

President's remarks, June 26, 2018 Board meeting

First, I want to bring you up to date on board member Tim Stewart. Word travels fast in our small town so I'm sure most of you know that Tim had a very serious biking accident about two weeks ago in northern Michigan. He spent about a week in the hospital and now he is home recuperating. (I'd hoped he would be able to join us today - our thoughts and prayers are with him)

Your board had two planning sessions this spring and identified two major goals: improved communications and creating a new 5-year strategy. Communications objectives were broken down into 4 areas: communication to and from our members, communication within the board, communication between committees and communication with our CEO.

A key objective that supports most of these areas is getting timely agendas and meeting notes up on our GVR website. We are making progress and our timeliness should improve as we get additional administrative support.

Our board has lots of good ideas including holding informal member forums, posting FAQ's on our website and providing printed eBlast materials for those who don't have access to the internet. We want to integrate our ideas with the input from our member survey.

A team of directors is working on recommendations for responses to member emails. All board members receive every email that is addressed to the board. board@gvrec.org.

Emails expressing an opinion are acknowledged and forwarded on to the board. Emails to be handled by the staff are forwarded on for an answer. Some emails deal with issues that are being investigated by the various committees. These might be forwarded on to the committee chair or answered with the suggestion that the member attend the committee meetings. A few might require a policy decision. Those will be considered by the board and an answer will be provided to the individual or the general membership as is appropriate. Our board Secretary will be the point person on this.

I'd like to address board training. Last year's board decided there could be better ways to conduct board training and orientation. We have tried a number of things like holding a training session with potential candidates before they were elected. This covered board member expectations, how our committee system works, our governing documents, and the Carver policy governance model. After the election we heard from our CEO on the state of GVR and had two sessions with our attorney to understand our legal responsibilities. We agreed to space additional training out through the year. For example, earlier this month we spent 4 hours touring our facilities and getting a solid orientation on capital projects including those in

the 3-5 year plan. We are not completely happy with our training approach, so the Nominations and Elections committee is busy working on improvements.

The heart of our business takes place in our committees. I've asked each of our committee chairs to give you an update on our progress and key items they are working on.

Now, let me turn it over to CEO Kent Blumenthal for his comments.

~~Carol Crothers