

How to Prepare for Your Classification Talk

One of Rotary's five avenues of service is Vocational Service whereby we honor and respect our individual contributions to our community through our vocations. The Object of Rotary includes recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society. New members are given an opportunity to share their vocation by giving a classification talk to the club, but as a member of our Rotary family we also want to know about you personally. *Your talk should be from 5-9 minutes long.*

Members like to know your background, where you have lived, where you attended school, about your family, about your vocation, and your interests and hobbies. Your remarks will help make connections with other club members from the information you share, so try to include as much information as possible in your *5 to 9 minute talk*. Your information will help members learn about possible mutual interests and will build goodwill and better friendships.

Suggestions About What Information to Include in Your Classification Talk

- Your name, where you currently work, and what you do there
- Your work history, training, education, schools you attended
This can include why you chose your profession (or perhaps why it chose you).
- About you! This may include where you were born, places you have lived, childhood interests and family background (parents, siblings, spouse or significant other's name, marital status and number of years married, number of children, ages, and interests), and major life events such as military service or travel.
- Why you joined Rotary, what you hope to gain from Rotary membership, and what you feel you can contribute
- Your present hobbies, interests, values and beliefs
- Anything else you want your fellow Rotarians to know about you, your family and your interests

Remember prepare your remarks to include as much information as possible, but *be concise so you can keep your talk within the time limits*. Have fun!