

EARLY BIRD WEEKLY



NewbergRotaryEarlybirds.org

July 9, 2020

Last week was lightly attended, in person and virtually, and not just because of pandemic or protests. Last Thursday abutted a 3-day weekend, a real common time for light attendance.

This was President Bill's first full meeting. He didn't come to office with A Plan as much as he came with a plan to serve.

So his first meeting was asking we members, seasoned and green, and the past presidents in attendance.

Many of the alterations we've had to make have already been set in motion. The question now is could we be doing it better?

1) Food, the first and most obvious topic. Bon Appetit has been our regular caterer for many years but their price per meal was going to take a significant hike then the pandemic put everyone in a tailspin. They had to pretty much roll up their sidewalks and blow out the lights until businesses and the University campus started meeting in person again.

For our first two live meetings we had Panera (Sherwood) deliver breakfast sandwiches, yogurt parfaits and oatmeal cups. This coming Thursday will be Coffee Cat (S. College St.).

As we mature into Stage 3 re-opening we are weighing the per person cost of Bon Appetit's on the go menu at \$8.50 vs Panera's \$6.50 a head.

From my round-table Karen like the no-eat/no-pay option. Mark M. and Casey will show up whether there's food or not. And I am happy to eat when it's there.

Rachel (for her table) clarified that we will need to pre-select 1 of 3 menu items in advance (buffet style is not yet permitted). And suggested food-truck options like Ricky's Tacos (editorial apology to the esteemed Paul Harris for food trucks being a thing now).

Rod says that we bill quarterly for food so need to be mindful of the work we create for our Treasurer. If Dan steps down after a year we want it to be because he needs to, not because we saddled him with food cost option variables.

Frank has been here long enough to remember we tried opt in/out and it was an accounting nightmare.

And Bill reminded us that we have to invoice members for more than we actually pay to cover guests, irregular attendance, etc.

John D. asked for clarity whether the default stance would be No RSVP, No Breakfast. For now, that's a yes.

2) COVID posture. We are wearing masks when gathered and practicing the 6' social distancing rule.

Bob reminds all to also be conscious of our own health and exposure and not show up if we are already vulnerable to respiratory illness. And, if healthy but not feeling well, stay home.

3) The Zoom Experience. From my table the thought is that Zoom (or other virtual meeting space) is a necessary evil, not everyone is savvy enough or technologically equipped, and the virtual world is not 100% reliable.

Bill believes a virtual meeting option will attract younger members. Those still launching careers and raising families.

Gary's thought is that we have a much deeper speaker pool gaining access to presenters that could never show up in Newberg for a 20 min talk.

Linda suggested acquiring an actual WebCam, mic and speaker.

John D. expanded on Linda's thought of investing in a permanent solution so Casey could enjoy the meeting instead of fighting with technology.

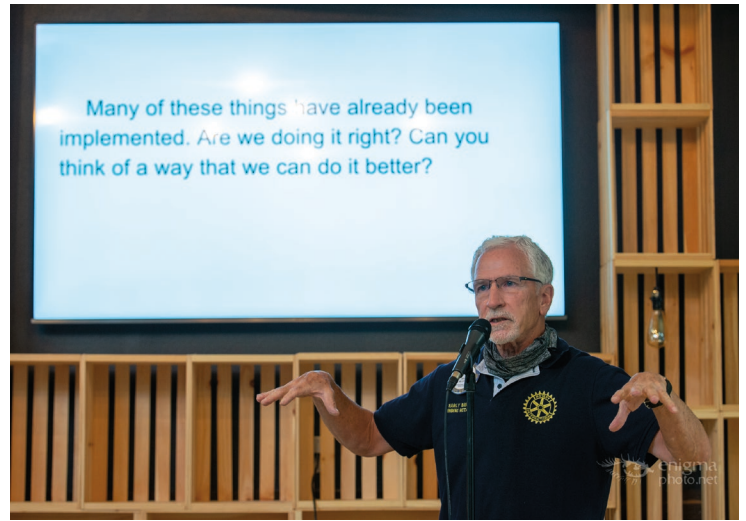
Last week was a great case in point. Virtual attendees could hear, so long as Bill was speaking. But, with COVID, we can't just pass the mic from person to person. And, as humans, when we see someone's face on the screen we forget that they can barely see us from the laptop camera. Heck, they can't even read our lips if we're masked up!

Someone suggested we talk to Lewis Audio Video for a real setup.

For me, when my WA and NorCal clients start showing up to work again, a virtual meeting could mean perfect attendance and fewer skipped newsletters.

4) Program Topics/Speakers.

Karen loves local topics about things she never knew existed in her own backyard. Like Anvil Academy and the recent author



that shared with us her augmented reality book.

Rachel suggested mini-classifications for tenured members. We know all about new members, but new members known only of us what they pick up in conversation.

Ronnie suggested a program topic of virtual meeting best practices.

Perspective Wrap Up. Bill closed the meeting with a variant of "today, in 1968."

In January, North Vietnam launched what would become known as the Tet Offensive against South Vietnam for a 21 week conflict.

The My Lai Massacre, one of the US Armed Forces' darkest moments, when our Army soldiers killed and mutilated up to 500 men, women and children.

Martin Luther King Jr. was assassinated April 4th.

This precipitated the 1968 Chicago Riots leaving 11 citizens dead, 90 police injured, and 2,150 people arrested.

Robert "Bobby" Kennedy was assassinated June 5th.

Lyndon Johnson announced he would not seek a second term. Richard Nixon was elected.

The moral of this story is, "If we made it through 1968, we can do 2020!"

And this, one of Bill's favorite quotes, "When I was a boy and I would see scary things in the news, my mother would say to me, 'Look for the helpers. You will always find people who are helping.'" ~Mr. Rogers

Be that person looking for some big or small way to help someone else in their need.

[Click here for the Noon Club's newsletter.](#)