



WEEK 32 FOUNDATION MINUTE – PEACE THROUGH ACCEPTANCE

Our public airwaves have been brimming with conflict, with competing points of view shared in passionate well-reasoned arguments. We ponder how to reach consensus about our latest political challenge. We consider how we got here, how to deal with our emotions, and how to reach our own personal conclusions about where we personally stand on the issues being debated. As Rotarians we attempt to rise above such discourse, to take the high road and not to engage. But it affects us and our families nonetheless.

Reinhold Neibuhr’s words have guided many through times of discord and difficulty: “God, Grant me the Serenity to accept the things I cannot change, Courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference.”

Acceptance of the decisions of others with which we may not agree, of circumstances we would rather not face, and of choices we would rather not make is often the only way to move forward and avoid conflict. Rotarians need to have the courage and wisdom to accept the unchangeable and pivot to take action to change what needs to be changed to improve the lives of those less fortunate so that they can live in peace.