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Good morning, My Fellow Rotarian Leaders, 2017-18 Club Presidents:

Congratulations on being selected to lead your Rotary Club next year! For some of you this is simply taking your turn again; for others it is something new and exciting and possibly something scary. We are in this together, and I am getting excited about the thought of being your District Governor in 2017-18. I just finished Zone training in Cleveland where I was with my fellow DGEs from 28 nearby Districts, and I am preparing for the District business meetings and Strategic Planning Summit in Roscommon next week, the District Conference in Crystal Mountain in May, and the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta in June. I invite you to join me if you can at the District events October 15 and May 4-6. These are always fun events with lots of Rotarians gathering to talk about what it is about Rotary that excites them. The International Convention is always an incredible experience, and this year's is in the USA. Plan to attend it if at all possible. You won't be disappointed. I'd also like you to think about Rotary Leadership Institute. Those of you who attended Great Lakes Rotary PETS last March as Presidents-Nominee (PNs) will have attended the first session of RLI. Again, this is a great opportunity to get together with other Rotarians and learn and share. You can get more information about all of these events at our District website (www.ridistrict6290.org).

Speaking of PETS (Presidents-Elect Training Seminars), we are changing the format this year. We have a new District Training Committee including four Past District Governors and one Assistant Governor who are working hard to plan new things. We want to bring President-Elect Training to you.

The last several years we have scheduled three District Training Assembly (DTA) sessions on Saturdays in January and February, with what we called Pre-PETS (a track for Presidents-Elect) and other tracks for Club Secretaries, Treasurers, Youth Exchange Officers and Counselors, and Membership and Public Image chairs, followed by Grants Management Seminars (GMS). We have done this in an effort to make attendance easier for Rotarians throughout a District that spans almost 600 miles north to south. This year GMS training will be online. We have a fantastic District Administrator, Kathy Hegedus, who trains Club Secretaries as needed. There are other resources for Treasurers, who often retain their positions for many years and don't need ongoing training, and a very competent District Treasurer, Jon Catlin, to help them as needed. Our fantastic Rotary Youth Exchange Program does most of its training for YEOs during youth conferences in September and April and also is using online training for Youth Protection and US Department of State regulations. We can get everybody else involved in our fall meeting in Roscommon and at District Conference in May without running into the weather issues we find in February. And we can do more on-line. The new Training Committee is working on short information and training snippets to post on the District website for Rotarians to access at your convenience.

I have asked our Assistant Governors (AGs) to schedule paired regional meetings of PEs for me and a member of the District Training Committee to meet with you in your home areas for what we are calling PETS1 (the first session of Presidents-Elect Training Seminars). Most of these will follow the International Assembly that I will be attending along with the other 535 or so incoming District Governors in January. The first of these meetings will

actually be in November in the Petoskey area. AG Dave Thomas is working on setting this one up. I want to meet with you in small groups, enabling more conversation about how the District can help you rather than my just telling you about Rotary. We will meet over a meal or hors d'oeuvres and get to know each other better and discuss your Rotary Clubs. We will follow up these conversations at PETS2, the Great Lakes Regional PETS meeting in Kalamazoo March 16-18, 2017.

Please register soon for that meeting, Great Lakes Regional PETS. There is a link at our District website. It is expected that all who will be Club Presidents in 2017-18 attend. Then look for the information from your AG about scheduling PETS1 with your counterparts in your region.

Don't forget to follow Rotary International District 6290 on Facebook and check the District website regularly for updates. I'll try to keep you updated without inundating you with emails throughout the year.

I look forward to getting to know all of you and enjoying Rotary in the coming year. My goal as DG is to have fun, get good work done and make a difference in the world, and support the Clubs of District 6290 in whatever ways I can. Please contact me any time with any questions or suggestions. I love to chat with Rotarians.

Ed