

From the Secretariat
of Rotary International

35 East Wacker Drive, Chicago, U.S.A.



CLUB SERVICE

The R.I. Secretariat serves as a clearing house for information which may be useful to Rotary clubs. This file and many others are prepared from various sources of information. Suggestions are appreciated.

FILE 117

THIS IS YOUR YEAR

A message to new club presidents by Charles H. Stone,
Past President, Rotary Club of Charlotte, N.C.

You have been elected president of your club. You have had conferred upon you by your fellow members the highest honor within their gift - some say the highest honor in your community. You are to be congratulated upon this vote of confidence; it marks you as a leader in your club and in your community. But in our exaltation, we must not forget that every honor carries with it an obligation, and every obligation is a challenge, an opportunity, for performance and service.

Two years ago my club elected me as their president; at the Rotary convention that year, I attended an assembly of the presidents of the clubs of the same size as mine, which was attended by nearly 200 incoming presidents like myself. The theme of that assembly was: "This is your year."

Know Yourself

What are the qualifications necessary to successfully meet the obligations, the challenge you face? What qualifications may your fellow members expect to find in you? Let's see: They may properly expect you to know yourself, to know your abilities and resources; you have them, else you would not have been elected; now you will not let indecision or timidity keep you from using them.

Know Your Members

Also it is well to know your members, know their abilities and qualifications relatively as well as you know your own, else you may not be able to use them to the best advantage in the conduct of your club. You have, of course, set up your committees for the year, and in doing this you may have been fortunate enough to pick the best man for each place; whatever be the case in this respect, you are expected to see that your committees work, and the better you know your members the more effectively will your committees perform.

Know Rotary

It is well to know Rotary; in fact, a club president must know Rotary. "No one performs a job as well as the one who knows it best," has been said over and over again, and this axiom applies to the running of a Rotary club, the same as it does to running your own business or profession. I urge any of you who may be uncertain about Rotary to study and master it. Remember, the better you run your club this year, the better you will run your business next year.

Develop a Sense of Humor

A well-developed sense of humor has saved the day for many a man charged

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