

**PRESENTATION OF RI THEME 2005/6 AND THE PRESIDENTIAL CITATION FOR ROTARY
AND ROTARACT CLUBS.**

My Dear friends,

The King is dead. Long live the King.

This is an undeniable story of yesterday, today and tomorrow. It is the dusk of one and the dawn of another. Celebrations to conclude and celebrations to begin. Honouring the past and looking to the future. To recognise this transition what better Theme than the motto of Rotary itself and what better logo than the Rotary wheel, an insignia of recognition of each one of us which signifies availability, reliability and dependability.

My dear friends in Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammer we have a leader we can be proud of. A man as simple and as basic as the theme of "*service above self*". I like him, so he must be good!! Carl is a pragmatic leader who is driven by what he believes is good for Rotary. In the choice of the most basic representation for what we stand for, he is asking us to introspect, to learn the lessons and once again undertake a fresh start from the beginning, to rise to a higher pinnacle.

Let us keep Rotary and Rotary life simple. Let us not make it complicated, complex or mysterious. Let us maintain continuity from previous years and set a straight forward path for the future. Let us focus on those areas in which we have demonstrated significant strength in the past, that represent the most basic human needs. Let us emphasize therefore on literacy and education. Let us develop projects designed to help people learn to read and write, to equip schools, educate teachers and give children clothing and books required to attend classes. Rotary must be more than a vehicle laden with platitudes. Rotary must be sturdy, dynamic, component of the things Rotary believes in...Rotarians must do more than talk. Rotarians must serve.

Water is life. Let us continue to work on water management and give access to hundreds and thousands of people who can benefit from clean water and adequate sanitation. Let us play our part to extinguish the global water crisis which is a threat to economic development, to poverty reduction, to the environment and to peace and security.

Let us continue to care for the many other needs which are our concern and let us continue to provide the service that is most beneficial to communities around us.

Let each one of us find the true meaning of "*service above self*" and let us today commit to this timeless message of compassion and generosity of spirit.

Today is the tomorrow of yesterday. Let us use the experience of yesterday in our Rotary efforts of today so that we may obtain results compatible with our principles and goals.

In the words of Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary, "the grandeur of Rotarianism is its future, not in its past".

Rotary needs no motor other than service – service unqualified, unconditional. Rotary is a great dynamic force. It has touched the lives of the destitute, disabled and disenchanting for more than 100 years. It has provided food

for the starving, precious pure water for the thirsty, a healthy future for infants, solace for the lonely, and a brighter, happier world for the young, and a meaningful existence for those in the twilight of life.

And lastly “*Service Above Self*” is another way of expressing the moral and spiritual commandment to love one another, truly turning our world neighbourhood into a world brotherhood. In the words of Mother Teresa, “If we really want to love, if we really want to live, we must love until it hurts. No Rotarian whose motto is “Service Above Self” should call himself a Rotarian if he does not make time to serve...if we love, we begin to serve”. My dear friends please join me in applauding the 2005/6 RI Theme – “*Service Above Self*”.

Presidential Citation and Emphasis for Rotary and Rotaract clubs.

The Presidential Citation is a personal recognition of a Rotary and Rotaract club by the RI President. President Carl has challenged us to move forward with a renewed commitment to Rotary’s historical ideals. Using the concept “*Service Above Self*” we are asked to conduct meaningful activities and service projects to strengthen Rotarians and their vocational and personal ethics, the club, the community and our world. The emphasis is on active participation and hands on service.

To qualify for a Presidential Citation you need to achieve the mandatory membership call of at least of 1 net member increase between the 1st July, 2005 and 1st April, 2006 and further undertake at least one activity from 4 of the 5 categories in the citation. The duly signed form has to be submitted to the District Governor, who must forward the same to RI not later than 15th April, 2006. Your deadline for submission to the District Governor is the 5th April, 2006.

There is a separate Citation Form for Rotaract clubs who need to undertake 3 activities of the five enumerated, subject that there is at least one activity in international service and one in community service. The mandatory membership 1 plus rule does not apply to Rotaract and the form must reach the District Governor by the 5th April, 2006 duly signed by the Rotaract club President and the sponsoring Rotary Club President.

Truly said, nothing comes free. So what is there in this for me? What is my self interest?

In the event that 50% of the Rotary clubs in the District achieve the Citation, then the District Governor is also one as well! So for my sake, if you love me, please go and get one!! Please don’t be like Rotarians of a district in Europe who were determined to deny their unpopular, despised District Governor a Citation and achieved this obnoxious goal by failing to participate in the programme all together!! Net result, “injury self inflicted” – the moral of the story - follow “The 4-way Test”

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DGE 2004-05