

The Relationship of the Rotary Club to R.I.

As in the case of the club and its individual members, so between R.I. and its member clubs, there are a few general principles for the guidance of all clubs, and a large measure of autonomy in applying the principles. The president will naturally want his club to be a worthy member of Rotary International. He will, therefore, need to know the relationships involved and the principles his club is expected to observe. The constitution and by-laws of R.I. as well as those of the club should be on his "reading list." These and other matters of policy may be found in "The Manual of Procedure" (No. 35) which is already in the hands of the club secretary.

Semiannual reports to R.I. on club membership; semiannual payments of the per capita tax; monthly attendance reports to the district governor; attendance by the president at the district conference and the district assembly; making the club strong both in its locality and as a unit of R.I.; assistance to the governor in organizing new Rotary clubs—these are some of the obligations resting on the club in its relationship with R.I.

Throughout the year Rotary International is concerned with helping the club to grow in effectiveness, that is, to improve its program of service in its community. In this relationship the club is autonomous as to method, a condition which accomplishes much larger results than would be possible under a fixed and uniform program. At the same time it places on the club president a responsibility for leadership which is more exacting, and also more challenging than he would have under a uniform program.

Through the district governor and the secretariat, Rotary International is ready to help the president as he performs this important function of leadership.

How the Secretariat Helps

The secretariat is the central service station of the organization, with offices in Chicago, Zurich, Bombay and London.

From it the club president and other officers and committees may obtain information as to how other Rotary clubs have solved problems of administration and program. Papers and pamphlets prepared by the secretariat present the experience of clubs of all sizes as recorded in a great volume of reports and other information which the secretariat gathers and analyzes. The president is urged to make use of this service.

Rotary's Magazines

In Rotary's official periodicals, "The Rotarian" (English) and "Revista Rotaria" (Spanish), and in the R. I. News Letter, the governor's monthly letter and (in some regions) regional publications, the club president will find information about what is going on in the Rotary world. Some of this will be appropriate for use in meetings of the board of directors, some in committee meetings, some as announcements in weekly meetings of the club or in the club publication.

With Other Rotary Clubs

Participating in occasional intercity meetings, sometimes as host club, contributes to a club's strength and vision. Presidents will find it desirable to encourage this participation by attending themselves, and by encouraging others to do so. Sometimes clubs exchange programs, a form of intercity cooperation that may be very acceptable if carefully planned.

Attendance by members at meetings of other Rotary clubs when that is possible is an activity worth stimulating. Cordially receiving visiting Rotarians who come to one's own club, tends further to emphasize the interclub fellowship which characterizes Rotary.

Taking Rotary to a new community is a favor to that town and the men who join the new club. It is a fine example of cooperation with Rotary International. Moreover, it strengthens the sponsoring club, for it involves unselfish effort, and such giving invariably produces a return in understanding, appreciation and satisfaction.