



Stafford Rotary Highlighter



September 4, 2019: Classification Talks

When a lawyer named Paul Harris, a coal dealer, a mining engineer, and a merchant tailor first met in 1905 in Chicago, they gave birth to Rotary and, by the nature of their diverse occupations, to the association's most distinctive feature – the classification principle. Today, the classification principle, though modified, remains a cornerstone of Rotary. Upon joining Rotary, you are lent a classification by the Board of Directors to reflect your occupation or primary source of income. By limiting active membership by classifications, each club becomes a cross-section of the business and professional life of the community it serves. Also, the classification principle makes sure that no one profession or business becomes the dominant force within the club.

Another benefit of the classification system is that representatives of many fields are brought together, providing the opportunity for Rotarians to broaden their knowledge of the contemporary workplace. This, in turn, enables Rotarians to fulfill one of the basic obligations of vocational service – recognizing the worthiness to society of all useful occupations.

New club members are often asked to present a classification talk that gives the rest of the club a chance to know more about the new member's business or profession and personal interests.



Banner Exchange with Rotarian PDG visiting from Nigeria

CLUB SCHEDULE

- September 4 – Classification Talks
- September 7 – Another Day Walk to Stop Suicide
- 9/4 - we'll have member classification talks.
- 9/11 - Dictionary work at the Howell branch
- 9/18 - club assembly to plan for CapSteps
- 9/21- End of Summer Splash at Lake Anna
- September 14 – Rotary Foundation District Seminar
- September 20 – United Way Day of Action. Contact Lori if you can volunteer.
- September 20 – Sounds of Summer, Volunteers Needed
- October 4 – Capitol Steps at Dodd Auditorium, 7:30pm, as part of UMW's Family Weekend.**



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How Rotary Changed My Career

Posted on August 27, 2019

By Thineskumar Asokokumara, past president of the Rotary Club of Subang, Malaysia



In June, my company held interviews to fill an opening for manager of our Kuala Lumpur support center. We are a company of over 2,000 employees listed on NASDAQ and worth multi-millions of dollars. The interview was no small thing. A panel of four including our senior vice president judged the candidates. I would not have even considered applying if it were not for Rotary.

Going in, I was a considerable underdog. Several people who applied were my seniors in experience and tenure

with the company. Some of them had been working at our company since day one. I was no match for them.

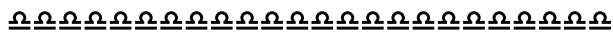
I initially decided to apply for the position just to make my presence known in the organization and to gain exposure and experience. Little did I know that my involvement in Rotary would make me a real contender.

During the interview, in addition to talking about my educational background and technical skills, I shared the many ways I have been involved with my Rotary club and the experience that I have gained. I explained how I have grown both personally and professionally. The leadership qualities Rotary has instilled in me have made me a better person both at work and at home. I was able to speak with confidence as I pitched my ideas to the panel about how I would lead the team toward achieving the goals and targets management has set.

Rotary’s reputation itself added credibility to my presentation, and the panel was impressed. They rated my presentation the best and called it fabulous. Although I walked in an underdog, I walked out a proud Rotarian, convinced of the many ways Rotary has made me a better person.

I am now manager of my organization’s support office in Kuala Lumpur. This would not have been possible without Rotary, which has made me the person I am today. Rotary continues to teach me valuable lessons as I grow my personal and professional skills.

This is my #RotaryStory. What’s yours?



Climate Change and the Four-Way Test

Posted on May 8, 2019



Rick Olson visits with children in Tanzania.

By Rick Olson, Rotary Club of Prior Lake, Minnesota, USA

Climate change is an impersonal, ambiguous term, which denotes negative impact on people around the world. But on a recent trip to Tanzania in Africa I met

some of the innocents who will be most affected by the increased droughts caused by carbon dioxide emissions.

On a 10-day biking safari to visit Ngorongoro Crater and the Serengeti, we camped in a school yard in a Maasai village west of Arusha, Tanzania. Three boys came to visit, and after giving them some treats, I took their photo with my phone. I showed them the photo, and a boy about 8 or 9 years old gestured to me he would like to hold the phone.

So, I showed him how to take a photo with it and handed it to him. I also taught him how to take selfies and videos. Before long a group of about 15 children were gathered around us, looking at photos he had taken, enlarging the pictures of some of the kids, all to gales of laughter. It was so much fun. Seeing how quickly he learned to use the phone, without our knowing a word of each other’s language, was such a kick.

These Maasai children live in a very dry area. The March-May “rainy” season had not produced a drop of rain by the time I left on 23 March. These young ones and the rest of their tribe are the least capable of adapting to even drier conditions projected by the climate scientists than the desert they already live in, hanging on by a thread. Yet, we in the United States who are in the most wealthy of countries and have produced and continue to produce the most carbon dioxide can’t even agree that human-caused climate change is real, much less agree on what to do about it.

Is it the truth?

As a Prior Lake Rotarian, I join my club weekly in reciting The Four-Way Test. The first two lines are: “Is it the truth?” and “Is it fair to all concerned?” A guest commentary I wrote for the Prior Lake American, Commentary: Acting on climate change can make difference, outlines why it is the truth that climate change is real and caused by humans burning fossil fuel. Is it fair that those least able to adapt to the negative changes bear the greatest impacts while we do nothing? I think not.

We are not helpless in mitigating the consequences of our past and present actions. We as Rotarians can support actions including government legislation that promote feasible measures to effectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions. We can support Rotary projects that seek to alleviate or reduce the impact of climate change.

Join us in minimizing the damage to not only our economy and our lives, but that of the innocents in Africa and India who will be most affected.