

## HISTORY OF VISIONING, DISTRICT 7780

REV. 4/20/2013

The concept of Rotary Visioning started in Minnesota in early 2002. Past District Governor Steve Wilcox was asked to help a struggling club that was losing members and lacking direction. Based on his professional work, he was able to tailor a process for this Club, and then a second Club in 2003. The process was refined and 2004-2005 marked breakout years for delivering the Rotary Visioning process throughout District 5690. This set the stage for development of the International Vision Facilitation Committee (IVFC), which is our umbrella organization providing program guidance and other support.

As Ann Lee Hussey began DG planning for the Rotary year 2010-2011, she was looking for a growth vehicle for the District 7780. As part of her early DGE travels and training, she met Steve Wilcox and heard about the process. She immediately felt this was an important process that could benefit the District. She set about recruiting a District Visioning Chair, namely Bob Laux, and a District Visioning Coordinator, John Rainone. These two helped Ann Lee recruit an initial team of volunteers.

Approximately 25 facilitators attended the initial training session on April 9, 2010, at York County Community College. Steve Wilcox and his wife, also a Rotarian, led the training. The concept was explained, the event steps were reviewed and practiced, and some goals were set.

As Rotary year 2010-2011 started in the District, the Vision Committee set to work promoting the process to Clubs, setting up facilitation teams, and conducting Vision events. The first Club visioned was Breakwater Daybreak on October 19<sup>th</sup> and the last S. Portland/Cape Elizabeth on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2011, for a total of 13 Clubs visioned.

It became evident that the process in and of itself was effective, but that some tweaking of the process was needed. Under Bob and John's leadership, the

Committee made headway in not only recording event information but starting the process of having our own District work better.

On April 4, 2011, 12 facilitators met to discuss our progress and concerns. We actually had Steve Wilcox available by phone to talk with us. Plans were laid for Rotary year 2011-2012, and an initial committee of 28 was identified, plus 6 backups. DGE Gary Speers wanted to keep the process going and asked Jim Price and Tony Wagner to take the roles of District Vision Chair and District Vision Coordinator. They agreed to take the lead roles from Bob and John, who were moving onto other Rotary responsibilities.

As the second year started, a steering committee of 4 namely: Jim and Tony, plus Sue Gesing and Vic Taylor was formed in order to continue to make improvements in the process, and begin work on post visioning support, better known internally as Vision to Plan. Sue became the document development administrator and Vic eventually took on the role of Vision to Plan Coordinator for the District.

Many of the original IVFC documents needed updating and customization to better reflect District 7780 direction and needs. The IVFC was very supportive as long as we maintained a consistency of message, including how Visioning fits with RI Strategic Planning and Club Leadership development.

Jim and Tony hit the road and visited Clubs to promote the process. Presentations were made at District wide functions. Seven additional Clubs will be visioned this year ending with Freeport in late June. This makes a total of 20 Clubs visioned, or about ½ the number in the District.

An additional facilitator training was held in August 2011, with 16 participating. Cathy Smith from IVFC joined us for this training event. Her insights and updates were most helpful, especially around follow up with visioned clubs (Vision to Plan as we coined the phrase). Some documents were provided and we suggested others, like the "Tool Box" concept, which we developed internally.

The District Facilitation Steering Committee continued on with DG Marty Peak Hellman in Rotary year 2012-2013. While continuing to vision additional Clubs,

the Committee decided to focus far more on working with the clubs already visioned, to help them with their strategic plans. A Vision Committee Communications plan was developed and a Vision to Plan training for Club Champions and AGs was held in November 2012. Participants at the meeting urged the steering committee to offer ongoing training and support for clubs providing forums for sharing experiences, both successes and challenges, in the Vision to Plan process.

DG Elect Carolyn Johnson is supporting District Vision Facilitation for her 2013-2014 Rotary year and scheduled a workshop for her District Assembly in April. There the Committee facilitated a breakout session featuring three clubs that had moved forward in implementing their visions. Workshops for visioned clubs will be held in May and in September of 2013 .

The Committee hopes to remain a District support team and hopes to work more closely with the AGs to achieve healthier clubs and growing membership.

Tony Wagner

District Vision Coordinator 2012-2013

District Vision Chair 2013-2014