

Greetings,

The calendar says March 1 so, ready or not, the Rotary year is fleeting by quickly. Here are a few things to keep in mind:

Upcoming events:

- **NCPETS** –Starts in just one week. If you have any last minute questions about it, let me know asap.
- **Grant Management Seminar** Just one left – Friday evening, March 23, Newton (DMACC campus)
- **Training Assembly** – Saturday, March 24, Newton (DMACC campus)
- **Vision 2020** – Wednesday evening, May 2 – West DM (Shive-Hattery) – this event is focused solely on growing club membership. Definitely worthwhile.

Grant Deadlines:

- June 1, 2018 for Community Service Grants
- No deadline for Global Grants

Toast Promotion – We are at the 6 week mark and **you** are the key player to make sure your club is well represented at a Toast. As you know, this is a pilot and we're trying hard to address concerns expressed regarding lack of attendance at previous district conferences (distance, length, cost). Keep close tabs on who is registered from your club and use that information to encourage others to attend. Display tables are available (no charge) if you want to showcase your club. Contact the various Toast Chairs to make arrangements. If you don't know who the chair is for the Toast nearest you, contact me asap. **Special Note: Interact students are encouraged to attend. Cost is half price (\$24.50) and hopefully the sponsoring club will pick up part (but not all) of that expense. It's healthy for students to have some skin in the game.**

Planning for the final 4 months:

- Work closely with your President-elect
- Make final plans for a spring tree planting
- Create a timeline that includes events and goals to keep you on track

Suggestion for Club Meeting Fun – The next district newsletter will be mailed later this month. Let club members know that in April (for instance) there will be a game of trivia based on the March newsletter with small prizes given (candy, MacDonald's or other types of gift cards, etc.) to winning tables. This could be a win-win: fun as well as informative.

Bike update – Approx. \$147,000 raised (1004 bikes). About 70% of the donations qualified for a 1:1 match so our district has provided about 1,700 bikes so far. The Rotary Club of Ankeny recently raised funds for 26 more bikes. That number will be added to the 1004 when received by World Bicycle Relief. Ankeny is also planning a May 12 bike fundraiser. The 4 clubs in the Iowa City area are planning a June 2 bike ride fundraiser. Some of the Des Moines metro clubs also have fundraising plans.

Reminder – Be sure to keep track of volunteer hours and money donated and report it to Rotary International on a regular basis. Keeping these records will also provide good year-end information for doing a local media splash letting your community know the impact Rotary made this year.

Communicate! – Keep in contact with other club presidents, your AG, and me! We want to know what's going on in your club. We'll help spread good news that you have or help you with challenges you are facing.

Important Websites – Make sure all of your club members know these 2 important websites: www.rotary6000.org (district) and www.rotary.org (Rotary International). There is a TON of information here!

Hope to see ALL of you at one of the Toasts! It's important for you to set a good example. Register now.

Take care.

DG Mike Ruby

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