

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 18-99? 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

Rotary 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 18-99. 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 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.

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: Partial 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: Partial 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	http://adrag.org
Blindness Prevention	http://www.rag4bp.org
Blood Donation	http://www.ourblooddrive.org
Addiction Prevention	http://www.rrag-ap.org
Club Foot	http://www.rag4clubfoot.org
Diabetes	http://www.ragdiabetes.org
Disaster Assistance	barry@rassin.org
Endangered Species	http://www.endangeredrag.org
Family Health & AIDS Prevention	http://www.rfha.org
Food Plant Solutions	http://www.foodplantsolutions.org
Health Education and Wellness	http://www.hewrag.org/
Hearing	http://www.ifrahl.org
Domestic Violence Prevention	http://www.ragfamsafe
Literacy	http://www.litrag.org
Malaria	http://www.remarag.org
Economic Community Development	http://www.ragced.org
Multiple Sclerosis	http://www.rotary-rfmsa.org
Peace	http://www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org
Polio Survivors and Associates	http://www.rotarypoliosurvivors.com
Environmental Sustainability	http://www.esrag.org
Mental Health	www.ragonmentalhealth.org
Water and Sanitation	http://www.wasrag.org

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

ROTARY ACTION GROUPS

Rotary Action Groups are independent, international, Rotary-affiliated groups whose members have expertise and experience in a particular area of specialization. Aligned with Rotary's priority to increase humanitarian impact, they use their knowledge and passion to help clubs and districts plan and carry out impactful service projects. Each group oversees its own governance, membership, and activities in accordance with RI policies.

JOIN AN ACTION GROUP

- Membership is open to any individual. Rotarians, Rotaractors, and Peace Fellows can serve in leadership roles.
- By joining a Rotary Action Group, you can use your professional skills to advise on meaningful service activities outside your own club, district, or country.
- Rotary Action Groups provide networking opportunities with likeminded individuals from around the world.

PARTNER WITH AN ACTION GROUP

Rotary Action Groups regularly collaborate with clubs and districts on service projects in their area of specialty. Contact a group to:

- Tap into the technical expertise of their members for planning and implementing a community, service, or global grant-funded project.
- Connect with potential project partners, both within and outside of Rotary.
- Receive help fundraising for projects.
- Customize a group's signature project framework to implement locally.
- Enhance your clubs' or district's impact and strengthen communities.
- Invite local members of Action Groups to join your District's Resource Network.

TAKE ACTION: www.rotary.org/actiongroups



26
ACTION GROUPS

25,000 ACTION GROUP MEMBERS GLOBALLY

IN 2020, ACTION GROUPS:

SUPPORTED **1800**  SERVICE PROJECTS

CONNECTED MEMBERS ACROSS **150** COUNTRIES 

\$318,000 IN HUMANITARIAN PROJECTS

ROTARY ACTION GROUPS

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



Addiction Prevention	www.rag-ap.org
Alzheimer's and Dementia	http://adrag.org/
Basic Education and Literacy	www.litrag.org
Blindness Prevention	www.rag4bp.org
Blood Donation	www.ourblooddrive.org
Clubfoot	www.rag4clubfoot.org
Community Economic Development	www.ragced.org
Diabetes	www.rag-diabetes.org
Disaster Assistance	www.dna-rag.com
Domestic Violence Prevention	http://www.ragfamsafe.org
Endangered Species	www.rag4es.org
Environmental Sustainability	www.esrag.org
Family Health/AIDS Prevention	www.rfha.org
Food Plant Solutions	http://foodplantsolutions.org
Health Education and Wellness	www.hewrag.org
Hearing	www.ifrahl.org
Hepatitis	www.ragforhepatitiseradication.org
Malaria	www.ram-global.org
Menstrual Health and Hygiene	denise@deniseklischan.com
Mental Health	http://ragonmentalhealth.org
Multiple sclerosis	www.rotary-ragmsa.org
Peace	www.rotarianactiongroupforpeace.org
Polio Survivors	www.rotarypoliosurvivors.org
Refugees	rotarianeconomist@gmail.com
Reproductive Maternal Child Health	https://rotaryrmch.org
Slavery Prevention	https://ragas.online/
Water, Sanitation, & Hygiene	www.wasrag.org

START A NEW ROTARY ACTION GROUP

If you would like to learn how start a new group, refer to [this guide](#). All groups are subject to approval by the Rotary International Board of Directors.

EXAMPLES OF ROTARY ACTION GROUPS IN ACTION

- The Rotary Action Group for Reproductive, Maternal Child Health works with clubs in Germany, Austria, and Nigeria to reduce mortality rates among mothers and newborns at hospitals in rural Nigeria.
- Rotary Action Group 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 and beyond.
- The Rotary Action Group for Community Economic Development connects clubs and districts with microfinance institutions to help poor people establish income-generating activities.

RELATED RESOURCES

- Rotary's Area of Focus
www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/589
- Rotary Action Groups Officer Directory
www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/714
- Rotary Action Groups Annual Report
www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/713
- Community Assessment Tools
www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/578
- Lifecycle of a Project
www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/take-action/develop-projects/lifecycle-project

FIND OUT MORE

Email: actiongroups@rotary.org