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AN HONEST LOOK AT THE CLUB

Welcome to the new Rotary year!

Whether you're looking at this coming year with anticipation or reservation, I would state that the next three weeks will probably define the course of our club for the next five to ten years, or certainly set the compass.

I wouldn't make a statement as bold as this without some backing, so let me share some of what has been planned.

First and foremost, we've finally managed to schedule a Club Vision Session which the district has agreed to put on for our benefit. This session is designed to help develop a strategic five plus year plan for the club.

This one time session will take place at Owen's church from 5PM to 9PM on Monday July 26th.

The district states that members of the club who are not on the board are especially important to the successful completion of this session. Particularly if you're not on the board, it would be especially helpful if you would plan to come that day and stay for the whole time.

I will be putting out a signup sheet for the next two weeks, so we know who is coming and how much food to order. Dinner on the 26th will be simpler than usual as requested by the district; sandwiches and such most likely (and plenty of coffee).

On the 12th and the 19th Sean Duffy has agreed to facilitate an extended discussion among all of you about our present problems and opportunities. It's time we laid everything out on the table about what's going right and what's not and take an honest look.

If you have ever felt that you wanted to change the club and make it work better, that's exactly what we're trying to accomplish in the next three weeks.

Your participation in each of these sessions will be needed and very welcome.

YOUR SEATED PRESIDENT AND SOME TECHNO-BABBLE

I am your seated President for a reason, and it has nothing to do with being elected.

I'm seated because I sprained both my left ankle and my left knee on Saturday, so if I'm not seated, I'm on crutches.

It's a very silly story, but I'll spare you the details.

This does lead me to something else I need to announce.

It's become clear to me that a Monday night meeting once a week is actually not sufficient enough to conduct all of the club business we have, so I've established an electronic messaging system for the club so we can continue discussing club business 24 hours a day.

What these boards allow us to do is raise ideas and issues with each other in an informal way. For example, Fabi has agreed to lead the Dictionary Project again this year, and there's an entire thread dedicated to that topic. If you want to know what is going on and participate in that project, the board is a great way to find out and contribute.

The other advantage is for the many members who are frequently out of the country or unavailable most Monday evenings. It allows everyone in the club to participate so long as they have access to the internet.

Now I recognize that some of the members may not wish to participate on the boards because they're not comfortable enough with technology to do so. There is no requirement to participate online, but it is a very good tool to get things done.

To register, simply go to this link and follow the directions:

<http://eelectricity.com/rotary/index.php?action=register>

I strongly recommend setting your user name as:

firstname.lastname

This will make it easier for everyone to know who you are.

Once you're registered, I'll grant you permissions to participate on the boards. You will then be able to:

- Read discussion topics
- Reply to discussion topics
- Vote in polls
- Look at the club calendar
- And even send each other private messages if you so wish.

Again there is no requirement to participate, but this is a great way to stay connected to Rotarians throughout any given week; wherever they happen to be.

Once registered, simply go to this link and log in to participate:

<http://eelectricity.com/rotary/>



MEETING SCHEDULE

Day	Date	Event
Mon	Jul 12 th	Club Planning
Mon	Jul 19 th	Club Planning
Mon	Jul 26 th	Club Vision Session (Led by District Facilitators) 5PM – 9PM <u>At Owen's Church</u>

CAN'T MAKE THE MONDAY MEETING?

Town	Day	Time	Location	Address
Branford	Mon	12:15 PM	Italian-American Club	40 Hamre Lane
Hamden	Mon	05:45 PM	The Playwright	1232 Whitney Ave
North Haven	Tue	07:15 AM	Breakfast Nook	448 Washington Ave
New Haven	Tue	12:15 PM	Graduate Club	155 Elm St
West Haven	Wed	12:15 PM	App's Ristorante	283 Capt. Thomas Blvd
Orange	Fri	12:15 PM	Race Brook Ctry Club	246 Derby Ave
Woodbridge	Fri	12:15 PM	Coachman Square	21 Bradley Rd
E-Club (Dist. 7890)			http://www.rotaryclub7890.org/	

"In truth, people can generally make time for what they choose to do; it is not really the time but the will that is lacking."

~Sir John Lubbock 1834 – 1913 British Statesman, Banker, Naturalist

Of the things we think, say, or do...



Is it the TRUTH?
 Is it FAIR to all concerned?
 Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?
 Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?