**Zone Realignment Webinar**

**Feb 1st, 2017**

**Slide 1: on screen prior to start: The Webinar will begin at 4:05CST/5:05EST**

**Slide 2 as the webinar begins: Rotary Zone Discussion**

We have just concluded the January meeting of the RI board and there is a significant decision that was taken that I would personally like to share with you today.

This decision is about Zone realignment that will occur in the year 2020. This realignment will mean significant changes in North America and specifically Zones 28 and 29.

Let me begin by sharing some background:

The RI Bylaws require the Board to periodically review the composition of zones to maintain an approximately equal number of Rotarians in each zone.

In 2016, a Zone Review Committee was formed and is led by current International Polio Plus Chair (IPPC) Chair Mike McGovern.

**Slide 3: Zone Composition (slide of globe)**

As you know, we have 34 Zones in the world. It is no secret that the areas of India, Africa and Asia are seeing continued growth while North America, Australia and Europe continue to see a decline. And while the rate of decline in North America has reduced in the past five or so years it is still going down.

**Slide 4: Zone Composition (with red and green arrows)**

The task of the Zoning Committee was to reduce North America by two Zones and create two additional zones in the under-represented areas of India, Africa Asia.

It was the recommendation of the Zoning Committee that the board continue with 34 Zones as opposed to simply adding the two additional zones. This was in large part because the board has the latitude to make the necessary changes with 34 Zones and any increase would require Council on Legislation approval in 2019.

There are many unanswered questions at this point. The next step it to devise the implementation plan. The Zone Review Committee will be looking at other issues such as Zone pairings and Director Election rotation for the June board meeting.

Before I share with you the changes, it is important to note that we have done nothing wrong – our districts and clubs are strong and vibrant and are high performing. As a matter of fact, our rank and file Rotarians will have little to no idea about this change. Also – our districts remain unchanged.

This change is primarily to ensure that each Zone has an equal amount of Rotarians and in turn this helps us determine our global leadership – Directors, Coordinators, etc. It did not take into account other factors such as Foundation giving or leadership teams.

So let me review the changes:

**Slide 5**

Zone 28 will become known as Zone 29. The 12 districts currently in Zone 28 will remain together and five districts will be added including South Dakota, parts of Iowa, Minnesota and Nebraska. It will also include Kansas and part of Oklahoma.

**Slide 6**

Zone 27 and Zone 29 as they currently exist will be integrated into other existing Zones.

**Slide 7**

The Michigan districts of 6290, 6310, 6360, 6380 and 6400 will become part of the new Zone 26. This includes all of Canada, Eastern Russia, Alaska, Maine and parts of New York and Washington states.

**Slide 8**

The Ohio districts of 6600, 6630 and 6650 will become part of the new Zone 30. They will join with the other Ohio districts as well as Alabama, Indiana, Mississippi and Tennessee.

**Slide 9**

The New York districts of 7120, 7150, 7170 and 7190 will become part of the new Zone 32. They will join the other New York districts as well as Bermuda, parts of Connecticut, Maine, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island and Vermont.

**Slide 10**

The Pennsylvania districts of 7280, 7300, 7330 and 7360 will become part of the new Zone 33. They will join the other Pennsylvania districts and parts of Maryland, West Virginia, North and South Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia.

**Slide 11: Information**

I will be sending an email with the information that I have just shared along with other documents for your information. At this point what we know is this will take place in the year 2020

This is an emotional situation for all of us but I am asking you today to take a positive journey with me as we reach out and extend a hand and embrace new Rotary family members who you might not have yet met.

This won’t be easy but YOU are the leaders who will help to ensure that past leaders stay engaged and future leaders are integrated into new Zones.

You have my utmost commitment along with Director Elect Robb and Past RI Director and Trustee Mary Beth to open doors and create new opportunities that will continue to make our clubs and districts strong.

As I mentioned earlier there are many unanswered questions at this point. I want us all to take a deep breath and absorb what I have shared.

**Slide 12: email address**

Many of you will have questions or thoughts you would like to share. An email address has been created specifically for this purpose and is zone2829transition@gmail.com. A team comprised of Director Elect Robb along with Rotary Coordinators Nicki Scott and Chris Etienne and myself will be monitoring and responding to this email address.

Any emails that our leadership team receives in our personal accounts will be routed there so we can compile a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs). These FAQs will be housed along with other documents on our Zone website.

I would like to share that Nick and I are taking a personal vacation starting this Friday for one week. Please know that I will have limited access to email and it is important to use the newly created transition email.

There are likely more questions than answers at this point and I ask for your patience as we learn more about what the implementation plan will look like following the June RI board meeting. Please remember this is to take place in the 2020-2021 Rotary year.

**Slide 13: Q&A**

I’d now like to open the floor to questions.