

INTERNATIONAL SERVICES SURVEY SUMMARY FOR ROTARY BOARD

There were 79 responses equally distributed amongst those who had been in the club for a year to those of more than 20 years and amongst those who have held various club and committee leadership positions.

We asked a number of questions in an effort to determine interest and support for International Projects and the responses clearly show strong support, following behind club and community service in importance. Even though they support International Projects, 17% say that they are simply not interested in international travel.

While only 23% of responders have traveled on an International trip, fully 77% hope to in the future, the majority of those in the next 5 years.

The biggest barrier to participation, for over half, is available time and other commitments, mainly family, children and social commitments. The majority of responders would be more likely to participate if a trip was a week or less. (some trips have been up to 10 days)

We attempted to understand whether club members felt these trips are affordable for them; indeed, after time, the next biggest barrier to participation, for 24%, is cost. While 86% felt the club should contribute in an effort to make service projects more affordable, 11% felt that participants should pay all expenses, and 3% felt that the club should pay all expenses. For those who felt cost was a barrier to their participation, nearly half were willing to pay out of pocket up to \$1000, 18% up to \$750, 21% up to \$500, and 14% up to \$250.

A small number of responders made some very thoughtful comments to the effect that our club should be addressing significant needs at home and with our local immigrant community, rather than internationally. While the results of this survey affirm the wishes of our club members to have strong club engagement in International Services, our committee encourages the club to put out the effort and resources to challenge these local needs as well.

30% of responders are willing to help bring a foreign exchange student to Saint Cloud, done in collaboration with Granite Rotary. (I will be seeking your help and support in the weeks to come). Vicky Dilley, coordinator for North Star Youth Exchange, sponsored by Districts 5950 and 5960, will address the club at our noon meeting on Tuesday, October 6.

50% of responders are willing to help to send school supplies to impoverished Guatemalan schools in collaboration with other District 5950 clubs.

Gary Strandemo
International Services chair