



Spectrum



RI District 3291

January 14, 2023

Weekly bulletin of Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata

VOL 16 □ NO 29

PRESIDENT □ ARCHANA GOYAL

SECRETARY □ KUSUM CHAMARIA

EDITOR □ DR RAJESH GOEL

CLUB NO □ 78956

CHARTERED ON □ APRIL 30, 2008

WEBSITE □ www.rcslmk.org

Reconciling truth and fairness

Posted on January 11, 2023 by Martin Postic Jr., Rotary Club of Oklahoma City Midtown, Oklahoma, USA

As Rotary members, we're encouraged to apply The Four-Way Test to everything we think, say, or do. And yet many Rotarians fixate on just the first part of the test, "**Is it the TRUTH?**" and stop there. It's easy to see why. Truth is an absolute. But fairness, as embodied in the second part, "**Is it FAIR to all concerned?**" is not.



Martin Postic Jr.

In society today, the goal seems to be to win at all costs

Individuals sometimes seek to skew the truth to achieve an outcome "fair" to them but not necessarily fair to all concerned. Some people feel that if they win, it IS fair, but if they lose, it's NOT. They'll play fast and loose with the truth to achieve the result they deem "fair." Which begs the question, "Which is more important – truth or fairness?"

I would argue they are both important and connected. As is the third part of the Test: "**Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**" It's a mistake to consider any one part of the Test apart from the others. They're all inter-related. And they're all an internal barometer of our own intentions toward others, not a tool to judge others.

Fairness is a skill

A well-known TV commentator once said, "**Fairness is not an attitude. It's a professional skill that must be developed and exercised.**" I believe this is what the Test has in mind. Fairness must be viewed from the point of view of our intentions in making an offer to another person and the environment created for the other party to accept that offer.

If we're arguing over \$100, it might be "fair" that we each agree to accept \$50. Or one of us could justify needing a larger portion of that money than the other, due to our situation in life. That resolution could still be considered "fair." We could even agree that one or the other of us should take all the money. A third party looking at that situation may not find any of these agreements to be "fair." But why does the third party need to comment when they are not a party to, affected by, or concerned by the agreement being made?

What is fair in one case may not be fair in another. What is fair to one party may not be considered fair to another. Individuals need to look deep into their hearts when considering what is fair, because there are no absolutes of fairness. Still, there are fair solutions to most situations that can "build goodwill and better friendships."

Past Rotary International President Cliff Dochterman's annual theme in 1992-93 was "**Real Happiness is Helping Others.**" There's something heartwarming about helping someone! Goodwill is defined as "a kindly feeling of approval and support; benevolent interest or concern."

In most (but not all) friendships, a person is looking for something in return — acceptance, affirmation, business, love, or some other tangible benefit. If that benefit is not returned, the friendship often ends. In much the same way, if a business's "friendship" (i.e., developing goodwill) does not translate into some tangible benefit to that business, the business either ceases their involvement in the community or goes out of business.

Building goodwill requires sacrifice

The third point of the Test similarly seeks a quid pro quo. If I demand that, in our friend-relationship, I am always right, you always pay, or you always bear the brunt of my insults or comments, how long will our friendship last? If I act in such a ruthless, cutthroat business manner that it hurts you or the community, will you want to do business with me or be my friend? Clearly, building goodwill and better friendships involves giving something up.

We have all been to meetings where someone tells a joke or makes a statement that insults someone. It may have been intended to be "in fun," but was it really? We are each free to think, say or do anything we choose. However, I can freely choose to discontinue a friendship based on what I see that friend saying and doing.

Much like the concept of fairness, building goodwill and better friendships is not an absolute. I try (but don't always succeed) to consider whether my thoughts, words, and deeds will build a better relationship with the people with whom I interact. Similarly, I consider whether the thoughts, words, and deeds of others cause me to want to continue a friendship with them.

I'm friends with many individuals whom I know don't share my philosophies, beliefs, and opinions. I value their friendship enough not to impose those philosophies, beliefs, and opinions upon them. If my thoughts or words don't further those friendships, then I choose to keep them to myself. However, if my friend doesn't do likewise, our "friendship" can reach a breaking point where there is no longer a benefit to either of us. That is the crux of the question you must ask yourself: whether your thoughts, words, and deeds build goodwill and better friendships.

Grow your membership with Meetup

Posted on January 13, 2023 by Etelka Lehoczky, digital content editor/writer

Maybe you know about Meetup, the 49-million-member online resource for coordinating and hosting events all over the world. Maybe your club already lists its meetings there. But if you're not thinking strategically about your Meetup presence, you won't see the kind of membership growth this amazing platform can generate. I'm an organizer for the Chicago Philosophy Meetup, which has 5,034 subscribers. It's true! More than five thousand people follow a group dedicated to one of the most obscure subjects imaginable. Just imagine how much interest your club can attract – if, that is,

you understand the platform and promote your meetings the right way. Use these tips to get your club in front of Meetup's users, and soon you'll be racking up RSVPs.

Create a great group listing

Be savvy about creating your club's Meetup group. When you start a new group, the first thing you'll be asked to do is select some topics it's related to. Choose as many relevant topics as possible to increase the chance that your group will turn up in users' searches.

Here are a few topics to start with:

- Community Building
- Community Organizations
- Education
- Environment
- Local Issues
- Local Activities
- Local Economy
- Make New Friends
- Professional Networking
- Rotary
- Social Justice
- Social Work
- Social Networking
- Seniors
- Women's Networking

There's no penalty to selecting lots of topics, so don't be shy. If your group addresses an issue – even occasionally – go ahead and select every topic related to it.

Think visually

Next, make sure to post a great group photo. Your group listing is essentially an ad, so you want to reach out and grab those eyeballs! Here's a terrific photo from the Rotary Club of Austin, Texas, USA.



Photos that show your group working on projects are real winners, like this one from the provisional Rotary Club of Chinnor, England.



And here's another great one, from the Rotary Club of Maidenhead Bridge, Berkshire, England.



Besides your main photo, your new group has a whole section for other photos. Post as many as you can. When you upload lots of photos from all your meetings and events, you show people how active and exciting your club is.

Jazz up event listings

Once you've created your Meetup group, you'll need to post each of your club's meetings and events. For each posting, be as specific as possible about what you're up to. You've got plenty of space in that "description" field, so use it! Are you having a guest speaker at next week's club meeting? Describe their specialty in the event title and include their biography in the event description. If possible, upload their photo as the event photo. If you don't have their photo, post one of your group.

If your club has a lot of events, there's no need to leave one person in charge of listing them all. You can designate as many organizers as you like, giving multiple club members the power to list events.

Post your listings in advance, and regularly. You want the user who scans your group's page to get an immediate sense that you've got a lot of interesting things going on. A user might not want to come to next week's meeting, but that doesn't mean they aren't interested in your club. If they see that you have a lot of events, they'll keep an eye on your club in the future.

Make connections

On Meetup, you have the power to message everyone who subscribes to your group or RSVPs to an event. Use that power! Ask new subscribers if they have any questions or offer a bit more information about what's coming up. Personal touches like that make users sit up and pay attention, increasing the chance that they'll RSVP. After all, people come to Meetup looking for a sense of connection – they want to make new friends and find meaningful activities. You can create that connection even before a user comes to your meeting.

Another way to make connections is to cross-promote your events with other groups. Almost any speaker, subject, or activity you schedule will be relevant to other Meetup groups. You can ask the organizers of those groups to list your event.

For example, maybe your club is organizing an event to clear trash out of a nearby river. Find local groups that address environmental issues, then message the organizers and ask if they'll post your event. Be sure to provide all the information they'll need: a headline, description, place, time, and photo. Most organizers are eager to have a lot of events listed in their groups, so they'll be happy to post yours.

Meetup is a valuable resource if you use it correctly. It's 49 million users are right there for the taking. Keep these tips in mind when you establish your Meetup presence, and watch the RSVPs roll in.

RI president-elect announces 2023-24 presidential theme

By Etelka Lehoczky

Rotary International **President-elect R. Gordon R. McNally** called for members to capture the world's attention and lead the way toward possibilities far beyond our current expectations.



CREATE HOPE in the WORLD



McNally, a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland, revealed the 2023-24 presidential theme, **Create Hope in the World**, during the **Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida, USA, on 9 January**. He urged members to promote peace in troubled nations, help those affected by conflict, and maintain the momentum of initiatives begun by past leaders.

"The goal is to restore hope - to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves," McNally said at Rotary's annual training event for incoming district governors.

McNally spoke about a woman he met in Ban Taling Chan, Thailand, where Rotary members helped build houses, a meeting hall, and childcare and health care facilities following the tsunami that devastated South Asia in late 2004. The woman had lost her husband, her daughter, and her son in the tsunami, as well as her livelihood. But she still had a gift to offer McNally: a beautiful seashell.

"She went on to tell me that Rotary... had restored her optimism. We gave her hope," McNally said.

"This is how Rotary brings lasting change to the world," he added, "one restored or newly created hope at a time."

Promoting peace

A significant way to bring hope to the world is to put a greater emphasis on peace, McNally said. He cited the action Rotary members have taken in the past year to support the people of Ukraine after the invasion by Russia. Rotary has made humanitarian relief a priority, attracting more Ukrainian members in the process. But McNally noted that true relief won't come without peace — not just in Ukraine, but in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria, and dozens of other places around the globe. **"Peace is the soil where hope takes root,"** McNally said.

McNally also emphasized the power of continuity, calling for Rotary members to continue the work of some past leaders. He pledged to maintain the Empowering Girls initiative launched by 2020-21 President Shekhar Mehta and uphold the emphasis on diversity, equity, and inclusion throughout Rotary. He also noted recent events that underscore the importance of Rotary's

continuing focus on polio. In the past year, polio cases have emerged in many areas around the world, making it more crucial than ever for Rotary members to lead the fight against the disease.

To do that, McNally said, Rotary must continue to raise at least US\$50 million each year to receive the full 2-to-1 funding match from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Only about 1 in 12 members currently gives to the polio eradication campaign, with fewer than 1 in 5 clubs donating each year.

McNally asked the district governors-elect for support creating a new sense of urgency in their clubs to help realize Rotary's vision of a polio-free world. "This is the time for us to go beyond what's necessary year to year and make sure we provide every resource necessary to succeed as quickly as possible," he added.

Focusing on mental health

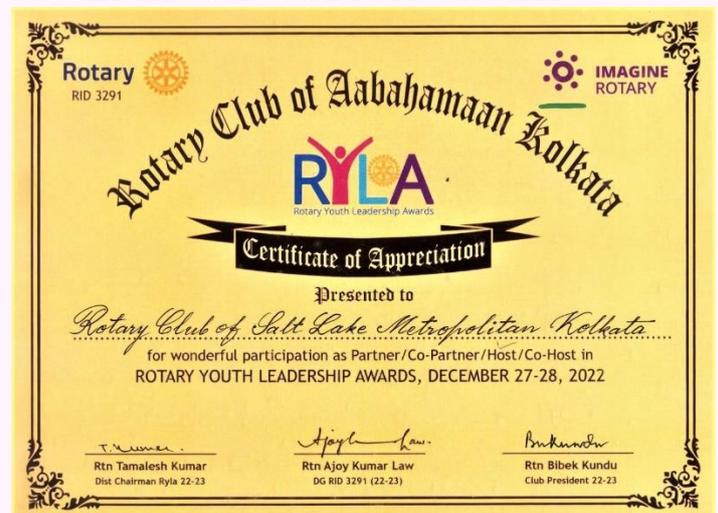
In addition, McNally said, Rotary members should offer hope to those affected by mental health challenges — a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Many people have lost family members, many more have found their social networks uprooted, and young people especially have had their educational and developmental paths interrupted. As a result, more people around the world are facing mental health issues. And yet, seeking assistance is often perceived as a sign of weakness.

"Nothing could be further from the truth," McNally said. "Reaching out for help is courageous — and continuing on a path toward wellness is even more so."

He added that Rotary will work to improve mental health services in the next year and beyond. Rotary should be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people it serves, McNally said. "Any mental health professional will tell you that by helping others, we essentially help ourselves."

McNally ended his speech by describing his ideal balance of continuity and innovation. "Rotary helps create the conditions for peace, opportunity, and a future worth living," he said. "By continuing what we do best, by remaining open and willing to change, and by keeping our focus on building peace in the world and within ourselves, Rotary helps create a more peaceful world — a more hopeful world."

RCSLMK co-hosts District RYLA



Rotary Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata cohosted District's "Rotary Youth Leadership Award" RYLA held on December 27 & 28, 2022 at Krishnachandrapur High School, 24 Parganas (S).



PP Dr Aruna and PDG Siddhartha S Bose seated at the District Conference, titled, 'ANANDADHARA'



President Archana and Secretary Kusum at the enclosure of club exhibits at the District Conference

Brief outline of the Global Grant 1991152

Purpose: 'Fight against Anemia in Women'

Objectives: Treat women of Anemia by screening and treatment and prevent by educating them

Title: 'Matri-Raksha' - protection of mothers

Scope of work: Provide screening camps, minor and major surgeries, medicines, awareness training, healthcare professional training and providing diagnostic equipment at community health centers

Coverage: Both districts of 24 Parganas, West Bengal, India

Sponsors: Rotary clubs of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata of District 3291, India and Nidau-Biel, Biel-Bienne, Biel-Buttenberg of District 1990, Switzerland:

Grant Partners: Rotary Foundation India, the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International,

Associates: Related Government and civic bodies, NGO's

In brief:

India's caste system limits diversity in science

Data show how privileged groups still dominate many of the country's elite research institutes.

By Ankur Paliwal in Nature on January 12, 2023

This article is part of a Nature series examining data on ethnic or racial diversity in science in different countries

Adivasis and Dalits, the most marginalized communities in India, make up less than 1% of professors at the top-ranked universities among the 23 Indian Institutes of Technology. Six charts show how universities fail to meet government quotas that are meant to ensure fair representation of these groups in academia. There is not enough support for undergraduate students from underprivileged communities, who might be the first in their families to attend university. And PhD students can have difficulties finding a mentor: it is "quite common" for privileged-caste professors not to supervise students from marginalized communities, says environmental scientist Kirpa Ram.

QUOTE

It is a part of the probability that many improbable things will happen. —Aristotle

UNWIND

Do you have a map? I just got lost in your eyes.

Reply: (too corny, maybe a disgusted look would be enough)

Birthdays of members in January 2023

PP Uma Shankar Agarwal on January 9, 2023

VP Indrakumar Bagri on January 10, 2023

Club Treasurer Ashok Kumar Surana on January 10, 2023

PP Dr Aruna Tantia on January 19, 2023

Anniversaries of members in January 2023

Spouse Sushila & Treasurer Ashok K Surana on January 19, 2023

Spouse Dr Nandita & PP Dr Ankush Bansal on January 28, 2023

January is Vocational Service Month

TAILPIECE

Why Roman concrete lasts for ages

Ancient Roman concrete could self-heal thanks to "hot mixing" with quicklime

On January 7, 2023 by Jennifer Ouellette, a senior writer at Ars Technica with a particular focus on where science meets culture



A new analysis of ancient Roman concrete samples from the Privernum site yields fresh insights into manufacturing process

Roman concrete has 'self-healing' properties that have helped it to last for millennia. Researchers analyzed 2,000-year-old Roman concrete samples and found lumps of lime in the mortar - you might have spotted these distinctive bright white clumps of calcium carbonate on your latest trip to the agora. When the cement gets wet, these deposits can dissolve, filling cracks and strengthening the structure. The researchers mixed up their own version of Roman concrete and found that cracks in it healed within two weeks; those in modern concrete didn't.

From Ars Technica's Science Advances paper; Source: Nature

We meet 2nd and 4th Saturdays at GPT Group, JC 25, Salt Lake, Kolkata 700098 at 6.00 PM

Printed by Archana Goyal, President, Rotary Club of Salt Lake Metropolitan Kolkata • Editor: Dr Rajesh Goel

For private circulation only • Web site: www.rcslmk.weebly.com • Email: es.rcslm@gmail.com