Part I: Roots of Rotary

Prior to the Session

1. Review the materials (Participant and Faculty)
2. Create Timeline Cards using the First 100 Years
3. Determine how to display the timeline. Tape cards to a wall, secure string and hang with paper clips are ideas.
4. Print out Penny for each participant.
5. Print out Rotary "Instructions" Handout. Object of Rotary, Code of conduct, Avenues of Service, Area of Focus
6. A PowerPoint is available if technology is available.

Session Goals	Materials
Introduce Rotary's earliest guiding principles	**Insert ROR-1**: "Good to Know" Information for The Roots of Rotary
Explore what Rotary's guiding principles mean today	
Reflect on how this understanding affects your role and the role of your community in your community and world	

Begin the Session

- Introduce yourself and the session.
- Orient the participants to the materials.
- Review the Session Goals and where this course fits into the Membership curriculum of RLI.
- Point out referenced materials and where to find them.

<u>*Warm-Up: A Penny in Time (5 minutes)*</u>

- Distribute Paper pennies to participants.
- Ask each person:
  - Write a date on your penny that represents a historical event. (Not your Birthday!)
  - Invite several individuals to share.
- Point out that our own history, our countries' history, the history of the world can have a profound impact on the present.
- That is also true in healthy organizations such as Rotary.

Prompt 1: For the next 20 minutes we will be looking into the history of Rotary, or our ROOTS, and finding out several interesting things about from whence we have come as an organization.

ROTARY TIMELINE

- Distribute Timeline Cards on tables.
- Call out the dates in order and let the participant hang or tape their card on the timeline and read the significant event.
- You may want to add additional years, like the year the district you are presenting in was started. Maybe a club knows their start date and those could be added too.
- Use cards as an opportunity to expand on selected historical events
- Relate to present day Rotary when appropriate.

Prompt 2: What stands out to you as something you didn't know, were surprised about, or found particularly interesting?

- Give participants an opportunity to share their thoughts
- Ask the group how what they discovered relates to their Rotary club or Rotary experience.

What questions do you have? (10 minutes)

Prompt 3: Did you know that your Rotary membership came with a set of instructions?

- Ask the participants: *Does anyone know what these might be?*
- Hopefully someone will call out the Four-Way Test, etc.
- These instructions helped the earliest Rotarians as they worked out what Rotary should be and do.
- Share the handout with these "instructions" if there are many new Rotarians in the group, this is a good takeaway document for them.

Ask: Do you see any common threads throughout these documents?

- Share the Object of Rotary with the participants – refer to participant manual for explanation of the development of these objects.
- Point out how service is built into all four statements.
- This Object of Rotary is printed in each monthly Rotary magazine.

Prompt 4: Concurrent with the development of The Object of Rotary, early Rotarians also developed what was to become the "Avenues of Service" to help guide our service activities.

- Discuss how the Object of Rotary overlaps with each avenue of service
- There are two other guiding principles that form the foundation of Rotary and model the behavior of Rotarians:
  - o The Four-Way Test
  - o Rotary Code of Conduct
- Point out where participants can find these items. (Rotarian Magazine; www.rotary.org; Part 2/Rotary & Ethics RE-2).

Breakout Activity

- 5-10 min
- Divide into 2 Groups
- Group 1 Prompt 6
- Group 2 Prompt 7

After about three minutes of discussion, let each group share.

Prompt 6: Does your study of The Object of Rotary change your perception of what it means to be a Rotarian? How?

- Allow participants to share their thoughts.
- This is a reflective question for the participants and a last opportunity for them to comment on the session.
- There are no wrong answers and Faculty should make connections between our individual "instructions," The Object of Rotary, and other tenets of our organization, like the Avenues of Service, "Service Above Self," and the wonderful things Rotarians are doing in their clubs, communities and around the world.
- Participants are part of a distinguished history of collective and individual service called "Rotary." These tenets are "the Roots of Rotary."
- Distribute the "First 100 years or So" Booklet

Prompt 7: How has your new knowledge of Rotary history changed your perception of what it means to be a Rotarian?

Since this is usually the first session for Part One RLI, you may need to share items like how the day works.

- Participants stay in the room and the facilitators rotate.
- Remind participants to complete the survey that will be provided online at the end of the session.

<u>Insert ROR-1</u>: "Good to Know" Information for The Roots of Rotary

- 1905. Rotary was founded by Chicago Attorney Paul Harris with three business acquaintances (Slyvester Schiele, Gus Loehr, Hiram Shorey) to promote business opportunities and friendships.
- 1906. Chicago Rotary club admits Attorney Donald M. Carter, who was encouraged to join the club and challenge the club from within to engage needs in the local community.
- 1908. Rotary Club of Chicago incorporated with initial three objectives: promotion of the business interests of the members; advance the best interests of the City of Chicago; and spread the spirit of city pride and loyalty among its citizens.
- 1911. National Association of Rotary Clubs Platform with Objects 1-3.
- 1912. International Association of Rotary Clubs Platform with Objects 1-5, which contained most of today's Objects 1-3 of The Object of Rotary.
- 1916. Community Service adopted as an Individual, not corporate responsibility.
- 1927. Aims and Objects Plan adopted by RI Convention including club, community, and vocational service (later to become the "Avenues of Service").
- 1928. "International Service" added to Aims and Objects Plan.
- 2010. Fifth Avenue of Service approved by Council on Legislation, now "Youth Service".

Historical Brief

- Paul Harris had a small-town upbringing in Vermont, and a grandfather provided a role model of service to others, ethics, and hard work. He moved to the big city of Chicago to practice law, by himself, in a community where he didn't know anyone. Rotary allowed him to "network" and build relationships.

- Rotary developed in the early Twentieth Century before and during the development of consumer protection "Buyer Beware" and worker protection laws. The business community, trade association and union developed "codes" were the building blocks of developing and advocating for these legal protections. Rotary Clubs and Rotarians often served as the moral and ethical voice of a business community.

- As Rotary developed there were few other examples of secular volunteer groups doing service. It was a novel concept as it developed. There were no "government programs," with the exception of a few "pensions" for war veterans and their widows. Rotary's philosophy of "Service above Self," and the supporting writings of Paul Harris provided a framework for the "civic service" movement.

The World was rapidly changing and becoming more interconnected with industrialization and technology. Travel was becoming easier and leisure time more prevalent. The Chicago World Fair in 1893, attended by over 26 million people, introduced many new internationally available products and technologies including Wrigley's gum, the zipper, spray paint, Pabst Blue Ribbon beer, the dishwasher, instant cake mixes, and the Ferris Wheel. There was a shared idea, ahead of World War I and culminating with the formation of the League of Nations thereafter, that a "new age" of peace and prosperity was occurring. There was a new sense of an international community and an optimism that anything was possible.

Penny Template