

## **INSTITUTE FOR LEADERSHIP – Clubs and Districts**

### **REMARKS FROM PARTICIPANTS**

- I came to the seminar with the expectation of improving my business relationships. What I took away were lessons to improve my relationships and effectiveness as a trustee of the El Paso Independent School District, my work and my family.

Lisa Colquitt Munoz, Chairman of the Board of the El Paso Independent School District.

- I for one always find it fascinating to learn about myself, especially when I can learn how I compare and contrast to how others see the world. Nevertheless, the greatest benefit of this two-day institute was getting to know other Rotary leaders as people, as individuals with whom I can communicate one on one.

John Aberle, Board Member West El Paso Rotary Club

- I have been fortunate to attend a few leadership/management seminars through my career. This, by far, was one of the best programs I have had the pleasure of attending. With the Speakers, Presentations, and the Interaction between fellow colleagues, the two day session made it worthwhile and beneficial for all those who attended. The knowledge I picked up from this program will allow me to handle day to day issues in a more confident and positive manner, whether at work or at home. I would definitely recommend the program to anyone interested.

John Aranda  
Professional Banking Services  
Wells Fargo Bank El Paso

- The Institute gave me a lot of insight into myself. When to lead and when to follow, we all have strengths and weaknesses. How to work with others for the best possible outcome. All the facilitators made this fun, but also very informative. The best part of the program was the group participation. Thank you for the opportunity to attend.

Terry Squire – Board Member – Rotary Club of El Paso

- My experience as a participant of the first Rotary leadership Institute was a very rewarding experience. Meeting people that were completely strangers to me and to have shared two days of intensive and long hours of information was the first experience I had. At first all this sounded kind

of unreal, but when the hours passed by and my question was "What Am I doing here" today at this seminar, soon the answer to my question was revealed to me. I am here because I was among a group of individuals that shared and have the same vision and beliefs that I have. I realized that all of us were leaders and that one common denominator was the answer for us to be here. (" Passion, Leadership and Friendship".) The Institute for Leadership lighted a new path for me.

Manny Rodriguez President El Paso Vista Hills Rotary Club

- Rotary Leadership is about inspiring people to do things they didn't think were possible. I wouldn't be President of my club if you hadn't made me want to be President.

Mike Ansell  
Past President Sunrise Rotary Club

- My Institute experience caused me to toss aside some traditional wisdom. That allowed me to step out of my comfort zone to immediately trust the competency of the other team members whom I did not know so that the team would succeed and we did.

Tom Ryan – Past District Governor – District 5810, Dallas

- For over 15 years I have been a leadership trainer yet the Institute showed me even greater dimensions into leadership. I gained more insight into what leadership can do to transform individuals into better leaders...and that is what we need in the second century of Rotary, in our personal life, and in our world! The Institute made a difference in the way I see leadership!

Mark Healy – Chairman of International Rotary Youth Leadership and Past District Governor District 5810, Dallas..

- The education I received during the Institute for Leadership was excellent. It is both informative and interactive, creating thought about how Rotary makes the world better and providing a pipeline of leadership to insure Rotary's continued success. As well as providing leadership training that is invaluable in our professional lives.

Todd Tubbs  
Rotary Club of Cleburne

- I really enjoyed the class. Like most everything Rotary, the class was very well done. As a president elect, I have been very nervous about becoming president. I never really had a “desire” to be president. The class gave me insights into myself and club members who are willing and able to participate in the success of my club. We all have different strengths and weaknesses. I am blessed to be in a very strong and active club, and will not find it difficult to surround myself with members who are eager to help.

I have already caught myself being more aware of how I deal with other people as a result of this class

Thank you all for all the hard work and preparation that went into this class. I have new confidence because of what I learned.

Danny Steffer  
Phillips Electric, Inc.  
Rotary Club of Arlington Sunrise

- Many thanks to you and the IFL facilitators. The meeting with the other PE's and presidents was very helpful. We all have the same problem of recruitment and retention. The training has given me new tools that I can apply in my presidency to overcome this common woe. I appreciate you and the others giving up your weekend to bring Rotary to the forefront of our thinking. I am greatly honored to be in first graduation class of Rotary International Institute for Leadership.

Richard Boone  
Rotary Club of Arlington West

- What I found was that the information presented was also very useful to me in my own career pursuits. The camaraderie I experienced with the other participants inspired me to think bigger about the role I can play in meeting the challenges faced by the nonprofit I lead, by my Club, and by the community in which I live. Thanks to all the facilitators who led the Institute and thanks to you for encouraging me to attend.

Steve Dutton,  
President and CEO,  
The Villages at Samaritan House Rotary Club of Fort Worth

- The Rotary Institute for Leadership is a great program and a "best kept secret" in our district. I would say the Institute did as much to prepare me for the presidency of our club as did PETS! I highly recommend it.

Larry Aaron, President 2009-10  
Rotary Club of Denton

- The IFL or as I call it "RYLA for Rotarian's" assisted my ability to "listen" better to others in a group to assist in achieving common goals. Sometimes a leader will lead a group and sometimes a leader will follow the leadership of others. Side note...my wife actually has been speaking to me all these years (21) and now that I am listening properly I can actually comprehend what she is saying...amazing.

Thank you very much for the IFL is was a truly rewarding experience.

Brian Cotter, RLA, ASLA  
COTTER ASSOCIATES, LLC

- I think the one thing I took away from the IFL was, being in charge doesn't necessarily mean you are a leader. A leader needs a clear vision, consensus, and effective communication. I've become more aware of what is needed to lead, and how to be more effective with delegation and empowerment.

Don Proctor  
Rotary Club of Arlington

- I received a kick in the butt! The time was extremely well spent. New friendships were cultivated. It (Leadership) expanded our selves to think deeper into the foundations and traditions of Rotary. What the words really means. I would attend another of these Institutes!

Whats else can I say? It was great and I wish every Rotarian would attend.

Dick McCree  
Arlington North

- It was a pleasure meeting each everyone of you. I thank you for devoting your time to helping other Rotarians be better leaders.

I think all of you did a wonderful job inspiring, presenting, and making the topics interesting.

Matthew Barrier Great Southwest Rotary Club

- I've been in Rotary for about 25 years, including club and district leadership. One thing that I've found lacking is a systematic approach to leadership from a Rotary perspective. Institute for Leadership (IFL) provides this and so much more. Not only did I enjoy great Rotary fellowship with 27 of my new best friends (including the 5 facilitators) but all the sessions were well planned and productive. I particularly liked the break-out sessions where we put our collective heads together for problem solving and vision casting.

The facilitators were well-trained and well-prepared so that our valuable time was honored and well-utilized.

I would recommend IFL for any Rotarian in our district who has been in Rotary for a year or longer. And I believe that every club in our district should recommend and financially support the sending of their members to IFL each year. I am recommending that my club, Lewisville Noon, send one or more of our members each year and I believe that IFL should follow the guideline of PETS and be a required course for any Rotarian who is or will be president of his/her club.

Mike Pope  
Rotary Club of Lewisville (Noon)  
President 2009-2010

- My impressions of the "Institute for Leadership" seminar put on for Rotarians located within District 5790 are that the whole weekend was educational, positive, and fun. The program teaches one about the "jigsaw puzzle" of the different principals that when they are pieced together, one can become a better leader. The sessions that required us to share personal stories about each other gave us the opportunity to become friends and not just a name with a face.

Also the fact that each person had chances to share with us the lessons they learned from their own personal experiences allowed the rest of us to learn from each other. The breakout sessions forced us to work together on solving problems that lead us to develop comradeship that will extend beyond the weekend's activities. In the end, one leaves the seminar with a feeling of optimism that in the future when the members of the class meet again they will want to help each other and work together to resolve problems. And finally as we all move forward in our everyday lives and put our new skills to use, not only will we personally benefit but Rotary will benefit.

Dub Hirst  
Rotary Club of Arlington Sunrise