



## April 2<sup>nd</sup> Club Assembly – Topics of Discussion.

Greetings!

On April 2<sup>nd</sup>, at our offsite meeting at the new Northside Elementary School, we will be having our semi-annual club assembly. For the past few months, your board of directors has been kicking around an idea that instead of the “normal” assembly, where we gather by committees to discuss items, we would instead use our 20 minutes or so together having a larger discussion regarding some of the areas of our club that have been long-held traditions, but perhaps deserve a closer look to see if they are possibly a “Sacred Cow” – something we do out of tradition but may not fit in its current form the current makeup of our club or fit the future direction of attracting and meeting the needs of our members. Some months ago, the board came up with this short list – it is certainly not all encompassing, but it starts the process somewhere. The list (in no particular order) was:

- Float in Rotary Lights – Worth the time/effort? Is club interested in dedicating time/energy necessary to keep doing it?
- Committees? Too many? Not the correct ones? “How did I get on this committee”? etc.
- Weekly Meetings – should we examine time of day and frequency of gathering?
- Invocation – In the 21<sup>st</sup> century and our multi-religious club make-up, is this still relevant?
- Singing – Does this hinder us from attracting new younger professionals?
- Fruit Baskets – Has the time come to look to other fundraising opportunities?

At the March board meeting, it was decided and voted on by your board to bring this number down to three, in order to focus our attention and thought. The top three vote getters were (in no particular order):

- Committees
- Invocation
- Fruit Baskets

I was very impressed and grateful for the way our club approached and handled the possibly sensitive discussion and vote on the Global Warming Initiatives that were proposed to be forwarded to the Council of Legislation. We are going to try to follow the structure we had for that meeting here at this Club Assembly. Each of the three topics will have a statement of purpose/history/why are we here paragraph (or two) that will be read from the ambo. Afterwards, the Microphone will be open to anyone who wishes to voice support/suggestion for change/opinion on the topic. Each speaker will be restricted to one minute. Unlike the Global Warming Initiative, there will be no “VOTE” given for each – just an opening of dialog that will confirm or change the future direction the club may take on these three items. In a normal meeting, we have about ½ hour total for speaker remarks/questions/response, so I

would expect we would have about 10 minutes per topic. If a topic goes longer than 10 minutes due to interest, we may cut into other parts of the meeting, but I will reserve the right to either allow the discussion to continue or to cut off discussion of one of the topics. We still have lives and offices to return to after 1 PM... 😊

Watch your email for a summary paragraph on each of the three items as we approach April 2<sup>nd</sup>. In the meantime, I encourage you to open your hearts and minds to these three points, and consider their importance to our club and to your experience as a Rotarian. Also consider how they help (or hurt) our efforts to continue to have the club grow and thrive as we move thru the 21<sup>st</sup> century. I hope you all find value in this experiment of changing up our club assembly, and although I may not capture the correct word or sentence in the questions or item points listed above, that I have captured the spirit of opening dialog on these items.

Thanks in advance for your involvement with this club assembly and for everything you all do to make this world we inhabit a better place.

Bill