

District 6000 Board of Directors Via Zoom – May 21, 2020

Present: DG Erna Morain, Tom Narak, Mike Ruby, Chris Knapp, Loring Miller, Steve Dakin, Alka Khanolkar, Steve Wieneke, Shawn Mullen, Michelle Cassabaum, and Devin Boyer. In addition: Carolyn Scharff (District Administrator), Steve Morain (guest) and Bill Tubbs (ex-officio).

Call to Order – DG Erna called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm

Quorum Verification – A quorum of members was present

Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the Feb. 13, 2020 and the special May 1, 2020 meeting were approved.

District Governor Report – DG Erna

- **Rotary Club of Denison** – D6000 clubs have approved moving the western boundary line of District 6000 to encompass Crawford county, Iowa so that the Rotary Club of Denison can officially become a member. We are still waiting for the voting results of District 5610 and once RI has received their affirmative vote we will be informed about steps to be taken for Denison to be a District 6000 member, with a goal of July 1 for completion of the process.
- **Zone 29 Nominating Committee Representative** – D6000 clubs approved John Ockenfels as our representative and Chris Knapp as alternate.
- **Council on Legislation Representative** – D6000 clubs approved Susan Herrick as our representative and Chris Knapp as alternate for the 2020-2023 term.
- **D6000 Festival 2020** – Due to the coronavirus the in-person Festival 2020 has been cancelled. The \$750 deposit has been returned by Prairie Meadows.
 - Plans are being made for virtual presentations to be made to clubs in June
 - The virtual gavel passing will be at 4:30 pm, Friday, June 26. Details will be sent to all D6000 Rotarians.
- **District Food Insecurity Project** – clubs and individuals have donated \$39,000+ through HEF. Clubs have given an additional \$50,000 directly to local community food projects, and \$30,000+ from DDF monies will be allocated to Food Bank of Iowa, Riverbend Food Bank, and Hawkeye Area Community Action Program (HACAP). The results of our efforts will be posted on social media and printed news releases. RI will also receive this information.
- **Club Meeting Visits** – DG Erna visited all 65 clubs in-person prior to COVID-19 restrictions. In addition she has joined 40 virtual club meetings with more scheduled.
- **RD 6000 NEWS** – There will be 2 more digital issues published before end of the Rotary year. Special kudos to Shawn Mullen for his podcasts that have been well received.
- **Foundation Giving** – we are one of just 3 districts that have 100% of the clubs reporting their 2019-20 goals. Special thanks to Jacque Andrew for spearheading this effort. Even though we are experiencing the covid-19 pandemic, our giving is still ahead of the previous two years by \$54,000. DG Erna mentioned that we need a couple of good months to finish out the year on a positive note.
- **District 6000 Facebook** – There are about 2,000 followers. We are posting up to date information on the District Facebook page, as well as the Governor's group. Many of our clubs

share the information on their own sites.

Budget and Finance Committee Report – Committee Chair, Chris Knapp, reported that the Budget & Finance Committee had met earlier today. District Accountant, Jon Augustus and District Treasurer, Emmi Miller both reported the books are in good standing. Committee reports were accepted as presented.

District Committee Reports –

- DGN Alka referred to the Rotaract and Friendship Exchange reports that were distributed by email to all board members earlier today.
- Membership – DG Erna commented that club meetings via Zoom have gone well. Some clubs have initiated new members via Zoom meetings.
- Paul Hellwege Guardians of Integrity Awards – Bill Tubbs has received 9 nominations for this annual award.

District Governor Elect Report – Steve Dakin

- DGE Steve is holding 4 president-elect training meetings via Zoom primarily for those who missed attending NCPETS but all PEs are invited. The first meeting is tonight, May 21.
- Led discussion encouraging the board that, due to COVID-19 challenges, we should delay implementation of the \$5 increase in district dues for one year, even though the dues increase had been previously approved. The motion was made and seconded that we postpone this increase for one year. Steve Dakin and Carolyn will work on the procedure to notify clubs of this action.

District Governor Nominee Report – Alka Khanolkar

- Continuing to visit clubs via Zoom as well as in contact with other DGNs through RI on Zoom.
- Emphasized that the planning for all upcoming meetings and conferences also include alternative plans, depending on COVID-19 situation.

District Governor Designee Report – Steve Wieneke

- Steve and Alka are co-chairing The Strategic Planning Team and to date have 11 members on the team. They hope to have their first meeting this summer.
- RLI leaders are considering virtual options if necessary. The August 29 in-person RLI in Des Moines is still planned.

District Office Report – Carolyn announced that the International Assembly has now been reduced to 5 days. The January 2021 IA will be in Orlando, Florida.

New Business – DG Erna mentioned that she received an email from Rotarian Victoria Struzynski, Rotary Club of Coralville-North Corridor, regarding the possibility of using the IRON LUNG TRAILER, which houses and iron lung and exhibit, for the Iowa State Fair and/or other District 6000 events. Erna's classmates, DG Suzanne and Mark Gibson, are the contact and can be reached at Gov.Suzanne@Rotary6440.org

Other

- Erna reported:
 - This is DG Erna's final meeting as DG. She thanked board members for their strong support. This is the first year we have been blessed with 4 at-large board members. We all started out unsure of how it would work but all of us on this call made it work in true Rotary fashion. She thanked all board members for their share in making this a success.
 - Acknowledged that this was the final board meeting for Loring Miller who has completed his 7 years of outstanding, dedicated service. A certificate of appreciation will be presented to Loring in the near future.
 - Erna also recognized Carolyn for her exceptional support this year and a certificate will be presented to Carolyn in the near future.
 - The board affirmed the outstanding job DG Erna has done this year, especially the way she has so capably handled major challenges due to the COVID-19 situation.

- Chris Knapp reported:
 - The last RYE student will be returning home June 17. Even though there will be no RYE for next year the committee is already planning for the 2021-22 year.
 - Reminded us that RYLA has been cancelled for this year
 - NCPETS:
 - The 2020 NCPETS included D-5610 (all of South Dakota and western Iowa not in D5970 includes Denison) in addition to the other 4 districts (6000, 5970, 5950, 5960)
 - In-person NCPETS is being planned for March in Ames but also alternative plans for a virtual meeting if necessary.

- Bill Tubbs mentioned that the lack of material about activities of clubs and the District has left things uncertain whether a third edition of his newsletter should be produced this year.

Next Board Meeting – Thursday, August 6

Meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Mike Ruby, secretary