

**Mid-America PETS  
Policies & Procedures  
As Amended June 2, 2018**

**Policies**

1. The sole purpose of this organization is to train Presidents-Elect of Rotary Clubs within the Districts involved through cooperation among the participating Districts. The Presidents-Elect are required to attend according to Article IX, Section 5(c) of the Club Constitution, and the current president shall continue to serve as club president until a successor, who has attended a Presidents-Elect Training Seminar and District Assembly, has been duly elected.
2. Presidents Nominee of the Rotary Clubs will be invited but are not required to attend.
3. The organization shall be governed by a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall include the District Governor, the District Governor Elect, the District Governor Nominee, and a Past District Governor, selected by each district, from each of the Districts participating in the seminar. Districts should notify Mid-America PETS as to the Past District Governor appointed to the Board of Directors by May 1 each year. The immediate past General Chair will serve as an ex-officio member of the Board and will chair the Board of Directors. The term of office for members of the Board of Directors is May 1 through April 30. The Board will meet at least annually. The annual Board of Directors meeting will take place between May 1 and July 1. New Board members will be required to attend an orientation session prior to the first Board meeting. The Board Chair will be responsible for insuring that the new member orientation is completed.
4. Any member of the Board who cannot be present at the meeting may give his/her proxy to vote to another voting member, with notification to the secretary of the Board no later than five days prior to the scheduled meeting.
5. The Steering Committee will have a General Chair and a Vice Chair, who will report to the Board of Directors. The Vice Chair will be nominated by the General Chair and approved by the Board of Directors. The Vice Chair will assume the duties of General Chair the following year. All the committee chairs who serve under the General Chair will be selected by the General Chair with advice from the Board. All the work of the Steering Committee is to support the District Governors-Elect and to ensure a successful seminar.
6. All registration fees and registrant information will be collected by the respective Districts and will be forwarded to the Registration Committee by the date set by the Steering Committee.
7. The expenses of those invited to assist in District breakout sessions will be paid through their respective Districts by the registration deadline.

8. The expenses for those presenting to the full assembly, who are invited from outside the participating Districts, and who do not have a travel allowance, will be included in the overhead expense of the event.
9. A working fund will be established. Each District will contribute \$500 per year, payable in July, until the working fund is deemed by the Board of Directors to have sufficient funds for the successful operation of the next seminar.
10. All funds received in excess over the expenses incurred will be deposited in the working fund.
11. In the event that the seminar has more expenses than revenue, and the working fund does not have sufficient funds to cover the shortfall, each District shall be allocated a share of the shortfall and that amount will be payable immediately upon receipt of the invoice. The allocation shall be based on the percentage derived by dividing the number of registered participants from each District by the total number of registered participants.
12. A Financial Review Committee will be established to review receipts and disbursements, accounting and record keeping practices, and financial reporting for the seminar. This committee serves in lieu of an official audit performed by a Certified Public Accountant yet performs a similar function. This committee will forward a report to the Board of Directors within 90 days of the event. This committee will be chaired by the Treasurer and members will be the DGNs from the participating districts.
13. Registration fees will include costs for all materials and meals during the seminar. Registration and payments for hotel rooms will be the responsibility of all registrants. All registrants are highly encouraged to stay at the conference hotel for the duration of the conference. Each District will be responsible for collecting the registration fees of registrants from their District and remitting them in a timely fashion to the Mid-America PETS Treasurer.
14. An annual budget will be approved by the Board of Directors at their annual meeting.
15. The site location will be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors at least two years prior to the event.
16. The Board of Directors will approve a policy for reimbursement of expenses.
17. The Board of Directors will approve a reserve policy.
18. Joining/Leaving Mid-America PETS: A district wishing to join Mid-America PETS will require approval of the Mid-America PETS Board of Directors and will make an initial payment of \$500 to Mid-America PETS. Districts wishing to leave Mid-America PETS must give written notice to the board of directors, at least twelve months prior to the first event they will not participate. Districts leaving Mid-America

PETS must be current in all financial obligations. No funds will be transferred to Districts that leave Mid-America PETS.

19. The leadership will rotate between all participating Districts. It is the responsibility of each district to identify qualified personnel to assume the leadership when that district turn comes. To be qualified, a person must be a PDG and have served on the steering committee prior to serving as Vice Chair or above. A suggested progression would be to serve as program chair, then Vice Chair, and then General Chair of the steering committee.

20. Multi District PETS Alliance: Mid-America PETS shall budget for the Mid-America PETS Trainer, Steering Committee General Chair, Vice Chair and the Program Chair to attend the Multi District PETS Alliance meeting. Should a past Chair of the Board be selected to serve as a Board Member of the Multi District PETS Alliance, Mid-America PETS shall also budget for that individual to attend the meeting. If one of the designated committee chair persons cannot attend the PETS Alliance meeting, then the General Chair of the Steering Committee can appoint / select someone to go to the PETS Alliance meeting.

21. These Policies and Procedures will be reviewed by the Board of Directors and appropriate changes may be made by the affirmative vote of a majority of the members present. Proposed amendments or changes to these Policies and Procedures shall be presented to the members of the Board, in writing, at least fifteen (15) days in advance of the meeting during which the proposed amendments or changes are to be considered. Proposed amendments and changes shall be presented in a "marked-up" style showing all proposed additions and deletions.

### **Procedures**

1. The Steering Committee will consist of the General Chair; the Vice Chair; all Committee Chairs; the District Governors Elect and the District Trainers who will be serving at the time of the event from each of the participating Districts. The Steering Committee will meet soon after Mid-America PETS to review the results of the seminar, to suggest changes to the curriculum (and to begin planning for the following year). The Steering Committee will meet as needed to ensure that all planning details are accomplished on a timely basis.

2. Registration materials will be made available to all Presidents-Elect by November 15<sup>th</sup>. It is the responsibility of the District Governor-Elect to follow-up with the Presidents-Elect to ensure that all materials have been received and to encourage their attendance.

3. All registrations received will be confirmed by the Registration Committee. The registration will not be considered complete until the District has forwarded the registration fees to the Mid-America PETS treasurer.

## **Job Descriptions and Duties**

### **Duties of the General Chair**

1. The General Chair will be responsible for the overall planning and execution of the seminar.
2. The General Chair will preside at all meetings of the Steering Committee.
3. The General Chair will schedule all meetings in advance and send appropriate notices.
4. The General Chair will appoint a Secretary, Treasurer, and Committee Chairs prior to the first planning meeting.
5. The General Chair, in consultation with the Steering Committee, shall prepare a budget for the event.
6. The General Chair will present questions for discussion on possible changes in the format or programs of Mid-America PETS based upon the critique sheets of the previous year, &/or input from members of the prior Steering Committee and Board of Directors.
7. The General Chair will review hotel arrangements in conjunction with the Arrangements Chair, the Treasurer, and other members of the Steering Committee.
8. The General Chair in conjunction with the Program Chair and the DGEs may contact the sitting RI Director, or the Director-Elect and invite him/her and his/her partner to Mid-America PETS. The General Chair in conjunction with the Program Chair and the DGEs will work with the PETS Alliance in securing the top Rotary speakers that are coordinated through the Alliance. The General Chair shall invite all plenary speakers.
9. The General Chair will write formal letters of invitation to RI dignitaries invited to attend, including background information on Mid-America PETS, if necessary.
10. The General Chair will appoint aides to the Director and partner and other dignitaries.
11. The General Chair will preside over the opening plenary session.
12. The General Chair will ensure that the keynote speaker(s) and special guests are treated appropriately. This includes assignment of aides for the speaker(s) and partner, arrangement of transportation, hotel accommodations, gifts, and amenities. This should be accomplished through the Arrangements Chair.
13. The General Chair will preside at the Evaluation Session of Mid-America PETS.
14. The General Chair will establish Steering Committee meeting dates and sites for the following year in consultation with the incoming General Chair. This is usually

done at the time of the critique session. Generally, there are meetings scheduled in May, October and February.

15. The General Chair will write thank you letters as appropriate.

16. The General Chair will provide the dates and venue for surrounding PETS to the Governors-Elect for the benefit of those Presidents-Elect that cannot attend Mid-America PETS.

#### **Duties of the Vice Chair**

1. The Vice Chair will learn all aspects of Mid-America PETS in preparation for the General Chair position the following year.

2. The Vice Chair will work closely with the General Chair in the planning and conduct of the event.

3. The Vice Chair will carry out other duties as assigned by the General Chair.

4. The Vice Chair will preside in the absence of the General Chair

5. The Vice Chair will establish Steering Committee meeting dates for the following year in conjunction with the Arrangements Chair. This is usually done at the time of the critique session.

#### **Duties of the Program Committee Chair**

1. The Program Chair will plan all presentations and curriculum for sessions attended by all Districts. The Program Chair will present at the first meeting of the Steering Committee proposed changes in format or programs based on previous feedback and critiques.

2. The Program Chair will preside over the Program Committee, which will include the District Trainers & District-Governors Elect.

3. The Program Chair will collect and organize all information and scheduling material that will appear in the program.

4. The Program Chair will contact speakers and presenters for confirmation of assignments and to obtain accurate biographical information for inclusion in the program.

5. The Program Chair will prepare a tentative time schedule for Mid-America PETS to be submitted to the full Steering Committee by the second planning session for review, modification and ultimate final approval.

6. The Program Chair will prepare and print a program summary to be included in the mailing that also includes registration materials.

7. The Program Chair will prepare final copy of the program in an easy to read format that includes an appropriate cover, pictures and bios of dignitaries, and facility information.

8. Suggested sub-committees may include:

- Small group Breakout Discussion Room Assignments Coordinator
- Breakout Discussion Rooms Leadership Chart Coordinator
- Program Content Coordinator
- Program Booklet Coordinator
- Facilitators/Facilitators-Evaluators Trainer(s)
- Educational Materials Coordinator
- PDG Reunion Coordinator
- Visioning Coordinator

### **Duties of the Mid-America PETS Trainer**

1. The Mid-America PETS Trainer will assemble the list of Discussion Leaders.

2. The Mid-America PETS Trainer will assign Discussion Leaders to breakout groups and breakout rooms for discussion groups.

3. The Mid-America PETS Trainer will handle all mailings of instructional material to Discussion Leaders.

4. The Mid-America PETS Trainer, with the assistance of the District Trainers and in coordination with the Arrangements Chair, will arrange a training session to be held prior to Mid-America PETS to train discussion leaders and other key participants in the small group breakout sessions. The training day will be held early enough to allow for adequate preparation time between the training and the event. Facilitators must attend this training in order to serve. This session will be held three to four weeks before the event. The Evaluators will be trained on Thursday afternoon prior to the beginning of PETS the following Friday morning. Evaluators must attend this training in order to serve.

### **Duties of the Arrangements Committee Chair**

1. The Arrangements Chair will negotiate all contracts with the Mid-America PETS venue and any other facilities/rooms required for meeting spaces. This will include all meetings for the Steering Committee, training day meeting, as well as for the Mid-America PETS event.

2. The Arrangements Chair will investigate and suggest venues for future Mid-America PETS.

3. The Arrangements Chair will negotiate for the best rates two to three years in advance.

4. The Arrangements Chair will arrange for all sleeping rooms needed by the guest speakers and dignitaries and will arrange for all amenities for each guest speaker.

5. The Arrangements Chair will make all arrangements for all food and beverage to be served during the conference.
6. The Arrangements Chair will coordinate all needs for A/V equipment, registration tables, signs, chairs, baskets, etc.
7. The Arrangements Chair will review the invoices from the hotel and other vendors related to food, A/V equipment, etc., and certify the accuracy of all invoices before presenting them to the Treasurer for payment.
8. The Arrangements Chair will meet with all key hotel and any other venue personnel for the purpose of explaining the Mid-America PETS program and gaining knowledge as to who will assist in the various needs during the weekend. The Arrangements Chair is the only person authorized to request items from the hotel staff that will require or incur any fees, changing of the contract or other items deemed the responsibility of the Arrangements Chair.
9. The Arrangements Chair will work with the hotel staff to see that appropriate banners and signs are hung in the meeting areas.
10. The Arrangement Chair will assign, in consultation with the General Chair, and coordinate the activities of VIP aides.
11. The Arrangements Chair will see that appropriate flowers, gift baskets, etc. are placed in the rooms of VIPs, and that appropriate gifts and recognition materials are provided to speakers.
12. The Arrangements Chair will arrange airport transportation to/from the Mid-America PETS venue for VIPs and special guests, if necessary.
13. The Arrangements Chair may also enlist the assistance of other individuals to be the designated coordinators for such items as table and room decorations; music; entertainment; or other preparations as deemed necessary by the Arrangements Chair.

#### **Duties of the Operations Committee Chair**

1. The Operations Committee Chair will appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms, who will obtain a working list of volunteers for these duties, as far in advance of Mid-America PETS as possible:
  - The Sergeant-at-Arms will assign at least one Sergeant at each entrance as a greeter, near the hotel registration desk, and at other key areas.
  - The Sergeant-at-Arms will provide vests, hats, &/or other methods of easy identification.
  - The Sergeants-at-Arms will place easels and signs at each meeting group for Plenary Sessions, Breakout Discussion Rooms, and District session rooms to guide attendees to the proper locations.
  - The Sergeants-at-Arms will retrieve signs at the end of the day and/or end of the Mid-America PETS.

- The Sergeants-at-Arms will become familiar with the program and hotel layout.
- The Sergeants-at-Arms will provide a Rotary bell and theme banner for the head table and appropriate flags for that area.
- The Sergeants-at-Arms will check before each session to make certain that a lectern has been provided, if required, and check to be sure that all A/V equipment and microphones are turned on and working.
- The Sergeants-at-Arms will obtain attendee counts for all sessions.
- The Sergeants-at-Arms will inform the General Chair of any “housekeeping” announcements.
- The Sergeants-at-Arms will position place cards on tables as appropriate.
- The Sergeants-at-Arms will insure that each speaker adheres to the time allotted.

2. The Operations Committee Chair will coordinate the House of Friendship, including all vendors and exhibitors, working with Arrangements Chair to ensure that proper fees are paid and that tables, electrical service, etc. are provided.

3. The Operations Committee Chair will arrange for an event photographer.

4. The Operations Committee Chair will coordinate with the Arrangements Chair to ensure that proper signage is provided.

#### **Duties of the Registration Committee Chair**

1. The Registration Committee Chair will create registration forms and other registration and promotional materials to present to the Steering Committee for approval by the second meeting.

2. The Registration Committee Chair will receive completed registration forms at prescribed times from each district registration coordinator and then will summarize totals from each District with names, club identifications and membership size, meal counts, and breakdown of the participants: PEs, PNs, PDGs, DGs, DGEs, DGNs, AGs, committee members, partners, and others.

3. The Registration Committee Chair will send a weekly email summary of registrations to the appropriate committees and others, as requested by the General Chair. The weekly summary should be sent daily, when changes (additions or cancelations) occur, during the last two weeks prior to the registration deadline.

4. The Registration Committee Chair will insure that appropriate registration materials are available on the Mid-America PETS website.

5. The District Registration Committee Chair will acknowledge each registrant with a confirmation.

6. The Registration Committee Chair will order name badges, registration packets, and other supplies.



7. The Registration Committee Chair will complete registration packets and will include the following items: name badges, the Mid-America PETS program, a welcome letter, meal tickets, and any other information agreed upon by the Steering Committee. Packets should be boxed by District and placed in "alpha order" by club name.
8. The Registration Committee Chair will record checks, money orders, etc. and forward them to the Mid-America PETS Treasurer for a weekly deposit.
9. The Registration Committee Chair will coordinate onsite registration and will provide registration materials, a computer and printer to accommodate late registrations at the Mid-America PETS venue site.
10. The Registration Committee Chair will prepare a final tally of registrants for the Steering Committee and will prepare a list for each DGE of all PEs not in attendance or represented.
11. The Registration Committee Chair will coordinate onsite registration activities.
12. The Registration Committee Chair will be responsible for the maintenance of the Mid-America PETS website; the Mid-America PETS listing through DACdb; and any mobile compatible app that may be used during the Mid-America PETS meeting. The Registration Committee Chair may enlist the assistance of other individuals to be the designated webmaster for such items as the website; the mobile app; or other technology related activities, and may enlist individuals to serve as the coordinator for other designated registration related activities as deemed necessary by the Registration Chair.

#### **Duties of District Trainers**

1. District Trainers will serve on the Program Committee and will assist in the preparation of the curriculum, including the breakout sessions and will work with their Governors-Elect in preparing for the District Sessions.
2. District Trainers will assist in the preparation and training of breakout group discussion leadership personnel.
3. District Trainers will work with the Governors-Elect in preparing for the District Breakout Sessions.

#### **Duties of District Governors-Elect**

1. The Governors-Elect will attend and participate in all Steering Committee meetings and the Breakout Discussion Groups leadership training day.
2. The Governors-Elect will insure that the DGN attends all appropriate meetings.
3. The Governors-Elect will provide recommendations for Discussion Leaders and Sergeants-at-Arms.

4. The Governors-Elect will assist in submitting materials to be uploaded to the Mid-America PETS website. Suggested items include:
  - a) Rotary Leadership Guide, The Glorious Burden
  - b) "What is Rotary"
  - c) ABC's of Rotary
  - d) The Rotary Foundation Facts
  - e) A Guide to Annual Giving
  - f) Recognition and Contribution Form
  - g) Recognition Transfer Request Form
  - h) TRF Mission, two needs, Two Ways of Giving
  - i) Benefactor Commitment Card
  - j) Sustaining Member Card
  - k) The RI Catalog
  - l) Information on the RI website and its use
  - m) Any other information as agreed by all DGE's
  - n) Russell Hampton catalog and others that are procured
  - o) Personal letter from each DGE
5. The Governors-Elect will actively promote the attendance of every PE/PN. If the PE cannot attend, he/she will arrange for him/her to attend another PETS.
6. The Governors-Elect will encourage the Rotary Club to pay the expenses for the PE to attend Mid-America PETS, including registration, meals, travel, and hotel.
7. The Governors-Elect in cooperation with the District Trainer will determine the program content for District Breakout Sessions.
8. The Governors-Elect will order additional materials for their District, as required, from RI in a timely fashion.
9. The Governors-Elect will insure that all district information is provided to the Steering committee, including club size to insure proper sizing of the small group discussion sessions.

#### **Duties of the Secretary**

1. The Secretary will record minutes of the Steering Committee and Board of Directors meetings and distribute them to members and others, as appropriate.
2. The Secretary will prepare and distribute a Steering Committee and Board of Directors Directory, including; names, addresses, email addresses, and all phone numbers, including fax numbers.
3. The Secretary will coordinate with the Mid-America PETS Webmaster to ensure that critical information is posted to the site in a timely fashion and that the information on the site remains current.

#### **Duties of the Treasurer**

1. The Treasurer, in conjunction with the General Chair, will prepare an annual budget for approval by the Board of Directors at the annual meeting of the Board.

2. The Treasurer will receive all fees and payments and will make payments as prescribed in the approved budget with the approval of the General Chair. Requests for payment should be submitted or approved by the appropriate committee chair.
3. The Treasurer should submit financial reports to the General Chair and to the Board Chair on a monthly basis.
4. The Treasurer will shall submit a final report to the Steering Committee and the Board of Directors within 60 days following Mid-America PETS.

#### **Duties of the Financial Review Committee Chair**

The Financial Review Committee will review receipts and disbursements, accounting and record keeping practices, and financial reporting for the seminar. This committee will serve in lieu of an official audit performed by a Certified Public Accountant yet will perform a similar function. This committee will forward a report to the Board of Directors within 90 days of the event.

#### **Duties of the Critique Committee Chair**

The Critique Chair will be responsible for the evaluation of the event. This includes designing, soliciting, summarizing, and compiling the participants' evaluations of the overall activities of the Mid-America PETS event, as well as the evaluations submitted by Mid-America PETS evaluators of breakout group Facilitators.

#### **Advisory Council**

The purpose is to

- Establish additional resources for Mid-America PETS Leadership
- Encourage continued involvement of "experienced leaders" in Mid-America PETS
- Give another method of preserving "Institutional Memory" for future Mid-America PETS Leaders
- Formalize this policy so districts may financially support the Advisory Council members
- The appointment should be considered an honor bestowed on those individuals who have through past service best supported the mission of Mid-America PETS.

The Council shall have four members, one from each member district of Mid-America PETS. The members shall be appointed by the DGE of the member's respective district in July of each year. The appointed members must be approved by the Mid-America PETS Board of Directors. The members can be removed by the DGE or the Board of Directors.

#### **Qualifications of the Advisory Council**

Appointed Mid-America PETS Advisory Council members shall have served as General Chair of the Mid-America PETS Steering Committee.

#### **Duties of the Advisory Council**

1. The Mid-America PETS Advisory Council should meet with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Steering Committee in the late summer and the late fall of each year. This meeting should be called and directed by the General Chair. Potential goals and/or problems for the upcoming Mid-America PETS should be discussed.
2. The members should be available to share advice and counsel to the General Chair of the Steering Committee as requested. They should also be available to attend Steering Committee meetings as requested
3. The members should attend Mid-America PETS and be available to help as needed. Following each Mid-America PETS the Advisory Council shall submit a written report to the Board of Directors. The report should comment constructively on the curriculum, program, the meals, hotel, meeting facilities, and speakers. Any accolades or suggestions for improvement should be constructively mentioned.

### **Limitations of the Advisory Council**

The Mid-America PETS Advisory Council shall only act in an advisory capacity to the General Chair and the Steering Committee. The advice or the actions of the Advisory Council members shall not impede the authority, plans, or the responsibility of the General Chair/Steering Committee.

### **Policies for Reimbursement of Expenses**

Mid-America PETS will reimburse for mileage at half of the Federal Standard Mileage rates for Business for members to attend Mid-America PETS Steering Committee meetings and Mid-America PETS Board Meetings. If an overnight stay is required, Mid-America PETS will reimburse for half of the overnight hotel rate including taxes at the hotel where special meeting rates have been negotiated.

For Facilitator training, Mid-America PETS will reimburse all attendees for mileage at half of the Federal Standard Mileage rates for Business. Cost of hotel rooms and scheduled meals will be paid by Mid-America PETS direct to the hotel.

At Mid-America PETS, expenses incurred by committee members, facilitators, evaluators, and other participants are covered by their respective District or Club.

Reimbursement of all other expenses connected with the conduct of Mid-America PETS are at the discretion of the Chair of the Steering Committee.

Policies adopted 2004

Policies Amended:

June, 2007

July, 2011

July 2013

February, 2015

May 21, 2016

June 3, 2017

June 2, 2018