

## Student learning how to be a Rotarian

On Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup> 2017, I attended a special event for re-chartering the student Rotary Club at Utah Valley University (U.V.U.). The main purpose of Rotarians coming together was to explain to UVU students and fellow Rotarians, the purpose and values of Rotary International and build interest among the students to join Rotaract, a group within the club for college age students. Rotaract club at U.V.U. existed before but due to some circumstances ceased to exist. Leading Rotarians from the State of Utah participated at event and they discussed international projects and encouraged networking with fellow and local Rotaractors. This will explain what I learned about Rotary International and about Rotarians of District 5420, which comprises a territory of the State of Utah.



*The Master of Ceremonies during the event was given by Stephanie Velasco, a District Rotaract Representative*

Rotary International is charity or service organization. Their goal is to gather people in business and other professional leaders in order to do humanitarian work, show others why ethics and standards are beneficial in all facets of life, encouraging goodwill and world peace. Rotarians are not associated with any political or religious organization; Rotarians accept everyone no matter what their background, creed, or race they belong to. There are currently over 34,000 clubs around the world and over a million people have been proud to call themselves Rotarians. Membership in Rotary International in the United States of America is increasing like in other countries worldwide.

The Master of Ceremonies during the event was Stephanie Velasco, a District Rotaract Representative. Martha Velasco, another District Rotaract Chair, made a brief introduction as well and then all those in attendance introduced themselves. Doing this helped us network and get to know Rotarians. They explained who they are and how they can support you, thus showing one of Rotary Internationals biggest values, networking and friendship.



*Past Governor Tom Powell, Provo Rotary club speaks before the audience*

After this, District Governor Shaun Michel and District Governor-Elect Bev Christy, spoke of the mission, purpose, as well as some personal examples of how Rotary International has blessed their lives. Shaun spoke about two different occasions of traveling where those involved needed help or support. He spoke of his daughter who was lost and was in need of assistance in VevVenezuela.

Governor Michel was able to make a phone call to the Rotary club down in Venezuela and within two hour or less, members of the Rotary club of that area were able to reach out and help his daughter reach safety.

This story helped us understand the motto and philosophy of Rotary International. “Service over Self.” The idea of Rotary is to help build and develop service as platform. Rotary seeks to develop friendships while encouraging service, helping others keep a high standard in all occupations and professions, looking at your occupation and other pursuits as a way of serving others, and building goodwill and peach throughout the work through fellowship, and the way we spoke about above.



*Arm wrestling between Wyatt Thompson and Tom Powell*

In the remaining time of the meeting, we received instruction from past governor Tom Powell, Provo Rotary club, who shared with us the feeling of fulfillment that being a part of Venezuela. This is the kind of help Rotary International can provide. He also had me come to the front and

attempt to arm wrestle the 75 year-old. Lucky for him, he had three others helping him. I lost quickly. His support in my defeat represented the help that Rotary International brings to the world and how members can help peers accomplish his/her goals in life. He also discussed how the organization is fighting to end polio and doing an amazing job.

After this was wrapped up, Jose Velasco spoke about how service projects could be both helpful as well as enjoyable. He described ways to make them functional. After that members of the audience had a Skype session with fellow Rotarians in Bosnia as well as Mexico and discussed their service projects that are currently being planned by their clubs. The Keynote Speaker at the end of the meeting was past District Governor Dean Jackson. He talked about the benefits of having relationships and mentors in your life. His current role in Rotary is to help the younger members find mentors and helping them develop their skills and dreams through these people's helpful experience. This concluded the meeting and reinforced the goal of Rotarians. I respect them a great deal. and I hope that they can both fulfill their goals provide UVU students a great opportunity. Through Rotaract you can gain more professional and networking skills and charitable experiences on a local and global level.

*Wyatt Thompson, UVU Student*