

Rotaract Speech

What made you join Rotaract? (Pause to let people answer)

There is a saying that states: “People may not remember exactly what you did, or what you said, but they will always remember how you made them feel.” I would like to re-state that for your experience with Rotary. Ready: **You may not remember what you did or what you heard or even what you said, but you will remember how you felt.**

No matter what I say today, I want you to take three things away with you about the **feelings** that you will experience in Rotary.

1. From sharing **friendships and networking** with your fellow Rotaractors, you have the opportunity to **feel valuable**.
2. From participating in the **Five Avenues of Service**, you have the opportunity to **feel joyful**.
3. From volunteering to be a **leader of your club**, you have the opportunity to **feel competent**.

Let me go over each and you will understand what I mean.

First if you want to feel valuable, let's discuss friendships and networking. Rotary was started by three businessmen who knew the power of collaboration, networking, and the value of developing friendships. They wanted to do business with people that they trusted like their friends. They began assembling a group of people who had **like minded ideas** and a **spirit of service**. Today, you have the opportunity to create lasting friendships with people in your Rotaract club who plan to live out the Four-Way Test. The Four-Way Test states:

Of the things we think, say, or do:
Is it the Truth?
Is it Fair to all concerned?
Will it build good will and better friendships?
Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Doing business with your fellow Rotarians who live out the Four-Way Test in their daily lives **assures you** of getting the best service or quality product you can purchase.

As you develop your friendships with other Rotaractors and Rotarians, you develop trust in them, so you do business with them and they do business with you, you begin to experience feelings of being valuable to others; not only as a friend, but also, as a provider of either goods or services.

Network by using the profession of a fellow Rotaractors and hopefully they will be reciprocal with you. If you enjoy great service or excellent products, share that with your friends to **promote your fellow Rotaractor's vocation.**

Second, one of the best ways to create joyful feelings in one's self is to **give to others.** Helping others always gives us good feelings about ourselves. You have five ways to get joyful feelings in Rotary through **the Five Avenues of Service.** What are they? (Let them guess). Ok, let's go over each one.

Club Service means doing the administrative things that helps a club to thrive and grow. Who will get the speakers? Who will develop your budget? Who will chair the service projects? Who will do those things that make you a viable club?

Community Service means you provide for unmet needs in your community. Look around and see where your club is needed the most. I encourage your club to go through the visioning process that will help you focus on the most important service work to your club. Once you know what passion for service your club members have, then go out and find a service project that you can all be engaged in passionately.

Vocational Service means you are responsible for educating your fellow Rotaractors in your club about your **occupation**. Offer to give a speech on the vocation you have chosen.

International Service means that your club is responsible for not only your own community service work, but service work that will help people around the world. Rotaractors rebuild lives. With the international projects you support, you give people hope which rebuilds the **spirit of determination** for creating **resilience** even under the most dire circumstances. You can make a difference in the lives of thousands of people with the international service you provide.

This year you will have the **opportunity** to be involved with a district project with Panama. The **District Panama Project** partners with an International District, a corporation, and the military. It fulfills two of the **six areas of focus** which are clean water and child health. It also creates a **sustainable** project. So for the cost of a box of cereal each one of you can make a difference in the lives of thousands of Panamanians. I hope you will choose to support this effort not only with your dollars, but also, by helping with a hands-on project at the Rotary Reunion to pack the well baby kits that we will send to Panama.

And the fifth Avenue of Service is **New Generations** which includes mentoring and encouraging and supporting our youth. As Rotaractors, you are definitely in a position to influence those students between the ages of 12-18. Why not sign up to be a **RYLA** counselor? RYLA stands for Rotary Youth Leadership Award Academy. Sophomores from around the state are trained in Servant Leadership. Why not be a mentor to a **Youth Exchange** Student? Why not help start an **Interact** club (ages 12-18) especially at the middle school level. Why not help with the **Don't Meth With Me** workshop for youth or be a volunteer helper with the **Choices** program. There are many ways to serve our youth.

Thirdly to feel competent, I want to talk about **YOU and leadership**. First, find **your passion** within your Rotaract club. Do you like to raise funds? Then volunteer to chair the fund raising committee. Do you like to organize things? Then volunteer to be a club officer or chair a service project. Are you good with numbers? Then volunteer to be the treasurer. Are you good with computers? Then volunteer to be the webmaster and Facebook page chair. Do you like to teach? Then volunteer to be the club trainer. Find your passion and then **offer your talents** to your club.

Let's review before I conclude:

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2. From participating in the **Five Avenues of Service**, you have the opportunity to **feel joyful**.
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Remember: **You may not remember what you did or what you heard or even what you said, but you will remember how you felt.**

There is a saying that states: The **longest distance** we have to travel is the **connection** between our **head** and our **heart**. When the **emotions** (for instance: feelings of being valuable, of being competent, and of being joyful) **resonate** with the **belief** which in Rotary is (service above self), then you become **passionate**. When you are passionate, you are powerful enough to move from **hesitation to action**.

You are a Rotarian whether your club is called Interact, Rotaract, or Rotary. To become a true Rotarian and not just a member of your Rotaract club, you **must** get involved. When you are engaged and when you find your heart of service, then you will feel connected to your club and to Rotary as an organization. Do not limit your involvement to your club. Get involved with **wider venues for learning about Rotary**. You have a great opportunity to apply for (explain each) :

Group Study Exchange

Ambassadorial Scholarships

Peace Scholarships

Rotary is vast and it is all about service. We are but a small flicker of a candle that reflects the genuine and broad spectrum light that Rotary shines around the world. I challenge each of you and your club to **be the light; be not only a mere flicker, but be a beacon of light**. (Fold newspaper and start cutting out the Rotary wheel)

With **vision**,
with **creative** thinking,
with **enthusiasm**,
with **risk-taking**,
with **continuity**,
and with **service**,

your club has the potential to be that beacon. **Shine brightly
because when you shine brightly, the whole world feels the
light of your service.**

President, _____, please come up here with me to **unfold**
a symbol of what your club represents when you shine brightly.
(President unfolds newspaper) Thank you.