

Shares

T h o u g h t s

with

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What is the future of TRF?

The future of TRF is bright. The New Vision Plan is a bold advance in the process of how the Foundation applies its programmes to its strategic plan and allocates assets to specific goals of humanitarian and educational outcomes.

What new areas can be incorporated in the programmes of TRF to make it more relevant?

The Future Vision Plan will incorporate not so much new areas of emphasis, though that could come with action by the Trustees, or the COL, but to apply programmes to specific desired outcomes. This will make TRF programmes relevant to the needs of our communities.

What role has India played in the promotion of Vision of TRF?

India has always been on the forefront of the programmes and projects involving the Foundation. Now, increased giving by Indian Rotarians has brought it to the front of both giving and receiving Rotary countries.

Ethics and Honesty being areas of questions and criticisms, do you think TRF will be able to evolve a more transparent and a more realistic game plan?

Ethics and ethical behaviour has been one of the central purposes of the Object of Rotary since its beginning days. TRF requires Rotarians and clubs to emulate this object in handling the funds of TRF when administering projects. This at times presents challenges, but I believe Rotarians are, by and large, ethical people. We must continue to hold our clubs and Rotarians to this standard.

If misuse of funds of TRF given to clubs under “grants” heading is so disturbing, have you a blueprint which can reduce the incidence of this misuse? Should Rotary Clubs be “punished” for their dishonesty?

Misuse of funds, when established, is a violation of the Object of Rotary and as such, is a cause for discipline. What that discipline should

be, depends on violation. The Board has recently agreed that clubs may be terminated if they continue to allow a member to remain in the club when the club member has monies owing to TRF from projects.

Why do Rotarians find it so difficult to practice vocational services’ most important constituent - Ethics?

I believe that most Rotarians do practice ethics in their vocations ... and again, this is fundamental to Rotary and its reputation in the community. Each club must decide how to handle an individual Rotarian’s failure to abide by this Object of Rotary. The by-laws do provide that a member may be terminated by the club’s Board, though there may be ways for the club to approach the individual to express concern in this regard. Each club must approach each situation in the way that is most suitable for that club.

In all the “messages” of Rotary propounded by RI Presidents, why is vocational service ignored?

I don’t believe that it is ignored. President Kenny spoke of this in his International Assembly address to Governors.

Should Rotarians be more transparent in all the financial dealings with Rotary? How?

Rotarians should always be transparent in financial dealings with Rotary. How, is easy — report what is received and what is spent, and on what, with appropriate receipts for such expenditures.

Can RI institute an “award” on the lines of “Service above Self Award” recognising the honest, the ethical and the “clean” Rotarian?

I do not believe that is appropriate, as it would seem to imply that most are not honest. I believe that most Rotarians are honest and ethical. Clubs should however, punish, or remove from membership those who are not.

Will polio be eradicated from the face of this earth in the next 10 years ?

Yes, I do believe.

What are the major challenges Rotarians will have to face in the coming year?

Rotarians will have the same challenges everywhere, tightening economics, membership challenges, TRF contributions as a result. However, I believe we will overcome these challenges.

What can Rotary do to stop membership attrition? Why have we stopped growing?

ASK, ASK, ASK. Seventy five percent of people asked to join a Rotary club join. Our problem is we don't

ask. On retention, again, we don't ask. Ask them to make up, ask them to be on a committee, ask them to lead a project, programme. Ask them to attend an induction ceremony that celebrates new members. Ask them to contribute to the club and 'Ask' them what they want from their membership.

With excellent contributions being received in these last years, do you think that new "pilot projects" be started in various countries to address other acute needs of the community?

I believe that the current programmes of TRF address the needs of every community, whatever they are.

Could you suggest some ways by which cost of Rotary can be reduced?

The dues to Rotary International represent an average of only 10–15 percent of the total annual cost of Rotary, including meals. Clubs can reduce meal costs, eliminate some meal meetings as ways to reduce costs.

Do you have any suggestions by which clubs can improve attendance?

Yes, make it important. Have the club president talk about it. Have attendance teams, with a winner every quarter receiving a prize. Give members information about make ups, including the ability to make up online. However, good attendance is not the measure of a



good Rotary club, what it does, and how its members value club membership is.

After Polio Plus succeeds, what should be the Foundation's thrust area? Is illiteracy the biggest stumbling block in the path of progress and prosperity?

There are many suggestions to replace polio with another corporate mission.

The COL will ultimately make that decision, but only after polio is eradicated. It may be that we have several, as there are many worthwhile areas, of which literacy is one of them.

What is the health of Rotary world wide?

Rotary's health is excellent, but it will only be as healthy as its clubs and members. Each club must work on this continually. Rotary now is as vibrant, active and accomplished as it has ever been in its 104 year history.

If Rotary has to remain relevant in this century, what changes do you recommend?

Rotary is constantly changing, as are its members and the society in which we live. We must continue to evaluate what changes need to be adjusted to help our organisation be more effective, more accomplished and more humanitarian.

Has the Four-Way-Test become redundant? Why is it displayed with vigour but practiced so seldomly?

I believe that the Four-Way-Test is not redundant, if you mean it no longer is relevant, as it is as relevant today as it was the day it was created by Herbert Taylor. I also believe it being displayed is important to remind us all to follow its tenets. And I don't believe that it is practiced seldomly, but we point out and make examples of when it is not, not when it is.

What is your message to Rotarians?

Keep up your faith in Rotary, keep up your support of Rotary, and keep up your loyalty to Rotary.

Winston Churchill said that "It is in our professions that we make a living, and in helping others we make a life...." Be a Rotarian, help others and make a life....