

Paradigm Shift Committee

Report and Recommendations

September 7, 2002

The member survey developed by VP Education & Training Danny Pritchard showed that members expected to speak more frequently than the current meeting configuration allowed.

In order to satisfy member expectations, President Jim Akers appointed a blue-ribbon panel to address the issues involved. The committee, which included Committee Chairman David J. Rafanowicz, Akers, Pritchard, Ulrich Leinhase and Richard Welty, met to discuss potential changes. The committee was appropriately dubbed the “Paradigm Shift Committee” as preliminary research determined that a significant change to the current meeting format would be involved.

The committee addressed expanding from the current three-speaker format to a four-speaker format (consistent with other large clubs), how to grow meeting time to accommodate an expanded schedule, and possible reconfiguration of the meeting room to accommodate more participants at each meeting.

The committee issues the following preliminary recommendations:

- for a test period of six weeks, beginning with the September 14 meeting, the format should be modified to include four speakers and four evaluators;
- a thorough time study should be made during the test period to evaluate areas where the schedule could be adjusted to accommodate such a change permanently;
- elimination of the five-minute breakfast break (which, as it turned out, was added to the schedule years ago when the hotel made individually-prepared omelets that were not always ready at the start of the meeting);
- encourage members to arrive sufficiently early to enjoy breakfast before the meeting;
- include in the business meeting only those items of old/new business that have been forwarded to the Presiding Officer prior to the meeting (for official placement on the agenda), with any announcements held until the closing session of the regular meeting (under the category “any other comments for the good of the club”);
- do not otherwise presently eliminate any items from the current schedule;
- work with the hotel for recommendations on meeting room reconfiguration;
- based upon results of the test period and time study, make permanent recommendations on how to meet member expectations and take the club to the next level.

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