

Rotary



The Rotary Club of Wilmington
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Rotary's position on conflict resolution and economic development

In this challenging time, the Wilmington Rotary Club restates its commitment to racial and economic justice, and calls the public's attention to two of the Six Areas of Rotary Focus.

Promoting peace and preventing and resolving conflict.

America is facing up to the reality that sharp divisions and misunderstandings exist between many white and black citizens, and between law enforcement agencies and some of the communities they serve. Through its "Service Above Self" awards, this club has provided important moral support for local police; we also urge every police agency and police officer to treat all people according to Rotary's Four-Way Test: with concern for truth, fairness, goodwill and friendship, and mutual benefit.

In that context, our club emphasizes these statements from Rotary International concerning this important area of focus:

- "Rotary encourages conversations to foster understanding within and across cultures."
- "We refuse to accept conflict as a way of life."
- "Our members take action to address the underlying causes of conflict, including poverty, discrimination, ethnic tension, lack of access to education, and unequal distribution of resources."
- "Rotary creates environments where peace can happen."

The current conflicts in America stem, in large part, from underlying economic causes. That requires an equal commitment to a second Area of Rotary Focus:

Economic and community development.

Given the problems of poverty and economic injustice that aggravate conflict in our communities, we also emphasize these statements from Rotary International about the importance of growing local economies:

- "We carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and create opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old."
- "We also strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities."

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