

PETS

After accepting the position of President of our local Searcy Rotary Club, I certainly knew that there would be some training involved. To be honest with you, I was not looking forward to it. I didn't really know a lot of people who were attending, I was going to have to spend a couple of nights out of town, and like most small business owners, I keep a fairly busy schedule.

Man! Was I glad I got to experience all that PETS has to offer! Besides the usual goal setting and administrative training, we learned so much about how Rotary positively affects thousands of people around the world as well as right here in our own community. Across the globe, Rotary International raises over \$400,000,000 a year (with 25% of that coming from the Bill Gates family)!

I thoroughly enjoyed the breakout sessions (small groups) where we shared ideas about how to raise money as well as how to serve our communities both with our finances and our time. We spent several hours bouncing ideas off of each other, sharing different successes (and failures) that we could take back home and incorporate into our club. We also exchanged ideas to increase membership. Recently Rotary has become less stringent in regard to "how often", "how long", and "when and where" we should meet, which has encouraged growth from people who otherwise, might not join.

Clubs are still getting things done and growing, even though they may not meet as often, or meet in unorthodox places. There are still many people who want to do good works, they just don't want to monopolize their time. This new attitude has led many presidents to think outside the box when it comes to recruiting the next generation of Rotarians.

The highlight of the weekend was getting to hear from current RI President Jennifer Jones. The native of Canada shared some heartfelt stories of her Rotary endeavors which have changed lives forever. She also said the bond between Rotarians around the planet is unlike any she's known. You can travel all over the world, and in most places, there will be a nearby town with a local Rotary Club.

If you ever have the opportunity to participate in PETS training, get ready! You're in for an educational treat!



Blake Hendrix

2022/2023 Searcy Rotary Club President