

Rotary International District 6440, an Illinois Not-for-Profit Corporation

May 20, 2025 – 7 pm

Virtual Meeting

The meeting was called to order at 7:03 pm by Rick Reigner, Moderator.

PDG Bruce Baumberger explained the Zoom protocol including how to raise your hand.

Moderator DGN Rick Reigner introduced the Officers and Board of Directors of the Corporation:

President of the Corporation and Board Chair: DG Thor Davidson

Vice President of the Corporation: DGE Marlene Frisbie

Corporate Secretary: PDG Terry Mueller

Director: DGN Rick Reigner

Director: IPDG Mary Bak

DGE Marlene Frisbie gave the credentials report and declared that a quorum was present. (67 electors from 52 clubs)

DG Thor Davidson commented on the State of the District. See attached Exhibit 1

The voting procedures for the annual business meeting were explained by DGN Rick Reigner. The first four voting requests could be voted on by all attendees. Only credentialed voters were allowed to vote on all the subsequent voting requests.

The minutes of the May 8, 2024, annual business meeting were approved via a motion by DGE Marlene Frisbie and seconded by Finance Committee Chair John Buckley.

Annual Statement and Report of District Finances. The 2023-24 Audit Report, prepared by Eccezion, was presented by Finance Committee Chair John Buckley. The 2023-24 Audit Report was presented to the Finance Committee on March 13, 2025. It was distributed to the Club Presidents at least 30 days before tonight's annual meeting. There were no identified exceptions to the District Audit Report for 2023-24.

The audit report was accepted via a motion made by PDG Rick Rivkin and seconded by IPDG Mary Bak.

The Treasurer's report was presented by Finance Committee Chair John Buckley on behalf of Treasurer John DuRoucher and accepted via a motion made by PDG Sarah Oliver and seconded by Rotarian Diane Krier-Morrow. See attached Exhibit 2.

Pete Michling, Legislative Advisory Committee Chair, presented the Amendments to the Manual of Procedure. The items were considered uncontroversial by the committee. The amendments were approved via a motion by Pete Michling and seconded by Sarah Oliver. See attached amendments on Exhibit 3.

PDG Rodney Adams of the River Cities Rotary Club was elected Vice Governor for the 2025-26 Rotary year via a motion by Rotarian Diane Krier-Morrow and seconded by PDG Lyle Staab.

DGND Mariana Alfar was elected District Governor for the 2027- 2028 Rotary year via a motion by DGE Marlene Frisbie and seconded by Rotarian Debora Morris.

Alan Kirk, Chair of the Primary Committee, read the list of Rotarians selected for nomination to serve on the Nominating Committee for the 2025-2026 Rotary year by the committee. There were no nominations from the floor. Other members of the Primary Committee were Rotarians Bryant Wallace and Kris Young.

#### Past Presidents

Deborah Morris - Wilmette Rotary Club

Glenda Duncan – Illinois Beach Sunrise

Karena Bierman – Evanston Lighthouse (Alternate)

#### Assistant Governors

John Alan Boryk – Park Ridge

Melvina Lube – Mundelein-Vernon Hills

Don Tonyan – McHenry (Alternate)

#### Past District Governors

Rick Rivkin - Northbrook

Ellen Young – Libertyville Sunrise

Lyle Staab – Long Grove, Kildeer, Hawthorn Woods (Alternate)

#### Members at Large

Sharon Lynch – River Cities

Lindsay Herrera – Lake in the Hills

Mark Dewart – Lake Forest – Lake Bluff

Craig Lamp – St. Charles Breakfast (Alternate)

The slate of nominees presented by the Primary Committee to serve on the Nominating Committee to select the District Governor for 2028-2029 were elected via motion by DGE Marlene Frisbie and seconded by Rotarian Todd Sholeen.

The announcement of the Officers and Board Members of the Corporation for the 2025-26 Rotary year.

President of the Corporation and Board Chair: DG Marlene Frisbie

Vice President of the Corporation: DGE Rick Reigner

Corporate Secretary: PDG Terry Mueller

Director: DGN Mariana Alfar

Director: IPDG Thor Davidson

District Treasurer: John DuRocher

Recording Secretary: Nancy Shephardson

Motion to adjourn the meeting was approved via a motion by Rotarian Diane Krier-Morrow and Finance Committee Chair John Buckley.

Respectfully Submitted

Jillian Bernas Garcia

## Exhibit 1

### State of the District 2025

**Opening** Good evening, and thank you all for being here at the Annual Meeting of Rotary District 6440. Your presence tonight is a testament to your commitment, passion, and belief in the mission and impact of Rotary. This evening is not just about reflecting on what we've accomplished but about looking ahead to the opportunities before us.

Let me begin by expressing heartfelt thanks to the members of our Governor Line team—DGE Marlene Frisbie, DGN Rick Reigner, DGND Mariana Alfar, and IPDG Mary Bak—for their steady leadership and forward-thinking vision. You are helping ensure a vibrant and sustainable future for our District.

I also want to recognize our dedicated District Committee Chairs and the many volunteers who power the important work of each committee. A special thanks to our Assistant Governors, who are the vital bridge between the District and our clubs, offering support and guidance every day.

To the Rotarians serving in our clubs—you are the heartbeat of our District. Your service, your energy, and your belief in the Magic of Rotary are creating meaningful change in our communities and across the globe.

Behind the scenes, we are grateful for Bruce Baumberger, who is keeping everything running smoothly tonight, and of course, a huge thank you to our exceptional District Administrator, Jillian, whose tireless support and attention to detail make all of this possible.

**Membership** Let's begin with one of our top foundational priorities—membership. As of April 30, 2025, I am proud to share that we have achieved a net increase of 51 members! This growth is the result of both intentional efforts and fresh approaches to how we present Rotary.

In April, we hosted a dynamic event, “Discover Rotary: Your Path to Purpose,” at Rotary International headquarters. We welcomed approximately 65 new Rotarians who came to learn about the opportunities Rotary offers for service and leadership. Events like this are key to showing the relevance of Rotary in today's world.

Our “Membership Olympics” initiative has added some friendly competition and excitement to our membership efforts. Clubs have responded with creative ideas and renewed enthusiasm.

On the club development front, we welcomed a new Rotary club this year and are actively supporting six satellite clubs in formation, with additional conversations underway. Many of our clubs are finding success by offering alternative meeting times and formats to better meet the needs of today's professionals and families.

We are also seeing momentum in our Interact clubs, a promising sign that young people are eager to connect, serve, and lead.

**Financial** Turning to finances, I'm pleased to report that our District remains in excellent financial health. Later in the meeting, you will hear details from the Finance Committee, but let me assure you that the

Governor Line, in partnership with the Finance Committee, has exercised strong fiscal stewardship and fulfilled their fiduciary responsibilities with diligence and integrity.

Our annual audit was completed without exception—an affirmation of our sound financial practices. This strong position allows us to continue supporting our clubs, programs, and strategic priorities.

**Youth Services** We've made exciting strides in Youth Services this year, reaffirming our commitment to engaging and empowering the next generation of leaders. One of our proudest developments this year is the launch of the District 6440 Rotary Youth Advisory Council (YAC). This new initiative brings together 25 emerging leaders, ages 14 to 26, to work alongside Rotarians in shaping the future of youth programming. YAC members will participate in District committees, plan events, receive mentorship, and contribute fresh ideas that will help Rotary stay relevant and vibrant for the next generation.

Our Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program returned in full strength. The first session brought together over 125 students, and the second session reached nearly 190 attendees—numbers that reflect full or near-full capacity at our facilities. Thank you to RYLA Chair Sean Nelson and the dedicated team of volunteers who create such an impactful experience. If you haven't already, I encourage you to invite RYLA participants to speak at your club meetings. Their stories are powerful and inspiring—and it's a perfect opportunity to connect them with Interact.

We are continuing to rebuild our Interact program post-pandemic. Interact remains a vital gateway for youth engagement and a way to connect with families and schools.

While planning for this year, we made the difficult but strategic decision to pause our long-term Youth Exchange program as participation has declined. However, we remain committed to bringing it back for the 2026–27 school year and welcome ideas and interest from clubs.

In the meantime, we are focusing on short-term youth exchange opportunities. Led by Rebecca Dunleavy, four students and their families are participating this summer in a reciprocal exchange, living abroad for several weeks and hosting their counterparts in return. These exchanges foster cultural understanding and personal growth in ways that few experiences can.

And a special thank you to Pat Boquist and the Vocational Scholarship Committee. This year, they interviewed 21 applicants and awarded 18 scholarships of \$1,500 each. Thanks to the 14 clubs that sponsored these students and to Elke Friedman and the Friedman Foundation for their continued generosity in supporting this transformative program.

**Mental Health Task Force** Another area of impact is mental health. Our District Mental Health Task Force launched a new monthly speaker series, “Mental Health Mondays,” held during the lunch hour on the first Monday of each month. These sessions offer valuable insights and resources on a topic that touches every one of us. Mental health is health, and Rotary is taking a proactive role in reducing stigma and promoting well-being.

**Environmental Committee** Our Environmental Committee has been actively working on both District-wide and club-level initiatives. At the District level, our focus is on supporting projects that address climate change, habitat preservation, and environmental education.

At the club level, many of you are leading efforts such as pollinator garden installations, tree plantings, invasive species removal, and river and lake cleanups. These local actions are part of a global movement—and they make a real, visible difference in our communities.

**Foundation and PolioPlus** The strength of our Rotary Foundation is central to everything we do. In October, we received extraordinary news: The Blane Foundation pledged \$100,000 annually for PolioPlus for the next three years. In addition, they offered a \$35,000 challenge match for new PolioPlus gifts of \$500 or more. Thanks to your generosity, we met—and exceeded—that challenge by early December.

We've since secured an additional \$35,000 in matching funds, continuing to leverage these opportunities to amplify our giving.

To date this Rotary year, 735 donors from our District have contributed over \$656,000 to The Rotary Foundation. That's an average of nearly \$130 per Rotarian—an impressive reflection of your commitment.

Because of your past contributions, we received over \$80,000 this year in District Designated Funds to support local and global service projects.

Rotary continues to lead the charge to end polio, advocating for \$265 million in FY2026 U.S. funding through the CDC and State Department. Since 1985, Rotary has invested \$2.9 billion in polio eradication—\$470 million from U.S. members alone. With cases of wild polio down 99.9% and a significant drop in variant cases, we are closer than ever. But with cuts in global health funding, Rotary's leadership is more vital than ever. Let's finish the job.

**Grants** Rotary grants provide the resources to turn our ideas into action and are a cornerstone of our service.

Global Grants fund large-scale, sustainable projects aligned with Rotary's Areas of Focus. These grants must meet demonstrated community needs, actively involve local stakeholders, and create long-term change. This year, we approved 8 Global Grants totaling \$48,000 in District Designated Funds and \$29,000 in cash. In May, we approved an additional 14 Global Grant projects totaling \$41,000.

District Grants support short-term projects, local or international, that align with The Rotary Foundation's mission and provide flexibility for clubs to address immediate needs. We approved \$55,000 for the 2024-25 cycle with participation from 30 clubs. Looking ahead, over \$75,000 will be available for 2025-26, with applications due by June 15.

Collaborative Grants encourage clubs to partner together on larger, community-impacting projects. We supported 8 projects this year, distributing more than \$19,000 in funding. These collaborative efforts help clubs amplify their impact through partnership, and many of these projects are already making a difference.

We're also proud to support two Global Grant Scholarship recipients—graduate students currently studying abroad in Rome and London—each receiving \$30,000 in scholarship support.

**The Rotary Action Plan** We've made significant strides this year in advancing The Rotary Action Plan—our framework for growth and innovation. The Plan focuses on four strategic priorities: Increasing Our Impact, Expanding Our Reach, Enhancing Participant Engagement, and Increasing Our Ability to Adapt.

Rick Reigner was appointed our District Action Plan Champion and has taken on this leadership role with great energy.

We introduced the Action Plan at our District Conference and hosted a dedicated breakout session. We've added an Action Plan tab to our District website with valuable resources for clubs.

To help clubs assess their health and opportunities, we digitized the Rotary Health Check and Member Satisfaction Survey using Jotform.

We launched a pilot program to help clubs integrate the Action Plan into their strategies. We also presented the plan at Midwest PETS and Spring Training to prepare our incoming club presidents.

Assistant Governors received in-depth training and are encouraging clubs to take advantage of these tools. We're building a culture of planning and progress that will strengthen our clubs for years to come.

**Visioning Day** In January, we hosted our first-ever District Visioning session. Thirty Rotarians came together to imagine the future of our District, generating over 60 pages of ideas and strategies.

Following this, a diverse team of 25 Rotarians developed a draft mission statement and collected feedback from 166 survey responses. We're now in the master planning phase, aiming to roll out our strategic plan early in the 2025–26 Rotary year.

We're also identifying Club Action Plan Champions who will work alongside Rick to bring this visioning process to clubs across the District.

**Closing** As we reflect on this Rotary year, I want to express my deep gratitude to each of you for your unwavering dedication and service. The impact we are making together, across our communities, our region, and the world—is real, and it's growing.

We've laid strong foundations, and we have tremendous momentum. With Marlene, Rick, and Mariana leading the charge in the years to come, I am confident that Rotary District 6440 will continue to thrive.

Let's keep pushing forward. Let's keep building connections, creating impact, and sharing the Magic of Rotary.

Thank you, and let's continue this journey, together.

## Exhibit 2

### Treasurer's Report

#### **Treasurer's Report Overview presented by Finance Committee Chair John Buckley, Woodstock for John DuRocher Treasurer**

As of March 31, 2025

##### **Balance Sheet**

Assets	\$460374
A/R (5-16-25)	\$19,959 - \$15,744 is from 61 to 90 days, \$3,098 is over 91 days
Liabilities	\$0

##### **Income Statement**

Revenue	\$347,613	vs Budget	\$506,522
Expenses	\$199,601	vs Budget	\$545,340
Net Income	\$11,354	vs Budget	\$21

Revenue and expenses are trailing the budget mainly due to the timing of RYLA.

A consolidation of the chart of accounts was completed at the end of the last fiscal year. We maintain a healthy balance with good controls over expenses.



## Exhibit 3

### Amendments to the Manual of Procedure

#### Preamble

To clarify the approval process and simplify the updating of approval date annually

#### Finance Committee Section

To clarify that the DGE only needs to create a new budget if it is disapproved not if, for whatever reason, it is not voted upon at PETS,

and,

To clarify that proxies may be appointed to act on behalf of the club presidents-elect.

#### District Nominating Committee Section

To state the possible ramifications of failure to comply with guidelines. (section 5.)

To further clarify what constitutes unforeseen circumstances with respect to interview date. (section 7.a.)

To recognize throughout the section that if the IPDG is not able to attend the committee meeting the DG may appoint another convenor. (section 7.c.)

To make a provision for the possibility that the Nominating Committee is not able to reach a decision. (section 7.d.)