September 10, 2021

Dear Lake Forest Park Rotary Board Members:

The membership committee is bringing for board member review and voted approval of the following:

1. Eliminating the Red Badge and Changing the Criteria for New Member Inclusion found on the Expectations sheet (attached)

For the purpose of better inclusion of new members into the Lake Forest Park Rotary Club, it is the unanimous vote of the Membership Committee to move the following:

1. Elimination of the requirement that new members wear a Red New Member Badge until mandatory and voluntary requirements have been met.
2. Revising the list of requirement and shifting the responsibility for said requirements to a mentor/new member partnership for completion.
3. Each Mentor will monitor progress and report completion to the Membership Committee.
4. Approval of the Policy and Criteria for Election to Honorary Membership (attached)
5. Statement on service above self to be included in New Member Orientation and/or New Member Guide
6. Notice of resignation from membership by Renee Curry (resignation email string attached)

Notes on the above:

1. Many of the Rotary Clubs are moving to a more inclusive model of bringing in new members and orienting them to the world of Rotary. The Red Name Badge has become a barrier to inclusion, an “us” vs. “them” stigma, a statement that one has become an active Rotarian but one is still considered a “Newbie” while jumping through hoops. The membership committee is in full support of assigning a mentor to each new member and having mentors help new members through many of the formerly required activities by renaming them as “expectations.” You will note on the attachment, “Addition to Mentor Guide,” that the mentor has an obligation to report back to the membership committee after the new member has completed 3 months of membership, to report on his or her expectations that have been completed, or are in the process of being completed.
2. The second request for voted approval is a policy statement regarding our clubs use of the Honorary Membership designation. The membership committee has been in the process of “cleaning up” the Honorary Member designation and list of Honorary Members, which was used to allow potential members to “try out” Rotary membership. On the attached Policy and Criteria, the Articles in the Bylaws of Rotary International have been copied for clarity of what constitutes an Honorary Membership. The proposed policy follows which gives clarity to who an Honorary member is, how they are to be elected and what process our club will follow in managing an Honorary Member’s membership.
3. Notification to the Board that a letter has been sent to Douglas Hoggatt (attached) explaining that by joining as well as having an official position in the new Environmental Rotary Club, that his Honorary Membership in the Lake Forest Park Club has come to an end, according to Rotary International Bylaws.
4. A statement to be included in New Member Orientation and/or a New Member Guide (a project in process), was approved by the membership committee in its 9/7/21 meeting. We are bringing this to the board for information or approval, if so needed. This is a pro-active statement titled, ***Service Above Self***, to limit the club from being used by prospective members or existing active members for using the club and its membership for personal business or political gain.