

Monique Nadeau Elaine Chan, Carolyn Weyrick, Carlyn Roy, Jim Harris, Jim Whitacre, Linda Nguyen, Cynthia Darland, Ann Voves, Kathryn Nelson

Question

What is the best way for us to encourage members to stay fully involved in Rotary?

Comments:

Most people pick and chose how they get involved by their interest. Our club has so many things to offer. If people do not see something that interest them, they should feel comfortable to suggest a new idea or a new committee if they would like.

People need to be "aware" of the different committees and how they can participate. This weeks Rotary meeting will hopefully help get more members to get engaged. We need to keep members educated and informed on upcoming events. Continue to reiterate to members to be more ACTIVE and get engaged!

We are a SERVICE organization. When people join our club they should know from the beginning about their commitment. It is really up to each member to take the "initiative" to get involved. Also, we think it is important that active members make the "ASK" too! Sometimes if a person just ask someone to join them most people are willing to just say YES. Try it, it really does work!

Mentoring is essential if we want people to stay in our club. Show newer members the ropes and keep them motivated to contribute.

It was recommended that we have longer Rotary meetings and dedicate more time for projects and hear testimonials from members about how they have enjoyed their role in participating. We should highlight our service more often during our meetings.

Zoom has been a great tool for people to connect these days. For example, Jeff Lovely all the way from Packwood. Linda a former member joined all the way from Mexico. The Scholarship Committee was able to conduct interviews during these uncertain times with seniors.

Everyone is excited about the Virtual District Conference on May 16th. In addition, participants are wanting to join the Rotary Convention June 20-26th. It would be great if we promote these upcoming events in the Gearshift and challenge members to attend and report back on the meetings to our club.

Suggestions

Each committee chair should do a brief video about their committee, we could promote one each week in the gearshift with a link to view it. Also, we could add these videos to our website so new members could view each committee. Also, we should encourage members to visit committee meeting and not feel if they attend they must join. They can shop the different committee meetings and see which are best suited for them.

Once we start to have our regular meetings at the Yacht club, members are hoping we can continue to Zoom the meetings and even record them to view if they can't attend due to travel or other commitments. It is another way people can stay connected and informed about our club. The notes are great from the meetings but to see it first hand is wonderful.

Rotary #8 Spring 2020 Fireside

Attendees: Christina Turner (host), Kathryn Nelson (in and out), Julie Foley, Ali Criss, Miriam Barnett, Larry Treleven, Mary Lynn Pannen, Jennifer Wedderman, Diane Kelleher, Cindy Niemi.

What is the best way for us to encourage members to stay fully involved in Rotary?

- Make up meetings at other cities you visit. This can be done via zoom because most clubs are offering this, or go in person when you can.
- Invite people to attend Rotary – whether in person or zoom – with you. People like to be asked even if they are already a member.
- Offer both in-person and zoom meetings to provide options for more people to connect to Rotary.
- If you attend other club's meetings, share the ideas with the Rotary office of how they are handling their online meetings and what cool things they are offering. Mary Lynn plans ask her friend who is a Rotarian in Santa Monica.
- Firesides are a great way to connect to individual Rotarians. Miriam shared this is the how she felt really connected when she joined Rotary and attended her first Fireside.
- IN-meeting service projects are a great way to stay connected to our mission.
- Jennifer Wedderman suggested a mask contest or "fashion show" now the at we need to be wearing them in social settings. (A Mask-querade). Larry shared his that has ants all over it. Jennifer is making masks with her kids and is currently making them out of Crown Royal bags.
- Jennifer shared that zoom meetings have helped her to explain Rotary to her children. They get to see what it's like when ordinarily they would be in school. It has opened their eyes and they even participated in the music at one meeting.
- Miriam commented on the quality of the programs. It seems like the Programs committed immediately shifted to COVID-19 related topics. Well done! This captures our attention and keeps us connected through Rotary.
- Larry commented that he learned a lot when we had the program on recycling. He shared that Sprague Pest Controls has added a new line to their work: office and building sanitation services so people feel safe returning to their office buildings when it's time.
- Julie commented it was great to learn zoom. This is probably the case for many people and now they have added a new media avenue to their menu of options to connect.
- Larry shared that the Denver Rotary club opens up their meetings at 11:30 a.m. to have fellowship with a glass of wine or beverage before the meeting starts.
- Christina shared the auction will be virtual this year and asked us to think of creative ways to make this happen. As we attend virtual auctions, share the best ideas with the auction committee.
- Julie and others suggested holding zoom happy hours, book clubs, walking groups. Could be a combo of zoom and in-person in the future.

We had a side brainstorm on the name Pandaka, if we should change it, and what it could be:

- Larry Treleven said it means little fish in a big sea. He is not tied to the name and doesn't think many Rotarians are. When he was Prez, they did skits for the Pandakas as a way to introduce them and it was fun.
- Christina (and others) were not enamored with the meaning.
- Larry said he's heard names from other clubs: Hope for the Future, New Badgers.
- Suggested names: Red Badger (can have a little mascot of a badger), Caviar (as in the egg before it turns into a fish, and caviar is delicate and "rich"), Sprout, Future Leader Member or Future Member, Hope for the Future

Rotary Tacoma Club #8

Fireside, Tuesday, May 5, 2020 @ 6:00pm.

Host: Kim Bedier Notes: Maria Harlow

Attendees: Kim Bedier, Maria Harlow, Whitney Grisaffi, Stacey Ogle, Kathryn Nelson, Becky Fontaine, Cindy Grady, Bryan Flint, Harrison Laird, Jan Brazzell

Vice President Kim Bedier welcomed everyone to the fireside. She asked us to share the silver linings that we have noticed during these unprecedented times.

There was more quality time with family members quarantining together. Enjoying board games like CATAN and puzzles.

President Elect Kathryn Nelson shared that at the President Elect Training a big topic was staying involved in Rotary during the pandemic.

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Member Feedback:

A club in a club, like Rotaract have their own social activities.

We are a large diverse club with a variety of interests.

The auction is the closest thing to a single event that draws a larger club crowd.

Small groups with differing interests seem to be working for us and could be expanded on based on interest, like a book club, etc.

Once a month at 5:00pm could also be held on Zoom in addition to the in person. Zoom is drawing some Rotarians that are not usually at the meetings.

Zoom has people who cannot always attend luncheons joining us virtually. Some are out of state part time or cannot spend time driving to the meeting and back. It can be 2 hours out of the office.

Who will champion special interest socials like Elaine Chan did with the Snow outing?

Our club seems engaged, especially for a large club. Membership clubs are a dying breed. It helps that our president asks members to join in on projects and participate.

We are 110 and our second pandemic. How does our club react to the pandemic? We are successfully fundraising for COVID-19 Response. Can we also find service opportunities to be engaged and doing something to help? How can we support through service?

New member social hour to help them connect with other members and find ways to connect in the club. Meet the new member. New members meet longer term Rotarians and learn why they stay in Rotary and what they love about it. These should be small group of Rotarians who are engaged in the club. Invite 1-5-year members.

Should we do a Birthday and/or Anniversary Zoom party once a month?

We could do a zoom social for families.