



Kiwaniis®

LOUISIANA-MISSISSIPPI-WEST TENNESSEE DISTRICT

MINUTES

Meeting of the 2021-2022 District Board of Trustees

Zoom Call – December 2, 2021

Rick Latiolais, Governor, Presiding

ATTENDANCE

Governor Rick Latiolais

Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt

Immediate Past Governor Patrice Cusimano

Executive Director Charles Ford

District Trustees:

John Fry, Region I

Jim Lytle, Region II

Rogena Woods-Mitchell, Region III

Marcel Lashover, Region IV

Michele Crosby, Region V

Kim Champagne, Region VI

Malissa Sweeney, Region VII

ABSENT

None

I & II. Call to Order, Invocation, Pledge of Allegiance, and Defining Statement

Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt led the Pledge of Allegiance

III. Opening Remarks

A. Rick Latiolais, Governor

1. Comments to the Board

Rick informed the Board that Key Club District Administrator Jean Benoit, and Assistant District Administrator Anthony Simmons had both resigned their positions. Rick asked Jennifer Kelly-White and Judi Zimmermann to step in to help the Key Club District until a permanent District Administrator is appointed.

Rick informed the Board that District Growth Chair Dorothy is planning to hold virtual educational and fellowship events on every other Thursday at 5:30 pm. Beginning on January 27th. These will be promoted to the District membership at the Regional Conferences.

B. Bruce Hammatt, Governor-Elect

Bruce had no comments to make at this time.

IV. Consent Agenda

Governor-Elect Bruce asked that the Kiwanis Financials for 10/1/2021-11/30/2021 be removed from the Consent Agenda for discussion.

Trustee Michele Crosby moved to approve the Consent Agenda as amended; seconded by Governor-Elect Bruce Hammatt. Motion passed.

V. Board Committee Reports:

A. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Governor Rick Latiolais called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m., and gave the invocation, and led the Defining Statement.

Charlie informed the Board on how this meeting has been held in recent years – sometimes by Zoom, other years face-to-face with the Lt. Governors invited to attend to find out how their year is going to this point and to pump them up.

Rick said he saw no reason to bring the Lt. Governors together at this point in time. Rick suggested that he will put together a Lt. Governor Report, gather them, and then have the Board review them at the next meeting, December 2nd.

B. INSPIRATION - MEMBERSHIP AND ENGAGEMENT

Committee: R. Woods-Mitchell (C); K. Champagne; J. Fry; J. Lytle; B. Hammatt

Rogena said that her committee felt that the District needs to develop healthy clubs... healthy in membership, healthy financially, and healthy in community service.

For Increasing Membership, Rogena said that the committee felt that club membership chairs need to be trained. The Committee suggested that a Club Membership Chair Training Program be held at District Conventions. The District has a Club President and a Club Secretary Training at Conventions. Likewise, the District needs to plan and hold a Club Membership Chair Training at the annual conventions, to better prepare the club chairs to grow in membership.

Rogena said the next item that the committee needed to focus on would be how to keep the existing clubs alive and active. The committee suggested better use of the District's Social Media programs, working with the District Newsletter Editor, and District PR Chair, and others to publish programs that successful clubs are using so that other clubs may pick up on these ideas.

Rogena said the next item the committee suggested was to develop a larger group of coaches that will be willing to work with clubs. These coaches should be ready to work with every club in the district, not just the ones in trouble.

The next item her committee spoke about was just where to find these coaches in the District. The committee suggested putting together a list of Kiwanians in the District that have been recognized for any of the various awards of the District. The list may include Ruby K recipients, Distinguished Club Officers, etc., simply because if they are being recognized in their club, their club must be doing something. The District may also reach out to the Past District Officers as a source of coaches.

Rogena reported that her committee also suggested that the Board Committee on Leadership and Education get on board to develop educational material to help prepare the coaches on how to work with the clubs. What does a club coach and the coaching materials in the LMWT District need to look like? The Leadership and Education Committee needs to help develop these materials.

The Membership and Engagement Committee's final suggestions was to encourage more leadership participation. The District needs to encourage regular Divisional Council Meetings in each division. The District may want to change the concept of the council meetings, perhaps by changing their names to Club Networking or Divisional Meet-Up, and encourage the divisions to actually meet and share items that the clubs need to be made aware of. The Lt. Governors need to be encouraged to hold these regularly, and to possibly re-brand these meetings away from the old "Division Council Meetings. The Lieutenant Governors and even the Trustees need to attend club meetings so that the club members see what their leadership looks like.

Bruce Hammatt explained that the reason that he passed on speaking earlier as Governor-Elect, was that he attended the meeting of this committee and knew what was being brought to the full board. He stressed the need to take this report and expand on what this committee recommended and make a lot of changes in the District. The comments made by this committee need to be implemented soon.

Charlie Ford chimed in that with the implementation of the District Board, it seems like the Lieutenant Governors are taking more of a backseat position, with little to no communication with their clubs. The District needs to find a way to get the Lt. Governors more actively involved.

Governor Rick said that he will send a letter to his team of Lt. Governors requesting that they start holding regular Divisional Council meetings to keep their Club Presidents and other members informed about what is happening. These meeting can either be in person or by videoconferencing such as Zoom, or a combination of both.

C. BRANDING & IMAGE COMMITTEE

Committee: M. Crosby (C); M. Lashover; J. Lytle; M. Sweeney; R. Woods-Mitchell

Michele reported that most of the Regional Conferences are scheduled for 2021-2022 – except for Region II and Region III which should be finalized soon. Michele reported that Greg Beard and Nettles Brown will handle all the training for the Regionals this year. Rick informed the Board that Greg and Nettles are seeking information from the clubs to prepare for the Regional Conferences.

Michele reported that the locations for the next 2 District Conventions are contracted. She said she talked with Charlie about looking for a site for 2024. He suggested that we wait until the new Executive Director is hired, so that the new person can be involved with the site selection process. The Board agreed with that logic.

Rick reported that the Circle K Convention will be held in Lafayette. The Key Club Convention is not booked, but they are targeting Natchez. Charlie reminded the Board what happened in 2020 when school boards and principals stopped their students from attending. Charlie is seeking more assurances that the Key Club members will be able to attend.

Rick reported that the Key Leader North is booked in Tennessee the weekend of April 29-May 1, 2022. It appears that Linda Ramsey has most things under control so far.

Key Leader South is scheduled for March 11-13, 2022, at Camp Istrouma, Greenwell Springs, La., just outside Baton Rouge. Rebecca Huff is asking for some assistance. Bruce suggested that the Board doesn't know what help she needs. Bruce said he would contact Becky to find out just what help she needs. Also, this conference is scheduled for one week before the potential Key Club District Convention, if held, which is a bad time to get high schoolers out 2 weekends in a row.

D. COMMUNITY IMPACT

Committee: B. Hammatt (C); J. Lytle; M. Lashover; M. Sweeney; R. Woods-Mitchell

Bruce reported that the committee has not yet met, so he has very little new to report. Nothing has been discussed about a new District Service Project, nor has the local Kiwanis House Board meet, so there is little to no new information to report to the District Board.

Governor Rick welcomed new Board Member Jim Lytle to the Kiwanis District Board, to replace Trustee Waseem Gul, who resigned from the board dues to lack of time.

E. FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Committee: J. Fry (C); K. Champagne; M. Crosby; M. Lashover; M. Sweeney

Finance Chair John Fry said there was very little to discuss since we are just into the new Kiwanis year, and a very minor amount of dues have been transferred to the District from International yet. Charlie also informed the Board that International has changed the dues transfer process from weekly to monthly now.

John reported that he feels that the District is on pace and is in a very good position so far this year, with about a third of the annual dues in so far.

F. LEADERSHIP & EDUCATION

Committee: K. Champagne (C); M. Crosby; J Fry; M. Sweeney; R. Woods-Mitchell

Kim began by apologizing for not being able to hold a meeting this past week.

Kim said that the Regional Conferences will be promoted on a single flyer to be mailed to all clubs and posted online. Charlie asked the Board if we need to either discount the price to attend, or a discounted rate for 4 members. Kim said that the basic price doesn't need to be reduced, but the discounted about for 4 members to help stress the point to bring a number of people. John and Michele both agreed that the registration price to be as low as possible. The Board agreed that the basic Registration Price will be \$15 per person – discounted to 4 for \$50.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Past Governor Patrice reminded the Board that at the last meeting, she presented a proposed amendment to the District Policies, Policy # 308, to describe the hiring procedures for the District Executive Director, which the Board approved at the time.

308 – Hiring Procedure for District Executive Director

308.1 – To select a new Executive Director, the Governor at the time the hiring process begins shall appoint a search committee consisting of the Governor, the Governor-Elect and the Immediate Past Governor. The Immediate Past Governor shall serve as chair. Once appointed, the search committee shall serve until a nominee is submitted **and hired by** the District Board.

308.2 – The search committee shall advertise for qualified applicants from within the District. Once the deadline for receipt of applications expires, all applications shall be submitted to a panel of Past Governors, which panel shall consist of all past Governors willing to serve. The panel shall interview the applicants and cause to be made a video recording of each interview. The panel shall submit a list of up to three (3) candidates to the District Board, along with the recorded interviews. Thereafter, the District Board shall select a new Executive Director by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of eligible members. If any sitting board member is a candidate for the position, that person shall be ineligible to participate in the selection process.

308.3 – Should the District Board and the selected candidate fail to agree on the terms of employment, the process shall continue with the remaining candidates on the list until a new Executive Director is selected. *(modified 12/2/21)*

Trustee Rogena Woods-Mitchell moved that Policy 308 be accepted as revised; seconded by Malissa Sweeney. Approved.

Patrice added that she has reviewed the application and shared it with Rick and Bruce, updated it, and then shared with the Past Governors. After review and updates, the application was forwarded out to the District Officers and Club Presidents.

Governor Rick informed the Board members that there will be a Zoom Intro to Amplify on January 11th and 12th.

Governor Rick informed the Board that at the Governors' Meeting with International President Peter Mancuso, he was informed that the District's Goal in Membership was to add 450 net gains in members for the year, based on actual membership on 10/1/2021. As of this meeting, the District has added 31 members, but are still 44 members short for the 1st 2 months.

Rick told the Board that he is also putting emphasis on trying to get the Key Clubs reactivated and functional. He has shared this information with the Lt. Governors, suggesting that they get involved locally.

VI. District Calendar

- Circle K District Convention, March 18-21, 2021 – Virtual and Baton Rouge, La.
- Key Club District Convention, March 18-21, 2021 – Virtual and Baton Rouge, La.
- District Board Meeting–Virtual: March 26, 2021
- Circle K New Board Training– to be decided
- Kiwanis Lt. Governor Training Conference & District Board Meeting, Crown Plaza, Baton Rouge, La. – May 13 & 14, 2021
- Key Leader-North, Eva, Tenn. – April 29-May 1, 2022
- Key Club New Board Training, Baton Rouge, La. – to be decided

- Kiwanis International Convention, Indianapolis, IN – June 8-11, 2022
- Circle K International Convention, Austin, Tex., June 24-27, 2022
- Key Club International Convention, Washington, D.C., July 6-10, 2022
- Kiwanis District Convention – Crown Plaza, Baton Rouge, La. – August 5-7, 2022
- 1st 2022-2023 District Board Meeting – date and location to be determined.
- Other

VII. Remarks

Each Board Member was given the opportunity to make some closing remarks about their experience at the Board Meeting.

IX. Adjournment

With no additional business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned.

MSWord: Minutes-December 2, 2021