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DFCCChair 2012-15

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Dear Marty, Carolyn and Lawrence,

Yesterday was an opportunity to have a very enjoyable, lengthy, open and candid discussion with Marty regarding our Rotary District Foundation Committee: its successes, weaknesses, and immediate past trends.

Every year incoming Governors are expected to set RF goals, and all do. Every year the DFCCChair and Committee members are expected to hew to the roles and responsibilities of their positions as set forth in The RFDistrict Committee Manual, and all do.

Yesterday was the first time I can recall having a robust discussion if our traditional patterns actually work, and I found it most refreshing.

Super Kudos to Mike and Marty for cataloging many lingering issues in need of our collective attention in the "Role of the Rotary Foundation Committee 2012-13" document. I think it is very important that the incoming Chair know that both the DGN and DGND are in reasonably complete agreement with this document as an appropriate road map for the next 15 months, and as a roadmap that helps set necessary building blocks for ensuing years.

As thrilled as I am for Mike's appointment, I was very much looking forward to his local leadership and am disappointed he had to step away. It seems clear that even without the changes coming via Future Visions, our District's modus operandi needs a significant do-over. Having both needs present themselves at the same time is a terrific blessing: it forces us to be clear, concise, reasoned, methodical and articulate about each and every corner of the District Foundation operations and policies. In short, no better time than now.

This note is an opportunity for me to add my own thoughts to the already very, very good 2012-13 Roles document. In no particular order, here goes:

- E-Mail. DRFCChairs must have the ability to contact, at a minimum, the Club Foundation Chairs directly, and on a regular schedule (bi-weekly, sometimes three weeks in a row?). In my experience it has not been helpful when Governors have insisted that all correspondence of any type and on any topic go through them and then on to their Club Presidents.
- Appearances. Foundation representation always occurs at Assembly. In my opinion, it also needs to occur at District gatherings at PETS, have an opportunity for a data update at the mid-year dinner, and again (especially in a business data reporting sense) at Conference.
- District Simplified Grants. Would argue that if submission dates are moved, they should be earlier, not later, and the district needs to figure out how to get its act in order sooner. But that is why we meet to discuss these things. Love the idea of the Subcommittee, would recommend its size be expanded to bordering on unmanageable with goal of getting as many different clubs as possible involved and aware of the underlying process. Again, that is why we meet to discuss...
- Paul Harris Society/Diamond Club. Thrilled. Any thought given to some version of a 10-year EREY recognition? (We tend to track this by way of total number of donors, but we don't actually recognize the individuals who actually give every year. EREY was introduced July 1, 2004. Recognizing those with ten straight years of giving when we get there, regardless of amount/Paul Harris credits/donor

labels, etc, strikes me as the moral equivalent of "perfect Foundation attendance" - ed., and this is the attendance that matters!)

- Transition Committee. It, like the Standing Committee, needs a recording Secretary. It also needs a termination date (Last Club certified and all financial structures in place?). I am uncomfortable with a District Committee designed to have co-chairs that winds up with the same family in both seats (different from when a husband/wife team desire to share duties for a single-person slot).
- Club Annual Fund goals (usually set during the PETS process). Incoming presents usually provide a number that is something close to past experiences, their membership x 100, or a seat of the pants guess. Probably cannot fix that. We can, however, ask that they tell us how much of their overall number comes from the Club's own budget. The number is not as important as being certain that each Club, from Club resources, is a direct contributor and that each Club has a line item in its budget to do so.
- The situation will arise where staff at TRF will accept certain documents signed by the sitting Governor and spouse, each acting in accordance with TRF guidelines. For the health of the district, I would also want to insist on a third party signature (next Gov in line?). At this point an issue of which to be cognizant, and we will flesh out appropriate policy. An additional thought is to expand this discussion: if there is a feeling out there that "an old boy network" with inside access exists, would we be better served to also have a third signature on any request for funds involving/supporting PDGs?
- Alumni. Thinking of it as a membership function has never occurred to me, but it makes perfect sense.
- Future Committee Structure. The 2012-13 team Marty has assembled is a strong one. For Carolyn and Lawrence, the new structure becomes much more user-intuitive: a Subcommittee (of x number) for money in, another for money out, another for polio, and Other(s) in whatever form the District determines best. We will have to be thinking well in advance of any District by-law changes about how to staff the 2013-14 positions and what they might be.

I am sure there is more, but this is what is currently on my mind. I think the key perspective for each of you is that I am fully supportive of the issues attendant to accountability and transparency. I welcome the challenges set forth in the planning document.

Last night I asked Marty for a bit of time so that I might get some thoughts on paper. If all four of us are on the same page, that is about as perfect as it could get. If on the same page and collectively heading in the same direction, then even better. I look forward to your thoughts, and confirm that, if you still want me, I would be most pleased to take on the DRFChair position. Thanks for asking.

Peter