

## Introduce Self

### **1. Things I do and don't do.**

Things I don't do – golf, fishing, dance

What do I do – work, go home, the woods

### **2. A typical evening at the Petersens**

Home

“Daddy's Home” The kids used to come running, now just the dog does.

Things I typically say every evening – Set table, clear table, close the door, take a shower, close the door, go to bed

I'm told often “these years go by quickly, so enjoy them”.

And I do appreciate them.

### **3. Finding a wife**

Mid-30s – I very much wanted to be married and have children.

It was no easy task for me to find a wife.

Ultimately it took an undisclosed amount of cash, plus two players to be named at a future date.

Those players turned out to be Olivia (16) and Natalie (11).

Red sox & Natalie story

### **4. Raising children**

I often enjoy polite, civil, loving conversations with my beautiful daughters. They go something like this.

“Hi Dad. Hi Olivia or Hi Natalie, Can I have some money? Sure. Thanks Dad!”

## **5. Working in the Woods**

Here's what I do for fun and relaxation

I wage war on 8 acres of land beating back every known invasive species of plant – thorns and vines.

That's my idea of fun and relaxing.

No one else seems to think so.

So it is often a time of reflection for me, while operating some sort of small engine.

Lightning Strike last weekend – new fb video coming up.

So that's me.

My Presidency and my goals for the club

### **6. Presidency as honor, or chance to embarrass.**

I view it as a great honor and great opportunity to lead this club. The way I look at it, I get the chance to embarrass myself once a week for an entire year. I've never had that chance.

### **7. What Tricia Said**

Tricia stood up here two years ago and said **“you can't offend me, so don't hold back with your ideas.”**

I'm here to say that I'm easily offended and very sensitive.

### **8. What Butch Said**

When Tricia called me several years ago and asked me about being President I was honored and delighted and immediately said “yes”. Flash forward a couple of years and I'm in the Nominating Committee meetings chaired by Butch Ricci. And Butch keeps on repeating to me “the president slot is the hardest to fill – over and over”

So now I had a new take on being asked to be President. I imagined the committee going down the roster and getting all the way to “P” before someone finally said “yes”.

Just look at the first letters of the next two Presidents – W and V.

So Let's pick a theme for the year

### **Part 1 – Have Fun.**

How about we have fun in everything we do?

Thursday meetings, in all of our meetings, on our projects, and fundraisers. Help make sure that they are fun.

For me the weekly Rotary is a relief from the daily grind.

Let's keep it that way, and then some.

Here's the bottom line – people do things that are fun!

**Part 2 – See the Opportunities.** Ok so things are fun, what next.  
Let's take full advantage of all the opportunities that Rotary offers.

Rotary is basically a conduit of opportunity to our community and the world.

**9. Simple opportunities-**

- Fellowship with a diverse group of people
- Improve your person skill set by chairing a committee and learning how to organize and delegate.
- Initiate a whole new idea that matches a personal passion with the resources of Rotary
- See projects through for origin to completion

**10. More serious opportunities –**

- Do something really big that bolsters your contribution to society, something that bolsters your legacy.
- What's in your legacy?
- What is the life well lived?
- Have you achieved it?
- Do others around you think you've achieved a life of meaning and purpose?
- I care about these questions for myself, and I care what you and the rest of the world thinks of me.
- I want to do something with my life.

## **11. I'll settle for mixed reviews even.**

"Here lies James Petersen, he was a strange fellow, but a good strange." I'd take that.

## **12. Partial List**

Here's a partial list of the things going on right now in our club.

This year, this club, by having fun and seeing the opportunities for each of us individually and as a group – by doing that we will be successful in serving humanity.

Thank You.

Rejected themes

Just Do It

Just do something

What's in your legacy?

Just say yes

We're all going to die

Service as opportunity

How to get involved

Committees, fundraisers, and other ways to serve

Attendance Committee

Basic Needs Committee

Board of Directors

Executive Committee

Finance Committee

Christmas Trees, Ornaments & Custom Wreaths

Golf Tourney

Cross Country Race

Hands On Committee

Jeremy Alex Chess Program

Rotary Reads

Membership & Classification  
Communications/PR  
Program Committee  
Salvation Army Soup Kitchen  
Vision Committee  
Website  
e-Bulletin  
William Cash Committee  
Youth Exchange  
International Service Committee  
Rotaplast  
Interact  
Rotaract  
Earlyact  
Vocational Awards  
Scholarships  
District 7780  
Connections Committee  
Senior Luncheon  
Rotary Foundation  
Fine Masters  
Thanksgiving Dinner  
After Hours Events  
Behind the Business Events

