

Minutes of Governor's Conference Call – October 12, 2017 – 3pm PDT

(First effort using WEBEX software program)

Ed. Note: Although scheduled to begin at 3pm, the inevitable first-time efforts to log-on to the meeting created delays for some – primarily President Dale, moderator, was delayed about 20 minutes. In the meantime VP Matt Johnson, filling in during Dale's absence addressed the agenda as prepared by Dale. There were a few brief comments, mostly concerning the need to record minutes. Mostly, the first 20+ minutes were devoted to connection and audio difficulties.

PDG Randy Tarrier initiated the meeting as administrator and upon arriving home switched off for a few moments while he arranged to have the software record the meeting. There were a few stops and starts as others checked in and from my vantage point it seemed the voice transmissions had an occasional burp – perhaps due to telephone routing delays (?). For the most part those on video feeds had excellent results, however perhaps a few mechanical short-comings may be a future problem for some, e.g. Gov. Blanton Bessinger's weak audio output from his laptop microphone.

Eventually it all fell into place and the functional part of the meeting started about 3:27pm. Those attending were President Dale Woodroffe, VP Matt Johnson, VP Ted Shewchuck, S/T Emil Baijot, D-I: Bryan Flanigan & Randy Tarrier, D- IV Peter Evans, D-VII Blanton Bessinger, D-VIII Peter Carter and Gary Ennis from D-X. It was noted that governors from D-II and D-IX were absent due to family issues. (If anyone was missed, please advise to correct these minutes).

The Meeting:

Dale asked for any specific items for the next agenda. Bryan wondered because of our financial condition whether having two-year officer terms might reduce costs. Fewer installations, more knowledgeable about issues, etc. It was noted that some districts already have two-year terms and others such as 4 and 8 seem to have a waiting list however they also expense their Lt. Gov. to attend the meetings, so that seems to accomplish the same desired result. It was agreed to re-visit this issue.

Dale moved on noting on his agenda the main item was membership. Random comments dealt with marketing, inviting and making Gyro more known. Bryan said they were planning to produce a Power Point slide show that would show anyone interested in Gyro what our goals and structure are, and what our accomplishments have been. Communicating face-to-face is sometimes difficult – but this might be something visual to get the message across. In D-I they will be also looking at what works best geographically to start new clubs. Matt questioned Peter Evans re: a video produced by Victoria. Peter indicated how to find the video and suggested it might be useful to the D-I project.

There was more random discussion re: mining the newer members for more new members. An excellent source of growing the clubs. That age group is our pool of potential new members.

Dale asked again for any other agenda items before setting a time and date for the next conference call. At this point Peter Carter checked in, but his audio was also very faint – the video was good. It was

determined his problem was likely using a Safari browser. Emil suggested he download Firefox as it works well across operating systems.

Peter Evans noted an article from the Washington Post about how loneliness is a major problem. He will send it to the attendees.

Emil noted he was getting a small feedback from almost everyone's audio. Randy suggested it was because he was using both a cell phone and his computer for this conference. (Another tech issue to consider in the future. At this point Blanton had adjusted his audio and was now easily understood.

Bryan added another possible concern for consideration. Perhaps meeting schedules could be adjusted to allow those interested, e.g. in only district or business only affairs, to attend for only three days rather than five days which would perhaps increase attendance as well as reduce costs – especially for our target membership age, many of whom are still working.

Dale asked again for time and date for the next meeting. Every two months was discussed but it was finally determined that for the immediate future, monthly conference calls would be more beneficial to all.

The meeting adjourned at 4:01pm.

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Ed. Observations: I thought the meeting, once started, worked well. Those participating needed a period to adjust to the new process. As the next couple meetings occur, incidental tech difficulties should no longer be a problem. I would suggest that in the following meetings everyone identify themselves each time they spoke as I noted the audio on the recording made the speaker hard identify at times. Frankly I only recognized myself because I sometimes did identify myself first. Perhaps the moderator should ask that no one speak until he calls on them for comments.

I noted that most times when someone spoke the system did identify visually by a circle showing speaker initials. But the reference was quick and limited to those on video. If the software were perfect it would be nice if there were some means to say – click on a button that would indicate you had a comment, which would register on the moderator's screen, from which he could call on you in turn. That would simplify over-speaking on someone else and would keep issues moving along. Maybe Randy can explore that option if available. If everyone could be on the video that could be easily done by simply raising one's hand – however the video is limited only 6 or 8 at a time.

I found Peter Evans' article from the WA Post very interesting. It seems to amplify the considerable discussion that resonated throughout Gyro about 10-12 years back regarding a book that strongly endorsed that people live 25% longer when they have multiple friends. This resulted in a useful promotion, i.e. "Join Gyro and Live Longer."

Respectfully submitted:

Emil Baijot, Secretary-Treasurer

From D-IV Governor Peter Evans

UNITED STATES

FORMER SURGEON GENERAL DECRIES GROWING LONELINESS EPIDEMIC

Vivek Murthy, former U.S. surgeon general, is decrying a loneliness epidemic, saying work is partly to blame.

In a new cover story in the Harvard Business Review, Murthy treats loneliness like a public health crisis, and the workplace as one of the primary places where it can get better – or worse.

“Our social connections are in fact largely influenced by the institutions and settings where we spend the majority of our time,” Murthy said in an interview

with the Washington Post. “That includes the workplace.”

In the HBR article, Murthy writes that “we live in the most technologically connected age in the history of civilization, yet rates of loneliness have doubled since the 1980s.”

He added: “Many people feel that the folks they’re working with are work colleagues, but they wouldn’t call them friends. And there’s a real lost opportunity there ...”

The Washington Post