



District Council Agenda

June 3, 2017

Best Western Hotel & Conference Center
2 North Service Road, St. Catharines, ON L2N 4G9
Dress is Casual.

08:00 - 08:45 AM	Check-in, Refreshments & Fellowship	
08:45 - 09:15	Call to Order & Welcome Invocation Introductions (What is one Rotary thing you learned this year?)	Marlee Diehl, DG Karen Oakes All
09:15 - 09:30	Consent Agenda – approve reports by motion	
	a. Secretary's Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District Council Meeting Minutes of April 8, 2017	
	b. Treasurer's Report	
	c. District Governor Report	
	d. District Governor Elect Report	
	e. District Governor Nominee Report	
	f. Training Committee Report	
	g. Membership Report	
	h. The Rotary Foundation Report	
	i. Youth Services Report	
9:30 – 10:30	Discussion – District Team Training Part 2	
10:30 – 10:45	Coffee Break	
10:45 – 11:10	Thank You & Pass the Gavel	Marlee Diehl, DG
11:10 – 11:45	District Governor Elect <ul style="list-style-type: none">• District Goals 2017 - 2018• Presentation of District Leadership Team	Reg Madison, DGE
11:45	Other Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">• MOPP• District Changeover• District Conference	Jack Amico, PDG Melisa Schrock, DGN Reg Madison, DGE
12:00 PM	Adjournment	



District Council Minutes April 8, 2017

Location:
Phillip Sheridan Building
Kenmore, NY

No. of Attendees: 25

Call to Order: 9:00 am by Governor Marlee Diehl

RYLA: Larry Coon representing RYLA/Youth Services. Larry noted he was a graduate (along with Jim Morabito – same class). He indicated it is a phenomenal program – with challenges. At one time the District ran two programs. Now we have one and we are scrambling to fill it. We are looking for 19 to 25-year-olds with demonstrated leadership skills. He indicated that the participants all show up for the week with nerves wondering what it was that they signed up for. In many instances, the feedback is that it is a life changing event. They depart as best friends. Bonding happens pretty strong by Tuesday night. Lots of chatting late into the night. They build a support group going forward in life also and using social media. Benefits include educational and career direction, practical skills like how to run a meeting, how to work in group. Similar to Dale Carnegie. June 11 – 18, 2017. Thursday night of the program is open to Rotarians and guests/families. Cost of program: \$750 US.

STRATEGIES to recruit: Promise your recruits that they will get value out of it. Tell them, “Hey – give me two full days, if you don’t like it, then bail”. Another thought Larry shared is to identify someone with deep pockets that is emotionally connected to your candidate....ask them to replace the lost wages. The committee also has a letter that you can send to employers.

Invocation: Jackie Davis, AG, gave thanks and praise for a glorious and beautiful day to come here and serve above self. Jackie asked for guidance as we seek to serve, and used Jesus words, “Those who would seek to be great in God’s kingdom, let him/her be servant of all.”

Introductions: DG Marlee tasked us to announce ourselves with our name, club, District role, and goal for the remainder of the year.

Consent Agenda: **MOTION BY FRANK ADAMSON, AG, TO ACCEPT THE CONSENT AGENDA, SECONDED BY REG MADISON, DGE. MOTION CARRIED.**

Removed Reports: None.

MOPP (Manual of Policies and Procedures) Discussion: Jack Amico, PDG

PDG Jack opened a discussion on the MOPP. He noted that we update it every three years - here today to suggest, perhaps, that we make it more of a living document, not put it on the shelf. He wants to institute some policies and put into place a continual review. PDG Jack cited some examples of changes that have happened that are not reflected in the document. The committee will be meeting today. Changes will be forthcoming and submitted for approval to the Presidents Elect at Club Leadership Training.

Finance Committee: Wally Ochterski, PDG, Chair of Finance

PDG Wally announced that on May 6th, the District 7090 Budget for 2017-2018 will go to Presidents Elect at Club Leadership Training for approval. He suggests the Assistant Governors are the lynch pin to making sure the PEs understand it so that they will be ready to vote. He put the budget up on the screen and walked District Council members in attendance through it.

Cheque/Check Request Procedures: Governor Marlee went through the check request procedures starting with the location of the documents (request form and procedures) on the home page of the District 7090 website. Important to follow the procedures, but added that is is especially important DO NOT SEND the completed request to "all" but only to the next in command who's turn it is to sign it digitally and send it to the next person in command, e.g., Committee Chair to Director, Director to DG/Treasurer or Finance Chair depending on the \$\$\$ involved, etc. See procedures. Also, she noted that it is important to add the budget line item – name and number. The budget is on the website under District Operations/District Council/District Budget.

Other Business:**Afghan Centennial School Project - Karen Oakes, PDG**

PDG Karen reviewed the history of the school. A few years ago, we participated as a District with Zone 22/ now Zone 24 East in raising \$300K CA to construct a school in Afghanistan. 4000 students – 50% of which are female and the school is in operation today. We have been asked by TRF Trustee Bryn Styles to continue (along with other districts in our Zone) to support the operating budget of the school again this year in the amount of \$1000 US.

MOTION BY KAREN OAKES, PDG, SECONDED BY JACK AMICO, PDG, TO SEND THE \$1000 US AS REQUESTED FROM OUR RESERVE ACCOUNT. AFTER DISCUSSION, DAVID GREENFIELD, AG, CALLED THE QUESTION. MOTION CARRIED.

ISC – Buffalo Library Project Motion – John DePaolo

Director John reviewed the details of the project.

MOTION BY JACK AMICO, PDG, SECONDED BY KAREN OAKES, PDG, TO ALLOW THE ROTARY CLUB OF BUFFALO TO SOLICIT CLUB TO CLUB AS APPROVED BY THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE COMMITTEE AT ITS MEETING IN MARCH. SEE ATTACHED REPORT. MOTION CARRIED.

Announcements:

- **The Rotary Foundation – Canada “TRFC”**

Karen Oakes announced that effective immediately David Prowse has resigned and is no longer the Coordinator of TRFC. His replacement is being actively sought. In the meantime, continue to send your email inquiries as before to TRF.Canada@rotary.org which will be handled by the ‘Contact Center’ in the interim or by calling Francis Santos at 847-866-4461. David had been with TRFC for 12 years (3 years as employee). His customer service and handling of administrative matters were much appreciated.

- **Strategic Plan – Kevin Crosby, IPDG**

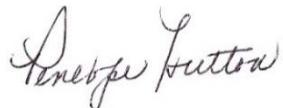
After a brief hiatus, Co-chairs Bob Hagen and Jeff Noble will be contacting District Directors for an update.

- **District Team Training Seminar - Reg Madison**

DGE Reg reminded everyone about the District Team Training Seminar that follows Club Leadership Training on May 6th. He promised that the meeting will be done by 4:30pm.

Adjourned by acclaim at 11:40 AM.

Respectfully submitted,



Penelope Hutton
Executive Secretary

Reports Attached:

Consent Agenda

- Secretary’s Report - Minutes of January 14, 2017
- DG Report
- DGE Report
- DGN Report
- Training Report
- Membership Report
- The Rotary Foundation Report
- Youth Services Report
- International Service Committee Report
- Finance Committee Report

Rotary International District 7090

Balance Sheet

As of April 30, 2017

Apr 30, 17**ASSETS****Current Assets**

Chequing/Savings	
1010 · First Niagara US	128,380.70
1020 · BoM Cdn	51,388.73
1070 · First Niagara Bank Special Acct	14,170.51
1090 · Restricted Grants Committee	69,405.13
Total Chequing/Savings	263,345.07
Accounts Receivable	
1115 · Accounts Receivable - Cdn	50,000.00
Total Accounts Receivable	50,000.00
Other Current Assets	
1021 · Exchange on CDN bank balances	-13,446.18
1450 · Prepaid Expenses	3,440.10
1451 · Prepaid District Conference	10,000.00
Total Other Current Assets	-6.08
Total Current Assets	313,338.99

TOTAL ASSETS**313,338.99****LIABILITIES & EQUITY****Liabilities**

Current Liabilities	
Other Current Liabilities	
2350 · Unearned/deferred revenue	69,320.84
Total Other Current Liabilities	69,320.84
Total Current Liabilities	69,320.84
Total Liabilities	69,320.84
Equity	
3100 · Restricted funds	4,374.00
3900 · Retained Earnings	197,442.54
Net Income	42,201.61
Total Equity	244,018.15
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	313,338.99

Rotary International District 7090
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2016 through April 2017

	Jul '16 - ...	Budget	Over Bu...	% of Bu...
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
4000 · Club assessment				
4010 · General assessment	83,529.50	81,300.00	2,229.50	102.7%
4020 · District Conference assessment	7,392.60	7,000.00	392.60	105.6%
4030 · Insurance Assessment	36,211.40	34,000.00	2,211.40	106.5%
Total 4000 · Club assessment	127,133.50	122,300.00	4,833.50	104.0%
4200 · District Conference				
4202 · DC - Registrations	33,055.00	50,000.00	-16,945.00	66.1%
4204 · DC - Sponsorships	4,074.97	0.00	4,074.97	100.0%
4208 · DC - Draws, etc	9,270.77	0.00	9,270.77	100.0%
4200 · District Conference - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total 4200 · District Conference	46,400.74	50,000.00	-3,599.26	92.8%
4300 · District Governor RI reimb	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
4400 · AG reimbursement	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
49900 · Uncategorized Income	595.54	0.00	595.54	100.0%
5000 · Earned revenues				
5010 · Foundation dinner	5,760.00	8,000.00	-2,240.00	72.0%
5030 · RYLA	0.00	32,000.00	-32,000.00	0.0%
5035 · Slapshot	10,725.00	28,000.00	-17,275.00	38.3%
5040 · PETS	15,136.00	28,000.00	-12,864.00	54.1%
5050 · Club Leadership Traing	0.00	9,000.00	-9,000.00	0.0%
Total 5000 · Earned revenues	31,621.00	105,000.00	-73,379.00	30.1%
5060 · District Simplified Grants	11,467.16	0.00	11,467.16	100.0%
5200 · Interest income	23.51	100.00	-76.49	23.5%
5400 · Other income				
5401 · Other Income	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
5405 · Grant Management Seminar Revenue	1,260.00	0.00	1,260.00	100.0%
5420 · RLI Training Revenue	5,056.50	4,000.00	1,056.50	126.4%
Total 5400 · Other income	6,316.50	5,000.00	1,316.50	126.3%
Total Income	223,557.95	283,900.00	-60,342.05	78.7%
Expense				
6000 · Administration				
6010 · District Governor - RI Reimburs	0.00	1,500.00	-1,500.00	0.0%
6020 · Assistant Governors	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6030 · District council	548.27	3,200.00	-2,651.73	17.1%
6060 · District Website Administration	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
6061 · District Website Club Runner	1,788.00	2,000.00	-212.00	89.4%
6062 · District Newsletter	1,800.00	2,400.00	-600.00	75.0%
6063 · Zoom Meetings	971.34	2,500.00	-1,528.66	38.9%
6080 · District office				
6081 · Office Support	13,500.00	18,000.00	-4,500.00	75.0%
6082 · Phone Charges	765.00	1,085.00	-320.00	70.5%
6083 · Postage	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
6084 · Office Supplies	989.10	300.00	689.10	329.7%
6085 · Bank Charges	3,619.88	5,000.00	-1,380.12	72.4%
6086 · Supplies, Treasurer	0.00	300.00	-300.00	0.0%
6080 · District office - Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
Total 6080 · District office	18,873.98	24,785.00	-5,911.02	76.2%
Total 6000 · Administration	23,981.59	36,385.00	-12,403.41	65.9%
69800 · Uncategorized Expenses	75.00	0.00	75.00	100.0%
7000 · Directors and Committees				
7010 · Group study exchange	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7015 · District Simplified Grants	11,467.16	0.00	11,467.16	100.0%
7020 · Interact	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7025 · Rotaract	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7027 · Early Act	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%

Rotary International District 7090
Profit & Loss Budget vs. Actual
July 2016 through April 2017

	Jul '16 - ...	Budget	Over Bu...	% of Bu...
7030 · Long-range planning	0.00	700.00	-700.00	0.0%
7040 · Membership	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7050 · Rotary foundation				
7055 · Paul Harris Society	212.98	500.00	-287.02	42.6%
7057 · Grant Management Seminar	0.00	1,000.00	-1,000.00	0.0%
7058 · Donations	0.00			
7050 · Rotary foundation - Other	0.00	3,000.00	-3,000.00	0.0%
Total 7050 · Rotary foundation	212.98	4,500.00	-4,287.02	4.7%
7060 · Grants Committee	5,059.99	500.00	4,559.99	1,012.0%
7065 · Rotary Scholars	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
7070 · Vocational service	230.00			
7080 · World community service	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7100 · RYLA	0.00	32,000.00	-32,000.00	0.0%
7105 · Slapshot	33,569.86	28,000.00	5,569.86	119.9%
7130 · Public Relations	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7134 · Promotion of RI Theme	5,161.19	3,000.00	2,161.19	172.0%
7135 · District badges and pins	439.01	1,000.00	-560.99	43.9%
7140 · Communications	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
7155 · District governor interviews	0.00	100.00	-100.00	0.0%
7200 · Other committees				
7205 · Other Committees - Misc	1,064.47	500.00	564.47	212.9%
7215 · District Gov - Change Over Even	0.00	500.00	-500.00	0.0%
Total 7200 · Other committees	1,064.47	1,000.00	64.47	106.4%
Total 7000 · Directors and Committees	57,204.66	71,300.00	-14,095.34	80.2%
7500 · Standing Committees				
7520 · District insurance	28,113.56	34,000.00	-5,886.44	82.7%
7530 · Finance and audit	7,000.00	6,000.00	1,000.00	116.7%
Total 7500 · Standing Committees	35,113.56	40,000.00	-4,886.44	87.8%
8000 · Training				
8010 · District conference	34,356.07	57,000.00	-22,643.93	60.3%
8012 · DC - Expenses	12,500.00			
8014 · DC - Donations	-3,804.00			
Total 8010 · District conference	43,052.07	57,000.00	-13,947.93	75.5%
8020 · PETS expenses	6,691.25	28,000.00	-21,308.75	23.9%
8030 · Club Leadership Training	0.00	9,000.00	-9,000.00	0.0%
8035 · PETS Training Costs	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%
8036 · Visioning/Release Your Inner Ro	285.06	1,000.00	-714.94	28.5%
8040 · District training	4,270.54	7,500.00	-3,229.46	56.9%
8050 · Assist Gov Training	0.00	1,700.00	-1,700.00	0.0%
8070 · Dist Gov Nominee Training	2,747.02	2,000.00	747.02	137.4%
8080 · Dist Gov Elect Training	2,602.10	5,800.00	-3,197.90	44.9%
8085 · District Gov Training	1,695.26	5,500.00	-3,804.74	30.8%
8090 · CRCID	158.40			
8098 · Awards & Recognition	475.74	2,500.00	-2,024.26	19.0%
Total 8000 · Training	61,977.44	120,000.00	-58,022.56	51.6%
8048 · Rotary Leadership Institut	3,703.07	4,000.00	-296.93	92.6%
8500 · Foundation Dinner Costs	5,673.62	8,000.00	-2,326.38	70.9%
9915 · Unbudgeted Expenses	1,818.42	1,000.00	818.42	181.8%
Total Expense	189,547.36	280,685.00	-91,137.64	67.5%
Net Ordinary Income	34,010.59	3,215.00	30,795.59	1,057.9%
Other Income/Expense				
Other Expense				
5409 · Exchange Gain/Loss	-8,191.02			
9940 · Grant income returned	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.0%

District Governor's Report

Marlee Diehl

One Year in the Making - Everyone told me this year would be wondrous and it certainly was all of that. Thank you for this opportunity to help Rotary Serve Humanity.

When I stepped up I knew that our District leadership team was overall a hard working team. What I didn't realize was just how much time and energy our team put into their roles! I applaud your efforts to make our Rotary District 7090 a leader across Zone 24 and within the service organizations across our district. You did us proud! Thank you to all District Directors and their teams.

Bill and I could write a book about crisscrossing our district to bring the face of our District to the clubs and inform the clubs of our Rotary Serving Humanity theme, our goals for this year, and for us to share in the uniqueness of each club. We have large, we have small, and most clubs are in the give or take of 30 – 40 members. Every board meeting was just as different as the clubs; some formal, some only concentrating on interacting with me while others – did a full board meeting and that too gave me a thorough glimpse into the club. Overall these visits were well attended and I believe our interaction was very positive. We were left in awe of our Rotarian's accomplishments.

It has been a blast joining numerous clubs fundraising recognize their community leaders and members with Paul Harris Fellowship Awards, celebrate club high points with both The Rotary Club of Brantford's and The Rotary Club of Niagara Falls, NY's centennial and other notable anniversaries, as well as, joint meetings and just hanging out with clubs for social events. Others were just special – speaking to a committee at the Ontario Legislature with many of the other Ontario district's DG about how the government can help clubs continue to provide community services without all the hurdles; a second trip to Toronto to attend the by invitation of Ontario's Lieutenant Governor to honour Ontario's indigenous people; celebrating raising the Rotary and the EndPolio flags at St. Catharines City Hall; walking with Hamilton school children for Water Wells in Haiti; participating in Telling Tales, which just keeps growing and just after becoming a US citizen being invited to the Canadian Citizen Oath for 26 new Canadians in St. Catharines.

That brings me to some of our Assistant Governors leading their areas to work together on bigger community service projects, bringing notable speakers to educate members, or to play together. I believe that these areas are stronger and their members know each other, which must be a good thing. The four areas in Region of Niagara areas even took it further with the AGS working toward regional projects. Our Assistant Governors are certainly our district's secret weapon. I am not sure how a DG could function if not for this group interfacing with the clubs. Thank you to all of our Assistant Governors.

Our youth in District 7090 are certainly buying into Service Above Self whether it is EarlyAct, Interact, Rotaract, SlapShot, RYLA and our Youth Exchange. We participated in several chartering celebrations and still more coming – 5 new clubs and we have one new Rotarct club. Grand Island invited me to a year end party of their EarlyAct and Interact clubs, while chartering their newest middle school Interact.

Certainly the Changeover and District Conference were high points. To Karen Sawicz, Albion – District Changeover and Melisa Schrock, Akron-Newstead – District Conference and their broad teams for taking my wish list and making my visions into realities. These events ran smoothly, and that meant there was

a well-oiled machine behind the scenes ensuring success. You both exceeded all my expectations. Well done teams. And we were in the black!

It came to be – we chartered a new club, the Hamilton Tonic; what a fun group of members seeking ways to make Rotary suit their desires. Other absolute high points are that RLI is back on track with three successful events this year. These help so much in preparing our club leadership teams. What a great experience it was to participate in the selection of our outgoing VTT team. And just the other evening, I was there to welcome our inbound Friendship Exchange from Australia. District 7090 is the point on bringing other district leadership teams together to share best practices. It is interesting to watch the birth of a global grant where one of our clubs is the host – a literacy project.

I have new respect for all the District Governors who were before me. To those of you who held this role before the use of Zoom hats off, you truly must have run the roads to be present at meetings. To those following me, this role is all everyone tells you it will be. Relax and enjoy the experience.

June DGE Report – Reg Madison

One down, one to go! Club Leadership Training and District Team Training were large occupiers of time in April and my sincere thanks go out to Anne Bermingham, Ralph Montesanto and the committee for a very successful event. The feedback was indeed positive and now what remains is the final debriefing which will take place before the council meeting. The DTTS session led by Zone Assistant Coordinator Brian Thompson was a valued lesson on telling our Rotary story!! Then in groups we tackled 6 issues and came up with solutions to enhance our success as a district going forward. The one to go is the District Changeover on Sunday, June 25th at the Brantford Golf & Country Club. Registration is open and I encourage all our District leaders to attend.

Today (May 27th) I have the honour of welcoming the Australian friendly exchange to the district and attending Lobsterfest a joint venture of the two Dundas clubs. I also attended the Dundas Valley Paul Harris Breakfast with DG Marlee, area meetings with AGs Cathy Henry and Chris Cutler and two different club meetings in St. Catharines. I'd like to thank everyone for the warm reception that I receive at these gatherings. I also had the pleasure and wonderful experience of attending Slapshot both Saturday evening and Sunday morning. What a program and we can be so proud of these future leaders.

Loretta and I certainly enjoyed attending the 100 anniversary of the Rotary Club of Niagara Falls, NY and congratulations go out to President Jesse Scott, AG John Cooper and their team for a fine event. It was great to see such support from all over the district and interact with so many Rotarians. It was a wonderful evening with an excellent venue and food.

Zoom meetings are certainly both a time and travel saver I continue to participate in them regularly. Topics I have been involved in range from membership to Vocational Training Team, a Peace Fellow interview and a bi-monthly exchange of ideas with four neighboring districts leaders. District Conference meetings are showing progress as we near the completion of the agenda and posting it on the website. Thank you to those who have already registered!

Talks are progressing with the Toronto convention Home Hosting committee about the role that 7090 will play for this event. We have added this item to the agenda for the council meeting so that all of you will be in the loop going forward and have the opportunity to contribute ideas to our commitment to Rotarians around the world.

We have firm dates for 60 of our official club visits in the new Rotary year and are awaiting the responses from the remaining clubs for the dates suggested to them. The process has worked well and I am very pleased with the speed with which most clubs have acted.

I look forward to seeing you again at council and again at the District changeover!

Best personal regards,

Reg

DGN Report
District Council 6/3/2017
Submitted By Melisa Schrock

This past year has been one full of growth and learning for me as I continue to transition in my role to be the District Governor in 2018. I have been fortunate to work with DGE Reg Madison as I was “taught” the ropes with MDPETS planning as well as CLT. DG Marlee also honored me with being her Chair for the District Conference and it offer priceless insight into the amount of time and effort that is needed to plan for a successful conference. All of these experiences will be invaluable to me as I move into the position of District Governor Elect!

One of the roles I will miss the most was being the AG Coordinator. I had the privilege of working with 19 of the greatest Rotarians in our district! At the start of our year, we had pledged to work closely with finding replacements if you were an AG in your third year of service. Of the 6 AG's whose terms will end this June, I believe 5 have secured replacements as of now. Additionally, some of the AG's whose terms will expire 2018 have already started the process and even one has found their replacement! This strategy (as a result of our strategic plan) has proven to be a good one! Strong, support AG's leads to strong, supportive Clubs and the correlation is noticeable! At Club Leadership Training, I participated in a session with the AG's where we discussed what worked & what didn't. Video minutes as well as hard copy minutes were at the top of the list, as was meeting frequency! Moving forward, we will now send out both types of minutes and meeting will not be every other month, rather than monthly.

I am starting to put together a team to explore different options for the District Conference in 2018, so watch for more details to come this fall. I am also working with DGE Reg in the planning of our changeover luncheon at the end of June.

I will be attending my first ever Rotary International Conference in Atlanta, and will be bringing along my oldest daughter with me! I am super excited and look forward to meeting many of the people I have collaborated with this past year in numerous zoom meetings and emails!

Director of Training Year End Report to District Council June 3, 2017

1) Areas of Responsibility

a) PETS – Chair Brian Carmichael introduced a new model using three online sessions to successfully deliver the first level of PE training. Online training will be used for the 2017-18 training year. Face-to-Face dinner meetings of 2017-18 sitting presidents to take place on September 19 at Best Western in St. Catharines ON and September 20 at Hyatt Place Hotel in Amherst NY where DG Reg Madison will focus on strengthening exchanges among clubs and their leaders.

Brian has completed his term as chair and a replacement is chair is needed.

b) MD PETS – Chair Brian Carmichael was the overall chair for the 3-district event. Everything went well and all bills paid within budget.

Brian has completed his term and a replacement is needed to sit on the 3-district committee as our district representative.

c) Club Leadership Training – Chair Anne Bermingham and her committee held a successful CLT at Niagara College. The goal was to have 250 in attendance; however, after multiple requests to register only 150 attended. Overall comments about the 30 sessions were positive. Registration fees collected did not meet the expense for the day and remaining funds were taken from Assistant Governor training lines and President Elect training lines of the district budget.

Anne has completed her term as chair and a replacement is needed.

d) Assistant Governor Training – Co-Chairs Bob Morrow and John Mullen oversaw the AG training session that ran concurrently with CLT. Bob also did preliminary conversations with incoming AGs to help prepare them for their role.

e) Rotary Leadership Institute – Chair Glen Christiansen took over part way through the year and held a successful session in April. He has set dates for 2017-18 as September 23 in NY, December 2 in ON and March 24 in NY.

f) Club Visioning – Ontario Chair Anne Bermingham and her team held six sessions throughout the year with one or two more clubs considering the process.

NY Chair Barbara Ochterski held one session with two or three clubs considering the process but unable to make the commitment to proceed.

Barbara is willing to stay on as chair but would welcome someone else taking over the role.

g) District Training Seminar – DGE Reg and Ralph held the session following CLT.

h) Club Based Training and E-Learning – No Progress

i) New Member Orientation – No Progress



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District Council 6/3/17 Report of Membership Director

Since our April District Council meeting, several activities related to promoting membership have occurred:

1. We continue to publish a monthly newsletter for clubs with membership development ideas. The April and May issues are attached.
2. We continue to provide a “Membership Matters” article for the District newsletter each month
3. We have continued to have monthly meetings of the District Membership Committee
4. In April, we launched a new monthly online forum focusing on membership. Our first forum in April covered a wide range of topics related to membership. The May forum focused on recruiting retirees. The June forum will focus on Corporate Memberships.
5. There were three workshops on membership at the Club Leadership Training program in early May.
6. Following discussions with a potential chair of the Young Professionals Events team, our strategy has shifted to helping clubs become better equipped to attract and retain young professionals. Currently, we are planning to conduct live seminars in the fall to help clubs develop their own strategies for modifying their club practices if necessary and actively recruiting young professionals.

District Membership update:

July 1, 2016 – 2,212

April 30, 2016 – 2,242 (+30; 1.4% growth)

District Strategic Plan for Membership Update:

There are two elements of the District’s Strategic Plan that pertain to membership:

- Advance the Get Ready to Grow Membership strategy – engaging each District area of implementing actions to support this strategy
- Develop Young Rotarians events that attract those 45 years or younger

The first element has been implemented through a variety of efforts, including: monthly newsletter reinforcing membership development strategies; short articles in the monthly newsletters; monthly meetings of a district-wide membership advisory committee; and the recently launched monthly forums on membership. The second element, to recruit young professionals to Rotary, has undergone a shift in strategy. Beginning in the fall, we will conduct regional seminars to help clubs develop their own unique strategies for getting their clubs ready to recruit and retain younger members.

Respectfully submitted,

IPDG Kevin Crosby, Director of Membership



Membership District 7090

Rotary



April 2017

16 Ideas for Breathing Life into Your Club

RESOURCES TO HELP OUR CLUBS GROW AND PROSPER

By Anabella Q. Bonfa, District 5320 membership chair

How do you breathe new life into your Rotary club? We held a young professional summit recently in southern California, USA, attended by 52 members of Rotary and Rotaract — some new and some with many years of experience — who came together for half a day to share their thoughts. Everyone had fun, and many creative ideas surfaced. Here are just a few:

Plan events that are family-friendly to engage members with young children.

1. Plan your events in locations where kids are welcome. A few examples would be a

- cleanup day at the beach or park. Or hold a picnic followed by dessert at a nearby restaurant
2. Give children of members duties to do at club events like collecting money or arranging cans at a food drive
3. Reward children for taking part in your community service work. A little recognition now may plant the seed for a life-long love of service

Share the value of Rotary. “What’s in it for me?”

4. Explain how Rotary offers a chance to make new friends
5. Prompt club meetings as an opportunity to spend

time with nice people who share a similar mindset and a desire to serve

6. Show how your members can make a difference and have a direct impact on your community
7. Explain how members build business connections that grow their careers.
8. Advertise the opportunities to develop leadership skills

Come up with ways to decrease the cost for emerging young leaders

9. Offer sliding scale meals.
10. Consider options of meetings without food, coffee, or dessert

11. Offer corporate memberships
12. Subsidize young leaders by pairing them with more established members who can pay part of their costs for a period of time

Allow, don't discourage, members to promote their professional life

13. Schedule minute-long vocational talks for members to share about their business during a meeting
14. Invite speakers to talk about innovations in business and technology
15. Hold club networking events
16. Encourage newer members to share trends in their line of work

All these came out of one half-day seminar. Hold your own young professionals workshop, and see what great ideas you come up with!

(This article was posted by in the RI blog, *Rotary Voices*, on May 31, 2016.)

Great Resources for Membership

There are many great resources available from RI and other sources to assist clubs with their recruitment and retention strategies. In each of these

newsletters, we'll feature a few of these.

One of the best publications from Rotary International is called "Be a Vibrant Club." It provides a roadmap for ensuring that your club is engaging your current members and is appealing to prospective members. You can download a copy at <https://my.rotary.org/en/document/be-vibrant-club-your-club-leadership-plan-north-america-245-a>

Did you know that Rotary International has its own YouTube channel? Go to this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/user/RotaryInternational>

Here you will find all sorts of videos about Rotary, including short recruitment videos, educational videos, and videos of presentations done at RI Conventions by great speakers.

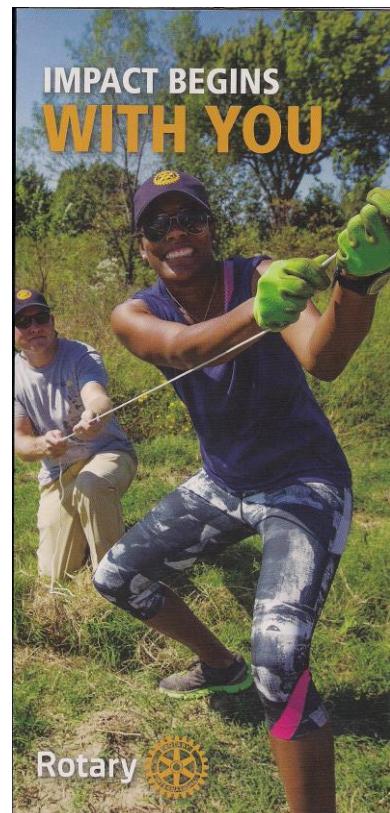
You'll also find a series of short, provocative videos called "Rotary Minute" with topics like "How Can Rotary Stay Relevant to Its Younger Members?" and "Is Your Club Family Friendly?" Perhaps you could show these short videos occasionally at your club meetings to stimulate discussion of these important issues.

Invitation to contribute to this newsletter

Do you have some good ideas about how clubs can develop membership? Perhaps it's something your club has

had success with. Perhaps you read about something being done by another club or district. Perhaps you came up with a clever idea all on your own!

If you would like to write an article for this newsletter, please contact me. I know we have a lot of smart Rotarians in our district and I'd like this newsletter to be a platform for sharing good ideas and best practices for membership development.



This is an excellent recruitment brochure from Rotary. I recommend that you purchase a supply for members to give to prospects. You can order them from <https://shop.rotary.org/>. The cost is 5 for \$1.25 US.

Questions or Comments? Contact IPDG Kevin Crosby, 2016-17 Membership Director, at kevin@d7090.org.



Membership District 7090

Rotary



Is Your Club Ready to Recruit Young Professionals?

RESOURCES TO HELP OUR CLUBS GROW AND PROSPER

By Kevin Crosby, IPDG & District 7090 Membership Director

Most Rotary clubs in our District have an average age of "older". Don't get me wrong, there is nothing wrong with having older adults in your club. I should know. I'm one of them.

For all the benefits of having older members with their great worldly experience, business connections, more discretionary time and (perhaps) greater "disposable income," we all recognize that clubs need to bring in younger members routinely. Clubs that fail to do this face two potentially fatal problems:

- (1) club leaders recycle to the point of burn-out in the absence of new members stepping up to leadership positions; and
- (2) natural attrition through retirement, relocation, illness or transfer to the Great Rotary Club in the Sky will threaten the long-term viability of the club.

So, if we agree that bringing in younger members is important, why does it seem to be such a challenge for so many Rotary clubs?

Is it us or is it them?

A lot has been written about the characteristics of different generations, as if they are homogeneous groups; e.g., Baby Boomers (born between 1946 and 1964) are hard-working, collegial, team players and motivated by money and recognition; Generation X (born 1965-1980) are self-reliant and skeptical, entrepreneurial, and need frequent reassurance; Generation Y (born 1981 – 2000) are goal-oriented and good at multi-tasking.

Whether or not you agree with the characterizations of different generations, I've often heard

May 2017

Rotarians complain that young professionals just aren't interested in joining service clubs like Rotary. Many of us may think, "Things were different when we were that age."

So, is the difficulty in recruiting young professionals to Rotary a function of the traits of that generation? Not really.

The problem redefined

Rotary has done a lot of research about the challenge of recruiting young professionals. From what I've read, one thing seems clear. The problem really *isn't* recruiting young professionals to Rotary. The problem is recruiting young professionals to the way Rotary *used to be*. Many of the customs, rituals, proud traditions, standard practices and other "trappings" of Rotary that have endured over

many, many years have special meaning to our veteran members and deserve our respect for their heritage and significance.

However, many of these customs and “proud traditions” will be unfamiliar, uninteresting, unappreciated, and perhaps uncomfortable for a young professional being introduced to Rotary. To put it bluntly, they are likely to be a “turn-off” and may be misinterpreted as essential elements of Rotary.

Let me be clear: I’m NOT referring to Rotary’s core values of service to others, “Doing Good in the World,” pursuing peace through understanding, promoting ethical conduct in business and personal life, eradicating polio, etc. I believe these are what young professionals will be attracted to. It’s just the rituals and customs they can do without.

So, what’s a club to do?

I believe there are a number of ways a club can improve its chances of successfully recruiting, engaging and retaining members who are young professionals. However, there isn’t one solution that will work for every club. Each club has to decide what it is willing to do.

Here are a few ideas to get the ball rolling:

- Have a club assembly and write down all of the

“rituals” that are observed routinely (e.g., reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, doing an invocation, fines or happy dollars, singing, etc.). Have a discussion with your current members about which of these are important to maintain and whether there is a good alternative for any of them.

- Invite a Rotaractor or a young professional not currently in Rotary to attend a meeting and offer an honest assessment of what parts of the meeting are appealing and which are unappealing. Later, your club can respond to this input.
- Invite a Rotaractor (or small group of Rotaractors) to speak to your club about what is appealing about joining Rotary and what are the obstacles.
- Use a club assembly or Board meeting to discuss your dues structure, meal costs and attendance policy and consider if there could be adjustments to these that would make it easier for a young professional to join.
- Make a deliberate effort to invite young prospective members to participate in a hands-on service project, social event, or fund-raiser prior

to coming to a club meeting.

In the fall (2017) our district will offer some workshops designed to help clubs be better prepared to recruit young professionals.

Great Resources for Membership

There are many great resources available from RI and other sources to assist clubs with their recruitment and retention strategies. Here’s a [great report](#) on a Young Professionals Summit sponsored by Rotary and the recommendations of participants for making Rotary clubs more attractive to this population.

Invitation to contribute to this newsletter

Do you have some good ideas about how clubs can develop membership? Perhaps it’s something your club has had success with. Perhaps you read about something being done by another club or district. Perhaps you came up with a clever idea all on your own!

If you would like to write an article for this newsletter, please contact me. I know we have a lot of smart Rotarians in our district and I’d like this newsletter to be a platform for sharing good ideas and best practices for membership development.

Questions or Comments? Contact IPDG Kevin Crosby, 2016-17 Membership Director, at kevin@d7090.org.

District 7090 Rotary Foundation Committee

District Council Report June 3, 2017



The Rotary Foundation "Doing Good in the World".

Karen L. Oakes, Director, District 7090 Rotary Foundation

Our dedicated Committee Chairs and members have all worked diligently to support the theme this year of "Rotary Serving Humanity".

The respective subcommittee reports reflect their efforts to build The Rotary Foundation here in District 7090. While not quite all our respective goals have been met as of the end of May, 2017, the Foundation team once again did an incredible job and this Rotary year is not yet over.

I am so very proud to be a part of this awesome team, my sincere thank you to each of you for your fabulous support.

Respectfully submitted,
Karen

Centennial Projects:

Primary Goal: Celebrate The Rotary Foundation Centennial with the development of our District 7090 catalogue of 100 events showcasing 100 years. **NEED CLUB INPUT TO REALIZE GOAL.**

Has your club submitted your Rotary Foundation Centennial event undertaken to showcase the good work of The Rotary Foundation? We know that many of our clubs have undertaken several "100" events, so please share those great undertakings to ensure your club is a part of our District 7090 Rotary Foundation Centennial history.

We are looking for all your ideas to build our album of 100 events here in District 7090. Send your submissions, including photos (photos separate as jpeg. please) to oakes.kl@sympatico.ca no later than June 16, 2017.

D70900 Alumni Committee – 2016-2017 Report

Primary Goal: Engage at least 10% of our Foundation Alumni in active participation in Rotary as evidenced in Club Central reporting. **Work in progress.**

The TRF Alumni can provide an exciting source of Rotarians, contributors, and/or volunteers.

However, I would characterize my efforts in contacting TRF Alumni and forming an Alumni Association as unsuccessful thus far.

The contact information provided by RI is largely out-of-date. The most likely source for up-to-date contact info would be through the clubs' records.

The best option for my final year as Alumni Chair will be for me to expand the committee, by recruiting Rotarians who are TRF alumni (or champions of alumni programs) from each area.

From those volunteers, I will hopefully find my replacement for the 2018-2021 term.

We have a Facebook page, "D7090 Rotary Alumni" at

<https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=d7090%20rotary%20alumni>. It's been "liked" by 145 people. I will make a concerted effort to update it more frequently.

My hope is still to form at least the skeleton of an Alumni Association, either for D7090 or perhaps more widespread to include nearby districts. (The Rotary Alumni Association of Greater New England seems to be a good model.)

Patti Johnson, Alumni Chair – D7090 pgiphd@gmail.com; 716-830-6173

Rotary Club of Buffalo-Sunrise

FUNDRAISING

1) Annual Fund – Chair Pat Castiglia

The **first goal** set for this year by the Chair was that 90 % of our 69 clubs would contribute to the Annual Fund. **This goal was met as 95.59% of our clubs contributed. Only 3 clubs** in our district did not contribute anything as of the date of this report.

The **second goal** was that we meet our District's Fund goal which is based on the goals submitted by the President of each club. **This goal was met.** The District Annual Fund Goal for this year is \$197,450 and our current contributions total \$230,720.98.

The **third goal** was to meet or exceed the District 7090 per capita Benchmark of \$221,200. This goal was **met** as our current total contributions total \$230,720.98.

The **fourth goal**, that all clubs submit goals for the Annual Fund **was not met**. Despite contact via email and in person meetings, we report that only (77.94%) actually submitted goals. It is recommended that emphasis on submitting goals be made at PETS meetings, Leadership meetings, and any other meetings where Presidents and President-Elects are participating.

2) END POLIO NOW REPORT - Chair Pat Castiglia

The **primary goal** was to meet the club goal amount of \$67, 900.00. **This goal was met.** Total club giving YTD is \$101,791.00. The total District Identified DDF contribution (20%) was \$31,936. **This goal was met** with the total district DDF support of \$35,000.

To have 80 % of all clubs donate something to ending polio. **This goal was not met.** Approximately 72% of all clubs donated (50/69). Clubs not contributing had emails sent to their presidents. It is recommended that contributions to End Polio Now be stressed at all meetings of club officers.

A final goal was to have half of all clubs contributing do so at the \$1500 level. **This goal was almost met.** 19 out of our 69 clubs gave \$1500 or more. .

Recommendation for 2017-2018: a more concentrated effort at as many meetings as possible. This should be done in order to educate as many Rotarians as possible to their responsibility to fund both these efforts to the best of their ability.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Castiglia, Chair, Annual fund and End Polio Now

3) Paul Harris Society - Chair Jim Morabito

Primary goal: Increase the number of Paul Harris Society members by 10% year over year. **Not yet realized.**

Next year's plan is to try and visit clubs and get the word out.

Also to attempt to get current members to recruit new PHS members.

Jim Morabito

4) Endowment Fund – Chair Frank Adamson

Primary goal: Grow our Bequest Society membership year over year by 10%. **Not yet realized.**

The endowment fund committee had 3 meetings over the year. It was agreed that we would update a Power Point Presentation, which was done. The committee agreed to hold 2 presentations to promote the bequest and benefactor program. A wine tasting/tour at Hernder Estates winery was held in May with invitations sent to all 14 clubs in the Niagara Region. Another one planned for Hamilton/Brantford clubs did not transpire. It was agreed that a similar event will be held in the fall in Hamilton and we plan to have another event in Buffalo, also in the fall.

As an outcome from the Niagara Social 3 attendees have agreed to consider an endowment, 2 from the Fonthill club and one from St. Catharines South.

We have one new endowment member from Fonthill. Hopefully 2-3 new members will happen by this year's fiscal end.

Frank Adamson,
Chair

FOUNDATION GRANTS

1) District Grant Spending Plan – Chair John Teibert

District Grants SubCommittee Report

Primary goal: Increase the number of clubs supported by District Grant Applications to be considered for inclusion in our District Spending Plan by 10%.

- We attempted to do this by holding two District Grant Seminars,
 - one on September 17, 2016 in Kenmore; and
 - another on November 19, 2016 in St. Catharines.
- **Result - While we achieved the same number of attendees as in the previous year it did not result in an increase in District Grant applications received.**

Comparative Summary

2016-2017 Grants (Final)

Number of Clubs that attended District Grants Training Seminar – 50
 Number of Clubs that submitted MOUs and Addendums – 49
 Budgeted Amount for 2016-2017 District Grants - \$46,000.00
 Number of clubs that submitted a District Grant application – 29
 Number of District Grant Applications Approved by Committee - 27
 Dollar amount of District Grant applications received - \$51,386.84
 Dollar amount of District Grant applications approved - \$45,659.57

2017-2018 Grants (as of May 26, 2017)

Number of Clubs that attended District Grants Training Seminar – 49
 Number of Clubs that submitted MOUs and Addendums – 40
 Budgeted Amount for 2017-2018 District Grants - \$48,000.00
 Number of clubs that submitted a District Grant application – 27
 Number of District Grant Applications Approved by Committee - 21
 Dollar amount of District Grant applications received - \$44,056.06
 Dollar amount of District Grant applications approved - \$37,171.06

I'd like to thank the committee members for their hard work while performing the required due diligence for each application. The committee members are Foundation Director Karen Oakes, DGE Reg Madison, John Boronkay, Pat Castiglia, Jim Morabito, Pravin Suchak, Sandra Yeater, Debra Jackson and Paul Saskowski.

Respectfully submitted,
 John N. Teibert, CPA, CA
 Rotary District 7090 District Grants SubCommittee Chair

a) Scholarship – Chair Shefali Clerk

Scholarship Committee Report 4th Qtr

Primary Goal: District foundation goal was achieved for the club participation, which was **increased by 10%**.
 Emily Watkins sponsored by Buffalo Sunrise was the winner of Annual Scholarship of \$5000.

District had Three Peace Fellows who were awarded the scholarship but unfortunately none of them will be able to attend the University program they chose for different reasons.

Peace Fellowship application is open for the year 2018-2019.
 District team is in the process of interviewing few candidates.
 Deadline for the application is May 31, 2017.

Shefali Clerk
 Chair Scholars Committee

b) Vocational Training Team – Chair Dan Smith

2016-2017 VTT Team returns

Vocational Training Team District Goal Summary

Primary Goal: We are pleased to report the VTT committee has **exceeded its goal of involving at least 10% of our clubs in its activities**. Actually our committee represents almost 25% of the Clubs, 17 of 69!!

Additionally, we secured the **Team Leader and 3 Team Members** by soliciting the aid of the same clubs as well as many outside sources.

The VTT financially utilized the District Grant of \$10,000 and came in well **under the budget**.

Looking forward to the 2017-2018 year, we have selected an Inbound VTT from District 9790 with a pending RI approval of a \$8,000 Grant. We are very excited to have the opportunity to Host a VTT within our District as we are well suited to their training requirements in Fruit Farming. Additionally, it will be a chance for Rotarian Families to Host the Inbound Team and bring much excitement and exposure to VTT within our District.

Daniel F Smith
District 7090 VTT Chair
(716) 269-9900 dsmith4416@gmail.com.

2. Global Grants – Chair PDG Bob Bruce

Primary Goal: Engage at least 10% of our clubs in financial support of a Global Grant application. **Goal achieved.**
During 2016-2017 Rotary year, 5 global grants approved, 1 global grant submitted for consideration to approve with a further 3 applications in development stage. (Total 9 YTD, or 13%).

Congratulations to all our team on a job WELL DONE!

Respectfully submitted on behalf of our collective team,

Karen L. Oakes

The Rotary Foundation
Doing Good in the World.

ACTION PLAN FOR DISTRICT 7090 DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION

Name: Karen L. Oakes District 7090	Date: May 26, 2017			
SMART GOAL - Be Specific and Realistic	How will you Measure success?			
2016 - 2017 The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Goals (11 in total with specific ownership by the respective sub-committee chair i.e. Annual Fund, Alumni, Polio Plus, Paul Harris Society, Endowment Fund, District Grant Spending Plan, Global Grants, Scholarship, Vocational Training Team and District Rotary Foundation Chair/Director.	Success measured in each stated goal with specific reporting of same included in TRF report to District Council.			
ACTION ITEM	ASSIGNED TO Accountability	START DATE	DUE DATE	PAYOFF
Focus on providing significant platform to highlight the stories of doing good in the world so the reasons for giving are clearly understood regarding Foundation - getting message out through various means	Team	July 1, 2016	Timely to coincide with District Council dates	Goals, when realized, will maintain D7090's strong humanitarian leadership in grant programs and educational offerings of TRF
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Status • Barriers to Success • Resource needs 	Current Date: May 26, 2017 Organization chart in line with TRF requirements - Positions filled with capable and inspired chairpersons with succession plans in place, as needed, for upcoming year. Ongoing outreach to Club Presidents to enter TRF goals in club central as a key component of Rotary Citation and critical to D7090 long term planning relative to District Designated Fund monies. REFER comments - Emphasis needed by all district leaders to stress importance and benefit of undertaking this action. Platform, (club leadership training options) to provide for all Foundation chairs to have opportunity to engage members to understand and employ all aspects of TRF.			

Youth Services Report for District Council meeting 3 June 2017.

Youth Exchange program continues as per normal. We have 18 outbound candidates confirmed (the lowest number for as long as I have been involved with the program). The Jamestown weekend was successful and saw the outbounds receive the necessary instructions to make the most of their year abroad.

Over the next year there will be a transfer of responsibilities in the YE 'family' that forms the committee that oversees this program. Mike Taylor will start his last year on July 1st, 2017 and hand over to Jill Norton (yes, Greg's wife!). John Bradley will hand over his duties for Southern Europe to Stan Simmons. Both Jill and Stan have been involved with YE at district level for a long time. Given the unique nature of this committee, both these gentlemen will remain involved in a more advisory role. We are extremely thankful to Mike and John for many, many, many hours poured into this valuable program and welcome Jill and Stan to their new roles.

RYLA

June 11 - 17, 2017 at the State University of New York, Fredonia.

Currently sitting at 34 participants, with the committee hoping to hit 35. Will have updated number on June 3rd.

Sue O'Dwyer reports:

The RYLA Committee is on track for another successful year. We are in the final countdown to June 11. It's always a little hectic with last minute registrations, unexpected cancellations and organizing rides for candidates. Some clubs are staunch supporters and find candidates early, which the committee greatly appreciates. Doug Manly, Fredonia, had his applications and cheques completed in February. Other clubs suddenly realized in May they should look for candidates. We anticipate this as our "normal" but keep trying to find ways to reduce the last minute activity.

Over the past few years the committee has been working to help clubs find candidates through Rotaract and references from former Rylarians. Social media has been a blessing in maintaining connection to Rylarians. Many clubs have been happy to sponsors candidates, even if they were not from their own clubs area, knowing it is a great way to connect young adults with Rotary. We thank them for this commitment.

The RYLA dinner is on Thursday June 15 and an invite has gone out. Please join us if you can. It's always a fantastic evening. Come and enjoy great food and fellowship.

SLAPSHOT

April 28 - 30, 2017 at Canterbury Hills.

Slapshot was once again sold out and a tremendous success. One of the participants, Kendra Schaefer, wrote the following and describes extremely well how this program impacts young teenagers.

As I was being driven here today I started to ask myself how the heck did I get in this situation? How did I, Kendra Schaefer a student at Eastdale Secondary school in Welland, come to have to give a speech in front of you wonderful people.

Let's think back on the weekend in question. My parents had to push me out the door and drag me kicking and screaming to meet up with my group, figuratively speaking of course, I wasn't really screaming, well maybe in my head. But let's not go there. Let me tell you a secret, and shhh don't tell my parents, BEST DECISION EVER.

I want to thank you, the Rotary club, for the opportunity you have given me. To spend 3 days listening, learning and working towards improving my leadership skills.

I have never thought of myself as a leader before this weekend. I thought a leader was someone who always took charge, someone who spoke the loudest, or maybe even an authoritarian type of person. I'm not that kind of person. I hang back and follow while sometimes helping people along but I never really thought of this being leadership.

Throughout this weekend I learned that Annaleise Carr would not have been able to swim across the lake if she had given up when things got tough, cold, or tiring. I learned through Joel Hilchey anyone can be a leader. I learned that leadership can be developed while working on group presentations, just as much as leadership can be developed while working as a team on a high ropes course.

While at Slapshot, I got frustrated at myself, to the point of tears, because I didn't know how to help better our group presentation. In a panic I sought advice from my Dad and he texted me the following:

"sometime you just need to breath and let go..... Being a leader is not always about who is in control or who is right.... Don't lose the moment in an act of stubbornness, find your balance."

Did that ever hit a nerve and somehow I was able to see more clearly what the weekend was all about.

There are leaders who stay in the group and encourage the ones beside them and the leaders who take charge of the whole group. A leader is a person who brings people together to reach their paths by being their support and guide. A good leader inspires and educates but also learns. You don't have to be the loudest in a group or the one always in front to be a leader, you just have to be the one who encourages others to move forward, the one who understands what others are fearing so you can help them find their own way past it and continue.

The one who uses the available resources around them to accomplish a task. A leader is someone who strives to bring people to the point where they don't depend on them as much. And as I write this it hits me that texting my Dad was not a cop out or an escape I was using the resources available to me. After all isn't that what a good leader does?

Many people at camp said they would start clubs in their schools and continue to improve their leadership skills. Now I ask myself what am I going to do with this new skill set.

I've always thought I needed to be ready to do something but now I realise it's just an excuse. Is one ever truly ready?.... In order to improve myself I have to step out of my

comfort zone. I have to learn to have faith in myself. Faith that no matter the obstacles in my way that I will overcome them.

I have learned more about myself in 3 days than I have in the past school year. I will continue to look for and take opportunities and classes that will encourage me and inspire me to be the leader that I want to become.

I don't want to be the loudest voice in the room, I want to be the person everyone is listening to even if I'm whispering....

Slapshot leadership is going through a transition as well. With Jim Sykes resigning because his retirement sees him moving out of district and Margaret Andrewes stepping back from her role as registrar. Both have been central to the success of the program and we are very thankful to them for their dedication to youth in our district. Rob Nagy will step into the role of chair and Rita-Marie Hadley will take over registrar duties from Margaret. Both are Rotarians from Brantford and were involved in the run up to Slapshot this year.

ROTARACT

There is nothing to report. Unfortunately we got no turnouts from Rotaract at District Leadership Training. Right now all of the school-based clubs are on break for the summer.

There is a new club brewing at Niagara College (Canada) and the possibility of 2 clubs in Buffalo combining to make one stronger club.

Nothing else to report!

Nicole

INTERACT

Chair position = vacant

I have no good leads on a replacement for Brian Casey. With over 30 Interact clubs in the district it is important that we find people to give leadership here. Ideally someone at the US and someone at the Canadian end.

EARLYACT

Richard Earne has signed on for another year of leading EarlyAct at District level and is hoping to get an inventory of Early Act in the district and is working on that.

Any questions, email or call me:

Aad Vermeyden

(519) 717-1570

aad@blueprintagencies.com