



January 25, 2021

### DEI presentation viewed by over 300 people

Submitted by Michelle Brandstadt

Last Monday evening, January 20, members and guests from multiple districts throughout New York listened to several Rotary members' experiences and thoughts on diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) during the multi-district virtual presentation of "Do You See and Hear What I See and Hear?" The two-hour panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Sim Covington, Jr., who, as a former Rotary Club of Utica member, gave a couple of shout-outs to the club. Dr. Covington shared his experiences as well as guided the six panelists as each shared their experiences with prejudice due to race, physical ability and gender.

As a viewer that evening, I found the format was a perfect fit for this presentation, and Dr. Covington did a wonderful job of keeping the discussions on track. I was amazed at the number of people who joined in to view the presentation, but more so with the panelists who shared their experiences honestly and without acrimony. Each presented differing experiences with prejudice that were heart-wrenching and difficult to hear.

It's not possible to give a full summary of the evening, and I could not do justice to the

presenters or their experiences. The presentation was recorded and can be viewed at [District 7190 Facebook page](#). I encourage everyone to view it. I also encourage the other club members who viewed the presentation to share your thoughts in this newsletter.

I took away many thoughts about the evening but I'll only share one. Each presenter described experiences of varying degrees of prejudice within Rotary, ranging from being uncomfortable to outright discrimination. One of the questions posed by several viewers is why would they become or remain a Rotary member. Every presenter pointed to the guiding principles of Rotary, especially The Four-Way Test, as the reason they are members of Rotary. They believe in the ideals of Rotary and that members are committed to trying to execute those ideals, including having the conversations necessary to help move diversity, inclusion and equity forward. It seems appropriate to refresh ourselves with those ideals, so on page two of this newsletter you can read Rotary's guiding principles as well as its Diversity, Inclusion and Equity statement.

### This Week's Program

FRIDAY | January 29 | 12 p.m. via Zoom

Our guest speaker is Cheri Citro, CNY Quest Board President and Operation Sunshine President. CNY Quest's mission is to enrich the lives of people with developmental, intellectual, and mental health disorders. Cheri has been involved in various groups and organizations and continues to support American Heart Association, Alzheimer's Association, and ALS Association. She is an active board member for Mohawk Valley Women's Business Network and Mohawk Valley Community Elder Wellness Council (C.E.W.C.).



Deadline for next newsletter (2/1) is Sunday, January 31, at noon;  
submit to [news@uticarotaryclub.org](mailto:news@uticarotaryclub.org)

# Rotary's Guiding Principles

These principles have been developed over the years to provide Rotarians with a strong, common purpose and direction. They serve as a foundation for our relationships with each other and the action we take in the world.

## Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- **FIRST:** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- **SECOND:** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- **THIRD:** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- **FOURTH:** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

## The Four-Way Test

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

## Of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

## Avenues of Service

We channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

- **Club Service** focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.
- **Vocational Service** calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society. Learn more in *An Introduction to Vocational Service and the Code of Conduct*.
- **Community Service** encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest. Learn more in *Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects*.
- **International Service** exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.
- **Youth Service** recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

## Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Statement

As a global network that strives to build a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change, Rotary values diversity and celebrates the contributions of people of all backgrounds, regardless of their age, ethnicity, race, color, abilities, religion, socioeconomic status, culture, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity.

## January Calendar of Events

1/29 Weekly Meeting | 12 p.m. via Zoom  
Cheri Citro, CNY Quest/Operation  
Sunshine

Check out the latest  
District Newsletter and Rotary  
International News on the Rotary  
Club of Utica website:

[Rotary District & International News](#)