



PRESIDENT'S VIEW



Dear Fellow Rotarians,

What is Rotary? When I ask Rotarians this question, they often give vague answers. And when I asked myself this question, I had to think about it. August is Membership and Extension Month in Rotary, and I want all Rotarians to be able to send a unified message about what Rotary is and why they joined.

The key to increasing membership is for every Rotarian to be convinced that it's good to be a Rotarian, and to convey that passion to others. In Rotary, we have a tendency to be humble and keep our achievements to ourselves. But we must share them with those around us and with the world.

Every Rotarian has a specific moment that stands out and has a special meaning. Some people refer to this as their "Rotary Moment." I believe it is very important to share this moment with others. Facts and numbers can only go so far, but sharing a personal experience can open doors and build friendships.

That's why I decided to create some sample messages that I call "Rotary Moments." You can use these one-minute and three-minute messages to answer the question "What is Rotary?" in a way that is most personal to you. They will help you talk about the projects you've been involved in, how they've helped your community, and what's been most meaningful to you.

To strengthen Rotary, we need more members. But unless those members are convinced of the benefits of the organisation and can share that passion with others, expanding Rotary won't be meaningful.

If every Rotarian is happy about being a Rotarian and spreads the word with a clear, unified message — if every Rotarian around the world can be his or her own PR department — the combined, collective effect will be enormous. These sample messages will help us all clearly communicate our enthusiasm to others. This will lead to an increase in new membership and in member retention. The messages are available for free download at www.rotary.org/tellingyourstory and Rotarians can buy other membership materials at shop.rotary.org.

I believe that the purpose of every life is to help others and contribute to society. Once Rotarians begin using these samples, the world will become more aware of how Rotary is helping people live that way. I encourage you to share your Rotary Moment with other Rotarians as well as non-Rotarians.

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Sakuji Tanaka
President, Rotary International

