

The Strand

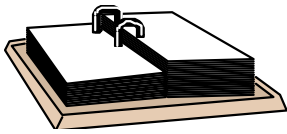


The Newsletter of PRLS

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PRLS Calendar



- Oct. 1 Master PRLS 3
(Facilitation Skills) Mid-State Bank, Cambria
- Oct. 8 Master PRLS 1 (Public Speaking 1) Thousand Oaks area



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Self-Esteem?

The Wisdom of Rotary Presidents: "According to Rotary, unselfishness has its beginning in friendliness, goodwill, cooperation and a sincere willingness to understand." Raymond Havens 1922-1923

Rotary has, thank goodness, never been known as a haven for those with low self-esteem, and if any of us had it coming

in, our membership over the years would have seen that we lost it. We gained self-respect in the faith we have in what the organization gets us to do, whether it's teaching kids to read, taking underprivileged kids on a Holiday shopping spree, or feeding old people on Thanksgiving.

Our clubs lead us to think about matching what we get out of Rotary against what we put into it, because we always have a choice of saying, "Yes, I'll help" or "No, I won't help." Mostly, as we all know, "Yes, I'll help" comes to our lips a lot faster than the alternative. Why should that be? Because it's a truism that if we get close to Rotary, Rotary will come close to us.

What's all that have to do with self-esteem? Where's yours these days?



New PRLS Graduates

Completing Basic PRLS just prior to the District Assembly in Camarillo in April were:

The instructors included **Steve Goad** (China Lake), **Kim Woods** (Westlake Sunrise), **Les**

Esposito (Montecito), **David Rachford** (Santa Barbara), and **Jock MacKenzie** (Westlake Village).

The next Basic PRLS class is scheduled for July 16 at the Mid State Bank branch in Cambria, where the Site Coordinator will be **Bonnie Cameron** (Cambria).



Improve the General Quality of Leadership

Weak leadership is certainly not endemic solely to weaker clubs. Improving the general quality of leadership, though, is more immediately apparent in weaker clubs, because the *changes* will be immediately apparent and sometimes even startling. Ventura East, Simi Sunrise, Westlake Village and Nipomo have had weak years, but the strength of the clubs is in the strength of those seasoned members who just won't let poor leadership slow their clubs down in any meaningful way. Good leaders will return someday, and the clubs will return to their pre-badness winning ways. What's a good leader? Someone who agrees that in order to be president of a Rotary Club, one must have an appreciation for

and commitment to the role of the Club and of Rotary International and “be willing to devote the time and energy required to ensure that assignments are carried out to the highest possible level of success.”

It’s probably safe to say that weak presidents are visible way, way ahead of their terms in office but behind their club’s perceptions of their abilities (they were, after all, elected to their positions by their clubs). How? They find reasons not to attend the Presidents-elect retreat, held every September. They find ways to fight going to PETS every March. They don’t go to the Assemblies when they’re supposed to. They aren’t PRLS graduates. They missed Mid-Term Seminars for both the years they were eligible to attend before they assumed office. They’re never seen in the vicinity of a Membership Seminar or a Rotary Foundation Seminar. They don’t attend Group meetings prior to their year in office, and rarely while they’re actually *in* office.

How can you improve the general quality of leadership in any club? Any club at all? The previous paragraph is the answer—get these people to do what they’re supposed to do to get ready to hold the position. How do you do that? Invent a club "Continuing Resolution" that demands attendance at and/or completion of various events and activities. What happens if the elected president changes his/her mind about the value of the office? Get a new one who can see into the future further than the tip of his/her

nose and who will “be willing to devote the time and energy required to ensure that assignments are carried out to the highest possible level of success.” What if there aren’t any people like that in your club? Ask for help! That’s what Group Reps and Assistant Governors do best.



Use PRLS as a Training Vehicle

Eventually, there will be a PRLS-sponsored class on the Role of the President of a Rotary Club. PETS doesn’t cover it now, nor does the annual Presidents’ Retreat. What will it cover? Without trying to list every bit of knowledge a president needs to know, the class will deal with such subjects as:

- How to get rid of a disruptive member.
- How to deal effectively with people who insist on holding their own private meetings while *you’re* trying to conduct a club meeting.
- How to discourage people from leaving early (scooting).
- What to do about club “traditions” that you’ve been told can’t ever be broken.
- Effective ways of leading a board of directors’ meeting.
- How to set up and administer a club awards program.
- Providing information on how clubs are rated.
- The ins and outs of the District Awards Program.
- Describe and identify those people on District staff who can

give you the best advice when you’re in trouble.

- How to obtain your own club’s dedicated PRLS class.
- How to solve the eternal membership problem.
- How to use a Club Summary Sheet to help in club management.

Will the class include everything it takes to be efficient, remain likable, and advance the club toward more completions of more goals? Of course not. That’s an impossibility. But will it help? Absolutely.

The class will happen sometime! In the meantime, suck up everything you can from PRLS, Mid-Terms, Retreats, Assemblies, Master PRLS Graduates’ Forums and any other leadership-type class you can find. Every event has at least one kernel of “how to” that will someday save you from looking like a fool.

And isn’t that the main goal we *all* have?



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