

HISTORY OF HEARTLAND PETS

DGN Bill Grimes was in charge of Chairing the District 5670 PETS training to be held on March 16, 1996 at the Vagabond Motel in Hays, Kansas. A one day PETS Training starting at 9:30am and ending at 3 pm in the afternoon. Approximately half of the President Elects from District 5670 showed up.

While DGN Grimes was at his Governor's training in Anaheim, CA., he became aware of several annual Multi-District PETS training sessions. Shortly after the Anaheim training, Bill began gathering information about how several of those Multi-District PETS were organized. After conducting the March 1996 PETS District 5670 training, Bill decided there had to be a better way and maybe the Multi-District PETS training was the answer.

Multi-District PETS Training had existed in different areas of the United States since 1977. However Multi-District PETS was not supported by RI Headquarters to any extent until around 1998. The first Official meeting was held on July 16-17, 1999 at the Orrington Hotel. Conveners of that *First Annual 1999 Multi-District PETS ALLIANCE* were Ray Klinginsmith and Ken Morgan.

Contacts were made in early 1996 by Bill Grimes to his DGN classmates (No DGE's at that time) Fred Krebs of 5710, Don Drennan of 5690, and Charles Thone of 5650 about any interest in starting a Multi-District PETS. 5710 and 5690 agreed that they would be interested and support it, but 5650 elected not to participate at that time.

The 3 DGN's were soon to become the District Governors in their Districts. Correspondence from Bill Grimes was now being conducted with RI headquarters to a Dennis G. Swenson, Manager of USA, Canada & Caribbean Service Center about starting a Multi-District PETS training session. He was informed that permission had to come from the Office of the President before any Multi-District PETS could be held. The current RI President Luis V. Giay from Argentina was not supportive of the idea at that time. However with letters from the three DG's Grimes, Krebs, and Drennan permission was finally granted.

The DGN's now in place would be responsible for putting on the Multi-District PETS training in March of 1997. Those first Multi-District DGN's were Bill Kromer of 5710, Ralph Hight of 5690 and Ed Pogue of 5670. Chairman DGN Bill Kromer prepared a draft of the first set of Guidelines for the "*Heartland PETS*" planning council to be held on March 21, 1997 just before the beginning of the PETS training. The Guidelines were formally adopted on March 26, 1997.

The first "*Heartland Rotary P*" multi-district PETS training was held on Friday March 21, 1997... starting at 10:30am and ending on Saturday March 22 after Lunch. Speakers were Gary Sherrer, Lieutenant Governor of Kansas and PDG Charlie Laine of District 6760. It was held at the Holidome in Salina, Kansas. Registration costs were \$50 per attendee. Total Income was \$15,272 and Expenses were \$9,394.43.

Evaluations were conducted on the first Multi-District PETS in 1997. Many positive comments were received and also a few negative ones. One of the positive comments would support what DG Bill Grimes had in mind....."*This is my 3rd time as President. By far this is the best meeting of President elects-by far (5710)*"

District 5650 joined the *HEARTLAND PETS/SETS* in 2007. The Multi-District PETS/SETS now consists of Districts 5650, 5670, 5690 and 5710.