

Public Image and Public Relations



As I further my Rotary journey, I will identify opportunities to promote the image of my club and Rotary to the benefit of my community and world

Session Goals

Discuss Public Image and Publicity as it relates to Rotary and my members and clubs

Explore how my club can benefit from a Public Relations Strategy

Identify my club's target audience and how we can effectively reach it

Inserts & Online Materials

◆ **Insert PIPR-1:** Public Relations Case Study

◆ □ **Insert PIPR-2:** Public Relations Writing

● Visual Identity Guide (Login required)
<https://my.rotary.org/en/rotary-identity-guidelines>

● Rotary Logos (Login required)
<http://www.Rotary.org/logos>

Key: ◆ attached insert ● online □ article

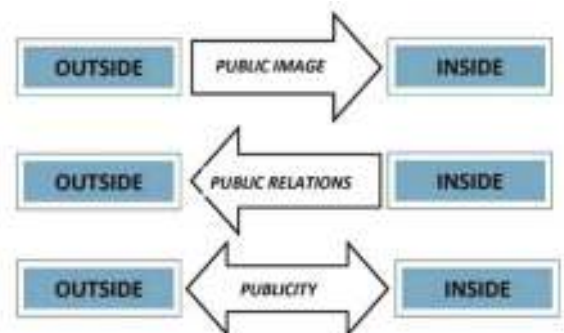
Session Topics

1) Who is the club's target Audience?

It depends on what the club is doing and what it wants to accomplish.

2) What is the difference between Publicity, Public Relations, and Public Image? Which one might we have more control over?

- *There are many definitions of and distinctions made between these terms, and the discussion should be based on the business experience in the group.*
- *One set of definitions from MacMillan Dictionary, "Publicity" is the activity of creating a good opinion among people about a person, product, company or institution, or information that makes people notice a person, product, company or institution.*
- *"Public Relations" is the relationship between an organization and the public.*
- *"Public Image" is the concept that the ideas and opinions that the public may have about a person or an organization may not be what they really are.*



3) Discuss the following tools for internal and external communication?

Flip chart ideas:

- ***Newspaper***
- ***Internet – Many options***
- ***Television***
- ***Radio***
- ***Billboards***
- ***Club Brochure***
- ***Fundraiser***
- ***Feature Article***

4) Case Study PIPR-1

- ***Divide into 2 groups: Internal (members) and External (public) target audiences.***
- ***Have each group note on a flip chart specific Public Relations ideas and methods of communication for their audience, based on the Case Study.***
- ***Groups should include types of media to be employed and the essence of each message.***
- ***See PIPR-1 for follow-up questions***

5) Is there something about your club that the community recognizes? Is it different from the brand of Rotary International? Discuss new logo and the value of including it on all communications.

6) In many communities very few people even know a Rotary Club exists. How can our clubs do better at public relations?

Examples:

- ***Visible, sustainable, hallmark projects;***
- ***promoting club activities and programs in the press;***
- ***signage;***
- ***web presence;***
- ***social networking;***
- ***Rotarians individually keeping Rotary in the forefront of their personal and business life.***
- ***Talk to friends about what you are doing in Rotary***
- ***Talk about how Rotary is helping the community***

7) Does your club have a PR chairman? What is their role? Is there a PR strategy? Are projects and activities designed with PR in mind? How can club members be part of the PR strategy?

From The Club Public Relations Committee Manual, 226C-EN- (512)

- ***The role of the club public relations committee is to inform the public about Rotary and promote the club's service projects and activities.***
- ***Having strong public relations ensures that communities around the world know that Rotary is a credible organization that meets real needs.***
- ***When a Rotary club has a positive public image, current members are motivated to be active and prospective members are eager to join.***
- ***The responsibilities of the club public relations committee [are] • Develop committee goals to achieve the club's public relations goals for the coming year.***
- ***Promote Rotary and your Rotary club in your community. •***
- ***Work with Rotarians in your club to maximize public relations efforts.***
- ***Understand the components of public relations that will help you promote Rotary to the community.***
- ***Know Rotary's key messages and be able to use them when speaking in public.***

Insert PIPR-1: Public Relations Case Study

Read the following case study, and create a public relations plan for the Rotary Club of Royal Gardens. Focus on three or four ways the club can reach out to the media and to the community directly to share its projects. Consider the questions below as you develop your plan.

The Rotary Club of Royal Gardens is located in a prosperous town of 35,000. The club's 40 members are a cross-section of the Royal Gardens professional community. The club's longest-running and most successful service project provides support for the community's growing elderly population. Through this ongoing project, club members prepare and deliver meals, arrange for home repairs, and visit hospitals.

The club also works with local schools to identify a candidate who is selected by the district to receive a Rotary Foundation Global Scholarship. One scholar is studying the effects of global warming on ocean water levels and corresponds regularly with the club to inform members of her experiences.

The club's weekly program attracts prominent local speakers who talk about important issues facing the community. Attendance is high, and members are enthusiastic.

An informal survey was conducted by the club, and it revealed that few people in the community are aware of the club's efforts. Some respondents reported they perceive Rotary as a social club for older men.

Several members have complained about the difficulty of attracting new members as well as the lack of recognition the club receives for its service to the community. The club's activities have received no media coverage for the past five years.

1. How can the club provide basic information about Rotary International and the club to the media?
2. What aspects of the club's current activities might interest the media? Which type of media is most appropriate for each aspect? Why?
3. How might club programs be of interest to local media?
4. How can the club reach prospective members directly to inform them of its projects and membership opportunities?

Insert PIPR-2: Public Relations Writing

The ability to write easily, logically, and succinctly is essential for public relations. The object of most PR writing is to grab the reader's attention, convey information quickly, and invite the media to cover your story.

Inverted pyramid. Most press releases and other written communications for the media use an inverted-pyramid style, with the most important and relevant information at the top, followed by gradually less important information. The headline and the first sentence are the two most important parts of a press release. Make sure they're compelling enough to draw in the editor or reporter.

The five Ws. Include the five Ws in your first paragraph, ideally in the first sentence:

- **Who?** The main focus of your story; a person or group at the center of the story
- **What?** The event or project with which your club is involved
- **Where?** The location of the event, including a street address
- **When?** The time, day, and date of an event, or the time period involved for a person or project
- **Why?** The reason the event, person, or project is significant to the general public

In subsequent paragraphs, provide details about the event or project, or describe how the person or group achieved something extraordinary.

Beyond the press release. Rotarians can communicate stories to the media in many other ways, such as:

- **Media alerts.** Time-crunched newsrooms appreciate a media alert, a more condensed version of a press release. Ideal for upcoming events or reminders, just answer the five Ws in bullet format, and send the alert to media contacts.
- **Letters to the editor.** The editorial page is one of the most-read sections of the newspaper, and a letter can reach many people. Use the templates from RI to get started.
- **Op-eds.** An op-ed is an opinion piece written by an individual who isn't on the newspaper's staff. Before writing an op-ed for your paper, learn what topics are of interest to your community.
- **Media kits.** Prepare a special folder that holds general information about Rotary and your club as well as materials tailored to the event.
- **Fact sheets.** Fact sheets provide details about Rotary programs to ensure that journalists have accurate background information.

Excerpted from www.Rotary.org