

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
MAY 19, 2026 – 6:15 P.M.
ZOOM

The District 5970 Board of Directors met on Tuesday, May 19, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. via zoom. Present were PDG and Board Chair Shannon Duncan, PDG Carole Bernhard, DG Ward Budweg, DGE Jeff Halverson, DGN Dave Jenson, DGN-D Steve Benton, Foundation Committee Chair Michelle Bell, and District Treasurer Gary Winterhof. Also present was DES Suellen Kolbet.

Board Chair Shannon Duncan called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. DES Kolbet declared a quorum present.

Moved by Bernhard, seconded by Halverson; That the consent agenda be approved. All ayes. Motion carried. Items on the consent agenda were:

- DG Line minutes of 3-24-26
- District Board minutes of 2-17-26
- District Governor Interview
- Electronic Votes
- Foundation Committee minutes of 2-17, 3-17, and 4-21-2026

District Treasurer Gary Winterhof reported on the Financial Reports. The Budget report shows income is on slightly less than budgeted, but expenses are less than budgeted as well. He expects the District end the year with a net income. The District is in good financial standing. Moved by Halverson, seconded by Bernhard; To approve the Financial Reports. All ayes. Motion carried.

Reports were received as follows:

District Secretary Activity report

Jeff Halverson reported that Becky Esker from the Linn County Club has agreed to be the Polio Walk Chair. The Polio Walk will be held on October 24, 2026. She is currently participating in monthly zoom meetings.

NCPELS Update

Carole Bernhard is on the NCPELS Executive Board as the Secretary/Registrar. She reported that we had sufficient attendees to be repaid 100% of the \$10,000 loan. NCPELS in 2027 will be held in Ames on March 11, 12, and 13. They will begin a three year-area rotation. They have also contracted with a new website provider. John Battern of the Iowa Great Lakes Rotary Club has agreed to be the District's At Large Board member.

Ward Budweg reported that the District Conference went very well. Over \$18,000 was raised for the Foundation. There are a few bills to come in yet, but it appears the Conference broke even.

Jeff Halverson presented the 2026-2027 proposed budget. He has included a small amount for one in-person Board meeting in August. He budgeted for the following to attend the Zone Conference in Cancun – District Governor, District Governor Elect, District Governor Nominee, Membership Chair, Foundation Chair, and Public Image Chair. He did not budget for Emerging Leaders this year. Moved by Jenson, seconded by Winterhof; To approve the proposed budget. Budweg moved, seconded by Bernhard; To amend the motion by adding – to budget for the incoming Foundation Chair if someone is selected. All Ayes. Motion carried. Vote on budget approval – All ayes.

The Zone Conference will be held in Cancun. All those attending are working on flights.

The Board discussed the request for funds for the Rotary International Convention in Minneapolis in 2028. Area Districts are being asked to contribute funds for support. They are asking for \$25,000 per year for three years. A donation of \$25,000 gets the District a seat on the Conference Board. Moved by Benton, seconded by Bernhard; To pledge a total of \$25,000 toward the International Convention, to be paid in three annual installments, over a three year period, the first installment to be paid after the final decision to hold the Convention in Minneapolis is made. All ayes. Motion carried.

Carole Bernhard reported on membership. As of April 30, 2026 the District has 1,802 members. 21 clubs are down in membership, 16 are up, and 12 have no change. Angie Herting of the Dubuque Rotary Club has agreed to join the Membership Committee. After the first of July, Carole will be visiting clubs to work on increasing membership.

Jeff Halverson reported that he and District 6000 DGE Bill Bruce met with the RYLA Executive Committee. RYLA is in financial difficulty and is developing a process improvement plan. They are asking both Districts to make a \$15,000, no-interest loan to RYLA, to be paid back in 3-5 years. Moved by Halverson, seconded by Bernhard; That District 5970 loan RYLA \$15,000, to be repaid with no interest, in three years, with the approval of a process improvement plan to be presented by RYLA Leadership prior to making the loan. All Ayes. Motion carried. Michelle Bell volunteered to assist with the process improvement plan.

Michelle Bell reported that Cedar Rapids Daybreak Rotary has applied for a Global Grant in El Salvador for latrines and stoves. The grant will be \$48,633 of District Designated Funds to CR Daybreak. In exchange, they will make a donation of approximately \$18,000 to the Annual Fund. Moved by Halverson, seconded by

Bernhard; To approve the Cedar Rapids Daybreak Global Grant. All ayes. Benton abstained. Motion carried.

Jeff Halverson reported that he is working with D6000 DGE Bill Bruce on the joint 2027 District Conference. It will be in Ames at the Gateway Hotel and Conference Center. Committees are being formed and an agreement is being drafted between the two Districts. It will be held April 30, May 1, and May 2, 2027.

Suellen Kolbet will work with Jeff Halverson to set an in-person Board meeting in August.

Moved by Bell, seconded by Jenson; To purchase a new color printer for the District. All ayes. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.