**VOCATIONAL SERVICES BEST PRACTICES**

**April 29, 2020**

**Thanks to Rotary International and individual Rotarians, clubs, districts, and zones**

**for the following vocational service ideas. New ideas in italics/bold.**

First Things First

 Vocational Service Chair. Appoint one and give the person goals for the year.

Club Meetings

Rotary-on-the-Road. Take a meeting to an offsite business and learn what they do and how they work for the community, and, perhaps, how the club could partner with them to have a greater impact.

Vocational Fellowship. Visit one of your club member’s place of business for a coffee talk, happy hour or casual lunch. Focus on how each person got to their vocation.   Have each new member host a Rotary meeting at his/her workplace, within one year from the date the member joins the Club.

Vocational Rotary Fellowships and Rotarian Action Groups. Encourage club members to join and have them report back to the club.

Vocational Speed Dating. Have members rotate around the room, asking questions of each other about their business.

Then and Now. Ask each member to find a young person of the same profession and bring them to a meeting for a 10-minute presentation of "then and now". It will emphasize how professions/businesses have changed, what new and old ethical questions arise and maybe bring in some younger members.

Vocational Service Awards. Give out awards to vocations that are rarely recognized but are important to the community, e.g. ***nurses***, tourism, restaurants, hotels, law enforcement, public safety, maritime, public service, legal services (District Attorney and Public Defenders office) or educational communities (teacher and counselor), etc. Great promotional opportunity.

The Four-way Test I. Each meeting have someone give a 90 second talk on one of the four parts of the Test and with a personal example. Collect them into a pamphlet to be distributed at an annual club event or to schools.

Member Advice Forum. At a regular club meeting consider inviting a Rotarian to discuss his/her vocational problems, ask for comments and feedback and exchange ideas to help.

Career Guidance - Adults

Career Center Partnership. The [Rotary Club of Newport Beach Sunrise](http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/91962818%3ATabe5mbNc%3Am%3A1%3A2492713066%3ABBC9DDB466BD74DE5557A3F28EF95B93%3Ar), California, has supported a local career center. Club members have been trained to facilitate a series of workshops designed to help adults re-enter the workforce after experiencing trauma or tragedy in their personal and professional lives. Members coach center attendees on applying for jobs, interview skills, business culture and etiquette, body language in the business environment, setting goals, and dressing for success. The final phase of the initiative is a day of building self-esteem and includes a graduation, new business attire, haircuts, manicures, and massages for the participants.

Career Guidance – School/College

Interact Career Guidance Workshop. The [Rotary Club of Madras Industrial City](http://echo4.bluehornet.com/ct/91962819%3ATabe5mbNc%3Am%3A1%3A2492713066%3ABBC9DDB466BD74DE5557A3F28EF95B93%3Ar), Tamil Nadu, India, held a career guidance workshop for its Interact club to help students discover their interests. It was a half-day interactive session for students to form career goals and plan for their future vocations. A special workshop was conducted for girls.

Career day with Interact/Rotaract. Explain what your job is and how you got there.

Students-on-the-Road. Organize a visit by middle or high schoolers to a local company that is in a field directly related to a community need to illustrate careers that would make a difference.

Junior Achievement. Partner with the local JA and go into the schools with their business curriculum. JA will train you.

Ethics

The Four-way Test II. Work with a school to hold a Four-way Test Speech contest.

International

Vocational Training Team. Organize a Vocational Training Team to train folks in another country in one of the six areas of focus and apply for a Global Grant.

Friendship Exchange. Encourage participation in vocationally based district friendship exchanges.

Mentoring

Professional Dinner Parties. Organize separate mentoring/networking dinners at the homes of business professionals. Individuals interested in learning more about how to manage their careers or get the answers for specific questions sign up for dinners with experienced professionals in their field. The professionals host the event for free and there is no cost for the attendees or charge a minimal fee for host costs.

Mentor Meals. Partner with a restaurant and have Rotarians mentor new members of their profession over a meal or drinks. Use the restaurant’s mailing list to reach out to younger professionals.

Launch Your Community. Using Launch Detroit as a model, support and develop entrepreneurs who have limited access to financial and business resources by partnering with local businesses and non-profits, to give small business training, mentoring, networking opportunities and micro-loans to start their company.

Create a Rotary Center for Non-profits to give free consultations to non-profits. It will be a great on-going service project and will spread the word about the value of being a Rotarian.

Networking

Business Cards in a Basket. Present a basket of business cards from each member of your club to new members, or a list of members with their businesses, to encourage members to do business with each other. Promote the list on your website. The cards can be rotated so that a different card appears at the top of the list each week.

Yellow Pages. Produce a ‘Yellow Pages of Rotarian’s businesses interests for your Club Directory, Newsletter or website.