

## **Is it difficult for Rotarians to practice Vocational Services' most important constituent — Ethics?**

I believe that most Rotarians have no difficulty practicing strong and positive ethical values and that is why our organisation has such an excellent reputation for fiscal responsibility. We are a microcosm of human nature so it is inevitable that we may occasionally see ethical challenges in remote parts of the organisation. However, I believe this is unusual and quickly corrected in order not to hurt Rotary International and our reputation. As an organisation we are impressively vigilant to oversee all aspects to stop potential issues and stop them in their tracks.

## **Has the message of Vocational Service been ignored in past years by our Rotary International Presidents?**

We should be very pleased and proud that our President Wilfrid Wilkinson this year has placed a renewed emphasis on Vocational Service and has been a leading force to ensure that our Strategic Plan includes the continued focus on Vocational Service. It is a unique aspect of our organisation that we should never lose and should continue to promote outside our organisation. It is integral in the path toward World Peace and Understanding.

## **Do you think that improvement in our vocational practices and all deals should start from the higher rungs of Rotary Leadership?**

In all aspects of our organisation our leadership should always lead by example. This is especially true for ethical values. Our leaders should, and I believe they do, show us that all decisions can be based on sound values. This is why our Strategic Plan now includes our core values in order that Rotarians

can see that our organisation have the right values as part of all we do.

## **Don't you feel that Vocational Service has become Vocational Service or Occasional Service?**

I believe that most Rotarians have the essence of Vocational Service in their hearts. We may not always see it documented but as long as we are living with the values then we promote good Vocational Service. We should remember also that Vocational Service not only promotes ethical values but also the importance of recognising all vocations. When you look at our clubs you see diverse membership because of our classification system. We continue to represent our professions, businesses and community leaders as we should.

## **Don't you think that prominence to Vocational Service will enhance the image of Rotary?**

There is no question that our dedication to good ethical values and the respect and recognition of all vocations brings great support from many segments of society. Others know that when they

donate their time or money through Rotary that it will go to helping people who need the help. This is why other major Foundations would rather let Rotary distribute the funds.

## **What is the future of The Rotary Foundation?**

The Rotary Foundation will continue to grow as more and more Rotarians increase their support and promote the efficiency and efficacy of the Foundation inside and outside our organisation. The Future Vision Plan being designed by The Rotary Foundation and adopted by Rotary International is an exciting evolution of our organisation that will simplify and magnify the ability of The Rotary Foundation over time. We can look forward to even greater growth and focus to enhance our ability to "Do Good in the World."

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

Through the Future Vision Plan that will soon be finalised we will see a greater focus on key areas that are



fundamental to the development of self-sufficiency in areas of the world that are in need. Our continual emphasis on Clean Water, Health and Hunger and Literacy allows us to develop longer term projects that can really make a substantive and self sustaining change in regions that have complex challenges. By continuing these fundamental needs over multiple years we demonstrate that continuity is crucial for significant life changing impact.

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

Rotarians in India should be very proud of all of their activities in Rotary. They have certainly supported activities of The Rotary Foundation in all its aspects. Certain individual Rotarians in India have provided incredible financial support to The Foundation on a regular basis and I congratulate and thank them for that. The manpower for immunisation in India to eradicate Polio was provided by all Rotarians in India. Indeed the progress made in India could not have been done without every Rotarian in India participating. Rotarians have shown a deep commitment to fulfilling our promise to the children and will go down in history as being instrumental in the complete eradication of the disease.

**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?**

I believe The Rotary Foundation already is very transparent and very realistic. Some Rotarians get frustrated by having to complete forms and report on progress and completion of TRF projects but those forms and reports allow a constant and comprehensive monitoring of all monies that flow through The Rotary Foundation. Our staff in The Rotary Foundation recognises as well as our Trustees recognise that they have an

inherent and important fiscal responsibility to guard our funds with incredible oversight and monitoring.

**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?**

This question goes back to our required ethical values that must permeate our organisation. We cannot allow any misuse of funds to be left without consequences. All Rotarians must be held accountable for any funds that they raise from their communities or receive back from The Rotary Foundation for projects. We must not only be held to the highest standards of accountability but must be seen to be doing so. The world must continue to have complete faith in all Rotary clubs that we will deliver our promise to use all funds for the purpose intended.

**Will Polio be eradicated from the face of the earth in the next ten years?**

I believe strongly that we will not stop until Polio has been eradicated. This is our number one priority as defined by Rotary International and our Council on Legislation and I believe it will stay that way until we have fulfilled our promise to the children. We are very close to our goal and must stay focused with our strategic partners on the target with all our energy and enthusiasm. We must not let up. We will succeed because Rotarians can achieve what others can only dream.

**With multiple immunisation drives by the Government of India promoting National Immunisation Days every year, the involvement of Rotary is decreasing. Your comments.**

The Government of India has shown its commitment to doing its part to complete the task of eradicating

polio. Over the years Rotarians in India have been instrumental in the programme in funds, manpower, transport and organisation. I know those Rotarians will stay involved until the end. I know that Rotary International will stay involved until the end. It is true that we must now sharpen our focus on the more challenging areas and the more challenging strains of the virus but that does not mean there is less involvement just greater focus.

**Even after spending more millions in eradicating Polio, we find that the going is not easy. There are some intrinsic pitfalls. Do you believe that Polio can be totally eradicated?**

As we get closer to the end the task becomes more frustrating because of some very specific issues. However, it also makes it easier to put all our energy into very specific geographical areas in order to address those challenges. The focus is working as we see great progress in those few endemic areas left. It won't be easy but it will happen because Rotarians in India and elsewhere know that it must happen. Difficult obstacles may get in our way but Rotarians can gently move mountains because it is the right thing to do and we can help others understand and help us.

**Do you believe that greater emphasis be placed on literacy, ecology, water conservation, global warming etc., whilst we continue to promote Polio Eradication?**

Polio Eradication is our number one priority but Rotarians have been and will continue to address all the evils that exist in our world. We know Polio Eradication is primary and must be completed but still it is only one programme. Rotary Clubs around the world know that they must be

involved in a balanced programme that addresses many issues not just one. Literacy has been an emphasis and I am sure it will continue as it is crucial for individuals to help themselves to be literate. Clean water and water conservation will also continue and has been very strongly supported by Rotarians. Ecology and global warming are big issues that are supported through projects of Rotary clubs. However, there needs to be priorities to our prime focus. If there is no water or food, people will die. If we cannot keep the population healthy people will die. If all people can also become literate they can help us to fix the environment. Let's provide the water, the food, the health and education and then we can all work together to resolve our environment issues. Not to say that where possible we don't do what we can now.

**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?**

Pilot projects can greatly help in determining the effectiveness of a programme. We should be cautious not to overextend our resources but where possible continue to try new ways of accomplishing our task to do "Good in the World." One possibility is to choose a given geographical region and focus all our efforts on providing a change in their circumstances. If we could focus on one area (not at the expense of any others) then we could provide water, food, health and literacy in a shorter period by providing them with self sufficiency to sustain the complete change in their circumstances.

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

All Rotarians and all Rotary Clubs should have complete transparency



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in all their dealings all the time. It should be done by always ensuring appropriate separation of funds, appropriate documentation, honest and accurate reporting and continual oversight of all funds. All monies collected for community service must go to community service and be seen to go to community service. No monies collected from the community should go for supporting the club or any individual in the club. Proper monitoring, financial reviews and audits must be performed. Reports to the community and to The Rotary Foundation and Rotary International must be complete and honest and show where every dollar goes. There must be no question of impropriety.

**Can Rotary be accepted by the community if honesty is sacrificed?**

Honesty is critical for the community to give Rotary total support. Our communities must know that when they give us a dollar in any currency of any value that we will spend it in the right way to help the right people.

**How can we be more relevant to the community?**

We must provide projects that meet needs in our communities both locally and internationally. Clubs should evaluate their annual projects to ensure that they meet identified

priorities of communities. We should not just do a project because we think it is a good idea. We should assess the needs and then plan our programmes around those needs. Meet those basic needs and then people can become self sufficient to help themselves. While sometimes we must provide fish to save people from starvation we must always try to teach them to fish.

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

I believe it is practiced throughout the Rotary world and we must not let it become redundant. The Four-Way-Test is fundamental to the values of Rotary and must be preserved. No matter the issues we must always live by the Four-Way-Test. Governments, organisations and individuals around the world believe in us because they can trust us to do the right thing. That is a sacred trust that we must treasure with all the enthusiasm we have.

**What is the health of Rotary worldwide?**

We should all be proud of what Rotary is doing around the world. We continue to grow in Foundation giving in community service and in our educational endeavours. Rotary has taken a hard look at the future and has taken the time and effort

to develop strategic planning at all levels to ensure that we plan appropriately for our organisation in the future. We have had some growth in membership this year but it is essential that we stay committed to growing our organisation. The more members we have the more we can do. The Rotarians in India have certainly been leaders in increasing their membership but we need to continue with that spirit all around the world.

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

Our world economy has slowed and the price of oil has gone to unprecedented levels causing basic needs like food to move out of the reach of the impoverished. These changes in circumstances around the world certainly put great strain on the programmes of Rotary. President DK Lee has asked Rotary Clubs to take a strong look at reducing child mortality in our world and I believe that will be an excellent target for clubs. So much of what we do improves the lives of children but with this greater focus on reducing the number of children who die from unnecessary causes every day, Rotarians will feel a greater sense of satisfaction for making a difference.

**What is your message to Rotarians?**

We should be proud of our organisation for our unique sense of values as an organisation and for the incredible work that we do around the world. We can eliminate disease, we can motivate governments to get involved in meaningful ways, we can change our world for all and we can change the life of one. We share Rotary so that we can truly Make Dreams Real and we do it every day all around the world. We are the largest dream team that works in unison to bring understanding to each other in order to ensure peace in our world.



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