



# VOCATIONAL SERVICE



**TO FACILITATE COLLECTIVE CLUB EFFORTS, CLUBS ARE ENCOURAGED TO SET UP FIVE COMMITTEES WITHIN THE AVENUE OF VOCATIONAL SERVICE.**

- 1. VOCATIONAL AWARENESS**
- 2. VOCATIONAL AWARDS**
- 3. CAREER DEVELOPMENT**
- 4. VOCATION AT WORK**
- 5. ROTARY VOLUNTEERS**

## **1. VOCATIONAL AWARENESS**

A good place to start with Vocational Service is by increasing the club's awareness of the scope of Vocational Service. What are all the occupations in our Rotary club? What vocational talents can we contribute to the problems and needs of society? How can we encourage those around us to strive for integrity, character, and high ethical standards?

1. **CLASSIFICATION TALKS** – Presentations give members the chance to learn the inner workings of jobs other than their own, including the problems that arise and the solutions to address them. While members are the primary source of speakers for Classification Talks, you may discover interesting occupations that are not represented among your club membership.
2. **TOURS OF MEMBERS' BUSINESSES** - A member that finds public speaking difficult may prefer conducting a tour of their workplace rather than giving a classification talk.
3. **DISCUSSION GROUPS** – An example of a Discussion Group is to organize a panel of different but related vocations, such as a city planner, a developer, an architect and a building contractor. The panel could explain the cooperative efforts that take place, as well as conflicts that can arise.

## **2. VOCATIONAL AWARDS**

An important and effective way to encourage vocational excellence and the practice of high ethical standards is to recognize such activity. Bestowing Vocational Awards on deserving individuals or organizations can do this. The recipients can be Rotarians or Non-Rotarians; the accomplishment can be a major effort or a simple, thoughtful act; the ceremony can be an informal presentation at a club meeting or something more elaborate, such as a banquet or a public ceremony.

## **3. CAREER DEVELOPMENT**

Everyone has some room for improvement in their vocational skills as they strive toward a meaningful and successful career. While some are only beginning their working lives, others need continuous retraining to keep up with the ever-changing nature of technology. Still others have never had adequate training, and this prevents them from finding lasting, meaningful work. No one knows better than Rotarians the satisfaction that comes from performing useful work.

- A. **CAREER INFORMATION FOR YOUTH** – Organize a Career Conference or Vocational Fair students at a local high school or community college.



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- B. MENTORING – Mentoring dissolves society’s barriers between class, age, and race, and allows for mutual understanding and growth in both the mentor and young person.
  - 1. Conduct mock interview panels that will allow young people to hone their job interview skills.
  - 2. Prepare and distribute career information pamphlets.
  - 3. Establish a mentoring program at a local high school or community college.
- C. JOB SKILLS TRAINING INFORMATION
  - 1. Organize small business seminars to help struggling entrepreneurs gain expertise.
  - 2. Award a scholarship to a trade school.
  - 3. Study the adult education programs in your community to determine if they meet the needs of the displaced workers. If not, work with the schools to develop new courses.

## 4. VOCATION AT WORK

The workplace should be a positive place. Rotarians possess the experience and knowledge to improve their own workplaces and to encourage others to do the same. Assisting job seekers, giving loans to small business with no access to capital, teaching employees to keep themselves healthy and literate, helping the elderly and disabled to find meaningful work – all of those objectives fall under the heading of Vocation at Work, and when they are accompanied by Rotary’s high ethical standards, they can help keep workers in an upbeat, productive frame of mind.

- A. REDUCING UNEMPLOYMENT
  - 1. Help your community organize its own Economic Development Council.
  - 2. Assist local crafts makers with the marketing of their wares.
  - 3. Arrange a Career Fair where business can recruit new employees.
- B. SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
  - 1. Hold workshops on such topics using a computer to develop marketing brochures.
  - 2. Establish a Small Business Center offering no-cost counseling to entrepreneurs for market research, market identification, business plans, acquiring a loan, budgeting, creating a spreadsheet, international trade, production, inventory control, cash flow analysis, general management, service, and manufacturing.
- C. ASSISTING EMPLOYEES
  - 1. Promote attendance at Employee Assistance Programs that can identify and help workers with drug or alcohol problems.
  - 2. Identify a local business where literacy training is needed and assist the business.
  - 3. Develop and AIDS Awareness Program that can be implemented to schools and workplaces.
- D. CREATING VOCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE DISABLED



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1. Produce promotional materials, such as videotapes or brochures that demonstrate the benefits of hiring disabled workers.
2. Start a campaign to help employers to make their workplaces accessible to the disabled.
3. Provide transportation for disabled workers who have difficulty getting to their workplace.

## E. WORKING WITH RETIREES

1. Help match retired managers with struggling small businesses seeking guidance from those with more experience.
2. Sponsor a Probus Club, which gives retired business people a place to meet regularly with other retirees who share similar interests.
3. Provide guidance on starting up a business to workers who were forced to retire.

## 5. ROTARY VOLUNTEERS

- A. Volunteers are designed to create awareness among Rotarians of the volunteer opportunities within their own and other communities, and to provide Rotarians with resources to support their volunteer efforts in the club, district, and international level.
- B. Volunteers is another way Rotarians put their vocational talents to work helping others by donating time or expertise where it is need most.
- C. Volunteers is Rotary's version of the Peace Corps.

***OBSERVE VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH IN OCTOBER***