



April 2008

2008 RI Convention



Rotarians from all over the world will be attending the [RI Convention](#) in Los Angeles, California, USA, 15-18 June. The convention is a great way to network with fellow Rotarians and find out what clubs are doing around the globe.

If you'll be at the convention, plan to attend the discussion workshop sessions offered Monday through Wednesday. Topics include the [Club Leadership Plan, incoming club presidents, and developing club leaders](#).

There will also be interactive discussion groups throughout the week. These topics include [humanitarian grants](#), the future of [The Rotary Foundation](#), [the family of Rotary](#), [water management](#), [literacy](#), and [health and hunger](#).

Club Trainer

Last month I asked if your club has a club trainer and what their responsibilities are. Thank you to all those that responded. Here are two of the responses I received.

A current club trainer and past assistant governor from Abidjan, West Africa has been authorized by the club president to organize and implement a six month program pertaining to the Rotary theme and the benefits and obligations of being a Rotarian. She is responsible for distributing the governor's monthly letter and Rotary Training Talk to club members, and mentoring and orientating new and prospective members.

Another Rotarian from Houston, Texas, USA, says that he encourages club members to attend district meetings, district Family of Rotary events, the RI Convention, and encourages ongoing Rotary information within the club. This club trainer works with the membership chair to orient and mentor new and prospective members and he is working with his district to provide two-day leadership training for club and district leaders.

These are just two examples of how Rotary clubs have implemented the club trainer position. Please email Elizabeth.Lapp@rotary.org if you have any comments or questions about the club trainer position.

Facebook

A former Rotaractor and new Rotarian from the UK explains how he uses an online networking website, called Facebook, for Rotary work.

As a Rotaractor he used it to promote events and discuss upcoming projects with clubs and districts. When promoting an event, there is an invitation feature that is used to invite members of groups to upcoming events.

He says he is most interested in using Facebook as a way of getting Rotary program alumni to join Rotary. He plans to contact Facebook groups of former Rotaractors and give them more information about Rotary in hopes they will join.

He says, "Facebook groups are also a good support network. I am a member of 'Young Rotarians in Britain and Ireland (under 40 years old)' and being a Rotarian under 40 in the UK is quite rare."

He says that in the UK, Facebook isn't used by many people over the age of 35, and therefore our Rotarians are not the target audience. Younger potential Rotarians will be used to this method of communicating so Facebook is another tool for recruiting these members.

If you have any specific questions for this Rotarian, please email me and I will forward your comments to him. E-mail Elizabeth.Lapp@rotary.org to share your innovative approach.

Memo of Club Visit deadlines

A completed [Memo of Club Visit](#) for each club is due to the district governor by 15 May and to RI by 1 June. Use the electronic version of the form, which can be e-mailed.

Training Tip

During a training session, there may be extra time to have an interactive activity. If you have a few minutes, consider doing a case study. It can be formal, where you pass out a written case study and create small groups for discussion. Or it can be more informal by sharing a situation and asking participants for suggestions on how they would handle it. Record their suggestions on a flip chart.

Looking for more training tips? Find a [collection](#) on the Training page.

Icebreaker

Give everyone a piece of paper and a pencil. In 5 minutes they must draw a picture that conveys who they are without writing any words or numbers. At the end of 5 minutes collect the pictures. Show the pictures to the group one at a time and have them try to guess who drew it. After this, allow each of the artists to introduce themselves and explain how their drawing clearly conveys who they are.

[Tell us](#) about "icebreakers" or opening activities that have worked during your training sessions.

Ask the editor



E-mail your questions about Rotary training or training materials, and they may be answered in next month's edition of *Rotary Training Talk*.

Questions or Comments?



Your questions and comments about *Rotary Training Talk* are always welcome. Send them to training.talk@rotary.org. Use the "Forward e-mail" link below to send this message to a fellow Rotarian.

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