

LEADERSHIP IN ROTARY – November is a very important month in the Rotary Calendar as most Rotarians are finalizing the election of future leaders and looking at succession planning for their clubs. In many organisations, top leadership at the various levels takes place some two to four years prior to actually holding the top position. For example, in Rotary Districts, we have District Governor Nominee, Nominee, District Governor Nominee, District Governor Elect and then District Governor – after completing this we then still have to serve as Immediate Past District Governor and only then become a PAST District Governor! Each year we are learning about the organization and should be fulfilling certain roles and responsibilities until we come to CEO of the organization at District level.

Stephen Gregg says “People do not follow uncommitted leaders. Commitment can be displayed in a full range of matters to include the work hours you choose to maintain, how you work to improve your abilities or what you do for your fellow workers at personal sacrifice”

We ask the question “Why is our organization not growing?” I believe it is all due to the quality of leadership we have – **STRONG LEADERSHIP PRODUCES GROWTH**. Strong leaders are committed leaders. The selection of leaders and grooming place for strong leaders is in the club. In a recent Membership workshop Rais Pearson in his Frequently asked Questions document said “Leadership Development. Rotary is an organisation of leaders and successful people. Holding Rotary office is like a tertiary education in leadership – learning how to motivate, influence and lead leaders”

BEING NOMINATED (and eventually elected) FOR CLUB PRESIDENT OR AS A DIRECTOR OF YOUR CLUB IS TRULY AN ENRICHING EXPERIENCE – ONE THAT BUILDS SELF ESTEEM AND PERSONAL GROWTH. It is a fact that it is a huge honour and privilege to be given and chosen for a leadership position. You are approached and nominated because someone more experienced than you has been watching you, perhaps even working with you, and they have seen within you leadership potential – we should never enter into a leadership role with the thought in mind “Oh well, there’s nobody else willing to do it so I suppose I can do it again! What’s the minimum I need to do to fulfill this role this year” With that kind of attitude is it any wonder that we have **POOR LEADERSHIP – WEAK LEADERSHIP?**

I believe that the standard and quality of leadership we have in clubs will determine the standard and quality of leadership we will have at every level of the organization.

Shoddy leadership in clubs happens when meetings are poorly chaired, uninteresting programmes are produced, and projects are poorly completed. When leaders don’t lead as good role models for members, when protocols are ignored, when visitors and guests are not recognized and warmly welcomed and invited to join and when members feel neglected and ignored. Remember what Stephen Gregg said about commitment.

If you are honoured to be chosen as a leader in your club this year accept this as an opportunity for personal development and service above self. Do it with integrity and humility – respect the member and his or her rights and do everything with a quest for excellence, with commitment, passion and enthusiasm – **THEN YOU WILL ENJOY YOUR YEAR IN LEADERSHIP.**

Eugene B Habecker says “a true leader serves. Serves people. Serves their best interests and ins o doing many not always be popular, may not always impress. But because true leaders are motivated by loving concern rather than a desire for personal glory, they are willing to pay the price”

On the 9th January 2010 at a venue to be disclosed, a **LEADERSHIP DAY “New Beginningz”** has been organized – what better way to start the new year with a new beginning – come and enjoy and have fun as we learn together – mark your diary now! Don’t miss it.