



ROTARY & ETHICS

Breakout – Situations

SCENARIO – 1: Misuse of Club Funds

A large, active Rotary club with sufficient resources to support all activities. Members often stepped up with their time and financial support to address community needs. An active, extensive succession plan was in place and worked well.

Treasurer had served for many years in the role and collaborated well with the Foundation Chair. He recently expressed resistance for upgrading processes to include electronic methods of payment.

For the first time in many years, your Rotary club decided to have an independent audit of the club finances. During this audit, it was discovered that there were missing funds for which no one could account.

-
- Identify the Issue(s)
 - Determine what considerations need to be addressed.
 - Develop an action plan.

SCENARIO – 2: Creating a Satellite Club

A small-town club made the plans to form a satellite club as it was determined that the 7am meeting time was excluding a whole group of potential members whose obligations prevented them from meeting at that time. The club explored forming a satellite club which would meet at another time, collaborate on projects, activities, fundraising efforts, and financial structure.

What happened:

1. Bylaws were changed to include standard language for Satellite Clubs (club members all agreed to change.)
2. Satellite club as per bylaws following much debate, hostility, and consternation between members.
3. Three (3) members of the morning club chose to become part of the evening satellite. Other new members came from community.
4. Barriers were put in place by morning club members that prevented and/or made it difficult for the evening satellite club to conduct fundraising event and collaborate on projects among other activities. Morning club members were downright hostile in all encounters with their fellow Rotarians in the evening satellite club.
5. The morning club refused to sign the charter documents to create the satellite club. The DG, ADG and PDG had to become involved to mediate the process and get it done.

Satellite Club Scenario

- Identify the Issue(s)
- Determine what considerations need to be addressed.
- Develop an action plan.

SCENARIO – 3: Changing Club Name

Primary objective for Rotary club was MEMBERSHIP recruitment. Outreach focused on younger professional as the club was beginning to age into primarily retired male demographic. Club board and membership committee was focusing on improving the image for potential members doing online search for clubs (primary way newcomers look for clubs to visit). A change in the name of the club was suggested as it no longer described the club – where the club met; where members lived or worked. The name did describe an area of the city that had become rundown and devoid of business opportunities. For all those reasons the club leadership presented a plan to club membership for a name change.

What happened?

1. District leadership was informed, and the appropriate processes were put in place.
2. Club membership was presented with the proposal and meetings planned for discussing pro and cons.
3. Time set for final vote on whether to proceed with name change.
4. Members suggested possible names and vote taken to determine the new name.

Fallout – anticipated and unforeseen

1. Older, long-term members –had a lot of history with club and felt attached to the name; lukewarm to idea but for the most part not opposed.
2. One individual openly hostile to the idea and constantly attacked current leadership; chose not to attend any discussion meetings and offered no suggestions; eventually left the club but continued to bad-mouth previous club to anyone who would listen including District leadership.

Club Name Change Scenario

- Identify the Issue(s)
- Determine what considerations need to be addressed.
- Develop an action plan.