

Rotary District 6000 Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

November 21, 2024

Presented via Zoom and In Person

In Person Attendance: DG Dave Cook, DGE Norlan Hinke, DGN Bill Bruce, PDG Steve Dakin, PDG Steve Wieneke, Marie Pipes, Darrell Limkeman, Steve SchraderBacher, Carolyn Scharff (Admin), PDG Jim Patton (guest)

Members present via zoom: PDG Dennis Drager, Allyson Walter and Gretchen Nollman

DG Dave Cook **called the meeting to order** at 11:51 a.m.

Marie Pipes moved to approve the **Agenda**, seconded by Steve SchraderBacher, Motion Approved

PDG Steve Wieneke verified a **quorum** was present

DGN Bill Bruce moved to approve the **Minutes** from September 19, 2024, meeting, seconded by Darrell Limkeman, Motion Approved

Budget and Finance Committee Report - PDG Steve Wieneke provided a brief summary.

District Team Reports – reports were emailed to members prior to the meeting

* Rotary Global Scholarship: Jim Patton. Last year's student Jessica has returned and is attending Des Moines University. She is available to present programs to clubs. Jim can connect Rotary Clubs with her. Our current student, Joshua Nguyen is a Des Moines Dowling Catholic High School graduate and is attending Oxford University in England studying for a Master of Science degree in Applied Digital Health with a Rotary focus on disease prevention and treatment, aspiring to leverage innovative solutions to address global health challenges. Look for an article on Joshua in the Rotary District 6000 News magazine to be published in December 2024. The committee is searching for additional members to add. If interested in joining the committee, contact Jim. The Rotary Club of Ames Global Grant water project in Tanzania has added an additional \$350K towards their project. The committee is consulting with D5970 to see if it would be possible to offer a joint scholarship for 1-2 students.

* Friendship Exchange: Lesley Dakin

* Club Visioning: Bill Bruce

* Rotary Youth Exchange: Greg Probst

* Iowa RYLA: Patt Englander

* District Community Service Grants: Gretchen Nollman

* Learning Facilitator: Gretchen Nollman

* Paul Harris Society: Gretchen Nollman. The committee of PDG Susan Herrick, PDG John Ockenfels and Gretchen Nollman are to update the ability for members to perform online annual payments on the Rotary District 6000 website.

* Membership: PDG Steve Wieneke District membership is at 2,944 (+5) for the year. The end of year membership goal for June 30, 2025, is 2,965. PDG Steve Wieneke is working with Rotaract Clubs to grow membership at Simpson College, University of Iowa, and Iowa State University.

* RLI: PDG Steve Wieneke The next RLI course offerings will offer Parts 1, 2 & 3. These educational sessions will be conducted in West Des Moines at the Shive-Hattery Office Building on Saturday-Sunday, April 5-6, 2025.

District Governor Report (Dave Cook):

*68 of 70 club visits have been completed to date. Still have Kalona and HOPE yet to complete in the next couple weeks.

*Membership update. To date, our district stands at 2,929 members (+5 for the year). Dave provided a handout showing all clubs progress in losses and gains for the year. We have a number of our largest clubs that continue to lose the largest number of members.

* All clubs in the district have paid RI membership dues for the 2024-2025 membership year. 3 clubs have not paid their annual district membership dues. DG Dave will contact these clubs soon.

* The Magic of Giving Gala took place at the World Food Prize Hall of Laureates in Des Moines on November 15th. Approximately 118 members and guests attended the event. PDG Tom Gump, distinguished aide to RI President Stephanie Urchick gave an inspiring keynote address inviting several members in attendance to share their personal stories.

* The Rotary Foundation District 6000 Endowment Fund. PDG Dennis and Heidi Drager donated \$25,000 seed money. Look for an article in the Rotary District 6000 news magazine in December 2024.

* Guardian of Integrity Award Nominations. All clubs are encouraged to nominate one deserving member. Nominations are due no later than February 15th. Nomination recipients will be recognized at the District 6000 Conference on April 12th.

* The Rotary District 6000 semi-annual newsletter magazine will be continued for the time being. PDG Jacque Andrew will publish the next edition of the district newsletter magazine in December 2024. Jacque has committed to publishing an additional edition of the district newsletter magazine in May 2025. The future of this newsletter is yet to be determined.

District Governor-Elect Report (Norlan Hinke):

* Norlan and Cindy are learning a great deal by visiting Rotary Clubs in the district this year. They plan to visit all clubs and extensions this year.

* One Summit is set to be offered in person in Coralville as well as virtually as individuals or group watch parties on Saturday, November 23, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon. Norlan provided an overview of what the program will offer.

* Norlan plans to offer and conduct 4 separate District Assembly events each being a one-hour program. Dates will be the evenings of January 9 and 23 and February 6 and 20, 2025. More information TBA.

* Norlan is working on plans for the District PETS to be conducted on March 7-8, 2025, for AGs, Club PEs and PNs. This will be held at the DMACC Learning Center in Newton.

* Jeff Ashcraft has been appointed to take over the District AG Coordinator position after Mike Ruby. Mike and Jeff will shadow each other in 2025-2026. Then Jeff's term will be for 3 years (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2029).

* Gavel passing between DG Dave Cook and DGE Norlan Hinke will be held on June 28, 2025 (1:00-4:00 p.m.) Program at 2:00 p.m. at Eagle Point Park Lodge in Clinton, Iowa, overlooking the Mississippi River.

* Rotary District 6000 and 5970 are planning to conduct a Joint Annual District Conference at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Coralville, Iowa, May 1-2, 2026.

District Governor-Nominee Report (Bill Bruce):

* Has continued to gain great insight and knowledge by attending many in person club visits and online meetings within our district.

Old Business

*NCPETS Update (PDG Dennis Drager): Notified NCPETS that District 6000 will be withdrawing; they assessed \$7800, letter sent by USPS; we asked their board to provide us with a statement of accounting for this assessment. We have not received any correspondence back. Our board has decided not to take any action unless they respond back to us. Tabled discussion until our next meeting. PDG Drager has not received any correspondence from NCPETS. Will continue to monitor situation if anything changes.

* District Insurance (DGN Bill Bruce): DGE Norlan Hinke, DGN Bill Bruce and Larry Thein serve on this sub-committee. A letter was emailed to all club Presidents, Secretaries and AGs asking them to provide this group with recommendations on commercial insurance vendors they would like to invite to give our district quotes and advisement. The committee will develop a process and follow up with several agencies that may have interest. Goal is to broaden the search for interested insurance vendor agencies to work with the District's policy RFP. Group to provide an update at our next meeting. Suggestion was to conduct an annual insurance policy review during the B&F committee meeting. Between September 20 – November 21, 2024, this committee of DGN Bill Bruce, DGE Norlan Hinke, PDG Loring Miller and Larry Thein has interviewed 2 potential insurance companies that could manage our future insurance needs. One insurance company that expressed interest declined to be interviewed. The committee recommends awarding future district insurance coverage business to Steve Goodhue, with the Knapp-Tedesco Insurance Company in Ames. Steve has been a Rotarian in the Rotary Club of Ames Noon for over 18 years and is the Owner and President of this insurance company. The committee's second choice was Josh Stephenson Insurance Group. Josh is a short time Rotarian in the Rotary Club of Osceola. DGN Bill Bruce made the motion to award future Rotary District 6000 insurance coverage business to Knapp-Tedesco Insurance Company with an effective date to occur in the near future. DGE Norlan Hinke seconded the motion. Motion was passed unanimously. Larry Thein is responsible for coordinating an annual in person follow-up reporting with Steve Goodhue on the status of our insurance needs and coverage.

* Policies & Procedures Manual (DGN Bill Bruce): New changes adopted on 9/19/2024 and goes into effect on 7/1/2025. A new update was shared and discussed at this meeting. Consider reviewing and updating this manual annually by the board via email. Minor suggested changes: page 2 - correct title to District Educator; page 4 – on Iowa RYLA board, each District Governor nominates 6 board members and they are approved by each board of directors (these are all 3 year appointments) and reported to the Iowa RYLA board annually; page 9, #4 OK; Exhibit B – term of appointment for AGs are 1 – 3 year term, AGs may or may not serve in their own Rotary Club, strive for AGs to serve in different clubs is a preferred practice and up to the DG's discretion. PDG Dennis Drager made the motion to approve the revised Policies & Procedures Manual. PDG Steve Dakin seconded the motion. Approved to adopt changes.

* Travel & Expense Reimbursement Policy (DGE Norlan Hinke): Emphasized the desire to have members report expenses and request reimbursement in a timely manner. We reviewed changes made to the form and discussed additional changes we would like to see made to the reimbursement form.

New Business

* Carolyn Scharff has notified the board of her intention to retire as the Rotary District 6000 Administrator effective June 30, 2025. This will mark 18 years of service. A committee of Carolyn Scharff, DG Dave Cook, DGE Norlan Hinke, DGN Bill Bruce and Gretchen Nollman are to collectively review the current job description for our administrator and determine changes we would like to see for the next administrator. The committee is to discuss and determine the future vision in this hiring process. The group is to write an advertisement and place it on indeed soon. The committee hopes to have the new administrator in place no later than April 1, 2025, so they can begin job shadowing Carolyn for at least 90 days before Carolyn retires. Carolyn has agreed to be a backup and assist in completing projects as needed.

* The Rotary Club of West Liberty will receive a sanction due to not performing requirements set forth for District 6000 Community Service Grant project submitted in 2022. The club received 6 written requests to comply. A copy of the letter DG Dave Cook sent to the club President dated 8/30/24 was shared with the board along with a copy of the final report the club submitted. DG Dave Cook sent another letter to the Rotary Club of West Liberty President dated October 11, 2024, along with an invoice for the club to reimburse Rotary District 6000 in the amount of \$5,000. The club did not provide an accurately completed end of year report and has not complied with all requirements set forth by the district after many attempts to help them correct their problems. Since they have not complied with all requirements by the deadline of November 1, 2024, the Rotary Club of West Liberty is not eligible to participate in any future Rotary District 6000 community service grant projects until membership year 2027-2028.

Board Meetings to be held in 2025

- * February 20, 2025, meetings to be held in person and via zoom
- * May 15, 2025, meetings to be in person only
- * B&F meetings will begin at 10:00 am, followed by the Board of Directors Meeting

Meeting Adjourned at 1:20 p.m.