

Membership Seminar 2011

“Use their vocation for service to Rotary”

7th Aug 2011

PP Dr. Teo Tu Huah

Rotary Club of Tawau Tanjung



Rotary's emphasis on vocational service has its roots in the founding of the organization in 1905.

And the use of the classification principle — the guideline by which nearly all Rotary membership is determined — assures that each club has among its members a cross-section of a community's business and professional population



When professionals join a Rotary club, they do so as a representative of their particular business or profession.

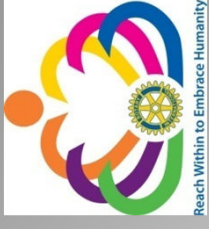
This gives Rotarians the dual responsibility of representing their vocation within the club and of exemplifying the ideals of Rotary within the workplace.

Vocational service focuses on:



***Adherence to, and promotion of, the highest ethical standards in all occupations, including fair treatment of employers, employees, associates, competitors, and the public.**

***The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, not just your own or those that are pursued by Rotarians.**



*The contribution of your vocational talents to the problems and needs of society.

*The values expressed in “[The 4-Way Test](#)” and the “[Declaration for Rotarians in Business and Professions](#)”, which promote high ethical standards in the workplace, a central theme of Rotary throughout its history.



The second part of the Object of Rotary calls for Rotarians to apply high ethical standards in their businesses and professions, recognize the worthiness of all useful occupations, and to consider their own occupations as opportunities to serve society.



In 1943, Rotarians were provided with a tool to help them achieve their vocational service goals when the RI Board of Directors voted to make 'The 4-Way Test' an official component of the vocational service ideal.

The test gave Rotarians a way to assess whether their personal and business dealings were being conducted with truth, fairness, goodwill, and decency.



For the first 80-plus years of Rotary's history, the second Avenue of Service — vocational service — was an area that focused on personal contributions that Rotarians could make within their own workplaces. Increasingly, however, clubs began to expand the definition of vocational service by organizing events such as career seminars and vocational training workshops.



So, in 1987, the RI Vocational Service Committee was called together — for the first time in 40 years — to redefine the second Avenue of Service.

The committee created, and the RI Board adopted, new committee structures and determined that vocational service was now the responsibility of individual Rotarians and clubs within the workplace and the community



In 1989, the Council on Legislation adopted the Declaration of Rotarians in Businesses and Professions.

This declaration spelled out the high ethical standards referred to in the Object of Rotary, and it gave Rotarians another tool for gauging their own professional ethics as well as the ethical standards they hoped to encourage through vocational service projects.



Vocational service evolved further in the 1990s with two new opportunities for Rotarians to share their professional skills.

In 1992, the [Rotary Volunteers](#) program was brought under the umbrella of vocational service. And in 1993, the International Vocational Contact Groups program was merged with World Fellowship Activities to form a new program called [Rotary Fellowships](#)



Vocational service is both the responsibility of a club and of its members.

The role of the club is to implement and encourage the objective by frequent demonstration, by application to its own actions, by example and by development of projects that help members contribute their vocational talents.



The role of the members is to conduct themselves, their businesses, and their professions in accordance with Rotary principles and to respond to projects which the club has developed.



“Vocational Service Month” shall be observed annually in October as a special month devoted to vocational service, to emphasize the involvement of each Rotarian, and not just clubs, in the everyday practice of the ideals of vocational service.



At times vocational service can overlap with community service and international service, which can create confusion.

Vocational service, like community service, can respond to needs in the community.

However, vocational service also focuses on needs related to businesses and professions and ethical conduct.



Vocational service also can be international in nature through [World Community Service](#) projects, [Rotary Volunteers](#), or [Rotary Fellowships](#)



Rotarians have a vast amount of expertise in areas that include management, supervision, marketing, finance, risk management, and ethical business practices.

They can share all of these skills with the greater community through vocational service projects.



In July 1997, the RI Board reaffirmed its 1991 decision that encourages Rotary clubs to establish communication with chambers of commerce and industry to explore service opportunities and, when appropriate, develop service projects that would be more productive if undertaken jointly.

Vocational Service is not occasional service

