

Creative Ideas For Virtual Meetings

Our District Membership Team has some creative ideas you could use at your virtual meetings. Good presenters are important, but there is always time for some fun in Rotary. Here are a few of the creative, fun ideas you might want to try.

Ice Breakers

Virtual ice breakers are a great way of overcoming one of the biggest challenges of managing a club remotely – that is the lack of opportunities for members bonding.

What Is a Virtual Ice Breaker? Simply put, an ice breaker is a game or activity that you can do with the members of your club to get to know each other better and stimulate conversation. Essentially they are designed to "break the ice." You might use one to get to know a new club member, or to kick off a meeting or club event.

Virtual ice breakers are exactly the same, but they are done online via a video meeting or web chat. They can benefit your club in a number of ways. For example, they can introduce new members to the club in a fun and engaging way, encourage people to learn more about one another, improve communication, build club rapport, bring an element of fun and interactivity to meetings or club events, reduce feelings of isolation and loneliness and help people to feel more relaxed and positive.

Examples:

- Upload a Picture of Your Shoes
- The Social Question (first job, favorite food, pet peeves)
- Two Lies and a Truth

Energizers

Energizers add fun and increase engagement in meetings. They prevent boredom and allow your members to bond over a shared experience as well as appeal to members' creativity or competitiveness.

Examples:

- Look around: have participants all look at/for something at the same time. Move your body and/or camera/phone if able.
- Story around the circle: meeting leader starts one or two lines of a story, and each participant adds a line to the narrative.

- Shake down: As a group, perform 8 shakes of the right arm, 8 shakes of the left, 8 shakes of the right leg and 8 shakes of the left leg. Alternatively, do the hokey pokey!

More examples of Creative Ideas to Use at Rotary Meetings

- Which Member Is This? – This could be used in place of a Member Moment. Meeting leader gives one clue at a time, describing a member. The meeting leader keeps going until people guess who it is.
- Scavenger Hunt – The meeting leader gives everyone an item to find. The person who finds it first, gets a point. Time limit perhaps 3 minutes. Then go on to the next item. You could probably get through 5 or so items in 20 minutes.
- Pictionary – When you go to “Share Screen” in Zoom, select the White Board to use for drawing the word given you. Divide members up into 2 teams. If you have 12 people at a meeting, 2 teams of 6. The game manager assigns something for one member to draw while their team guesses what it is. If they guess the item within the time limit they get a point. Teams take turns guessing.
- Never Have I Ever – One at a time, each member tells something they have never done. Anyone who has done it, earns a point. For more fun the person/people who has/have done it could briefly tell their experience.
- Recipe Day/Night – Prior to the meeting, a recipe is sent to members with the ingredients that are needed. During the meeting the cook leads everyone through preparing the recipe.
- Welcome Back Alumni – invite back past Youth Exchange students, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) participants and/or Interact students. Have a program featuring them where, perhaps, you interview them.
- Show and Tell – Members show an item that is special to them and tells about it.
- Have a Theme Meeting. For example:
 - Have a Sport Team Meeting - Ask everyone to come wearing something from their favorite sport team.
 - Have a Strange Shirt Meeting.
 - Have a Crazy Hat Meeting.

<https://www.sessionlab.com/blog/online-energizers/>