

# Rotary Opportunities

As I further my Rotary journey, I can explore the many opportunities available within Rotary for personal, community and professional growth and development



## Session Goals

Provide an overview of RI's structured programs

Discuss the benefits of a Global Networking Group to me?

Discuss each program's relation to Rotary's goals and to a Rotarian's Rotary experience

## Materials

- ◆ □ Insert RO-1: The Programs of Rotary International
- ◆ Insert RO-2: Be A Vibrant Club
- ◆ Insert RO-3: List of Rotary Fellowships
- ◆ Insert RO-4: List of Rotarian Action Groups
- ◆ □ Insert RO-5: Rotarian Action Groups flyer
- Global Networking Directory (sign-in required)  
<https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/exchange-ideas>

Key: ◆ attached insert   ● online   □ article

## Session Topics

- 1) What are Rotary International's structured programs? See the list on page 5 and discuss.

*See Insert RO-1 for list. If Participants struggle with naming the RI Structured Programs, this is an opportunity for faculty. Faculty can describe aspects of the programs not identified, through their own experience or research or through the description on Insert RO-1 and see if Participants memories can be refreshed. For example, there is a program of RI that is primarily set on college campuses today, although they can be based in communities for young people ages 18-30? ROTARACT. The name is less important than the fact that Rotary has this program that reaches this particular group, or serves this particular need. The participants' difficulty in naming the programs also allows faculty to ask: Why don't we know about these programs? At what point is the information about these programs being restricted? If we know about RYLA, why don't we know about Friendship Exchange? And, faculty can use these responses to move into the 1a, 1b, 1c questions...*

- a) How can Rotary Clubs use these structured programs?

*To supplement or enhance opportunities for Rotarian to engage in Rotary service and/or fellowship. What does your Club do to participate in these programs?*

- b) What does your District do to encourage participation or to organize district-wide or multi-club activity in these programs?

*Programs at district events, newsletter items, discussed in Governor's Club visit.*



- c) What is your involvement or your club's involvement with any of the listed programs?
- d) How could you or your club begin participating in one of these programs?

*Start with Club program, then look for ways to combine or expand a current club activity or project. A club champion for a particular interest, vocation or service activity is a must.*

- e) For several of the programs, discuss how they fit Rotary's mission. *Suggestion: Use the 5 Avenues of Service for this analysis. Alternative: Use the Object of Rotary, see Part I, Insert RBC-5, to analyze.*

## Fellowships

- 1) What are Rotary Fellowships?  
**Groups of Rotarians who get together to pursue common recreational, vocational or service-oriented interests?**
  - a) How does Rotary recognize and support them?
  - b) How might these groups work?
  - c) What is their scope and how does that effect their activity?
- 2) Do Rotary Fellowships take away from Club Service?
- 3) Could participation in a Rotary Fellowship enhance membership retention?

## Rotarian Action Groups

- 1) What are Rotarian Action Groups?
- 2) Could participation in a Rotarian Action Group support local or international service projects?
- 3) Discuss what may be typical projects.
- 4) What do Rotarians get out of participating in these activities and do they advance the mission of Rotary?

## Miscellaneous

- 1) How would you join one of these groups?
- 2) Propose five new fellowships or action groups.
- 3) How could these groups enhance Rotary?  
**See: RO-3, RO-4**

## Insert RO-1: The Programs of Rotary International

**R**otary International's programs and service opportunities, listed below, are designed to help Rotarians meet the needs of their own communities and assist people worldwide.

**Global Networking Groups** encompass Rotary Fellowships (vocational and recreational interest groups) and Rotarian Action Groups (groups focused on service activities). The more than 90 Global Networking Groups are open to all Rotarians, spouses of Rotarians, and Rotaractors.

**Interact** is a service organization organized and sponsored by Rotary clubs for youth ages 14-18. It has more than 10,900 clubs in 121 countries.

**Rotaract** is organized by Rotary clubs to promote leadership, professional development, and service among young adults ages 18-30. There are more than 7,000 clubs in 162 countries.

**Rotary Community Corps (RCC)** are groups of non-Rotarians who work to improve their communities. There are more than 6,400 RCCs in 76 countries, all organized and sponsored by Rotary clubs.

**Rotary Friendship Exchange** encourages Rotarians and their families to make reciprocal visits to other countries, staying in each other's homes and learning about different cultures firsthand.

Rotary Volunteers (Phased out June 30, 2011)

**Rotary Youth Exchange** offers students ages 15-19 the chance to travel abroad for cultural exchanges of one week to a full academic year. Rotary clubs and districts sponsor and host about 9,000 Youth Exchange students a year.

**Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** are seminars sponsored by clubs and districts to encourage and recognize the leadership abilities of youth and young adults ages 14-30.

**World Community Service (WCS)** (Phased out June 30, 2011)

## Insert RO-2: Be A Vibrant Club

### HOW WE DID IT

#### We rewrote our values statement.

The updated language — which calls us “a service club of inspired individuals whose contributions improve lives in communities locally and worldwide” — unified our members, inspired prospective members, and generated interest in our community work.

#### We introduced creative meeting formats.

Our club provides innovative and flexible, cost-free meeting options:

**Speed networking.** This helps our members build relationships and rapport.

**Service first Thursdays.** On the first Thursday of each month, we meet at the public library to clean books and prepare and inventory multimedia materials.

**1905 meetings.** Our 1905 meetings honor the early days of Rotary tradition. Like the first Rotarians, we meet in small groups. Members can participate remotely by meeting at designated locations closer to their workplaces. We use Facebook Live to tune in simultaneously to our club president for the first half of the meeting. For the second half, we break into small groups to discuss a video presentation on the theme of the month.

The varied formats increased member engagement in a way that wasn't possible with traditional meetings alone. Even former Rotarians started to re-engage. While our weekly attendance may be around 60 members per meeting, our real-time Facebook Live videos that broadcast our 1905 meetings and traditional meetings have generated over a thousand views.

Our experience has taught us that it is possible to make changes in the spirit of innovation and flexibility yet maintain Rotary values. We discovered that there are many fun ways to serve and promote fellowship with Rotarians.

#### We relaxed attendance guidelines.

While we are committed to making our meetings more accessible to working members, we also wanted to continue regular meetings, because they foster the fellowship and camaraderie that our members enjoy. We revised guidelines to require only 50 percent attendance at the weekly meetings. Missed meetings can be made up at other Rotary meetings or by participating in a service activity.



# START YOUR CLUB ON A PATH TO VIBRANCY

Vibrant clubs engage their members, conduct meaningful projects, and try new ideas. List the new ideas your club wants to try, and create a plan to increase community interest and attract more members.

As you develop your plan, use these tips and ideas, and let your club evolve.

## Decide what you'd like your club to be like in three to five years.

- Plan an annual visioning session, and use the **Rotary Club Health Check** to identify your club's strengths and areas that need improvement.
- Use the **Strategic Planning Guide** to set long-term goals.

## Decide on your annual goals, and enter them into Rotary Club Central.

- Focus on something your club is good at, and make it something your club is great at.
- Update committees once a month on your goal progress.

## Hold club meetings that keep members engaged and informed.

- Conduct the **Member Satisfaction Survey** to find out what your members like and don't like about your club, and create a plan for implementing changes.
- **Vary your meeting format** to include a mix of traditional and online meetings, service projects, and social gatherings.

## Communicate openly in your club.

- Share information at club meetings, on your club website, and through social media, and check regularly to see how members are feeling.
- Use the templates and resources in the Rotary **Brand Center** to create your club brochures and newsletters.

## Prepare members for future roles to smooth leadership transitions.

- Ensure continuity by making appointments for multiple years, having a current, incoming, and past chair on each committee.
- Conduct on-the-job training for incoming club officers, and have job descriptions for each officer.

## Adapt your club's bylaws to reflect the way the club works.

- Involve your members when you review your club's bylaws every year.
- Edit the **Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws** template to reflect new practices and procedures.

## Develop strong relationships within your club.

- Find suggestions in **Introducing New Members to Rotary**.
- Sit with different people at each meeting.

## Make sure all members are involved in activities that genuinely interest them.

- Conduct a member-interest survey, and use the results to plan projects, activities, and engaging meetings.
- Get new members involved early by learning their interests and giving them a role in the club.

## Coach new and continuing members in leading.

- Appoint a club training committee to oversee training for members.
- Use the **Leadership in Action guide on starting a program** to develop members' leadership skills.

## Create practical committees for your club.

- Small clubs: Consider how you can combine the work of committees.
- Large clubs: Create additional committees to get all members involved.

## Insert RO-3: List of Rotary Fellowships

(For current fellowships, see <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/rotary-fellowships>.)

Amateur Radio	Environment	Photographers
Antique Automobiles	Esperanto	Police and Law Enforcement
Authors and Writers	Fishing	Pre-Columbian Civilizations
Beer	Flying	Quilters and Fiber Artists
Bird Watching	Geocaching	Railroads
Bowling	Go	Recreational Vehicles
Canoeing	Golf	Rotary Global History
Caravanning	Home Exchange	Rotary Heritage and History
Carnival and Festivals	Honorary Consuls	Rotary Means Business
Chess	Horseback Riding	Rotary on Stamps
Computer Users	Internet	Scouting
Cooking	Italian Culture	Scuba Diving
Convention Goers	Jazz	Singles
Cricket	Latin Culture	Skiing
Cruising	Lawyers	Social Networks
Curling	Magicians	Tennis
Cycling	Magna Graecia	Total Quality Management
Doctors	Marathon Running	Travel and Hosting
Doll Lovers	Motorcycling	Wellness and Fitness
E-Clubs	Music	Wine
Editors and Publishers	Old and Rare Books	Yachting
	Past District Governors	

## Insert RO-4: List of Rotarian Action Groups

(For current action groups,

see <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/rotarian-action-groups-officer-directory>.)

Alzheimer's/Dementia . . . . .	<a href="http://adrag.org">http://adrag.org</a>
Blindness Prevention . . . . .	<a href="http://www.rag4bp.org">http://www.rag4bp.org</a>
Blood Donation . . . . .	<a href="http://www.ourblooddrive.org">http://www.ourblooddrive.org</a>
Child Slavery . . . . .	<a href="http://www.roisight.org/cs/">http://www.roisight.org/cs/</a>
Dental Volunteers . . . . .	<a href="http://www.ragdvs.com">http://www.ragdvs.com</a>
Diabetes . . . . .	<a href="http://www.ragdiabetes.org">http://www.ragdiabetes.org</a>
Disaster Assistance . . . . .	<a href="mailto:barry@rassin.org">barry@rassin.org</a>
Endangered Species . . . . .	<a href="http://www.endangeredrag.org">http://www.endangeredrag.org</a>
Family Health & AIDS Prevention . . . . .	<a href="http://www.rffa.org">http://www.rffa.org</a>
Food Plant Solutions . . . . .	<a href="http://www.foodplantsolutions.org">http://www.foodplantsolutions.org</a>
Health Education and Wellness . . . . .	<a href="http://www.hewrag.org/">http://www.hewrag.org/</a>
Hearing . . . . .	<a href="http://www.ifrahl.org">http://www.ifrahl.org</a>
Hunger and Malnutrition . . . . .	<a href="http://www.alleviatehunger.org">http://www.alleviatehunger.org</a>
Literacy . . . . .	<a href="http://www.litrag.org">http://www.litrag.org</a>
Malaria . . . . .	<a href="http://www.remarag.org">http://www.remarag.org</a>
Microfinance and Community Development . . . . .	<a href="http://ragm.org">http://ragm.org</a>
Multiple Sclerosis . . . . .	<a href="http://www.rotary-rfmsa.org">http://www.rotary-rfmsa.org</a>
Peace . . . . .	<a href="http://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org">http://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org</a>
Polio Survivors and Associates . . . . .	<a href="http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com">http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com</a>
Population Growth and Sustainable Development . . . . .	<a href="http://www.rifpd.org">http://www.rifpd.org</a>
Preconception Care . . . . .	<a href="mailto:knijff44@gmail.com">knijff44@gmail.com</a>
Water and Sanitation . . . . .	<a href="http://www.wasrag.org">http://www.wasrag.org</a>

**Faculty: Consider printing current lists of fellowships and action groups as handouts for the class.**

## Insert RO-5: Rotarian Action Groups (Flyer)

# ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS

Rotarian Action Groups help Rotary clubs and districts plan and carry out community development and humanitarian service projects in their area of expertise. The groups are organized by Rotarians and Rotaractors who are proficient, and have a passion for service, in a particular field.

## HOW ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS OPERATE

- Each group functions independently of Rotary International establishing its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure.
- Membership is open to Rotarians, their family members as well as participants and alumni of all Rotary and Foundation programs.
- Rotarian Action Groups must adopt Rotary International's standard bylaws and operate in accordance with Rotary policy.
- Rotarian Action Groups regularly collaborate with clubs and districts on service projects in their area of specialty.
- Rotarian Action Groups can help clubs and districts obtain funding or other assistance for their service projects.



## BENEFITS OF ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS

- By joining a Rotarian Action Group, you can engage in meaningful service activities outside your own club, district, or country.
- By partnering with a Rotarian Action Group, your club or district gains the support of experts for planning and implementing a project.

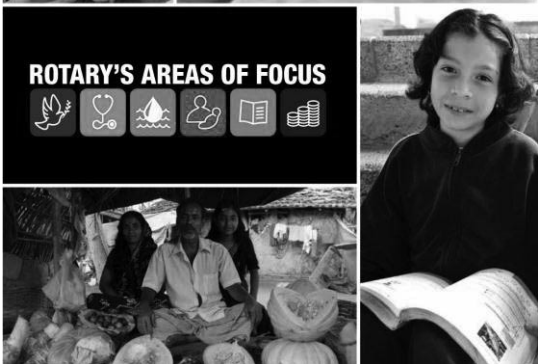


TAKE ACTION: [www.rotary.org/actiongroups](http://www.rotary.org/actiongroups)



## ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS

Do you have expertise and a passion to serve in a particular area?  
Visit the website of the relevant Rotarian Action Group to learn more.



<b>AIDS and Family Health</b>	<a href="http://www.rfha.org">www.rfha.org</a>
<b>Alzheimer's and Dementia</b>	<a href="http://adrag.org/">http://adrag.org/</a>
<b>Blindness Prevention</b>	<a href="http://www.rag4bp.org">www.rag4bp.org</a>
<b>Blood Donation</b>	<a href="http://www.ourblooddrive.org">www.ourblooddrive.org</a>
<b>Child Slavery</b>	<a href="http://www.racsrag.org">www.racsrag.org</a>
<b>Dentistry</b>	<a href="http://www.ragd.com">www.ragd.com</a>
<b>Diabetes</b>	<a href="http://www.ragdiabetes.org">www.ragdiabetes.org</a>
<b>Disaster Assistance</b>	<a href="mailto:barry@rassin.org">barry@rassin.org</a>
<b>Endangered Species</b>	<a href="http://www.endangeredrag.org">www.endangeredrag.org</a>
<b>Food Plant Solutions</b>	<a href="http://www.foodplantsolutions.org">www.foodplantsolutions.org</a>
<b>Health Education and Wellness</b>	<a href="http://www.hewrag.org">www.hewrag.org</a>
<b>Hearing</b>	<a href="http://www.ifrahl.org">www.ifrahl.org</a>
<b>Hunger and Malnutrition</b>	<a href="http://www.alleviatehunger.org">www.alleviatehunger.org</a>
<b>Literacy</b>	<a href="http://www.litrag.org">www.litrag.org</a>
<b>Malaria</b>	<a href="http://www.remarag.org">www.remarag.org</a>
<b>Microfinance and Community Development</b>	<a href="http://www.ragm.org">www.ragm.org</a>
<b>Multiple sclerosis</b>	<a href="http://www.rotary-rfmsa.org">www.rotary-rfmsa.org</a>
<b>Peace</b>	<a href="http://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org">www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org</a>
<b>Polio Survival</b>	<a href="http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com">www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com</a>
<b>Population and Development</b>	<a href="http://www.rifpd.org">www.rifpd.org</a>
<b>Preconception Care</b>	<a href="mailto:knijff44@gmail.com">knijff44@gmail.com</a>
<b>Water and Sanitation</b>	<a href="http://www.wasrag.org">www.wasrag.org</a>

## START A NEW ROTARIAN ACTION GROUP

If your service interest isn't represented by an existing Rotarian Action Group, contact Rotary staff at [actiongroups@rotary.org](mailto:actiongroups@rotary.org) to learn how you can start a new group. All groups are subject to approval by the Rotary International Board of Directors.

## EXAMPLES OF ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS IN ACTION

- The Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development works with Rotary clubs in Germany, Austria, and Nigeria to reduce mortality rates among mothers and newborns at hospitals in rural Nigeria.
- Rotarians for Family Health & AIDS Prevention sponsors an annual event to provide preventive health care services, including HIV testing and counseling, to thousands of people in hundreds of sites across Africa.
- The Rotarian Action Group for Microfinance and Community Development connects Rotary clubs and districts with microfinance institutions to help poor people establish income-generating activities.

## RELATED PUBLICATIONS

- *Rotary's Area of Focus*  
[www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/589](http://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/589)
- Rotarian Action Groups Officer Directory  
[www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/714](http://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/714)
- Rotarian Action Groups Annual Report  
[www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/713](http://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/713)
- *Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects*  
[www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/577](http://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/577)
- *Community Assessment Tools*  
[www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/578](http://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/578)

## FIND OUT MORE

Email: [actiongroups@rotary.org](mailto:actiongroups@rotary.org)