As someone who works a 60-hour week and juggles a number of volunteer commitments in addition to my Rotary commitment, I knew visioning was important but was less than enthusiastic about spending 4 hours on a visioning process. Since the visioning session was taking place in the training room at my office, it was impossible to blow the evening off.

The evening began with food and fellowship followed by a well-organized and thoughtful process that allowed our club to set our direction for the next 3 to 5 years. Being asked to describe what our club would look like in three years was a powerful question that moved us from defining our club of the future to identifying how we would get there. We named the type of people we will attract, grappled with what values the club needs to live out to attract and retain new members, what type of projects we will focus on, and how we will be known in our community. The room was filled with energy, enthusiasm and hope!

As the president –elect at the time of visioning, I found myself recognizing that 2014-2015 would not be “my year” in the sense that I would decide and direct what happened during the year but rather “my year” to lead us in beginning to implement our vision. The new president-elect, the immediate past president, and the current vice president join me in forming a steering committee to oversee implementation of the Rotary Club of Fitchburg’s vision. Together, we will carry out a plan over the next three years that truly has impact on our club, our community and the world.

I was a tired skeptic as I approached the evening and now I am a zealot for the process. I believe this experience will transform our club.

Mary Heafy, President

Fitchburg Rotary Club

August 4, 2014