**Rotary District 6860**

**Council of Governors Meeting**

**July 29, 2021 2:00 via Zoom**

**MINUTES**

Carol Argo, COG Committee Chair

Todd H. Kirk & Lindsey Gardner, Secretary

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Member | Present | Member | Present |
| PRIP Mark Maloney | X | PDG Scott Stone |  |
| PRIVP Ken Schuppert |  | PDG Ron Layne |  |
| PDG Lee Weinman  | X | PDG Jane Schmalz |  |
| PDG Bill Petty | X | PDG Will Kirkpatrick |  |
| PDG Sue Mitchell, PhD  | X | PDG Don Hadden |  |
| PDG Pat Cross | X | PDG Phil Fowler |  |
| PDG J.G. Brazil |  | PDG Bill Johnson |  |
| PDG John Valieant | X | PDG Martin Uptain |  |
| PDG Tom Greene | X | PDG Dale Wallace |  |
| PDG Bo Porter | X | PDG Kenan Kern |  |
| PDG Byron Nelson |  | DGN Mary Grace Evans | X |
| PDG Georgia Medori | X | DRFC Ryan Stallings | X |
| PDG Wade Drinkard | X | DS Todd Kirk | X |
| PDG Mary Jean Sanspree |  |  |  |
| DG Harold Lewis | X |  |  |
| PDG Carol Argo | X |  |  |
| PDG Ty Robin |  |  |  |
| DGE Mike Wade | X |  |  |

Chair Argo called the meeting to order at 2:00.

PDG Argo recognize all guest and everyone introduced themselves.

Minutes from the January meeting were distributed for review. Comments should be sent to PDG Argo.

**District Donor Advised Disaster Relief Fund**

Mark said that the Trustees now have a fund for disaster relief and applications come from all over the world. Grant of $25,000 can be distributed. Because of the fund at the RI level, the District Relief Funds at the District level should be re-purposed. RI has asked that the fund be re-named and not promoted as a disaster relief fund. PDG Cross said the fund could be called the District Donor Advised Relief Fund. The balance is $10,627.54. A check for $3,300 is pending deposit after the name is changed. The signatories are currently Gary Andrew, Al Mathis, Jerry Shepherd, and Pat Cross. PDG Cross recommended that the signatories be updated. All four current signatories would have to authorize the new signatories. DG Lewis recommended DG, DGN, DGE, and Secretary. has a district role assigned to disaster relief which might be a candidate to be a signatory. PDG Weinman suggested that the DLP reflect that the funds would be restricted for disaster recover. PDG Porter moved that the fund be named District 6880 Humanitarian Donor Advised Fund, PDG Valieant seconded. Approved unanimously.

Upon reviewing the paperwork, PDG Cross discovered that she could submit the name change under her signature. PDG Porter suggested that the District Disaster Relief Committee recommend new signatories. DG Lewis recommended that the DG Lewis, DGE Wade, DGN Evans and the District Disaster Relief Chairman, as appointed by the DG, be approved as new signatories to expedite the matter.

PRIP Maloney recommended that PDG Cross collect all the forms and send them together to RI.

**Vocational Service Award**

PDG Argo has updated the listing the award recipients and distributed the purpose and procedures for the award. PDG Robin could not attend but PDG Argo shared his comments about adding an interface with Rotaract regarding the Vocation Service Award. He recognized that the Rotaract members may not have achieved the high-level vocational service currently described. PDG Argo would like to make January 1 the deadline for applications. After discussion, the deadline was changed to December 15 to ensure that applications could be reviewed at the Mid-Winter District Conference.

PDG Greene described challenges in letting the DG sign for the area. He asked for clarification for use of the PDG signature. PDG Greene shared that no one has ever followed the application directions to the letter. He recommended that the form be revised to make the background work for applicants more practical. He commended PDG Argo for beginning this discussion well in advance. PRIP Maloney suggested that PDG Argo appoint two or three people to make revisions to the form and the award procedures. PDG Argo will contact PDG Greene and Robin to work together to make proposed revisions on the substance and the format and the procedures. PDG Greene stated that the application process is competitive

**Rotary Leadership Institute**

PDG Argo reported for PDG Kirkpatrick. Tentative training dates, 9/11 & 9/18, 10/9 & 10/16, 11/6 or 11/13. The district recommends either virtual or in-person, but not hybrid.

**DG Nominating Committee Update**

PDG Weinman plans to ask alternates from the group last year to serve on the committee for this year. If an alternate was asked to serve last year, then he/she will be replaced. The intent is to create a rotation between alternates and committees. PDG Porter reminded PDG Weinman that the committee should be named by the end of July. DGE Wade recommended that each PDG encourage leaders to apply. PRIP Maloney and DGE Wade highlighted the difficulty of employed Rotarians in serving as District Governor.

DG Lewis suggested that hiring an Executive Director would allow the District Governor to spend a reasonable amount of time on Rotary duties. PDG Argo also mentioned that release time for club visits can be difficult for employed Rotarians. PRIP Maloney recommended that club visits can be with multiple clubs and can be in the evening or weekend for social or service events. After some discussion, PRIP Maloney emphasized that the options should be very apparent to potential DGs.

PDG Petty reported that DG Lewis will appoint two more members to the Finance Committee. PDG Petty will work with the new Treasurer on monthly reports.

**Boiling and Bragging**

PDG Argo announced the live event will be August 21 at Otey’s Tavern. She described about the new corn hole tournament. Total fundraising is in the neighborhood of $30,000. PDG Cross and PDG Greene will have a Rotary table at the event. DGE Wade reminded PDG Cross that Goggans has all the banners. DG Lewis and PDG Petty have some extra district pins. PDG Greene will work on a flyer. PDG Argo encouraged everyone to attend. Tickets can be purchased on-line.

**PDG Weinman Report**

PDG Weinman shared that he spent all of his allocation from RI. Spent $2,500 additionally from district funds. $2600 DGN year on education/travel, $10000 DGE year including $5000 on airfare to convention, $8,000 DG year. The District books have not been closed yet. PDG Weinman reported that the District should be contributing around $80,000 to reserves this year. Foundation contributions get from LEE. We were number 1 in the Zone on Endowment giving. Net loss in membership of 68 members, which is typical. 142 PHS which no net gain.

**Peace Program**

115 high school students in the Bham area for peace education and peace project implementation. Will Ratliff is the leader of the project. PDG Weinman motioned that the COG for a recommendation to the Finance Committee to forgive the $5,000 seed money “loaned” to the Peace Project. Seconded by PDG Drinkard. Unanimous. The program will be expanded virtually to every high school in the district. PDG Weinman clarified that his recommendation was based on the fact that the District has excess funds for the fiscal year.

**District Leadership P**lan

PDG Valieant reported on continuing progress in revising the District Leadership Plan through bi-weekly Zoom meetings of the committee. He hopes that the revisions will be completed by the middle of the Rotary year

**Finance Committee Update: District Finance Committee Chair, Ryan Stalling**s

DRFC Stallings provided a written report that most reports are available because of a software transition. Polio Plus - $38,152 (20% of DDF)
Global Peace Scholar - $25,000
Global Grant - $29,329
District Grant Funds - $3,240 each based on fewer applications, $98,279 total

DG Lewis complimented Stallings on his work so far. DG Lewis has enjoyed visiting several clubs and has several more scheduled. Dr. Butler Cain is developing on a plan for Public Image. DG Lewis shared that the convention in the Shoals will include three districts. The highlight will be a video/audio recording of a song written by Michael Babb by the conference attendees. Band members and back-up singers will be participate. April 28-30, 2021

**DGE Wade Comments**

DGE Wade has completed all the DG beginner training on Rotary Learning Central. Working on the Peace Program and plans for the 2023 Peace Conference. DGE Wade has worked with 6880 to finalize conference in Perdido Beach Resort on April 27-29, 2023. Mike is attending his first PETS meeting August. He will work with Carol on developing a budget. DGE Wade asked for comparison on Dues in other districts. PRIP Maloney recommended that DGE Wade approach DCS for the information. DGE Wade is communicating with other Zone DGEs. The international assembly will be January 17-19 in Florida.

**DGN Evans Comments**

Evans has been completing many of the same activities as Mike for the DGN cohort.

PDG Argo asked if there was anything more that the COG can do to help DGE Wade and DGN Evans. DGE Wade and DGN Evans both said that they appreciate the support received so far, but neither knows exactly what to ask. The first DG line meeting will be next week.

DGN Evans asked if there was a digital archive of budgets and other documents. PDG Porter suggested that all those documents be uploaded to the DACdb secure files.

**Open Discussion**

PDG Argo announced that the Zone Conference is in Chattanooga September 30 – October 3. District 6860 has 22 registered. PDG Argo encouraged everyone to consider attending.

DG Lewis has invited Larry Smith from Madison, Linda Burns from Jasper, Butler Cain from Florence, Knox Richardson from the new Birmingham Sunset club to attend the Emerging Leaders program.

PDG Argo solicited input from the group on the frequency of meetings. She has tentatively scheduled the next meeting on January 14 at 10 am. PDG Drinkard offered that two meetings were sufficient. No other discussion was offered.

PDG Argo announced that there will not be a trip to Evanston this fall. PDG Greene suggested that a formal announcement be issued to the clubs.

PRIP Maloney recognized that PDG Drinkard is the chair of the RI Election Review Committee. PRIP Maloney will be a RI Trustee.

Tentative date for next meeting January 14, 2022

PDG Argo recognized the loss of Bill French, Keenen, and?.

PDG Argo adjourned the meeting at 4:02 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Todd H. Kirk, District Secretary