

**Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute
(MARLI) Virtual Board of Directors – Annual Meeting Minutes
Friday, January 30, 2026**

Welcome

Meeting called to order by Chair, Sean Sawyer at 10:02 a.m.

Roll was taken and quorum was determined with 12 of 15 voting members present. D7680 Voting Member, Lorena Prince, and D7690 Voting Member, Brandy Phillips-Brandon, joined the meeting later.

Voting Members:

Member	Present
D7280 – Jack Cohen	
D7545 – Jane Stout	X
D7570 – Tarek Moneir	X
D7600 – Rudy Garcia	X
D7610 – Steve Radich	X
D7620 – Laurie Reuben	X
D7630 – Roger Harrell	X
D7670 – Bronwen Talley-Coffey	X
D7680 – Lorena Garza-Prince	late
D7690 – Brandy Phillips-Brandon	late
D7710 – Tara Abernathy	X
D7720 – Sherri Williams	X
D7730 – Rick Moreau	X
D7750 – Carol Burdette	X
D7770 – Tom Ledbetter	X

Board Members Present:

Member	Present
Chair: PDG Sean Sawyer	X
Vice Chair and Nominating Committee Chair: Chris Stevenson	X
iPast-Chair and Secretary: Marcia Scheideman	X
Treasurer: Barbara Dresser	X
Faculty Trainer: Chris Zabriskie	X
Public Image Committee Chair: Bea Carson	X
Director 2023-26 SuAnne Bryant	X

Director 2023-26 Tom Ledbetter	X
Director 2023-26 Renee Stubbs	X
Director 2024-27 Tara Abernathy	X
Director 2024-27 Carol Burdette	X
Director 2024-27 Roger Harrell	X
Director 2025-28 Marilyn Cruz	
Director 2025-28 Lin Kelly	X
Director 2025-28 Tarek Moneir	X

Welcome and Introductions by Chair – Sean Sawyer

All members and guests were welcomed, thanking everyone for their service.

OFFICER REPORTS

Secretary Report:

- Minutes from fall board meeting were made available electronically prior to the meeting.
- Tom Ledbetter moved to approve the minutes; Roger Harrell seconded.
- Minutes approved.

Treasurer Report:

- Barbara Dresser, Treasurer, provided the Budget Summary and referred members to details on that document
- Budget Summary
 - Income (District dues, registration fees, interest) - \$42,113
 - Expenses - \$33,819
 - NET INCOME - \$8,295
- Finance Committee and Ad Hoc Committee discussed surplus funds (\$138,000) including \$50,000 in CD. Various uses were considered such as scholarships, discounts for new members and marketing initiatives.
- Committees will collaborate and make recommendation to board for action at future meetings.
- Budget development process was explained
- Tarek Monier moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Steve Radich seconded the motion. Motion carried.

District / Regional Updates:

- Updates provided by District Chairs, supported by Regional Coordinators, on activities in their District including upcoming and events.
- Chris Stevenson requested that district event dates and locations be sent to the PI committee for social media promotion.
- Pam Kreis sought feedback on the virtual RLI events

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ad-Hoc – Carol Burdette

- See Financial Report
- Planning next meeting March 2026
- PHF point donations initiative died in Committee

Alumni

- Consists of 1,599 individuals
- Virtual social planned for March 3, 6:00-8:00 pm

Bylaws

- Forthcoming Bylaws revisions will be voted on at the July meeting if additional changes are not made.
- Follow-up from cancelled in-person meeting was presented and options discussed.

Events & Meetings

- Will work with RCCC on decisions regarding January's cancelled meeting
- New venues for future in-person meetings with option of moving further north to accommodate current geographic scope of MARLI Districts
- Time/season adjustments also discussed in relation to weather issues recently encountered

Faculty Training and Curriculum

- Chris Zabriskie announced new graduate course and upcoming virtual training sessions
 - D7570 March 28

- D7545 or 7680 April 11
- District Chairs encouraged to NOT duplicate dates geographically

Finance

- See 'New Business' below

Public Image

- Several initiatives were reported including social media activity, press releases and branding efforts
- Both Canva and Vimeo accounts described
- Talking points being developed for alumni to share with District Chairs
- Website changes to include place for facilitators

Nominating Committee

- Rudy Garcia agreed to serve as committee chair due to potential conflict of interest with nominees; Committee also includes Steve Grossman, Dexter, and SuAnne
- Positions to be filled include Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and three (3) Director positions for 3-yr term 2026-29
- Recommended slate presented is as follows:
 - Chair – Chris Stevenson
 - Vice Chair – Tarek Moneir
 - Secretary – Marilyn Cruz
 - Assistant Secretary – Dana Wooten
 - Directors – Renee Stubbs, Kylie Herbert and Dana Wooten presented for 3-year terms
- Votes taken per Bylaws procedure; above recommended individuals received majority vote

Policy

- no report

Public Image

- Chair Bea Carson presented PPT

OLD BUSINESS

- SuAnne Bryant confirmed that IRS application is still pending but no issues are anticipated; IRS Form 990s continue to be filed to maintain compliance with tax laws
- Welcome letters working well; survey process for evaluating facilitator effectiveness discussed

NEW BUSINESS

- Potential addition of District 7305 to Mid-Atlantic RLI being explored per request for information from D7305 DMC
- Board continues to entertain tuition adjustment requests on case-by-case basis
- Adjustments to leadership lodging reimbursement possibilities will be addressed at April Board meeting
- Notion of reimbursement for pre-event new venue site visit/arrangements visits to be taken up by Finance Committee prior to next quarterly meeting April 2026
- Awards Committee established – Chris Zabriskie agreed to chair

ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn made by Tarek Moneir, 11:54 a.m.

Next Meeting – April 14, 2026 (virtual), 6:00 p.m.