



ROTARY:  
MAKING A  
DIFFERENCE

# Rotary crossroads

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*Proud of our Heritage, Committed to our Future*

*Chartered 6<sup>th</sup> June 1930*

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JANUARY IS

Photo by Alyce Henson. © Rotary International. Photo by Thien Rotary Club of Miri.



## VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

*"Of all the hundred and one ways in which men can make themselves useful to society, undoubtedly the most available and often the most effective are within the spheres of their own occupations." Paul P Harris*



**TAKE ACTION:** Engage Rotary, Change Lives

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# In Focus

## What Makes Rotary Unique?

*Speech made by PDG Dr Philbert Chin at the Rotary Club of Singapore's weekly meeting on 17 January 2018:*



PDG Dr Philbert Chin

In 2003, at a Presidential celebration, Cliff Dockterman, RI President, 1992-1993, delivered a speech, titled “**Vocational Service – Rotary’s 1<sup>st</sup> concept**”.

This speech inspired me to write today’s paper and I will share some of his thoughts with you.

Rotary was the 1<sup>st</sup> business-orientated organisation of its kind in the United States; and, at the same time, it is the oldest service organisation in the United States.

Is this a contradiction in terms?

Rotary was founded on a cold wintry night, 23 February 1905 in Chicago, USA, a city described by Upton Sinclair in his book, “The Jungle”, as a “great sore city, it was dirty, it was corrupt and it was the home of Paul Harris”.

Paul Harris, a 27-year-old lawyer, who found it difficult to settle down in Chicago with 3 other friends set out on that dreary night to form a club. This club would include members, each from different business, who would gather for friendship, mutual cooperation and help each other to promote business. They could join only if another member vouched for them.

Thus, was established Rotary’s classification system. At the same time, diversity became part of Rotary’s culture.

At the time of formation of the club, Paul Harris, the Founder, had this unusual idea that friendship and business might mix and result in even more business. Thus, the idea of **friendship and business were combined – and the 1<sup>st</sup> Rotary Club evolves**.

The founders named the club, “Rotary”, because initially members met in each other’s office by rotation.

When the Rotary Club of Chicago was formed, written in its constitution were 2 Objectives:

- **The concept of Friendship.**
- **The promotion of the business of its members.**

In 1907/1908, Paul Harris became the 3<sup>rd</sup> President of his club. Once again, he introduced another innovative idea. This time, he felt that since friendship and business could mix, so could **business and service be combined**.

This was apparent in the initiation of Rotary’s 1<sup>st</sup> 2 community projects, namely;

- Donating a horse to a Doctor for him to continue doing house calls.
- Building public toilets in downtown Chicago.

These projects showed that Rotarians could adopt the challenges of their community needs and set an example that was the fore runner of the countless similar services rendered by Rotarians throughout the world.

In 1912, at the Convention held in Minnesota, the original objectives encompassing the promotion of business was discontinued. Personal, selfish gain as a moving force was officially eliminated. However, through the many changes made in the “Object of Rotary”, **the business element was retained**. It is in fact listed as part 2 of the present “Object of Rotary”.

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## In Focus

- To encourage high ethical standards in business and profession.
- To Promote the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarians occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

**Friendship, business and service has become intertwined in the culture of Rotary.**

It is interesting to note also that as early as 1917, Lesley Pidgeon, RI President, stated **“the primary object of Rotary is to relate the individual properly to his daily work, that is the 1<sup>st</sup> duty Rotary has to perform. The Rotary club must educate its members to embody the ideal of service in their daily work”**

In the book printed in 1935, on the early history of Rotary in Great Britain, T.A. Warren, who became President in 1945-46, stated, **“the only unique feature of Rotary is Vocational Service**; everything else we do is repeated by some other organisations. If we are unique, if we have a special message or mission in the world that is unique to ourselves, it lies in the realm of Vocational Service”.

**“Vocation service” was clearly the main focus of Rotary.** What then was the outcome?

1<sup>st</sup> Outcome:

- Rotarians helping each other. It was this concept of promoting business that led to Rotary’s 1<sup>st</sup> community project - installing the 1<sup>st</sup> public restroom in downtown Chicago. When service is provided, business is enhanced. It was on that basis, that the world 1<sup>st</sup> community service was launched.

2<sup>nd</sup> Outcome:

- Rotarians took to promote ethics and integrity in their vocational practices. In the early meetings of Rotary, members frequently discussed techniques to improve business practice and offered wise and friendly counsel to each other.

Soon, members felt that they could do business with their Rotarian friends. They could expect to be treated fairly and there would always be an ethical element in all their transactions. Thus, the word, “Rotarian” was considered a mark of distinction in the business world.

Rotary Clubs were then regarded as leaders in fighting corruption and unfair business practices.

In 1910, Arthur Sheldon spoke at Rotary’s 1<sup>st</sup> convention in Chicago, saying “as man come to the light of wisdom, he comes to see that right conduct towards others pay, that business is the science of human service and that **“he profits most who serves his fellow best”**, thus, Rotary’s 1<sup>st</sup> motto came into being – **“a basic principle of business ethics”**.

In 1911, Ben Collin, who was asked to speak at the convention in Portland, mentioned that his club used the principle, **“Service-Above-Self”** in all their vocational activities. This impressed delegates and was adopted as Rotary’s 2<sup>nd</sup> motto. With slight changes, both were officially adopted as Rotary’s motto at the 1950 convention.

Rotary’s continued “obsession” with the promotion of ethical practices and integrity continued with the adoption of several guiding principles, including the “4-Way-Test”.

It is interesting to note that at the Convention held in Belgium, 1927, Rotary officially adopted the word, **“Vocation”** to cover all useful occupations. So, when the “Object of Rotary” was re-written, “Vocational Service” became the 2<sup>nd</sup> part of the “Object of Rotary” and Rotary’s 2<sup>nd</sup> “Avenue of Service”.

Unfortunately, I can’t find anywhere why this was done. To me the word, “vocation” meant more than work, it is a calling. I believed that Rotary must have wanted all Rotarians to regard their business and profession, a calling, so as to achieve the ideal of service and doing “Service-Above-Self”.





## In Focus

In 1960, in order to promote “Vocational Service”, Rotary International introduced the case studies of principles and new methods of handling business situation. A booklet called, “Let’s get down to cases” was also published. They provide Rotarians with the chance to explore moral business and ethical dilemmas.

In 1989, the Council of Legislation adopted a statement, called “**a declaration of Rotarians in business and profession**”. This again reiterated that a Rotarians vocation is considered “to be an opportunity to serve society” and an obligation to attend to the problems of the community.



*PDG Dr Philbert Chin addressing the Club*

It is a pity that Rotary did not take steps to promote **Corporate Social responsibility (CSR)** as part of a Rotary’s obligation to serve society through vocational service. However, it is too late to champion this cause.

In 1934, at the St. Louis convention, RI President, Will Manier, drafted a fundamental statement which was adopted. This stated, “fundamentally, Rotary is a philosophy of life that undertake to reconcile the ever-present conflict between the desire to profit for one’s self and the duty and consequent impulse to serve others. **The philosophy is the philosophy of service – “Service-Above-Self” – and is based on the practical ethical principle that “He Profits Most Who Serves Best”. That is the basis of all vocational service in Rotary.**

Recently, I came across video in YouTube, downloaded by a Rotarian, Haresh Ramchandani, from the Rotary Club of Montevideo, he visualises Rotary as a tree, he called the “root” - club service, the “trunk” – vocational service, the “branches and the leaves” - community service, international service and the “fruits”- the Rotary Foundation.

He continued, “without club service, the “root”, without fellowship, friendship and the overall atmosphere and events that took place in the club, you can’t have the tree. Likewise, without vocational service, the “trunk”, that element of people that bring expertise to the table, you can’t have all the services”.

So, the “tree” simplifies how important vocational service is to the world.

Perhaps, all Rotarians should regard Rotary as a “tree”, with club service and vocational service being responsible for the type of services Rotary renders.

When Rotary started, there was disruption in society and Paul Harris introduced the 3 elements that make Rotary grow – Friendship, Business, Service. Today, there is even greater disruption – unethical and illegal practices flourish, confidence in business and professional trust have been eroded and lost.

If vocational service was the basis of Rotary’s activities in the beginning of the 1<sup>st</sup> century, I believe this is time to restore business and professional ethical concerns as Rotary’s primary responsibility as we approach the 2<sup>nd</sup> century.

The challenge is for all Rotary clubs to take on the task.

Let me end by quoting a passage from our Founder, Paul Harris:

**“Whatever Rotary may mean to us,  
to the world, it will be known by the results it achieved”**

Thank you.



# Rotary Information

Extract from Rotary International

## MEMBERSHIP

### PUTTING YOUR DUES TO WORK

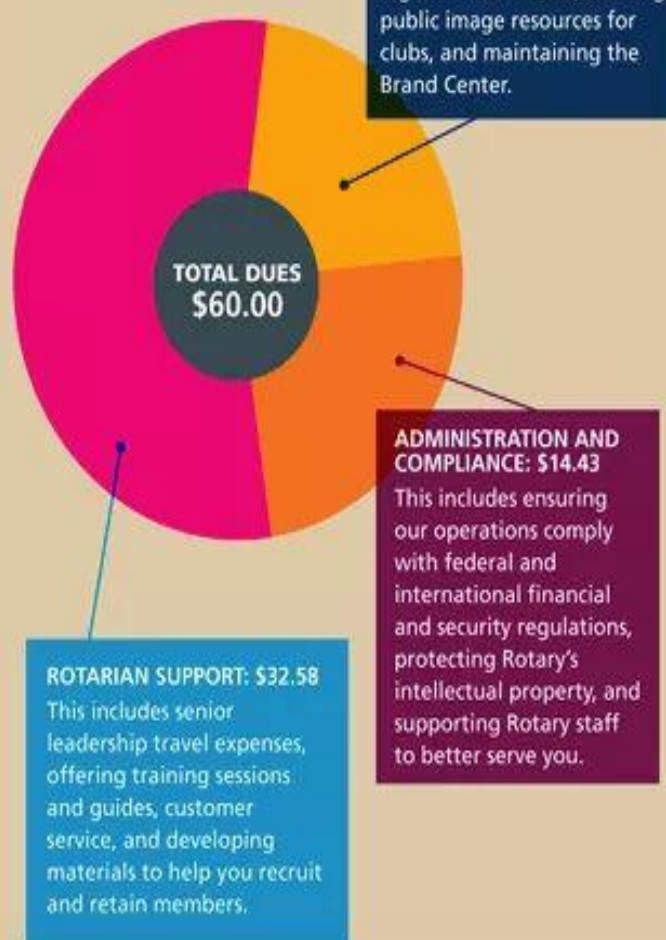
You may have noticed your membership dues this year are slightly higher than in years past. This increase is a result of the 2016 Council on Legislation, which approved raising dues by \$4 to meet members' growing needs for improved products and services from Rotary.

Thanks to your support, we're able to better serve you in a more comprehensive, technology-driven way. Here's how we've already used those funds to invest in our membership:

- We redesigned **Rotary.org** to make it more intuitive, easier to navigate, and provide direct access to resources.
- We completely overhauled **Rotary Club Central** so it is faster and easier to use, streamlining the process for clubs to track yearly goals, even on mobile devices.
- We simplified the process of completing and tracking a **global grant application**.
- Behind the scenes, we improved customer service support, expanded automation efforts, increased our compliance to changing security and privacy regulations, and invested in new technology.

We'll make even more enhancements to our products and tools in the coming year, like improving the functionality and speed of **My Rotary**, introducing a new financial system with greater data integrity and security, and making it easier to contribute online to The Rotary Foundation.

### WHAT YOUR 2017-18 MEMBERSHIP DUES SUPPORT



# Last Week

Last Week – Report on the Wednesday Meeting – 17 January 2018

## OPENING REMARKS

Acting Sergeant-at-Arms Rtn Keizo Fujitake invited President Keith to take the Chair. President Keith warmly welcomed the Speaker, none other than PDG Dr Philbert Chin, and was pleased to see so many members and guests.



*Rtn Keizo Fujitake*

## WELCOME

VP Andy Mankiewicz welcomed guests of members and visiting Rotarians, adding that there were about 20 guests present, which he cheekily stated was due to the “Philbert effect”:

### Guests:

Ms Anne Marie Gutierrez  
Ms Marie Leong  
Mr Ray Heng  
Mr Tan Song Cheng

### Visiting Rotarians:

Victor Lue Yat – Boca Raton, USA  
AG Thomas Ngu, PP Leslie Phuan, IPP Clarence Yong &  
PN Wong Chen Yi – Kuching Central  
DGND Rajamohan “Mohan” Munisamy, PP Gladys  
Pang, Pang Boon Seng, Leong Sai Fan – Pandan Valley  
PP Khush Dastur – Tanglin  
President Jenni Lau – Marina City  
VP Kelvin Chan – Singapore North  
Ng Kian Seng – Satellite Club of Singapore Centennial



*VP Andy Mankiewicz*

## TOAST



*From left: Pres Keith, AG Thomas & PP Shahul*

Toastmaster, PP Dr Shahul Hameed invited AG Thomas Ngu to say a few words about his Club. AG Thomas took the opportunity to introduce his Club's delegation present at the meeting. He advised that his Club has 49 members and meet on Saturdays at 1.00pm. AG Thomas added that several members have already visited his Club and extended an invitation to members to visit the Rotary Club of Kuching Central.

PP Dr Shahul called on members to join him in raising a toast to Rotary Club of Kuching coupled with the toast to Rotary International.

## EXCHANGE OF CLUB BANNERS



*Pres Keith exchanged banners with Rtn Victor Lue Yat from Rotary Club of Boca Raton in Florida, USA*





# Last Week

## ROTARY CHARITY RUN 2018 – 15 April 2018

President Keith invited AG Thomas to inform members of the coming Rotary Charity Run organized by the Rotary Club of Kuching Central.

AG Thomas advised that the fund-raising “Gift of Sight” event would be held on 15 April 2018. He added that the target was to raise \$500,000 to enable 1,000 cataract operations to be performed for low-income groups in Sarawak’s rural areas.



*AG Thomas Ngu advising details of the Charity Run as Pres Keith holds up the Run’s brochure*

AG Thomas appealed for members’ support through sponsorship and participation for the Charity Run. He added that both PP Dr Shahul Hameed and Director See Mee Lee have signed up to participate in the Run.

## GLOBAL GRANT (GG) INSPECTION & FELLOWSHIP TRIP TO CENTRAL VIETNAM

President Keith invited PP Dr Shahul Hameed who presented highlights of the Club’s GG 1746552 Inspection and Fellowship trip to Hue, Vietnam. PP Shahul advised the special circumstances surrounding this GG project which was to provide safe water for 316 households and 50 latrines. A full report will be published in a coming issue of the bulletin.

PP Dr Shahul was also pleased to announce the Club’s 41<sup>st</sup> approved Global Grant to provide training and organic agriculture.

We take this opportunity to extend the Club’s congratulations to PP Dr Shahul who was invited by PDG Young from District 3490 Taiwan to be the Keynote Speaker and Chief Moderator for the District Grants Training to be held from 24 to 25 February 2018.



*PP Dr Shahul Hameed*

## CHARMING CNY SPIRIT & ALL FOR VISION PROJECTS

Community Service Committee (CSC) Director Rtn See Mee Lee reminded members of the following two CSC projects:

**Charming CNY Spirit** – Outing to Chinatown for Society for the Aged Sick residents:

Date & Time: Saturday, 27 January from 1.00 to 4.00pm

Cost: \$50.00 per person

**All For Vision** – Eye-screening project for the needy

Date & Time: Sunday, 28 January from 8.30am to 1.00pm

Venue: Tampines (site to be advised)



*Dir See Mee Lee*

In particular, Rtn Mee Lee called for members’ participation for the outing with seniors from the Society for the Aged Sick Home. To register for these events and for more information, please contact Rtn Mee Lee.



# Last Week

## COMING ROTARY EVENTS

Members were reminded of the coming Rotary events:

Rotary Events for Jan 2018	Details
<b>Charming CNY Spirit</b>	Saturday, 27 January from 1.00 to 4.00pm Outing to Chinatown for wheelchair-bound residents from Society for the Aged Sick Cost: \$50.00 per person
<b>All For Vision</b>	Sunday, 28 January from 8.30am to 1.00pm Venue: Tampines (exact site to be confirmed) Partners: VIRAJ Healthcare Foundation & Zeiss Singapore
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Club Assembly</b>	Wednesday, 31 January from 7.00pm onwards at Singapore Cricket Club (Gilmore) <b>Weekly meeting at the Tanglin Club is cancelled in lieu of the Club Assembly.</b>

Rotary Events for Feb'18 onwards	Details
<b>World Understanding &amp; Peace Day</b>	Friday, 23 February 2018 Venue: Orchard Hotel Cost: \$80.00 per person
<b>India Eye Mission</b>	16 to 23 February for further details, please contact PP Tapan Rao
<b>President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS)/ District Training Assembly (DISTAS) 2018</b>	15 – 16 March (PETS) 16 – 18 March (DISTAS) Venue: Holiday Villa, Johor Bahru Online registration is now open at <a href="http://www.rotarydistrict3310.com/28di">http://www.rotarydistrict3310.com/28di</a>
<b>Collective tree planting</b>	Saturday, 31 March Cost: \$250 each
<b>Rotary Walk</b>	Saturday, 7 April Cost: \$50 (\$40 towards The Rotary Foundation & \$10 for the shirt)
<b>27<sup>th</sup> District Conference</b>	11 – 13 May 2018 Venue: The Magellan Sutera Resort Hotel, Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia Online registration at <a href="http://www.rotarydistrict3310.com/27discon/">http://www.rotarydistrict3310.com/27discon/</a> Early bird ends on 15 Feb 2018





# Last Week

**Speaker:** Past District Governor Dr Philbert Chin

**Topic:** *“What makes Rotary unique?”*



HM PP Raymon Huang

When President Keith invited Honorary Member (HM) PP Raymon Huang to introduce the Speaker, none other than PDG Dr Philbert Chin, HM PP Raymon remarked that it was unnecessary and redundant to do so, since PDG Philbert was known to everyone in the Club, in the District, in many of the Rotary Clubs in the region as well as in Rotary International circles.



Speaker, PDG Dr Philbert Chin

Nevertheless, HM PP Raymon introduced PDG Philbert who joined the Club in 1971, became President in 1979/80 and was elected District Governor in 1983/84 – his meteoric rise reflected his drive and dynamism. PDG Philbert has chaired many important Committees at International level, too numerous to enumerate. He introduced “PETS” (President-Elect Training Seminar) to the District, chaired the Asia Zone Institute and the Host Committee when the first Rotary International Convention was held in Singapore in 1999. PDG Philbert also authored two excellent Rotary pieces – “60 Years of Service” and “The Guide To Daily Living”. For his services to Rotary, PDG Philbert was recognised and bestowed by Rotary International with many accolades and honours as his work in Rotary is legendary.

Outside of Rotary, HM PP Raymon advised that PDG Philbert has contributed to society and the country in serving on many Boards. For all of this, the Singapore Government has conferred upon him several National Day Awards. One premier Voluntary Organisation, PDG Philbert founded with the strong support of the then Prime Minister, Mr Goh Chok Tong, was “RSVP” – the Organisation of Senior Volunteers. HM PP Raymon then invited PDG Philbert to address the Club.



PP Peter Tan

PDG Philbert presented a very inspiring talk, highlighted by some noteworthy quotations from Rotary’s Founder, Paul Harris. PDG Philbert shared his passion for Rotary and gave many interesting insights to Rotary’s rich history and uniqueness. The full text of PDG Philbert’s speech can be found on page 1 of this bulletin.

President Keith invited PP Peter Tan who warmly extended the Club’s vote of thanks to PDG Philbert for his inspiring talk. PP Peter added that PDG Philbert had provided several pages of the core values of Rotary, which the Vocational Service Committee and VSC Director PN Deepak Nagrani hoped to publish as a pocket booklet for members.



# Mark Your Diary

## Birthday Celebrants

**RC sends Birthday greetings to celebrants this week:**

Louis Lim  
Brigitte Holtschneider  
Sunny Loh

## Anniversary Celebrants

**RC sends best wishes to Wedding Anniversary celebrants this week:**

Alex & June Lega  
Horst & Debra Hagemann  
PP J K Ong & Beng Hoo

## Youth Service Meeting

**Youth Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:**

**Date:** Thursday, 25 January

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** Moghul Mahal  
Restaurant, 2 Tessensohn Rd #03-01  
Khalsa Association, S 217646

**Hosts:** Suresh Keerthi, Keizo Fujitake, Dr Chan Siew Luen and Ntoudi Mouyelo

## This Meeting

**24 January 2018**

**Reception Desk duty:** Connie Ho, Suresh Keerthi  
**Sunshine Box:** VP James Lee, Shamin Vaswani

**Speaker:** Prof Dr Kua Ee Heok, National University of Singapore  
**Topic:** Dementia : What you always wanted to know but were too afraid to ask. The Age Well Everyday (AWE) program for dementia prevention.

## Community Service Meeting

**Community Service Committee Meeting will be held as follows:**

**Date:** Thursday, 1 February

**Time:** 7.30pm

**Venue:** To be advised

**Hosts:** To be advised



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## Next Meeting

**31 January 2018**

**Weekly Meeting cancelled in view of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Club Assembly to be held in the evening at 7.00pm.**

**Club Assembly Venue:  
Gilmore Room  
Singapore Cricket Club**

## Coming Rotary Events

### January

#### ***Vocational Service Month***

**31 Jan** – Club Assembly at Singapore Cricket Club (Gilmore) at 6.30pm

### February

#### ***Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month***

**16-23 Feb** – India Eye Mission

**23 Feb** – World Understanding & Peace Day Dinner at Orchard Hotel

### March

#### ***Water and Sanitation Month***

**15-18 Mar** – DISTAS Presidents-Elect Training Seminar, District Training Assembly at Holiday Villa, Johor Bahru

**31 Mar** – Collective Tree-planting

### April

#### ***Maternal and Child Health Month***

Minority Vocational School Mission Visit  
**7 Apr** – Rotary Walk for The Rotary Foundation

**15 Apr** – Rotary Charity Run – Kuching

### May

#### ***Youth Service Month***

**11-13 May** – District Conference





## *The Guide to Daily Living*

Before doing the things we want to do, consider first, the Precepts of the guide. Ask ourselves these 4 questions and act upon them:

**First:** *Have I spent some time in self-examination?*

**Second:** *Have I spent quality time with my family?*

**Third:** *Have I given my best to my work?*

**Fourth:** *Have I given some time to someone near and far?*

The Guide, in fact, encompasses the 4 parts of the Object of Rotary.

## *The Four-Way Test*

Of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?
- Will it build goodwill and better friendship?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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See Mee Lee

Chair, Vocational Service

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