



Rotary District 9675

District Governor's Newsletter October/ November 2017



Message from DG Stephen

It was nice to Celebrate 90 years of Rotary in the Illawarra a few weekends ago.

After last month's newsletter, I wanted to talk this month about our fellowship. Christmas is just around the corner and the family of Rotary needs to come together to ensure we celebrate what we are doing and ensure that we care for the wellbeing of our members.

To many, Rotary is like an extension of our families. One of the benefits of being a Rotarian is that we must and should be caring for the welfare of our members. Some had said to me, that, "I was lonely so I turned to my Rotary family" they said this especially after personal trauma.

Clubs need to reach out to their members in need to provide support. Until you are suffering and lonely you do not know how the smallest of things can be cherished by one of our members. We need to develop support mechanisms if they do not exist to provide this support. I challenge you whether your Club has this in place. I think this is one of the humanitarian things that we can do locally and that is at our door step.



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

Calendar

November 2017

Rotary Foundation Month

11 November — Rotary Day at the UN

December 2017

District Celebrate Family Week

26th-3rd December

Celebrate the people who support you-
your families.

3rd December

Family Week Picnic- Galvin Park- North
Beach Wollongong.

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month

15 December — early registration
discount ends for the Rotary
International Convention

I helped celebrate the 60th anniversary of one of our members. This person joined Rotary when they were 24. They have known Rotary and served Rotary all these years. Rotary I am sure, along with the Club members of this persons Club have benefited by this person's long association. This member is a significant part of the Rotary family (as all members are). We need to recognise this because some of our members have known Rotary longer than they have known some of their own family members and it is their life.

But like all families we are made up of human beings who will not always see eye to eye. We have differences and we must respect those differences. We need to respect everyone has a point of view and we must attempt to live with that and resolve that difference in a positive way. Because that falls from our values.

Please consider this quote by Paul Harris: -

It is easier to interest men in war than in peace; it therefore requires more moral courage to talk peace than war."

— *Rotary Just at the Threshold, THE ROTARIAN, February 1917*

and also

If this Rotary of ours is destined to be more than a mere passing thing, it will be because you and I have learned the importance of bearing with each other's infirmities, the value of toleration."

— *Rational Rotarianism, The National Rotarian, January 1911*

When I see a member leave after many years because they cannot cope with the change that is occurring around them in their Club I do get sad. Especially when the association has been 10,20 or 30 years. Club leaders need to sit down and try to resolve this. I understand that sometimes you cannot resolve this but we must try. Just as any family must strive to live in harmony. Change is not easy and we live in a world of change, so we need to be careful in how quickly we try to impose change or take account that the change might make people feel uncomfortable. Club leaders need to have this at the front of mind at all times. Just as damaging is not to embrace change and to stare at the past. It is a balance and we must talk it out and reach common ground and then move on.

Let's borrow from some of the great leaders because they were good at having insight in these areas.

Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past or present are certain to miss the future." —John F. Kennedy,

If you always do what you've always done, you'll always get what you've always got." —Henry Ford,

Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like." —Lao Tzu

And

"Just as Rotary itself can never keep its place unless it is constantly growing, so each individual Rotary club cannot afford to stand still while the stream of life moves onward."

1940-41 Armando de Arruda Pereira- Rotary vision: More clubs! More friends! -Ever Forward!, THE ROTARIAN, February 1941

Please consider the following quote because with good will we can success in doing good in the world and the respect for each other:

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"Without goodwill no system can succeed; with it even an imperfect one can scarcely fail."

— 1933-34 John Nelson (journalism), Rotary Club of Montreal, Quebec, Canada. Rotary vision: The mobilization of individual goodwill in solving universal problems- Rotary on the March — Whither?, THE ROTARIAN, July 1933

So, the Rotary family is vital and we must embrace what is causing it to be disrupted (if it is disrupted), because that is the brave thing to do and in line with our values. Leaders must take members with them. And of course, where I began- we must be caring and nourishing to the family of Rotary because to many, it is their passion and their lives. Reach out to your fellow members to see that they are alright and support them in times of need.

FAMILY WEEK –FAMILY BBQ- 3rd December

Our families are important to us. I am asking Clubs to celebrate their family support for us as Rotarians the week commencing 26th November and ending with a District BBQ and activity day on Sunday 3rd December in Galvin Park (alongside the beach) North Beach Wollongong.

A BBQ will be provided by Rotarians on the Day. Further details will be available through the AGs.

Please diary note the day and invite your families.

Let thank our families and showcase Rotary on the Day.

On the Day we are asking that you bring a Christmas Gift for a child in need and we will present them to a Charity to help make Christmas a little more special for some of the needy.

Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions throughout the world. It was recommended by the R.I. Board of Directors and strongly endorsed by the Council on Legislation at three of their triennial meetings.

RLI conducts a series of quality leadership development courses for potential club officers and other club members, including those who have recently joined a Rotary Club. The courses emphasise both leadership skills and knowledge of Rotary around the world. All course sessions are completely interactive. The 81 RLI Regional Divisions believe that leadership education has a positive impact on membership retention by creating enthusiasm and furthering engagement for Rotary.

These courses are run in our District and will be available to Rotarians next year. If you wish to register please contact Bruce Farquharson brucevet@ispdr.net.au.

From The Rotarian Economist, by Quentin Wodon, July 2, 2017

Every year on July 1, some 35,000 new Rotary club Presidents take on the reins of their club, leading 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide for a year. As I just completed a year as club President, I thought it might be useful to share a few lessons learned over the past year.

1. Prioritize

Unless you are a member of a large club, it is probably best to focus a club's energy on only one main goal each year, as opposed to pursuing many different goals. One year goes by quickly. Trying to achieve too many goals may mean not achieving any one well enough.

For my club, our top priority this past year was to rebuild our membership. After many years of decline, we started the year officially with 18 members. In practice, we had at best 15 members since two members told us they were relocating over the summer and another member had to be terminated. Of those 15 members, about half were fully engaged. We had no choice but to focus on rebuilding our membership. Thanks to a few initiatives explained in a free ebook as well as a bit of luck, today we have 40 members. We know that we will lose a few members due to relocation or termination in coming months. But we also have a few additional prospective members already identified, and we are clearly a stronger club today than we were a year ago.

When we started the year, we had other objectives apart from increasing our membership. In some areas, we did well. In other areas, we still have a long way to go. But what helped us is that we were clear on what our main strategic objective was for the past year: rebuilding our membership.

2. Invest in your local community

Many clubs are involved in both local and international service projects. As I work in international development, the fact that Rotary implements projects in developing countries is important to me. However, it is also clear to me that what sustains most clubs is local service, not international projects.

International projects often involve only a few dedicated club members. Without strong local service opportunities, clubs are at higher risk of losing their purpose and dynamism. The same holds for relationships. International relationships are great, but what will help a club thrive are first and foremost the local relationships that a club and its members build, how well the club is known and respected in the local community. There may be exceptions, but it is hard for clubs to do well without a strong local presence.

3. Serve your members

Sometimes, there is a bit of a debate among Rotarians as to whether Rotary is a membership organization or a service organization. It seems to me that Rotary is by its very nature a membership organization first. Without a strong membership, Rotarians can't achieve as much in their service work.

Recognizing that Rotary is primarily a membership organization has implications. Clubs need to respond to the needs and preferences of their members. This may mean a stronger focus on service in some clubs, but in other clubs it may mean a focus on, say, attracting great speakers. There is a lot of heterogeneity between clubs as well as Rotarians, and that's a plus.

To bring value to their broader communities, clubs do need to engage in service work. This is an imperative, and I would not remain a Rotarian if this were not the case. My own priority in Rotary is to engage in service work. But not all Rotarians have the same priorities, and priorities can change depending on the stage of one's own life. There are multiple

ways to contribute, and all should be celebrated. All clubs and Rotarians should find their own niche. Diversity in Rotary is a strength that should be nurtured. But for this, a focus on serving the membership is essential.

These are three simple lessons I thought I should share. Nothing surprising really, just my two cents at the end of a year as club President with success in some areas, and a work in progress in others.

Conference Update

Mudgee will be the place to be to be 2-4th March 2017. Registrations are open. Early Bird Registrations close at the end of December 2017.

Speakers Include

Ken Sutcliffe- Sports Commentator and Polio survivor

Stephanie Wollard- Sevens Women's Association

Gill Hicks-London Bomb Victim

Mike Brady- Rotarian and Jingle Writer

John Gem- Immediate Past International President of Rotary International will also join us.

We hope to put you in touch with the Region, Food and Wine.

For further information please see the District Web site rotarydistrict9675.org

Article from Rotary Voices, posted on August 22, 2017, by Tom Gump, 2016-17 President of the Rotary Club of Edina Morningside, Minnesota, USA, and a District 5950 trainer.

Since 1 July 2016, my Rotary club has recruited and brought in 31 new members. Eleven of these new members are women and eight of them are under 40 years of age. The club has gone from being classified as a “medium” sized club of 68 members in our district to being classified as a “large” club of 93 members in just over nine months. How did this happen? Here's our tips:

1. Know your club's strengths. If you meet in the morning, you will probably be a good fit for a 9 to 5 employee. But if you meet at noon, you're more likely to appeal to retirees or parents of school-age children. If someone doesn't fit your format, recommend them to another club. They won't forget you and may send you someone another day. Let all the clubs in your area know you are looking for members, and they may send you some that better fit your format than their own.
2. Keep a list of potential recruits. It doesn't matter if it's a paper list or if it's kept on the desktop of your computer – it just makes you think about those people and others that may be a fit for your club.
3. Make recruiting the top priority in your club. You can't do everything as a club president, and knowing that will give you some freedom to focus on the most important thing. Having new members – with new energy – will help you have more people to raise money for The Rotary Foundation, serve on your committees, and invite additional members/more smiling faces to your meetings and fun event. Let your members know this is the top priority so they can all help.
4. Create a letter that lists all the great things about your club. List your star members, the advantages of where your club meets, how many members it has, etc. Make sure to tailor the email/letter to the wants of any potential new member.
5. List potential areas of responsibilities. Potential members will want to know how they can fit in and what opportunities there are for serving.
6. Be persistent. There will be times that it takes literally a dozen requests to get someone to a meeting. Keep asking. They may come to a meeting, or tell you they can't join now because they are too busy, or they aren't interested in joining at the moment. These are all fine answers as long as you keep track of them and keep in touch. How many times did you have to be asked? (It was over a course of two years for me)
7. Talk about Rotary wherever you go. At church, temple, work, neighbourhood gatherings, family gatherings, parties, etc. You'll be amazed how easy it is after you practice for a while. Getting a lot of “no” answers built my confidence because it didn't hurt as bad as I thought and most people were actually happy I asked, even if they responded negatively. It's always a good time to recruit.
8. Celebrate when you get a new member. This gets the club excited about getting more members. Our club makes a poster of the individuals after they've been voted in and we put it in the front of the room at our next meeting. We do the same thing when we induct a new member.
9. Realize there is no finish-line. Even if you are at the size that your club wants to be, there are always reasons people leave. And new insights always benefit a club. You're either growing or you're dying.
10. Be vibrant. Wear a turkey suit before Thanksgiving (it's only your dignity you stand to lose), wear a lanyard with lots of “flair”/Rotary pins (it gets people talking to you), make outrageous centrepieces for your meeting tables (it gets people talking to each other), greet people outside the building you are meeting in and hold the door open for them (it lets people know you care).

These really work. Try them out.

90 Years of Rotary of the Illawarra

On Saturday 27th October a celebration was held in Wollongong to Celebrate 90 years of the Illawarra. Approximately 130 Rotarians and Friends gathered at the City Beach Reception Centre in Wollongong to celebrate the occasion. It was a Celebration of the achievements of the Rotary Clubs in the Illawarra. The Rotary Club of Wollongong was chartered in 1927. Happy 90th birthday to the Rotary Club of Wollongong.

Foundation Dinner

Please see the information attached on the upcoming foundation Dinner.

The night we feature guest speaker Jennifer Jones a prominent women Rotarian.

Serving Rotary and the District

**District Governor
Stephen Britten**

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