress and keep their clubs on a progressive path. The following narrative is intended to help Clubs wishing to schedule a first-time Visioning Event or arrange a refresher. Note that DG Welge is also in the process of scheduling a Visioning Event for his leadership team to renew and refine the District's Vision.

Visioning Events are designed to help Clubs identify their current role in the community, what they envision that role to be in the future, how they can move forward to achieve their Vision, and how they will know when they are successful. A Club's Visioning Event is conducted by a Team of four Facilitators from alternate areas of the District. The Facilitators will assist by extracting ideas from the Event participants and helping them prioritize these ideas into their Club's Vision. The Facilitators are not going to seed Clubs with new ideas or projects: they are there to help bring the participants' ideas to light and prioritize them, then to suggest the means to achieve Club-wide consensus, turn the ideas into goals, and develop action plans to achieve those goals.

A Visioning Event is normally conducted over a contiguous four-hour block of time either on a weekday immediately after work or on a Saturday morning. The Event is scheduled at a time that works for well for both the Club members and a Facilitator Team.

The first step in arranging a Visioning Event is for the Club to name an Event Coordinator who will schedule and assist with its logistics. The Coordinator should contact the District Club Visioning Director for scheduling. This should be done through the "District Org" link on rotary5830.org web-site. The scheduling request should be made a minimum of one month ahead of the desired date.

Clubs and their Event Coordinator should keep the following in mind when contact is first made:

- Primary and alternate dates should be identified so the Visioning Director can avoid conflicts and arrange for a Facilitator Team.
- The club should plan to have twelve to eighteen committed participants including the Club's officers and committee leads. Smaller clubs should have as many members

participate as is possible. Other than the club officers and committee leads, the Club participation should be a combination of new and seasoned Rotarians.

- A meeting room will be needed that is large enough to provide tables in a U-shaped arrangement with participants seated on the outside of the U. There should also be two or three bare walls available for hanging completed flip chart pages. As long as COVID-19 issues are present, socially distanced seating, occupancy rules, and masking are a requirement.
- Because of the meeting length, a light meal or snacks with non-alcoholic beverages should be arranged by the Event Coordinator. The meal is normally served at the beginning of the session.
- Name Placards should be provided by the Coordinator to assist the Facilitators in identifying participants and club officers.
- The Facilitators will bring a PC and Projector along with a projection screen unless one is readily available in the meeting facility. The Team will also bring flipcharts and any other items not arranged with the Event Coordinator in advance.
- The Club will be invoiced \$50.00 by the District for meeting materials.

Once the Event date is set, two sets of digital materials will be emailed to the Club's Coordinator for distribution to the Club members and/or planned participants:

- About two weeks in advance of the Event, every Club Member will be asked to complete an on-line **Rotary Visioning Questionnaire (RVQ)** (or survey) about where the club currently stands as perceived by its membership. A printed copy of the RVQ can be provided for members who do not use a computer, but if completed on paper, an alternate Club Member will need to transcribe the RVQ answers into the on-line survey. It normally takes 10 minutes or less to complete the RVQ.

The RVQ's Summary Results will be shared with the Club's Officers while all individual responses will be kept anonymous. This will provide Club leaders with knowledge about how the members currently perceive the Club's strengths and weakness. It may also be used to resurvey the Club as a measure of progress after the Vision has been established and the implementation of goals and action plans are well underway.

- About one week in advance of the Event, a **Writing Exercise** will be forwarded to the Coordinator for every participant. **The Writing Exercise** encourages the participants to put their mind set 3 years into the future, and look back at what they believe the Club should be able to accomplish. By having each person do this on their own, then extracting these ideas in open forum, the participants will likely hear thoughts from others on things that the club can do in new ways. The open forum also encourages consensus building among the participants.

The Writing Exercise normally takes about 30 minutes to prepare. While it needs to be completed prior to the event, the Exercise will not be collected from the participants. It is only to help them organize their thoughts in advance and create concise headline-like statements to describe their ideas. The participants will need to bring their Writing Exercise to the Event for reference.

Other materials that will be provided in advance include a copy of Rotary International's Vision Statement, a summary definition of Rotary Foundation donor levels, and a reference with examples of various Club models or compositions that may be of future interest.

During the Visioning Event, the Facilitators will work to extract and document headline ideas from every participant. Once the ideas in each area of service are laid out, a prioritization process will take place. The results of the prioritization can then be extracted into the Club's Vision of where it intends to be three or more years down the road.

The Event will conclude with direction from the Facilitators on how to gain the Club's full consensus for the Vision, how to turn the Vision into a set of Specific Goals, and how to break these goals into Action Steps. From that point it will be up to Club leadership to carry out the next steps, but there will be follow-up by the District later to see how the clubs are progressing.

Our Facilitator Teams look forward to assisting Clubs in solidifying their Vision and developing plans to meet their major goals. To get started, contact me as outlined above to get your Club on a Visioning Event schedule.

Sam Scroggins
District Club Visioning Director