

SYNOPSIS

Arizona Rotary Leadership Academy

Recognizing the increasing demands on Rotary leaders' time, as well as each Rotary district's need to identify and train Rotarians for district leadership roles, Rotarians acted. In 2004-05, District 5510 created a new and innovative online learning approach to Rotary leadership development.

In 2006-07, RLA was expanded to become an all-Arizona program involving Districts 5490, 5500 and 5510 and governed by the Arizona Tri-District PETS committee. Following the 2016-17 district reorganization, the Arizona RLA is now managed and coordinated by Districts 5500 and 5495 partnership. Annually, Past District Governors, current Governors, current Assistant Governors and RLA graduates nominate candidates for the academy. These nominees, past Rotary club Presidents, Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) graduates and Rotarians interested in leadership roles beyond their clubs are provided training which prepares them for the "next step," a district leadership role.

Each fall the participants begin the academy's annual program with an orientation to our self-paced, computer-based online learning framework. The primary objectives of the academy are: (1) to expand the foundation of Rotary and district leadership, (2) to provide opportunities for excited and engaged Rotarians to expand their leadership talents, and (3) work within the parameters and constraints of Rotarians busy lives. This quality online training is facilitated by talented and experienced past District Governors and senior Rotarians. Within the program guidelines, students can work at their own pace and on their own schedules. The following online learning courses are offered by RLA:

First Semester

- September Course: **How Rotary Works** (RI, zones, and districts) **and AZ Rotary History: People and Events**. This course explores how Rotary is organized and reviews Rotary's Arizona district leaders and their contributions to our districts.
- October Course: **Understanding and Utilizing The Rotary Foundation**. An orientation to the programs of TRF, how they relate to Rotary International, and how they can be accessed and utilized by Rotary clubs to accomplish their goals.
- November Course: **Collaboration and Funding to Meet Needs**. Helping leaders to think about tackling and funding larger needs that are beyond the abilities and resources of a single club, and often require extending beyond a single Rotary year.

Second Semester

- January Course: **Pathways to Rotary**: Rotary International has approved several new/innovative club membership types and club models. Become familiar with resources for membership development and explore strategies for attracting, engaging and retaining members.
- February Course: **Rotary Brand: Becoming a Rotary Brand Champion**. Rotarians understand the importance of promoting Rotary as a worldwide organization of "People of Action," committed to uniting to take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

- March Course: **Rotary's Fiduciary Responsibilities, and Youth Protection.** What are Rotary Clubs' responsibilities to its members, its contributors, its community, the government and to Rotary International. How can financial liabilities be evaluated and minimized, and youth protection responsibilities maintained?

A past club president, RLI graduate or Rotarians interested in leadership beyond the club must be nominated by one of the following: Current District Governor, Past District Governor, current Assistant Governor, a graduate of the Arizona RLA. The \$60 tuition fee is due by September 1st, along with the signed Letter of Understanding and the Nomination Form. No refunds are available after September 15th.

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