

Rotary International District 1070 Council Meeting, Thursday 24 April 2014

District Governor Margaret Morley chaired the meeting which was held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel on Thursday 24 April 2014 commencing at 7.30pm. There were 103 Rotarians present from 61 Clubs (Area A 8; B 12; C 9; D 10; E 10; F 5; G 7 Clubs represented).

C. 13/14.43 Welcome and Apologies

District Governor Margaret welcomed all who were present, and asked Past District Governors and those Rotarians attending a District Council Meeting for the first time to stand to be recognised. She also welcomed New Generation Exchange Student, Sarah Mowle from Newcastle, New South Wales, Australia who was introduced to the meeting by President Geoff Knipe (Peterborough Ortons).

Apologies were received from:

Past District Governors: Martin Bridge, Barry Hasdell, Dan Connan, Iain Vernon, Richard Hyde, Tony Martin and Terry Watts.

Clubs: Bedford De Parys, Biggleswade, Boston St Botolph, The Deepings, Leicester De Montfort, Oadby Launde, Oundle, Rushden Chichele and St Neots.

Club Presidents: Arthur Ambrose (Grantham Kesteven), Conrad Downer (Towcester), Trevor Handcock (Wellingborough Hatton), Peter Jones (Soar Valley) Eddie Pearson (Melton Aurora) and Chris Tiley (Stamford Burghley).

Club Secretaries: Joyce Boddey (Kempston), Zelda Gunn (Kimbolton Castle), Steve Warren (Kettering Huxloe) and Alistair Wood (Soar Valley),

C. 13/14.44 Act of Remembrance

DG Margaret advised that the names of Rotarians known to have passed to higher service since the previous Council Meeting were displayed on the screen:

Mark Attlee (Oadby), Eric Bamford (Kettering), Barry Buxton (Northampton West), Alan Cox (Holbeach), Robert Eaton (Honorary Member, St Neots St Marys), Ken Habermehl (Honorary Member, Kempston), Martin Lishman (Spalding), Robin Orr (Wellingborough Hatton) and Akram Zaman (Northampton).

C 13/14.45 Minutes of the last District Council Meeting

Approval of the minutes of the last Council Meeting held on Thursday 29 January 2014 was proposed by Simon Adlam (Saint Neots St Marys), seconded by Tony Robbs (Kettering) and agreed with one abstention.

C 12/13.46 Matters arising

There were no matters arising.

C 13/14.47 District Governor's Report

DG Margaret asked the meeting to recognise:

- Members of Grantham which had won a special Community Award presented at the RIBI Conference for the 25 year the local Swimmarathon had run. She also commended the club for raising one million dollars from the Global Swimmarathon for Polio.

- Moira (Leicester) and Howard (Wigston) Bartlett for accompanying the District's finalist to RIBI Young Musician final in Truro, Cornwall, and in their absence, Joyce and Phil Marston (Uppingham) who would support teams at the RIBI Youth Speaks final in Maidstone.
- Janet Cooke (Peterborough Ortons) who had been asked to speak on her work with the publication of Rotary Corner at an RIBI Communications seminar in Manchester.
- John Dehnel (Melton Mowbray) and Roger Neuberg (Oadby) for their work on International project which would each be briefed later in the meeting.

DG Margaret said that she was always pleased to receive constructive comment about RIBI or District matters by e-mail, letter or telephone but she felt it to be totally unacceptable for critical comment to be sent anonymously.

In referring to her written report, DG Margaret updated the meeting on the current situation with District Restructuring. Following a reminder from IPDG Chris Chew that it would be for the Clubs involved to decide on any District moves, a "straw poll" of the meeting showed that those present would support the RIBI Restructuring Team's proposal to add 12 Clubs from District 1270 to the remainder of District 1070 to form a new Area 10 district. Following a question from PDG Neville Hackett DS Dick said he would respond to the request for more information and pass to him the current RIBI discussion documents.

C12/13.48 District Secretary

District Secretary Dick Parsley reported the results of the election for the District Representative to the 2016 Council of Legislation with the primary delegate being DS Dick himself and the reserve being IPDG Chris Chew. He asked any Club considering making a proposal to COL in accordance with the RI Manual of Procedure to contact him. Proposals would need to be put forward to the July or November District Council Meeting so the submission to Rotary International could be made before the end of 2014.

With regard to the reduction in District Council meetings from 1 July 2014, the consideration of dates had been referred to the District Executive. Taking account of the business of the year, the recommendation were Monday 21 July 2014, Tuesday 25 November 2014 and Wednesday 4 March 2015. There was some discussion on whether the July meeting should be moved to August but taking account of this being the peak holiday month the general feeling of the meeting was for these dates to be approved but this would be considered further for subsequent years.

Details had been circulated of proposed changes to Standing Orders to allow dual electronic authorisation of payments and as requested by the Conference Committee, to more accurately reflect the current situation with Conference committee appointments and roles. With the amendment that the District Rotaract Chairman should read District Rotaract Representative these changes were agreed unanimously.

Club meeting changes: With effect from 28 April 2014 Kettering will meet at Telford Lodge, Rothwell Road, Kettering NN16 8XF at 1230. With effect from 1 July 2014 Shephed Charnwood will meet at 7.30pm.

C 13/14.49 District Treasurer's Report

DT Eric Lenox said that he had received no questions concerning the Accounts for the period ended 31 March 2014.

The Conference accounts for 2013 had been circulated and no questions were raised and the accounts were thus adopted. It was explained that a significant surplus occurred from the increased level of attendance at the 2013 Conference and as it was members money it was recommended by the Executive that it be returned to members without delay.

The District Treasurer referred to the paper circulated detailing a recommendation of the Executive committee to reduce the capitation by £3 per member from £32 to £29 for the year 2014/15. Geoff Richardson (Huntingdon Cromwell) raised points of order concerning this proposal on the basis that at this stage a change of capitation contravened Standing Orders by seeking, among other things, to overturn a decision of the previous meeting of the District Council. This view was supported by PDG Ken Parkin (Huntingdon). There was discussion which was generally in support of the proposal and Robin Green (Northampton West) proposed an amended resolution to the effect that the "Capitation figure should remain at the agreed figure of £32 and an amount of £3 taken from the Conference Account should be dealt with as a rebate to members" in order not to contravene standing orders. This was seconded by Mike Warrington (Stamford) and agreed overwhelmingly with 3 votes against and 2 abstentions.

C 13/14.50 Assistant Governors' Reports

There were no additions or questions concerning the written reports which had been circulated.

C 13/14.51 Project Team Chairmen's Reports

The following items were in addition to the written reports circulated by all Committees.

International: Roger Neuberg (Oadby) reported on his recent visit to Uganda and showed a photograph of the 33 e-Ranger motorcycle ambulances which had been made possible by funding mainly from 43 Clubs from the District. Following a question from Linda May (Blaby Meridian) Roger confirmed that the names of Rotary Clubs who had funded complete e-Ranger were shown on that motorcycle ambulances, and he would be supplying a regular report to those Clubs. DG Margaret thanked him for being the driving force behind this very successful project and for all the work that he had done in the previous 3 years as International chairman.

Philippines Typhoon: John Dehnel (Melton Mowbray) reported on his recent visit to the Philippines and included a report and thanks from the District Governor of 3860. Relief aid from this District had exceeded £35,000 and together with Shelterboxes and water purification equipment had been put to excellent use. DG Margaret expressed congratulations to John and all Clubs involved.

Youth: Moira Bartlett (Leicester) said that there were now 7 Interact Clubs with enquiries from a further 3. She requested Clubs to encourage Interact members to attend the Multi District Rally at Irthlingborough.

For Youth Exchange she stressed the importance of Club Protection Officers obtaining DBS vetting for all host family members over the age of 16 who were likely to be in the home during an exchange stay otherwise costly delays could occur.

For Young Designer places should be booked by 8 May and entry details supplied by 9 June 2014.

She thanked the members retiring from team posts – Anne Bamfield, Shirley Morley, Colin Yarwood, David Nisbet, and John Knight. She emphasised the importance of Rotarians helping the organisation of projects, individually or by a Club adopting a project, as the competitions could otherwise not take place.

Andrew Cowling said that places were still available for RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) and hoped that in the 30th year of organisation by the District a full entry could be achieved.

Community: Tony Robbs (Kettering) thanked all Clubs for their support over the last three years and introduced his successor Bill Watson (Shepshed Charnwood). He reminded members that Make Winfield and his support team would be taking a group to the Calvert Trust in the coming week and the DG Margaret and Andrew would be joining them for some of the time. Bill Watson encouraged club delegates to submit entries for the various community awards. DG Margaret in her turn thanked Tony for his 3 years as Community chairman.

Support Team Chairmen's Reports

The following items were in addition to the written reports circulated by Committees.

Vocational: Colin McCartney (Biggleswade Ivel) asked clubs to ensure a good attendance at the Vocational break-out session at District Assembly when the District Vocational Skills Database would be explained and launched. He also encouraged clubs to submit entries for the District Vocation Competition since the closing date was 30th April.

DG Margaret thanked Colin for his work as team leader in the past year in continuing to establish the Vocational team as a separate grouping and wished John Clayton (Melton Aurora) well as he took over this role.

Communications: Tim Tucker (St Ives) had nothing to add to his report and he was thanked by DG Margaret for his enthusiastic leadership of the Communication team during the year.

Leadership Development and Training: DG Margaret noted that Peter Brearley (Towcester) had been unwell and that he had nothing to report to the meeting. She expressed her thanks to Peter for leading the training team for the year and, on behalf of the Council, wished him a full and speedy recovery.

Membership: Allan Faulkner (Spalding Welland Centenary) said that the current e-mail address for submitting membership figures would cease to be available after 30 June and his successor Chris Chew (South Holland) would advise replacement details. District Assistant Treasurer Mike Warrington (Stamford) emphasised the importance of all Club databases being up to date on 30 June because no July alterations would be accepted for capitation purposes. DG Margaret thanked Alan for his time in office as Membership chairman.

Conference: Conference Manager, Neville Thompson (Grantham) said that bookings for the Scarborough Conference were coming in at a rate ahead of last year with 600 delegates so far registered. He advised that plenty of conference capacity was available but that the limit for the Gala Dinner is an absolute 800. There were still a few rooms left at the Conference Hotel.

C 13/14.40 The Rotary Foundation

Foundation Chairman, Trevor Davies (Brackley) said that the figure for Polio Giving across the District in his report should read USD27,688 (not £2,860). He thanked retiring Grants Chairman Rosemary Good and retiring Peace Champion Jim Richardson for their work and named their replacements as Irvin Metcalf (Grantham) for grants and DG Margaret (Corby Phoenix) as Peace Office. Following a question he confirmed that all Foundation payments received by RIBI in Alcester by 30 June would count in this year but advised early action.

C 13/14.41 Next Meeting

DG Margaret confirmed the next meeting would be held at the Best Western Rockingham Forest Hotel, Corby NN17 2AE on Monday 21 July 2014 at 7.30pm

C13/14.42 Any other business

DS Dick reminded members that bookings for District Assembly at the lower rate closed on Monday 28 April 2014, and also referred to the procedure to be taken by Club Secretaries in updating the District Directory.

Details and booking form in the basket for the District Handover lunch taking place on Sunday 29 June 2014 at the Greetham Valley Golf Club

Details in the basket for the District Showcase taking place on Saturday 21 June 2014.

IPDG Chris Chew referred to this being the last District Council to be chaired by DG Margaret and expressed a vote of thanks to her on behalf of all of the members.

There being no other business, DG Margaret closed the meeting.

Signed:
District Governor

Date: