

Rotary Round Table Discussion (September 21, 2017) Executive Summary

Presented to Midland Noon Rotary at our December 28, 2017 Club Meeting

In September, our members came together in a round table during club to share their thoughts about why they are members, costs of membership, the direction of the club, and offer input on programs and service opportunities they would like to see in the future. In addition, suggestions were made that might impact the work of various committees.

The Rotary board reviewed the summarized results of the round table provided by Tawny Ryan Nelb and a subcommittee was formed of Amanda Oster, Sharon Mortensen, Tom Lane, John Haag, and Tawny Ryan Nelb to prioritize the board's response to members. The ten pages of member responses and recommendations for steps forward have been summarized as follows:

Why We are Rotarians:

The main three reasons our members join and stay with Rotary are for fellowship, personal growth, and making a difference by our service to others.

Meetings:

Members wanted to keep meetings in place but that a service activity of social event could be substituted periodically. Members liked being asked to "mix up" its usual seating. The board sub-committee suggested this be implemented quarterly using a numeric system and someone at the door directing them to new seating. The club's response to continuing club singing was mixed and it was suggested that some of the songs could be modernized to bring them in line with the various demographics of club members. The board is reviewing options to make our invocations reflect the fact that we welcome all members and their diverse beliefs.

Membership:

Many members were unaware that we have an active red to blue badge process that was revamped in 2015. This information will be shared on our website and Facebook pages in addition to the DACdb to help communicate it to members.

The Membership committee will be asked to discuss a way to on-board new members more quickly. Suggestions include a brief self-introduction where new red badge members would share information about themselves like "Hi, my name is John Doe, this is what I do and this why I am interested in Rotary. In addition the sub-committee asks the membership and Stewards of Rotary reexamine the mentor program and see how it can work better, perhaps by asking sponsors to take on that role again.

Work to increase Dow Chemical employee membership to reflect historical roots.

Committees:

The sub-committee recommends that the Stewards of Rotary ask members what committee they have joined as they complete their orientation. Committees should provide periodic reports to the club during club meetings so the members become aware of what the committee does and who is chair. The reports would include how the committee's work impact the club's strategic and funding. Tom Lane agreed to assemble a list of goals that will be made available to the

committee chairs. Reports would cycle through all the committees during the year. Specific round table suggestions for committees will be passed on to them directly for their action.

Programs:

There were many suggestions for programs and these will be passed on to the program committee. An organizational change was suggested that over time programs would revise the Rotary programs focusing on the services of a single non-profit organization. Instead, the sub-committee recommends assembling larger topics like “children’s services,” “low cost housing” etc. where by the non-profits which provide these services would come together in a panel discussion. It is recognized that this would require more time and organization on the part of the program committee and that the chair could ask for program committee help. In addition, members could provide program suggestions at club meetings via a suggestion box.

Summary:

The entire ten page summary will be made available on the DACdb for members and this Executive Summary will be made available in our Newsletter and on our Facebook page and our website.

Thank you.

Rotary Board Subcommittee:

Tawny Ryan Nelb

John Haag

Amanda Oster

Sharon Mortensen

Tom Lane