



STILLWATER ROTARY CLUB

**Post Office Box 81
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PRESIDENT'S CORNER

September 28, 2006

I am pleased to announce this year's committee appointments.

These appointments are available at each table and will soon be available on the club web site. Hopefully, e-copies of the appointment lists were attached to the Cogwheel e-mail for all of you who receive the Cogwheel electronically. In addition, I will gladly e-mail an e-copy to any member who so requests. Send your request to djennings@jenningsbank.com.

The Rotary motto is "Service Above Self". Service requires action. This year's committee assignments are intended to keep each member engaged in some level of activity consistently throughout the year. There is much work for our club to do and we have many very capable club members to do it.

The more we put into Rotary this year the more fulfillment we will get out of it. This year's committee appointments should get all members more involved in the club's business. Many of us may even learn new things about Rotary along the way that we can share with our fellow Rotarians. This offers an opportunity and a challenge which can lead to a more rewarding Rotary experience for members individually and as a club.

This year's committee appointments are different in a couple ways. First, you will notice that the new committees are based on our new club organizational structure established in the new constitution and bylaws we just passed. Each new Standing Committee has been color coded on the lists to make them easier to follow. There are two lists. One list describes each committee by member. The other list describes each member's committee appointments.

Second, you will notice that each active member has been appointed to 3 or 4 committees or subcommittee assignments. Active excused members have been appointed to one or two committees. I have appointed myself to six duty assignments, which is the most of any member in the club (i.e., I intend to practice what I will be preaching). It is not too late for any of you to join a committee you did not sign up for previously – just let me know your wishes.

When I was growing up in rural Minnesota I often heard the saying, “Many hands make for light work”. It is still true today. The new committee appointments split up the work of the club fairly among the members, which has been an issue in the past. In addition, each committee has enough members assigned to it to fairly split up any work of that committee or subcommittee. You may end up spending more time on one of your club appointments than on other of your appointments, especially if you are a subcommittee chair. But the same will be true for your fellow club members.

As a result, the work of the club and each committee or subcommittee has enough members to get the job done with only a reasonable amount of effort fairly shared by each member. The new and more participative appointment roster will result in a new sense of camaraderie and fellowship in going about the club’s business. In short, this year’s committee assignment roster meets the Four Way Test.

If any member sincerely believes they cannot serve one of their appointed service assignments then that fact will certainly be respected. However, any such member will be asked to locate another club member who will volunteer to replace them on the committee or subcommittee from which they are seeking to be excused. As an alternative, you may swap committee assignments with another member. Please advise me of such changes so I can update the committee appoint roster and advise the affected committee or subcommittee chairs accordingly.

Each committee and subcommittee should meet at least once monthly to transact its part of the club’s business. Such meetings are important in order to make sure progress is being achieved. Each Standing Committee of the club (Club Administration, Public Relations, Membership, Service Projects and Rotary Foundation) will be monitoring the activity of each member and subcommittee on a monthly basis. The Board will likewise start reviewing activity reports from each Standing Committee on a monthly basis.

Meetings do NOT need to be long. Much can be achieved in only fifteen minutes or so with only a little advance preparation and organization. Presumably each committee or subcommittee member will have their fair share of work assigned to them for the next meeting. Occasionally, longer committee or subcommittee meetings may be necessary. I will authorize a meeting “make up” for any committee or subcommittee meeting that lasts 60 minutes or more in length.

I suggest that your committee or subcommittee meet at the same time and place each month so members can plan ahead. For example, you may decide to meet right after the club meeting on the third Thursday of the month. Many of you may have noticed the Membership Committee is already doing this. For smaller groups, you may choose to simply have a telephone conference to conduct your brief monthly meeting.

You have many resources to get your committee or subcommittee started. There are Committee Descriptions already completed for each committee and subcommittee. In addition, there is an extensive treasure trove of resources available on the Rotary International web site at www.rotary.org (checkout the Download Center) as well as the district web site at www.rotary5960.org. Finally, we will be making efforts throughout this year to improve our club web site at www.stillwaterrotary.com as a club resource.

If each member accepts accountability for and ownership of just a couple small parts of our club's mission, they will be able to educate and involve the remaining members of our club. Multiply that effect across the entire club and imagine what we can do. Rome was built one brick at a time over many years. But it did get built and when it was completed it was splendid.

With only a little monthly time and effort by each of us that is built upon over the course of an entire year, I believe we can achieve a significant new level of service. More importantly, envision the tremendous productive results these changes can achieve in our local and international communities through our Rotary club.

Much work still needs to be done. Much additional detail still must be provided for this fiscal year, including specific goals and action outlines, etc, for each committee and subcommittee. Those details will be determined and executed by each of you and your committees with Board oversight.

This year is very much an "open book" yet to be written by our club. Only a couple pages of that entire book have been assigned to each of you. Hopefully your pages will not be blank. How the story for our club ends this year depends on each of us doing our fair share in finishing that story.

I am **NOT** expecting all club members to devote endless hours of time to our club. In fact, I very much realize that we are all volunteers and many of us have significant obligations outside of Rotary. Believe me, I in the group with plenty of obligations. But I **AM** expecting our members to have FUN and experience new found fulfillment through their new but reasonable levels of expected Rotary club participation.

In conclusion, Rotary is a service club. Hopefully you belong to this club because of that fact. I just KNOW our club can be so much more than we have been with only a little effort by our members on a consistent basis over the course of the year. Rotary truly does make a difference in our community and around the world.

Surely we were all moved by Irina Thornton's presentation last week. Only \$1,000 from our club for a children's dance stage reinvigorated and rejuvenated an entire Russian community. It should inspire all of us to this year's service. Our club has so many really amazing business and professional leaders. All of us simply must get more engaged in the Rotary mission. I cannot bear to see any of your valuable talent wasted!.

Together, we can start a new momentum that will endure and improve our club into the future. Welcome to this year's adventure in Rotary service. Let's get to work. Thank you!!!

David Jennings
President