

The Best Leadership Practices of Exemplary Rotary Club Presidents

Adapted for Rotary District 5190

From *The Leadership Challenge* by Jim Kouzes and Barry Posner

And from survey responses from the 2016-17 club presidents



Model the Way – Lead by example

- Prepare for your Clubs' meetings every week and use an agenda
- Arrive early
- Help set up and help clean up
- Create a welcoming environment
- Greet all your members and your guests
- Participate in as many trainings and club activities and projects as you can
- Attend PrePETS, PETS, Club Learning Assembly and District Conference
- Contribute to TRF and Polio Plus; use Rotary Direct
- Use the District website and MyRotary and look for answers there first; then utilize our district leadership team to help find answers
- Build the best team before your year begins
- Ask people individually if you need volunteers
- Rely on the wisdom of past presidents
- Plan ahead
- Say thank you often – in person and in writing – from your heart
- Laugh at your own mistakes
- Smile!
- Be organized
- Be flexible
- Be collaborative
- Be positive and upbeat

Inspire a Shared Vision – Connect to the big picture

- Pass on the vision of the DG and RI to your Club members; remind them throughout the year: membership growth, foundation giving, public image, and youth and international focus; ask for status on the Club's progress toward these ends
- Help your Club members see how what they do contributes to the big picture
- Acknowledge their actions and accomplishments and reiterate how they are ***making a difference*** in your community and in the world
- Set goals; write them down; assess where you are often
- Be inspiring

Challenge the Process – Strive for continuous improvement

- Ask Club members what issues they face
- Determine the pulse of the community
- Brainstorm with them on ways to be more successful
- Learn from “failures” or “mistakes” and move on
- Connect them with the right resources for new ideas (or find out!)
- Be the champion to ensure as many from your Club as possible attend the training seminars and Club Leadership Assembly to keep learning fresh
- Embrace the new Rotary image and logo, especially every time you place orders for new materials
- Encourage your Club members to try new approaches to doing your day to day business while retaining your Club heritage and personality
- Challenge your Club members to document all your processes to make it easier to pass on those functions to someone new
- Remember to carry forward agenda items to your next meetings for follow up
- Be creative

Enable Others to Act – Provide tools to succeed

- Absorb as much as you can at PETS
- Use the District Committee Chairs for their wealth of knowledge and then link your Club committee chairs to the District committee chairs
- Share training opportunities with your Club members and encourage them to attend
- Have a directory of all your Club officers and members, AG, and others to call regularly

- Be the champion for Club members to attend RLI, particularly when it is offered in your Area or nearby
- Learn the technology of the District website, Clubrunner, MyRotary, and RotaryClubCentral so that you can assist your Club members to utilize it more effectively, too
- Ask your Club members what else they need to be successful
- Provide opportunities for Club members to stretch, use their skills
- Pay attention to what causes complaints and frustrations and look for ways to address them
- Be aware

Encourage the Heart – Appreciate, acknowledge, assist, inspire

- Be there for your Club members
- Reach out to those who have missed meetings
- Remember that you serve the Club members; think of it as THEIR club versus YOUR club
- Interview members with a list of questions to understand why they joined Rotary and what their motivation is to stay – discover their passion
- Pay attention to what is going on with your Club members and address issues early
- Make New Member Inductions special by finding out – and sharing – as much about the new member as possible. Invite their family to attend, too
- Acknowledge new Paul Harris Fellows with special ceremony
- Try to make every meeting worthy of your Club members' time and energy
- Keep track of your Club's accomplishments and acknowledge your members every chance you get
- Look for opportunities to laugh, relax, have fun, engage with each other
- Schedule more fellowship activities
- Say thank you often
- Remember you are loved
- Have fun
- Be appreciative