

Tai Post 大報

Monthly Bulletin of Rotary Club of Tai Po (Apr 2013 Issue)

President's Message

Ronald Chung



This is April. The most important event in April for the Rotary Club of Tai Po is, of course, the District Conference.

This year, this is a particularly meaningful event as the DG is our own PP Kenneth from the Rotary Club of Tai Po; and it IS our honor to have him representing RCTP as head of the District.



Sometimes, perhaps it's because we are "too familiar" with PP Kenneth (we know him too well,) or perhaps, we don't get to see him much, as he is usually busy with District business and haven't been meeting up with us much, or perhaps it's something else..., it, somehow, appears that our club has not been too enthusiastic. Is it because we have forgotten the fact that PP Kenneth is from the RCTP and he is one of the members of the club?



Sometimes, I thought, perhaps, I should take some blame here as I have not been pushing much. But, then again, I am the type that believes in genuine voluntary participation – what's the point of forcing anyone doing anything if the person does not have genuine interest? This is probably a bit idealistic, but that's people from the Ivory Tower with a Ph.D. (*Permanent Head Damage.*)

Regardless, I would like to solicit your strongest support to DG Kenneth for the remaining duration of the Rotary year. "Support, Support, Support, rah-rah-rah..." Na, I bet you cannot see me like that. Please someone else from the club does that... From me, how about... "Just do it!"

Finally, I would like to thank the following members for their support,

DS Peter Lam, PE Francis Au, IPP Masayuki Tsubaki, PP Wilson Lam, PP Ping Leung, PP Claire Mak, PP ML Man, PP Jacky Sung, and PP Frankie Wu,

and the Tai Po SPOUSE, Alice Chung, Mary Hung, Lucia Lam, Wanda Ngan, Creamy Tsui, Connie Yeung, and Jackie Yew

and our Rotaractors, Vanessa Cheng, Scarlet Li, Tony Luk and Jolly Yiu.

For those who have not signed up for the District Conference yet, I know time is tight, but... Otherwise, see you at the District Conference! I shall be there from April 19th – April 21... all the way.



Editor Says ...

Claire Mak



"No-one would remember the Good Samaritan if he'd only had good intentions; he had money as well." – Margaret Thatcher (1925-2013)

This quote from the late former British Prime Minister is full of wisdom and should be remembered especially when one of the District's goals is to alleviate poverty through doing service. One needs to have the money to go with the deeds. Simply signing cooperation pact won't do the trick!



My own experience also tells that in daily events the Good Samaritan has to be armed with not only cash, but appropriate amount of cash! On one busy lunch break, I had intended to grab a quick bite at McDonald's and then go back to work. I just had an Octopus card and a coin bag in hand and was waiting to cross Nathan Road. An elderly lady raised up to me the donation box she was wearing around her neck and chanted *"Help the elderly! Help the elderly!"* I did not even have the chance to look at what organization she was raising fund for. Looking at the grey hair, the wrinkled face and crooked back plus her zest and enthusiasm, I started to unzip my coin bag to reach for whatever could be donated.

"Only loose change?" The little old lady looked perplexed. *"We don't want coins. Leave it, leave it. You keep*

them." She walked away, mumbling her disbelief, and approached better targets. The cold hard fact and lesson to learn is: Your donation may not always be appreciated. Know what the recipients want. It matters not how eager you are to help!

The story is not entirely different at the other end of the spectrum. An amiable elderly gentleman had told me about his recent encounter with a young university undergraduate.

There are quarterly gatherings amongst mentors and mentees of a particular faculty



in a local university. The idea is to give the young people a glimpse of the real working world and whatever guidance the mentors can share about practice in the field. The elderly gentleman is wealthy and a leader in the profession. He has vast and interesting experience to share. Just listening to his stories is already a plus!

On one such mentor/mentee gathering, soon after the elderly gentleman recounted an interesting incident in the practice, the mentee told the elderly gentleman that she had decided to drop out of the curriculum and turn to spreading Christianity. To enable her to join a group of like-minded Christians to preach around the world, she asked the elderly gentleman for sponsorship of some 4-digit amount. The elderly gentleman was momentarily lost for words. She *came to the help* and said, *"Take your time to think about it but you have to let me know latest tomorrow. It's the deadline for the application."*

It is not the amount that mattered. He could easily have afforded the sum; but it was the *"taking things for granted"* attitude and the totally inappropriate way the request was made which saddened him. Before the curtain ran down for the evening, the elderly gentleman nevertheless handed over to this rather ungrateful girl a thousand dollar note.

The similar lesson for the giver to learn: Generosity may easily be misinterpreted. Get to know what the recipient really needs.

**PERHAPS WE GIVE
THE BEST OF OUR HEARTS
UNCRITICALLY
TO THOSE WHO HARDLY
THINK ABOUT US IN
RETURN**

Looking at our Club and even our District: "poverty relief", "social mobility", "youth enhancement" are hot topics for Rotary services. Do they really meet the needs of the target recipients? Are we doing it the right way? Are we imposing on others; or rather, are we spoiling anyone along the way? Do the projects just give us the feel-good factor? Who really wants another Peace Concert?

GATHER

PLUG-IN

SERVE



Rotary Information

Peter Lam



Literacy Month is over in March but Rotary has always shown great concern and support to education.

Let's look at how modern technology can help.

Wisconsin, USA, club launches tutoring program using Skype

By Diana Schoberg Rotary News -- 7 March 2013

When Lee Breese's granddaughter called, asking for tutoring in pre-algebra, Breese wanted to help, but they lived 50 miles apart.

A retired middle school math teacher, Breese knew that tutoring would be a chance to connect with the seventh grader, who had just earned a D after spending the last quarter of school focusing too much on boys and too little on graphing. Breese, a member of the Rotary Club of West Allis, Wisconsin, USA, was mulling over the situation in her home office when her sister-in-law appeared on her computer through Skype, a free video calling service. "I'm looking at her and thinking, 'This is face to face. I'll try it,'" Breese recalls.

Making it fun

aced a retest, earned a spot in eighth-grade algebra, and inspired Breese to use the idea in her own community. "After the tutoring was finished, I thought, 'This was fun for me, and it was fun for her,'" Breese says. "Twice she said, 'Do we have to stop already?'" That doesn't happen with girls her age and math." The tutoring program, which uses Skype, launched last March with a pilot involving six students and five Rotarian mentors

Breese found support in her Rotary club, including from the superintendent of her city's school district, who is also a club member. The tutoring program launched last March with a pilot involving six students and five Rotarian mentors, ranging from the former mayor to a retired professor to a leader of a local Boy Scout troop. Mentors and students met for a half hour, twice every week, over Skype. Each had a copy of the textbook (the mentors had a teacher's edition), a white board, a marker, and an eraser. The students used computers available during an after-school homework club, and the mentors used their own computers at home or work.

"Some of the kids have such a skewed vision of who's in the community," says Becky Schneider, the school district's gifted and talented lead teacher. "It gives them an understanding that there are people in the community who may be good people."

A different dynamic

Tutoring through Skype rather than traditional face-to-face methods shifted the typical mentor/student dynamic. The technology helped erase the chasm between adult experts and student learners, so both sides learned from each other.

"Because this was their thing – it's their technology, not ours – they came into it with a certain degree of confidence," Breese says. Other students thought it looked so fun, she adds, they asked to participate too. Another advantage was that Skype allowed mentors to sense how students felt about the material they were working on. "You can see if they are starting to get frustrated, or if they are getting bored," Schneider says. "Sitting there, they might not necessarily be as open to you. But over Skype, you can read them a little bit more when they don't realize you can read them."

The project expanded to two schools for the 2012-13 school year. At one of them, students use school-issued iPads, which allows for greater flexibility in meeting times. "The big push right now is with 24/7 learning," Schneider says. "We're offering that to the kids because we're working around their needs."



The tutoring program, which uses Skype, was launched last March with a pilot involving six students and five Rotarian mentors.

New Members Orientation Seminar

16 March 2013 @ SkyZone, 33/F Rosedale Hotel, Causeway Bay

Claire Mak

Rotarians who are involved and committed are less likely to leave Rotary. Commitment from new members to become a true Rotarian paves the way for Rotary to continue to bring new hope and promise of a better life to the needy and touch the lives of many. At this New Members Orientation Seminar, experienced District Leaders provided the new members with in-depth Rotary information at international and local level and also an overview of service projects and activities.



Younger active Rotarians also shared their Rotary experience and let the new members know why they are so dedicated to Rotary. A new member kit including ABC to Rotary was given to each new member attending the seminar.



Rotary Youth Sing for Peace Concert

23.3.2013

Rotary International District 3450
(Hong Kong, Macao & Mongolia)

Peace Through Service
Sakuj Tanaka
Rotary International President
2012-13

**扶輪青年
唱好和平音樂會**
Rotary Youth Sing For Peace Concert

九龍灣國際展貿中心地下Music Zone / Music Zone @ KITEC G/F
2013.3.23 / 20:00

盧凱彤 Ellen Loo Dear Jane
Robynn & Kendy 觸執毛 Chochukmo

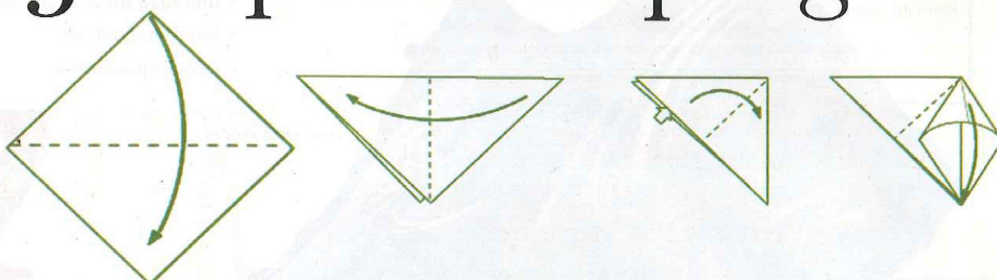
Peace Through Service



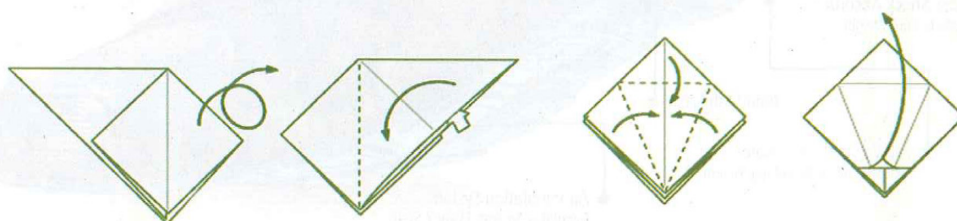


17-18 May 2013
Rotary Global Peace Forum
in Hiroshima

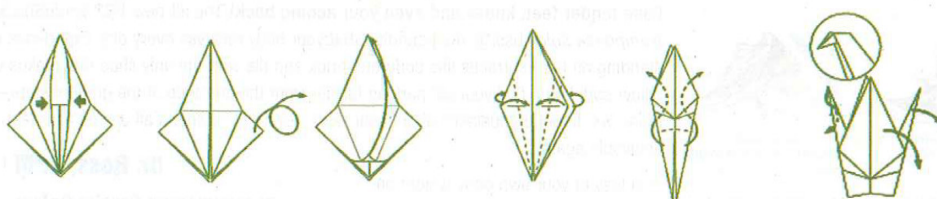
Join peace in progress.



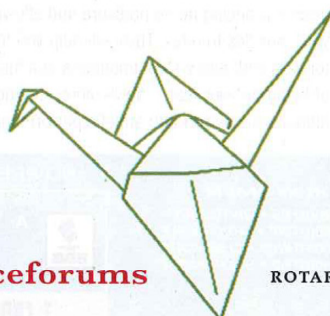
Rotary Global Peace Forums foster relationships that promote peace



and lasting change throughout the world community. Advance *Peace Through Service* by



participating in one of three special events planned in 2012-13. Learn more and register at



www.rotary.org/peaceforums

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL®



5-Club Joint Meeting Rotary Clubs of New Territories, Tolo Harbour, Tai Po, Kowloon Tong and Kai Tak 25 March @ Regal Kowloon Hotel

Claire Mak



Despite medical advancement, organ transplant has become the only hope for some patients with organ failure in order to live on. However, the limited supply from donation of transplantable organs has made some 2000 local patients and their family waiting desperately, as the patients count their days in the fight against death. To shorten patients' waiting time for organ transplant and to bring new life, active support for organ donation by members of the public is critically important.

This is the message which the 2 Speakers: Ms Lydia Cheung Suk Man (Nursing officer and Coordinator of Organ Donation, Hospital Authority New Territories West Cluster) and Ms Wong Suet Man (Lions Eye Bank of Hong Kong, Hospital Authority Kowloon Central Cluster Hong Kong Eye Clinic) tried to bring home to the members of the 5 clubs at the joint meeting on 25 March 2013. They identified the critical problem they are facing and dispelled some popular myths which might deter donation.

For instance, it is only after a patient is certified dead will the suitability of organ donation be considered to bring new life to another patient with organ failure. There is no absolute age limit for organ donation. In general, organs may be donated from someone as young as a newborn or as old as 75. Depending on the tissue in question, the age limit for donation is below 80 for cornea and between 16 and 60 for long bones. There is no age limit for skin donation.

The meeting saw the fellowship and mingling amongst members of Rotary Clubs of New Territories, Tolo Harbour, Tai Po, Kowloon Tong and Kai Tak. As a special feat for our GSE team in Australia, the meeting did an international toasting and toasted not only to the 5 clubs but also RC Bayview Sunshine (GSE Leader PP Helen Or) and the GSE host Rotary Clubs of Ashmore, Boonah and Goondiwindi.



Things to Know

Rule of the Thumb



In the 1400's a law was set forth in England that a man was allowed to beat his wife with a stick no thicker than his thumb. Hence we have 'the rule of thumb'.

Golf



Many years ago in Scotland, a new game was invented. It was ruled 'Gentlemen Only...Ladies Forbidden'... and thus, the word GOLF entered into the English language.

Coca-cola Prototype



Coca-Cola was originally green.

Cannot lick own Elbow

It is impossible to lick your elbow.



Honeymoon



It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

Playing Cards

Each king in a deck of playing cards represents a great king from history:

Spades ♠ : King David

Hearts ♥ : Charlemagne

Clubs ♣ : Alexander, the Great

Diamonds ♦ : Julius Caesar

Good Night, Sleep Tight



In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes.

When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase...'Goodnight, sleep tight'

Statue

If a statue in the park of a person on a horse Has both front legs in the air, the person died in battle.



If the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died because of wounds received in battle.



If the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes.



The First Novel

The first novel ever written on a typewriter is Tom Sawyer.



Now stop trying to lick your elbow, you won't make it!

Getting to know Rotary International President 2013-14

Ron Burton

The following is an excerpt from an interesting interview with RI President-elect Ron Burton in the March issue of *The Rotarian*. You will get to know more about our next leader at the International level. There is something for each of us to think about, whatever level of Rotary involvement you are in.



President-elect Ron Burton

Photo by Alyce Henson/Rotary International

Burton joined the Rotary Club of Norman, Okla., USA, in 1979 and has served as RI director, Rotary Foundation trustee vice chair, and International Assembly moderator. He has received the RI Service Above Self Award and the Foundation's Distinguished Service Award. He is a founder and past president of the Norman Public School Foundation, and

founder of the Norman Community Foundation. He is a member of the American Bar Association and is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 2007, he retired as president of the University of Oklahoma Foundation Inc., where he served for many years. He and his wife, Jetta, have two children and three grandchildren.

THE ROTARIAN: How did your involvement with Rotary grow, and did the job of RI president ever occur to you along the way?

BURTON: I almost terminated my membership about a year and a half after I joined the Norman Rotary club. I tell people that it was because I didn't have a reason to go. It was just a luncheon meeting, and I already knew everybody in the club through my work at the University of Oklahoma Foundation. It was sort of a waste of two hours on a Thursday. The food wasn't that good, and sometimes the programs weren't that good, and there was nothing that made me feel like I needed to go. But the incoming president asked me to chair the Rotary Foundation committee, and that was sort of a hot button for me. Then I was selected to be club president for 1983-84. I said there were more qualified candidates, but they still voted me in.

Then I went to the international convention in Toronto. I remember going to the Royal York Hotel and being in a room a little bit bigger than this office. Diagonally across from me was the incoming president of Rotary, Bill Skelton, but I

didn't have the courage to introduce myself. I eventually got to know Bill personally, and we became good friends. Two years later, I was selected to be district governor, but I nearly turned that down too. There was a financial scandal involving the president of another state university foundation, who also was a Rotarian, and the media made the University of Oklahoma Foundation guilty by association. On 30 June 1987, at 10 p.m., two hours before I became district governor, I had my finger in my rotary-dial telephone, and I was poised to say I was not going to serve. I sat with my finger frozen there for 30 minutes, but I didn't make the call. It was the best thing I ever did. I served as an RI director from 1998 to 2000, and after that, Past RI President Jim Lacy encouraged me to one day consider the job of president. That's the first time I'd ever thought about the office. I thought, "If Jim thinks I can do that job, then I think I can do that job."

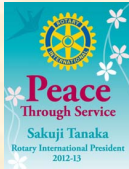
TR: What is at the top of your to-do list?

BURTON: To get Rotarians busy doing the work of Rotary, to get them involved. It's time to move this organization forward. I'm really putting this on my district governors. We've got to lead by example. The theme I've chosen is Engage Rotary, Change Lives. If you truly get involved in Rotary, it's going to change your life. You can't stop that. In that process of engagement, you're going to change a lot of lives, and you can't stop that either. I can't imagine how many lives have been touched and changed by Rotarians over the years, but the life that's going to be changed most of all is your own.

TR: There are many skills involved in being a leader in Rotary. Which ones are in short supply?

BURTON: To some extent, confidence – in the sense of, "If I do something, it's going to make a big difference." I think Rotarians are afraid of success. I'm trying to do something about that. I say this from the stage a lot: Membership isn't my problem, it's John's problem; but John thinks it's not his problem, it's Linda's problem; and Linda thinks it's Larry's problem. The fact is, it's a problem for all of us. We've got to get that message through, from district governors to club

Continue 



members. That doesn't mean that all Rotarians have great leadership skills, but they do have a responsibility to share what they've been given with others in the community.

TR: Every president has 12 months. How much good or harm can one person do in that time?

BURTON: I'd like to think a person can't do much harm from the simple standpoint of how the organization is structured. You've got a Board of Directors and 34,000 autonomous clubs, which is probably the greatest insurance policy in the world, because many of the clubs, whether we like to admit it or not, are oblivious to what happens in Evanston. While that has some downsides, it also has upsides. And I don't think anybody who could get to this level would want to do intentional harm to the organization. But I think you can do a lot on the good side, and I'm hoping my message gets people excited about their membership and eager to share that with others.

TR: Rotary puts a great premium on fellowship. What intensity of conflict between members is compatible with that?

BURTON: Boy, that's a tough question. You've got religious issues, which are difficult to deal with, and political issues, which are probably the most divisive. At the institutes, I have seen religious factions who are skeptical of one another, but the fact that they are having a meal together and enjoying fellowship speaks volumes as to what Rotary can do.

TR: What is the most challenging accommodation or adjustment you have to make because of this job?

BURTON: Trying to find a happy balance between what you can do within the time constraints you face. Rotarians put a lot of demands on their president. It's not about me. It's all about the myth of the office, and I understand that. Rotarians need to understand that while we would love to visit every place we've been invited to, there's only so much time. Would it be better to visit Brazil or Egypt? What would do the most good for the organization? Deciding how I can continue to raise the bar of Rotary International and make the greatest impact – that's the challenge.

TR: Some Rotarians – particularly younger ones – chafe at some of the traditions. Are there any that bother you? Care to name some?

BURTON: I personally don't like fines. I know they're accepted in clubs that are well established, and they raise a lot of money. If you tried that at my club, you'd be thrown out. I also think we need to be more flexible on classifications. That's not to say we should let everybody in, but there are some qualified people we should try to reach. I think sexist jokes are highly inappropriate. Unfortunately, in some parts of the world, there's still a lot of sexism. It's been 26 years since Rotary first opened its membership to women, but only 18 percent of our members are women. What's wrong with that picture? And racism is a concern. We need to be more inclusive than exclusive. Those are the things that bother me.

TR: Do you have a recruitment speech?

BURTON: My recruitment speech is not a 30-second elevator pitch. It's this: Let me tell you about this wonderful organization that I happen to be a member of. Rotary can change your life, because it will put you in contact with people in your community, no matter where you live. No two clubs do exactly the same thing, but on an international level, we're about to eradicate polio. You have to be invited to join, but I can put you in contact with someone in your community. You can blindfold me in front of a map of the world, and I can throw a dart, and if it hits any piece of land, I will know somebody there and somebody there will know me. Where else can you have that kind of a relationship?

TR: When visiting other cultures, you must sometimes be asked to don native dress or engage in a local custom outside your comfort zone. Where do you draw the line?

BURTON: Have you seen me dancing to "Gangnam Style" in Australia? Did you see me as Shakespeare, promoting the Birmingham convention? I've been known to do a bunch of pretty stupid things for Rotary. I want people to understand that I'm a Rotarian just like they are. I put my pants on one leg at a time.

TR: What should readers know about you?

BURTON: I hope people see that I'm just an average guy, a Rotarian just like they are. There's one thing about me that you have to understand: If you ask my opinion, you're going to get it, and I don't generally change my mind. That doesn't always make everybody happy, but I have to look at this face every morning when I shave, and I have to live with myself, so what you see is what you get.

For the full text of the interview, please visit:

<http://www.rotary.org/en/mediaandnews/therotarian/pages/burton1203.aspx>

Regular Meeting

18 March 2013



Everybody at the meeting.



Happy Birthday March Birthday boys and girl.



Rotaractor Iki Chan was nominated by Area 6 to join the Rotary Peace Forum in Honolulu, Hawaii. She was speaker of the day and gave a detailed presentation on what she had experienced and learnt.



Tai Po Rotaractors turned out in numbers to support Iki in her presentation.



Long time no see IPP Tsubaki, welcome back!



Rtn Chemical from RC Taipei was busy chatting with our IPP Tsubaki



Lucky Frankie won the raffle gift of NZ-made merino/possum scarf bought and brought all the way from New Zealand by PP Wilson.

Regular Meeting

8 April 2013



VP Natalie stepped in to chair the meeting in place of Pres. Ron who was away on business trip.



PP Ping was the lucky winner of an Italian ornament plate given out by Hon. Secy Caren.



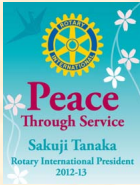
PP Ping Leung spoke about "Illegal Structures"



VP Natalie thanked Mr. Li Yiu Bun with the usual club memento as DG Kenneth looked on.



Sai Kung North Rural Committee member Mr. Li Yiu Bun elaborated on "Government's policy on lands in the rural areas of the New Territories"



Upcoming Events

Mar Winners (100% attendance):



CAREN CHAN, RONALD CHUNG, PATRICK FONG, ANTHONY HUNG, PETER LAM, WILSON LAM, CLAIRE MAK, MAN MO LEUNG, JACKY SUNG, VIKKY TAM, KENNETH WONG, WILLIAM YIM

We Miss You in Mar

DAVID CHAN,
SASHA CHU,
PEARL DANG,
MANABU KIYAMA,
ARMSTRONG SHEA,
PATRICK YUNG



% of attendance of regular meetings (inclusive of make ups)

Average attendance :
61.1%

11/3 63.3%
18/3 66.7%
25/3 53.4%

On leave in Mar



Ada Wu

<u>Day</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Topic</u>	<u>Venue</u>
27 Apr 13 (SAT)	9:30 a.m.	Opening Ceremony of Career Expo 2013	Tsuen Wan Government Secondary School, 70 Hoi Pa St., Tsuen Wan
29 Apr 13 (MON)	7:00 p.m.	“何為帝王之學?” Speaker: Former Member PP John Wong	Chinese Restaurant, Royal Plaza Hotel, Prince Edward Rd. W.
6 May 13 (MON)	7:00 p.m.	Speaker: Rotarian K. F Tam	Chinese Restaurant, Royal Plaza Hotel, Prince Edward Rd. W.
17 May 13 (FRI)		1st Anniversary Dinner of Rotary Club of SoHo Hong Kong	蓮香居

Core Values of Rotary



**Service,
Fellowship,
Integrity,
Diversity &
Leadership**

