

BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S MEETING
FEBRUARY 17, 2026 - 6:15 P.M.
ZOOM

The District 5970 Board of Directors met on Tuesday, February 17, 2026 at 6:15 p.m. via zoom. Present were PDG and Board Chair Shannon Duncan, DG Ward Budweg, DGE Jeff Halverson, DGN Dave Jenson, Foundation Committee Chair Michelle Bell, and District Treasurer Gary Winterhof. Also present was DES Suellen Kolbet and District International Service Chair Chris Lindell.

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

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

Minutes of 11-18-2025 BOD Meeting
Electronic votes
DG Line minutes of 12-9-2025 and 1-27-2026
Foundation Committee minutes of 11-18-2025 and 1-20-2026

District Treasurer Gary Winterhof reported on the Financial Reports. The Budget report shows income is on track and expenses are less than budgeted. The District is in good financial standing. Moved by Bell, seconded by Jenson; To approve the Financial Reports. All ayes. Motion carried.

Winterhof left the meeting at 6:28 p.m.

Reports were received as follows:

District Governor Activity report (in person)
District Secretary Activity report
District International Service Chair report
Rotary Youth Exchange report
DRFCC Report (in person)

District International Service Chair Chris Lindell reported on his progress so far. Rotary International feels that more International service will attract more members to do good in the world. The District does not have a lot of funds to do Global Grants, but there are more International Service options besides grants, such as Rotary Friendship Exchanges, Rotary Fellowships, Intercountry Committees, Rotary Community Corps, Rotary Action Groups, Rotary Partnerships, RYLA, Interact, Twin Clubs, and Project Fairs. His next step is to form a District Committee. He has spoken to several people who would like to serve on this committee.

DGE Jeff Halverson reported that Bob Collins has agreed to be the World's Largest 2026 Polio Walk Champion. He is a Past District Governor and he is moving to Cedar Falls and joining their club. Michelle Bell has volunteered to introduce him to the District. The walk will be held on October 24, 2026.

Suellen Kolbet reported that 14 Presidents Elect have registered for in-person North Central President Elect Learning, and 11 have registered for the virtual option. She will continue sending weekly promotional emails.

The District Conference will be held on May 2 and 3, 2026 in Iowa Falls. DG Ward has several speakers that have confirmed. Financial incentives to attend were discussed. Moved by Bell, seconded by Halverson; That Assistant District Governors be reimbursed for their conference registration fee. All ayes. Motion carried. DGE Jeff stated that decreasing the cost has not seemed to increase attendance, good programming does. He also felt that ADG attendance should be required.

Shannon Duncan reported that she will be meeting with Membership Chair Carole Bernhard to discuss Membership and Club Visioning proposals.

Assistant District Governor training was discussed. Suellen Kolbet will contact Lowell Stool man to discuss scheduling something in May or June.

Shannon Duncan is working on scheduling a date and time to interview the District Governor Nominee Designate candidate. She will notify the Committee when it is set.

The Board discussed the marketing/public image proposal received from a Dubuque company. Suellen will discuss some sort of Public Image assistance with Public Image Chair Jenny Monteith. She will also reply that the Board has decided it is not in our financial plan this year and we may look for a less expensive option, the proposal may be too overwhelming for small clubs.

Jeff Halverson presented the plan of having a joint District Conference with District 6000 in 2027. It would be in Ames and there would be a two-year agreement, where the 2028 Conference would be in District 5970. There are concerns with the 2028 International Convention being in Minneapolis. Jeff is putting together a written agreement that will spell out each District's responsibilities. The Board supports his efforts.

RAGBRAI 2027 will be going through central Iowa and will be in both District 6000 and 5970. He is working with John Schultz on a proposal to set up a pop-up tent in towns that would be staffed by Rotarians with the goal of increasing membership.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

