

Community Comment  
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Sam Pennisi

### On Integrity and building community

I am half way thru my 3<sup>rd</sup> term as President of the Rotary Club of Arcata. I was hesitant to accept this responsibility again but my arm was twisted. The work I do with Rotary, locally and internationally, is one of my life's greatest joys. It's an honor of the highest order to serve with the people that value service above self.

Service above self is a motto of Rotary. It means that we can always make time for service and that how we can be of service is always on our mind. Giving of ourselves and our time and money has become a way of life. Even at family dinners someone in the group will say "Hey, maybe Rotary could help with this issue".

Rotary International has adopted various philosophies that summarize our values and outlook. For example, we have the Four Way Test that we all try to live up to. It is; Of the things we think, say, or do:

Is it the truth? Is it fair to all concerned? Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Will it be beneficial to all concerned? These simple phrases can be helpful when faced with difficult personal or business decisions.

We have the Object of Rotary which is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular to encourage and foster; the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service, high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society; the application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Paul Harris formed the first club over a century ago to have what he missed; a community. Rotary encourages the attendance of a meeting each week. When one cannot be at their home club, each member is encouraged to make up that meeting at another club. With over 1.2 million members in over 34,000 clubs, in nearly 200 countries, the opportunity for making up a weekly meeting is endless. When you walk in to a new to you Rotary Club, you are surrounded by like minded people interested in service. An hour later, you will leave with several new friends.

I especially like is the Rotary student exchange program. This is where we send a high school student to some distant club and receive one in exchange. These students are go through a competitive application and interview process and are eager to live in another culture for a year. Our clubs outbound student for next year is Alita Nichols. She has just

learned that she is going to Japan and is already learning the language. These kids are brave souls.

Rotary provides both an opportunity to do good and a role model for a successful life. The Rotary ideals would be a good springboard for elective office

This has been Sam Pennisi for community comment