

## WHY NOT DEVELOP THROUGH LEADERSHIP?

Abraham Maslow said **“One can choose to go back towards safety or forward towards growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again”**

One of the best and most effective ways to experience growth and development in our personal lives is to become part of the LEADERSHIP training programme in Rotary. Most people say “Oh I don’t want to be on a committee”, “I know about being on a committee – I’ve been on one before” “Committees just talk and fight and do nothing”; “I only joined Rotary for doing projects, to socialise, to network!” “Leaders are born” “No I don’t want to become a leader” I ask the question “Don’t we all want to lead OURSELVES to SUCCESS?” I am sure the desire for SUCCESS is the fundamental reason why we all joined Rotary!

There is some truth in all of those statements. However, ultimately the reason we all joined Rotary (that is when we know all about what Rotary offers us and can do for us) is to DO GOOD IN THE WORLD. However, to do this well and effectively we need to ACHIEVE OUR FULL POTENTIAL AND REALISE OUR DREAMS through improving our LEADERSHIP SKILLS. Without knowledge of the programmes offered by Rotary International Leadership Institute it is difficult for us to make informed decisions on what we want to achieve. It is therefore of paramount importance that we begin to understand that without our personal development in leadership we will be ineffective as Rotarians in the club and outside the club!

The Leadership programme in Rotary is one of gradual growth and development – bite sized steps are available for the timid!

Club Leadership - It all starts when we participate in a Rotary Event as a helper – then we are in charge of an event, then we are asked to serve on a Committee in the club, to chair that club committee and eventually members will have noted our performance and we will be honoured by club when the members nominate us to be the Club leader, the President.

District Leadership - Outside the club and in District there are a host of opportunities for hands-on practical experience in developing our leadership skills on the various district committees and as Assistant Governors. There are times that Rotarians will notice our special skills in chairmanship and we will be asked to be Programme Director or Events Manager.

International Leadership is another level which brings new skills such as strategic planning and development of policy – the sky is the limit when it comes to opportunities to take yourself one step at a time on your leadership development journey.

Each step we take improves our people skills, our listening and communication skills, our skills in dealing with conflict, management, planning and implementation skills and our thinking skills. All the time our confidence is growing, our communication skills are improving, our listening and thinking skills are developing and enabling us to become effective leaders. Time management, planning and goal setting skills are improving and we are learning to understand people, their needs and how important it is to build good relationships. In life our success depends on how well we get along with others!

We live in a world with poor and weak leadership in all levels of business, government and at institutes of learning. Through **DEVELOPING THROUGH LEADERSHIP** we automatically open a host of doors of opportunity to improve our lot in life. The leadership we learn and develop in Rotary also gives us the courage we need to apply for better and bigger opportunities – it doesn’t matter how eloquently I can speak if I do not have the courage to step forward and look for higher positions. Remember the words of Abraham Maslow - said **“One can choose to go back towards safety or forward towards growth. Growth must be chosen again and again; fear must be overcome again and again”**

It’s all up to you! Make it your new year’s resolution to DISCOVER AND DEVELOP your leadership potential and DELIVER at your best in every area of your life.