

Global networking opportunities through UVU Rotaract Club

This introductory event allowed for excitement as new students gathered around a table and signed the official charter application that would be sent to Rotary International headquarters to later be approved. The event took place on Saturday, April 29, 2017 at Utah Valley University in presence of Rotarian from the State of Utah, and UVU students and faculty.



Bruce Early, Orem Rotary President signs a Charter

Although there seemed to be a lot of bureaucracy involved, the opportunities presented seem to be vast. District Governor Shaun Michel shared with audience some of the enjoyable benefits of membership. He spoke of a trip he took to Venezuela in which he felt stuck in a hotel because of the surrounding dangers, and how he was able to contact Rotary International members in the area that were influential and powerful, and they sent armed guards and an escort so that he could see the sights and enjoy Venezuela. This form of networking seems like it would be truly beneficial, and it seems like an exciting prospect.

Next Stephanie Velasco, a District Rotaract Representative and Martha Velasco, District Rotaract Chair, presented to us with the potential of the Rotaract Club presence in our area and at UVU in particular. Rotaract is the college age arm of the Rotary Club. Rotaract is even working in the

Utah area to help children locally that go without food in the summer due to poverty, and they are working to create options for these children to eat.

Rotarians both in Utah and globally are working together to serve their local and global communities. We were even able to watch a teamwork activity at Rotary, in which one of our peers, UVU student Wyatt Thompson tried to arm wrestle at the same time four other people led by Past Governor Tom Powell, Provo Rotary club. This showed us in a creative way how a team can overcome difficult tasks if they work together. Tom Powell then went on to talk about how successful the Rotary International has been in the complete eradication of polio through vaccination.



Aldon Trimble introduces himself to the audience

Rotarians even have a couchsurfing type of system called Rotaract couch, and if one of the members is lost or stranded, he/she can contact local Rotary club and they can provide any necessary help. Then several presenters spoke about how to make sustainable projects work for

the community and the world. Rotary International functions as a humanitarian organization so its members are more specifically working towards the human needs that people don't have, things like peace, education, health and more. As part of a hands on activity Stephanie Velaco, arrange Skype video-conference with Rotaract clubs in Bosnian and Mexico. This hit close to home for me because I have spent 2 years myself in Mexico on a humanitarian mission, and I would like to give back to people and this was an exciting opportunity for that.



During Skype session with Mexico Rotaract members

In the end we were able to hear from the Past District President of the Rotary Club Dean Jackson, who promoted the ideas of relationships. This impacted me deeply because that type of network of friends would be beneficial in the development of a career and a successful life. I like very much the idea of investing not just money but investing in human beings as the best and most rewarding type of investment. Service to others above self seems like a very interesting and helpful idea to promote in the world, which will make the world a better place.

Ultimately I felt rather excited about the prospects of joining the Rotaract club (18-30 year olds) in which I would have the opportunity to network world wide, travel, and of course serve my fellow man. Although I felt a little vague about my options on how to proceed I am glad to have

spent a Saturday morning learning how to succeed at life. I would even recommend this opportunity to friends and relative so that they can also have the chance.

Aldon Trimble, UVU student