

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING  
FEBRUARY 20, 2025 - 6:15 P.M.  
ZOOM

The District 5970 Board of Directors met on Thursday, February 20, 2025 at 6:15 p.m. via zoom. Present were PDG and Board Chair Carole Bernhard, DG Shannon Duncan, DGE Ward Budweg, DGN Jeff Halverson, Board Treasurer Gary Winterhof, and Foundation Committee Chair Michelle Bell. Also present was DES Suellen Kolbet.

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

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

Minutes of **11-21-24** BOD Meeting  
Electronic votes  
DG Line minutes of 1-13-25  
Foundation Committee minutes of 11-21-24, 12-19-24, 1-16-25  
RYLA Board minutes of 2-12-25  
Global Scholar Interviews - 1-29-25

Reports were received as follows:

District Governor Activity report  
District Secretary Activity report  
RYLA (See RYLA board minutes)  
DRFCC Report  
RYE Report  
Membership Report  
Global Scholar Report (Included in DRFCC report)

District Treasurer Gary Winterhof reported that most of the revenue for the year is in and expenses and revenues were all within budget. There is \$75,000 in the General Account and total assets of \$380,000. Investments average 4.5%. Moved by Budweg, seconded by Halverson; That the Finance Reports be .approved. All ayes. Motion carried.

The Board discussed how to use cash reserves to better serve the District. Some suggestions were:

- Use some reserves to incentivize District members to attend the International Convention in Minneapolis in 2028.
- Make this year's District Conference a non-paying event. Attendees would pay the registration fee and would be reimbursed after attending. There would

probably need to be a maximum number of free registrations - such as the first 150 registrations.

- Hire someone to do strategic planning for clubs or incentivize clubs to complete a strategic plan. Perhaps sponsor an event with facilitators to assist with club visioning and set strategies for at least the three major goals - The Rotary Foundation, Public Image, and Membership.

Ward Budweg reported on the International Assembly he attended in Florida. He said it was an amazing experience with over 500 District Governors Elect from all over the world. Next year's Presidential Message is "Unite for Good".

DES Kolbet will set up a meeting in New Hampton to complete a proposed budget for 2025-2026. Ward Budweg, Jeff Halverson, and Dave Jensen will attend.

The Chair [Michelle Bell](#) reported on the two Global Scholars that have been interviewed. They are:

Ashton Knatz:

She is sponsored by Cedar Rapids Sunrise Rotary and will study Environmental Sciences and Sustainability at the University of Edinburgh in Edinburgh, Scotland.

Kate Kueter:

She is sponsored by Linn County Rotary and will study Intelligence and International Security at Kings College in London, England.

The Foundation Committee recommended approval of the two candidates and proposed funding them at \$60,000 each. Bell proposed funding 85% of both requests, which would result in approximately the same amount of funds from the District's DDF. Moved by Budweg, seconded by Duncan; That both applicants be funded at 85% of their requests. All Ayes. Motion carried.

Bernhard reported that North Central President Elect training will be held at the Omni Hotel in Minneapolis March 13 – 15, 2025. Registration is up and running and the agenda is live. Our District has 18 attending the in person event. Registration for the virtual training has just gone live, and there are three PEs already registered. NCPETS is committed to a certain number of hotel rooms, and they are not filled, so we might have some financial responsibility. We are committed to Minneapolis for 2026.

District Governor Duncan reported on plans for the District Conference to be held May 2-4, 2025 in Decorah. Some highlights are:

- Keynote speaker will be Tim Felton, who trained police officers in Ukraine.

- Friday night will be a reception from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and major donors, PHF, etc. will receive invitations. Michelle Bell will help using the Foundation budget.
- Saturday will begin at 10:00 a.m. Some of the events will be service projects for exchange students and other children attending, A wine tasting and charcuterie board event (optional, extra charge), a bike ride, and breakout sessions.
- Saturday evening will be casual - a pizza and salad buffet and trivia night.
- Instead of a duck race, there will be a ball drop.
- Sunday will be done before lunch and she is working on optional events - a tour of the Vesterheim Museum and Seed Savers.

The Board discussed putting funds toward a Public Image Consultant. It was felt that ideas need to be put together on how to use reserve funds. All ideas need to be pooled to determine costs, and decide what is most important.

The frequency of DG line meetings was discussed. Jeff Halverson reported that other Districts meet more often to prepare incoming District Governors. Jeff will take on that responsibility on Jul 1, 2025 and will develop agendas for the meetings.

Carole Bernard discussed the Membership Committee and Club Visioning. She is working on Membership Olympics and would like to add a \$100 incentive to clubs completing Game 3 - conducting a club survey and sending in results and \$125 incentive for completing through Game 5, to be used for either registration for the District Conference or to conduct a Membership Workshop. She would also like to hold a Membership Retention workshop. Moved by Budweg, seconded by Duncan; To approve the proposed incentives for the Membership Olympics. All ayes. Motion carried. Bernard hasn't had any club participation yet and hopes this will push clubs.

DES Kolbet reported that Bill Bruce, DGN from District 6000 is working on an updated Youth Protection Policy, and since we share RYLA with them, he feels that our policies should mirror each other. Bruce will be setting up a meeting soon, and Kolbet will contact our Youth Protection Officer, Ralph Smith, to ask him to participate.

Carole Bernhard has no update on the Strategic Plan at this time, but would like to set up a meeting in the first part of March to work on the Rotary Road Map.

Amended bylaws have been sent out to all clubs and a majority have approved them. They will go into effect July 1, 2025.

The Manual of Policies and Procedures needs to be updated to comply with bylaws. The Board will meet on March 20, 2025 at 6:15 p.m., following the Foundation Committee meeting, to work on this.

Moved by Duncan, seconded by Budweg, That the meeting adjourned at 7:36 p.m.