

Jesse Tam

Club President 1994-1995

Rotary Club of Seattle International District

November 15, 2013

It has been a long time since I was the club president at Rotary Club of Seattle International District. The years were 1994 to 1995. It is time to do some catch up homework in preparing this president's report for the year. About twenty years have gone by but it is better being late than not doing it.

Rotary International Theme for the year was "BE A FRIEND".

My memories brought me back with emotions and excitements. My original focus and priority for the year was to re-build the club based on the basic general Rotary principles and platform, the Four Ways Test and Avenue of Services. Our club filled with the spirits of "Women into Rotary" and being one of the most diverse clubs in the district, attracted many interested individuals who came to the club without fully understanding of overall meaning of Rotary. The earlier success of our club in bringing women into Rotary in the late 80's was exceptional and highly recognized. It meant a lot to our club but there was a cost to our club with many turnovers in membership who joined the club based on that one issue and not on the general Rotary principles. My mission was to expand the club's energy onto those Rotary basics.

A new "white" banner was ordered with club citation and recognition to be sewed on it for years to come (the same banner is being used today). We added some of the club awards on the banner and started to display our international exchanged flags as the beginning of the club tradition.

There were few events that I thought were meaningful to the club. One of the events during the morning of the club meeting that I was told there were five city mayors from all over Washington, including our own mayor of Seattle, Norm Rice, coming to our club meeting. Politician came with TV camera and news reporter. Our club was mentioned in every paper and news in town in the evening.

Wow, the Christmas holiday family event was a big success. We had so many kids in our room at the former Chou's Restaurant. The magician was doing his job well. I remember we had over 200 people there packed the dinner room.

Contrary to the happy time, it was sad to have to deal with the terminal sickness of our club president elect, Gary Ewing. My mission was to encourage him to get well to take over the club's leadership role. While I was doing that, I had to responsible for two

auctions in two years as club's president elect and club president. Gary came back later to assume the president's job before his pass two years later.

For the first time, I was representing Rotary Club of International District to attend Rotary International Convention in Taipei, Taiwan, along with over 35,000 Rotarians from all over the world. It was the beginning of my Rotary career that led me to become district governor of Rotary District 5030 in 2008-2009.

I do believe every Rotarian should assume leadership role as Rotary is a progressive organization, we need to change with time or we won't survive. New leaderships bring in new energy and ideas for growth and adaptation to our constant changing world.

Best Rotary Regards,
Jesse Tam
Past club president of Rotary Club of Seattle
International District, 1994-1995