

Rotary District 6860 Mini-Conference
Conducted Via Zoom Meeting due to COVID-19 Pandemic
May 15, 2020
Slide Presentation Provided (additional details)

District Governor Bill Petty called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM welcoming everyone to the District 6860 Mini Conference. There may/probably will be an additional meeting for the District prior to the end of the RY, June 30, if deemed necessary. Petty presented the Agenda for the meeting and provided general information.

Agenda

- **General Information – DG Bill Petty**
 - **General Information – DGE Lee Weinman**
 - **Membership – Lori Moler**
 - **Grants and Grant Qualification – PDG Wade Drinkard**
 - **Awards**
 - **COL Voting – PDG Tom Greene**
 - **Meetings – Zoom, Facebook Live, etc.**
 - **Disaster Relief through Rotary**
 - **Open Discussion**
-
- **Highlighted Virtual RI Board Meeting (could get people from all over the world)**
 - Will be holding a virtual convention
 - Health and Safety of everyone
 - No in person meeting will be mandatory for anyone if they feel uncomfortable
 - All conveners and organizers of meetings strongly encouraged to consider what is going on in their area as they consider in person meetings and must comply with guidelines/facts set forth for their specific area
 - All RI Board Meeting will be conducted virtually remainder of the **Calendar Year 2020**
 - All RI committee meetings will be conducted virtually for the remainder of the **Calendar Year 2020**
 - Institutes encouraged to be held virtually
 - RI will not fund any President's Rep. to go to a District Conference 2020/2021 RY. If one is requested, the entire cost will have to be paid
 - Strongly encourage Governors to used virtual meetings for Club visits
 - All training seminars and other events strongly encouraged to be conducted virtually
 - Risk assessment will be performed at the end of the year
 - Rotary Youth Exchange (does not impact us since we are just starting this) will be reported at the June 2020 meeting discussing what will happen

- Letter from RIP Mark Maloney about Virtual Convention – More information to come
 - June 20 – 26
 - Everyone should have received information and if not let Petty know and he will make sure to send it out (on Facebook and in other places)
 - General Sessions
 - Breakouts

District Governor Elect Lee Weinman provided additional general information.

- Most District positions for next year (RY 2020-2021) have been filled
 - Moving some younger people in to District Leadership
 - Club Expansion (Erica Murphy)
 - 1 -2 Rotaractors from the Birmingham Rotaract Club will be handling Social Media Program
- Completing project for District to sponsor a Public Image Campaign (instead of Club)
- DGND in the past has been responsible for Foundation fundraising. This year PDG Carol Argo and one other person will be responsible for Foundation contributions and trying to grow PHF and Paul Harris Society Members
- Club visits
 - If Club meets in person he will be there
 - If Club meetings are virtual he will join in
 - Has enjoyed the virtual meetings he has attended (when they have sent an invitation) and understands Trussville Daybreak will be celebrating 30 years
- Will be putting out a white paper to District Leadership with what is expected of them in their position. He will be a very hands off. He will let you know what he expects and then let you do it unless you say you need help. Changed AG assignments this year. Tried not to assign AG to their own Club (in some cases did not work)
- Going forward the biggest challenge - some Clubs are not meeting at all. Need to encourage to use Zoom or some media to see each other. There are a considerable number of good things that Rotary is doing and if you are not connected, you do not know
- Incoming RI President Holger Knaak has said that no Rotarian should be uncomfortable joining a meeting and we should not require any Rotarian to feel unsafe. At the same time things will change.
 - Referred to explanation by RIP Maloney. We are going to survive. We are going to do well and things are going to change. Those changes will benefit Rotary because we will look at the world differently. We will be able to bond differently. We will be able to attract people that we have not been able to attract in the past. It is going to be different

- Kanak will be encouraging youth. He does not feel that there is a “right age” to be a Rotarian. What we will see is an emphasis on membership and youth.
- Great conversation ensued about Public Image sharing effective campaigns/programs from Clubs and other Districts
- **DG Petty** discussed broadly, Budget for RY 2020- 2021
 - Budget information was previously sent to all Presidents
 - Shows a loss (Public Image), but due to current year and previous year (PDG Carol Argo RY) coming in significantly under budget it should be fine with plenty money in the bank to bring forward
 - Ask if Presidents currently online if they had any question.
 - Question on how Weinman was budgeting for the number of members calculated for the year to be paying dues
 - **DGE Weinman** responded that he factored in an attrition of about 100 members
 - Discussion of financial challenges to individuals during this time. Are we being sensitive to economic realities that our members may be facing?
 - **DGE Weinman** responded – We are aware. Quarterly expense for RI dues and District dues comes to \$30 per quarter. We have not done any planning for PETs. This is a large expense to the clubs that comes out in September. We will be looking at that. MidSouth PETs is the largest bill to the Clubs.
 - **DGE Weinman** said we are sensitive to the situation and will keep a watch on this. He expects that we may lose some Clubs through this. Weinman mentioned some other additions to the budget that are different. These include an additional scholarship for International students approved because we have a 4th person from our District to become a Rotary International President (expense of \$3500). The COG and the Finance Committee want to approve to fund the immediate Past Governor to attend Zone because the awards that are given are for their Rotary year (expense \$4500). Weinman did say that he had absorbed this cost by cutting expenses elsewhere.
 - Finance Committee has already reviewed budget
 - **DG Petty declared the budget approved by the Club Presidents**

Membership Chair Lori Moler provided membership update.

- Snapshot – March – April
 - 48 Clubs – have not lost any more Clubs
 - Net loss of only 2 Members
 - 3 Clubs grew membership (Madison, Shades Valley and Albertville)
 - 4 Clubs decline in membership

- 41 Clubs remain even with membership
- Rotary International Director of Membership 3 points she wants emphasize for PEs (very important)
 - Register for a My Rotary account
 - Great resources available on RI web site
 - Select a Club Membership Chair
 - RI has Rotary membership leads – people that reach out that are interested in Rotary
 - **Send the information to Lori**
 - Assess Your Club's Health
 - This resources is available in My Rotary
- Rotary Learning Center – online within Rotary International
 - Great resources for many things – tips, tutorials, etc.
 - Has information on effective and fun Zoom meetings
 - Everyone is having a Zoom meeting right now (Chamber, other Rotary Clubs, etc.). Get your members to join in and take advantage of this great information.

PDG Bo Porter added to take a hard look, at the District level, CRM module in DACdb to assist in managing the Rotary Leads.

District Rotary Foundation Coordinator PDG Wade Drinkard discussed grants and grant qualifications.

- There will be one more District wide Zoom meeting before the Rotary year where he will present a final report on what District has done with foundation funds and DDF. Will also present an audit of district grants at that time.

ACTION Required: For this RY all grant projects must be completed and final report filed in DACdb by June 15. The District will not receive funds for next year until the final District Report has been turned in (contingent on all Club reports finalized and submitted). It is very important that Clubs that received District funds this Rotary year be mindful of this June 15 date, get projects completed and reports filed on DACdb

- Qualification training for both Global and District grants for next year is taking place on line this year instead of the regular training due to the virus. On April 9 an email was sent to all PEs of what they need to do to qualify for global humanitarian grants if they want to participate in a global grant. April 20 another email was sent to all PEs advising them of what they had to do for District grants

ACTION Required: Deadline for qualification training for both global and district grants is May 31. If training has not been completed by this date, the Club will not be eligible and will have to wait until next year.

- **PDG Tom Greene** asked that this information be sent out to the Leadership Team to assist
- **Drinkard** said that **Kathy Brunot** (District Grants) sent the information out again 2 days ago and he plans to send it out again the following weekend. He will be sending it to all PE, Current Presidents, AGs, and the rest of the Leadership Team
- **Brian McVeigh**, Anniston PE, interjected that he did receive the email, but the link did not work. He know that we would be on the call so he had not tried to call Wade.
- **Drinkard** referred him to **Dennis Sanders**, DCO. Dennis said he would check it out.
- **Kathy Brunot**, said that she too was unable to connect using the link provided; however, she copied it to another browser and it worked.

- **Kathy Brunot** continued the update:
 - 8 Clubs for a total of 11 projects that have already been submitted final report in DACdb
 - 3 Clubs are awaiting Club signatures

ACTION: It is important that the people involved with doing grants and in critical positions have elected into pmail in DACdb. She tried to send pmail and 2 of the PEs have elected out of pmail. This is the best way she can contact them.

- **PDG Bo Porter** asked if the Club Rotary Foundation Chairs on these distributions.
- **Drinkard** said that we can, but not sure how many are actually identified

DG Petty shared that through the Foundation, have applied for 2 Global Grant Scholarships for scholars to attend overseas. This does not cost the District anything but comes out of endowment funds.

PDG Drinkard announced that PDG Carol Argo has been handling the Foundation Grant Scholarships for the District. She has had to give this up due to other District responsibilities. DG Petty has agreed to assume this responsibility for the remainder of this year as well as next.

DG Bill Petty – Awards

- 2 Vocational Service awards have been chosen by the Council of Governors, one Rotarian and one non-Rotarian
 - **Ronnie Dukes – Rotarian Vocational Service Award Recipient**
 - Nominated by the Rotary Clubs of Decatur and Decatur Daybreak.

- **Ronnie Dukes** was very appreciative and expressed what an honor this is to receive. Some comments he shared focused on how he was raised to understand the importance of being a part of your community. One of the best things he did was get into Rotary and was first drawn in by “Service Above Self”. Ronnie expressed his appreciation to fellow Rotarians, the blessing of family and his thanks to his Lord. He tries to be the best he can be every day. Working together today we can make for a better tomorrow. Sincere thanks to everyone that was a part of this.
- **Barbara Porter – Non-Rotarian Vocational Service Award Recipient**
 - Nominated by the Rotary Clubs of Trussville Daybreak, Shades Valley and Vestavia Sunrise
 - Barbara was not on the call, but will be recognized and her award presented at a later date
 - Petty as well as PDG Bo Porter shared some of the numerous involvement and contributions that Barbara has made serving her community and those around the world. **PDG Porter** thanked and expressed appreciation to those involved in this nomination/selection process.

PDG Tom Greene – Council on Legislation (COL)

Greene explained that in the Rotary world we have a legislative body, just like Congress, and it is the Council on Legislation. COL meets once every 3 years. Next meeting May 2022. They look at governing documents and look at issues. Each District (530) each has a representative. In 2017, they split out resolutions (changes or recommendations on non-governing documents to be made to the Rotary International Board or the Trustees). Council on Resolution (COL) meets 3 times during this period (meet every year). We are doing this now to prepare for the COL in the Fall.

Typically this is voted on at the District Conference. With no District Conference this year, the decision (consistent with Rotary International bylaws) moved to a Club vote. All the Club Presidents were given the information and a ballot to vote. Approximately 80% responded and Greene has reached out to others to further assist them. Once the deadline has passed, a balloting committee will review the ballots and will come up with a Representative and Alternate. The candidates are PDG Carol Argo and PDG Mary Jean Sanspree.

DGD Bill Petty Meetings – Zoom, Facebook Live, etc.

- **Philippe Lathrop**, Rotary Club of Birmingham,
 - Have met weekly and have only had one cancellation
 - Attendance is higher on the Zoom meetings than the regular meetings (first meeting had over 400 and are averaging about 200)

- Recording meetings and sharing the link in the newsletter
- Seeing members that have not attended for more than a year are attending and a lot of older members not regularly attending
- Membership and Committee meetings on Zoom as well
- When meeting resume at the Harbert Center, will continue to offer Zoom as well
- Encouraged to use their Speaker's Bureau (people willing to speak)
- Call their Rotary office at 205-251-1995 and ask for Sarah Bragman to assist
- Inexpensive
- **DG Petty** shared that he has been on many Zoom calls and he has been on really good Zone meetings (anyone can attend) from people all over the world
 - Use Zoom, Facebook Live, Microsoft Team, etc.

DG Bill Petty - Disaster Relief through Rotary

- Telethon was on May 2 to raise money for Disaster Relief
 - Approximately 65,000 signed on
 - Raised in \$600,000 range with the \$3 mil already put out there
 - To fund Disaster Relief Grants
- Go to RI if you want to donate

DG Petty – Called for Open Discussion

- **PDG Pat Cross** received the Service Above Self Award from Rotary International– only 146 given out this year. This is one of the highest awards in Rotary. Petty will come to her Club and present in person once live meetings resume
- **Rotary Club of Madison President Larry Smith** shared he had a former member now living in Australia attend meeting on Zoom
- **Petty and Weinman** are looking for a way to award Tom Milford Service Above Self Award, other awards and perform installation of District Governor Weinman before the end of June
- **PDG Bo Porter** commented that everyone should have received a notice from Rotary International concerning relaxed Rotary Citation requirements
 - Accomplish 3 (instead of 5) in each of the 2 categories all that is required
 - Net membership growth is not required
 - Must have a My Rotary account open and tracking goals in Rotary Club Central to qualify for this recognition
 - Also holds true for local District awards
 - Deadline for Citation is now July 31 instead of June
- Upcoming Zoom link can be added to Club meeting announcement in DACdb Calendar and all can see. **Dennis Sanders** shared that if the Club would set a recurring Zoom meeting link would not have to change and if would not have to be posted each time

ACTION: DCO Dennis Sanders will send a message out about setting up a recurring Club meetings/link

DG Petty adjourned the meeting at 5:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Grace Evans
District Secretary