

The Evolution of



The Object of Rotary

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In some areas of the world, weekly Rotary club meetings begin with all members standing and reciting the 《Object of Rotary》. This statement, which comes from the Rotary International Constitution, is frequently seen on a wall plaque in Rotarians' offices or places of business.

The 《Object of Rotary》, today, is “to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basic of worthy enterprises”. This single statement then lists four areas by which this “ideal of service” is fostered: the development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service; high ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society; the application of the ideal of service in one's personal, business, and community life; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Original 3 Objects of Rotary in 1906

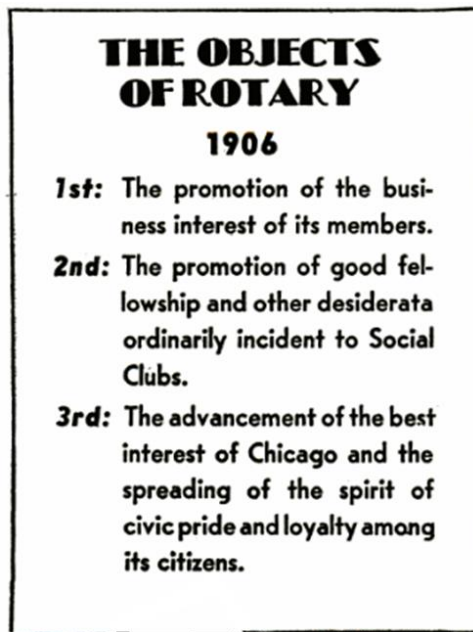
The 《Object of Rotary》 has not always been expressed in the above manner. The initial Rotary Club Constitution of 1906 had three objects: *promotion of business interests, promotion of good fellowship, and the advancement of the best interests of the community.*

The original idea of Chicago Rotary Club first formed in 1905 by Paul P. Harris and three friends was to provide an opportunity for fellowship and friendliness coupled with a basis for exchange of business between and among its members.

The concept of Rotary as a mutual benefit arrangement may have contributed heavily to its early popularity and growth not only in Chicago, but in its extension to other cities. However, in the unfolding of the story of Rotary, the idea of service to oneself and one's fellow club members in a business sense gave away to the higher ideal of service and helpfulness to others in all aspects of life – and eventually service to all mankind.

The early Chicago Rotarians soon realized that their interest in their fellow Rotarians provided opportunities for helpfulness to others, and emphasis changed from “getting” to “giving” as they learned that business benefits flowed appropriately to those who demonstrated their interest in helping others.

To give expression to their outside service interests, the Chicago club adopted a third object the advancement of the best interests of Chicago, and the spreading of the spirit of civic pride and loyalty among its citizens. Thus, the first version of The Three Objects of Rotary in 1906 was like this:



The 5 Objects of Rotary in 1910


As other Rotary clubs were formed, some Rotarians were troubled by the candid emphasis on business “getting” and outside criticism of the selfish and self-serving nature of Rotary clubs and their members. The clubs attempted to clarify the matter for themselves and others. The Rotary Club of Seattle, Washington, U.S.A., the fourth club organized, developed a statement of objects in which it emphasized service to the community and particularly the promotion of high ethical standards in business.

Formation of clubs in other cities soon followed and, by 1910, there were 16 clubs from coast to coast in the United States. Until then, individual clubs had been independent, though some did follow the pattern of the Rotary Club of Chicago. Feeling the need for unity of purpose and some uniformity of procedure for organizing additional clubs, the existing clubs assembled in convention in Chicago. The convention formed the “National Association of Rotary Clubs” in America. Paul P. Harris was elected president and a constitution and by-laws were adopted with these 5 objects:


- 1. To extend and develop Rotary principles by the organization of Rotary clubs throughout America.*
- 2. To unify the work and the principles of the affiliating Rotary clubs and to promote their common good.*
- 3. To arouse and encourage civic pride and loyalty.*
- 4. To promote progressive and honorable business methods.*
- 5. To advance the business interests of the individual members of the affiliating clubs.*

To reflect the addition of clubs outside of the United States, the Association name was changed to “International Association of Rotary Clubs” (萬國扶輪社協會) since 1912. Until 1915, in a continuing effort at unity and method in the Association and its constituent clubs, a standard Rotary club constitution was recommended. The 5 objects were re-written to 《Objects of The Rotary Club》 with 6 points:


**Objects of
The Rotary Club**



- ❏ To promote the recognition of the worthiness of all legitimate occupations and to dignify each member's occupation as affording him an opportunity to serve society.
- ❏ To encourage high ethical standards in business and professions.
- ❏ To increase the efficiency of each member by the development of improved ideas and business methods.
- ❏ To stimulate the desire of each member to be of service to his fellowmen and society in general.
- ❏ To promote the scientizing of acquaintance as an opportunity for service and an aid to success.
- ❏ To quicken the interest of each member in the public welfare of his community and to co-operate with others in civic, social, commercial and industrial development.

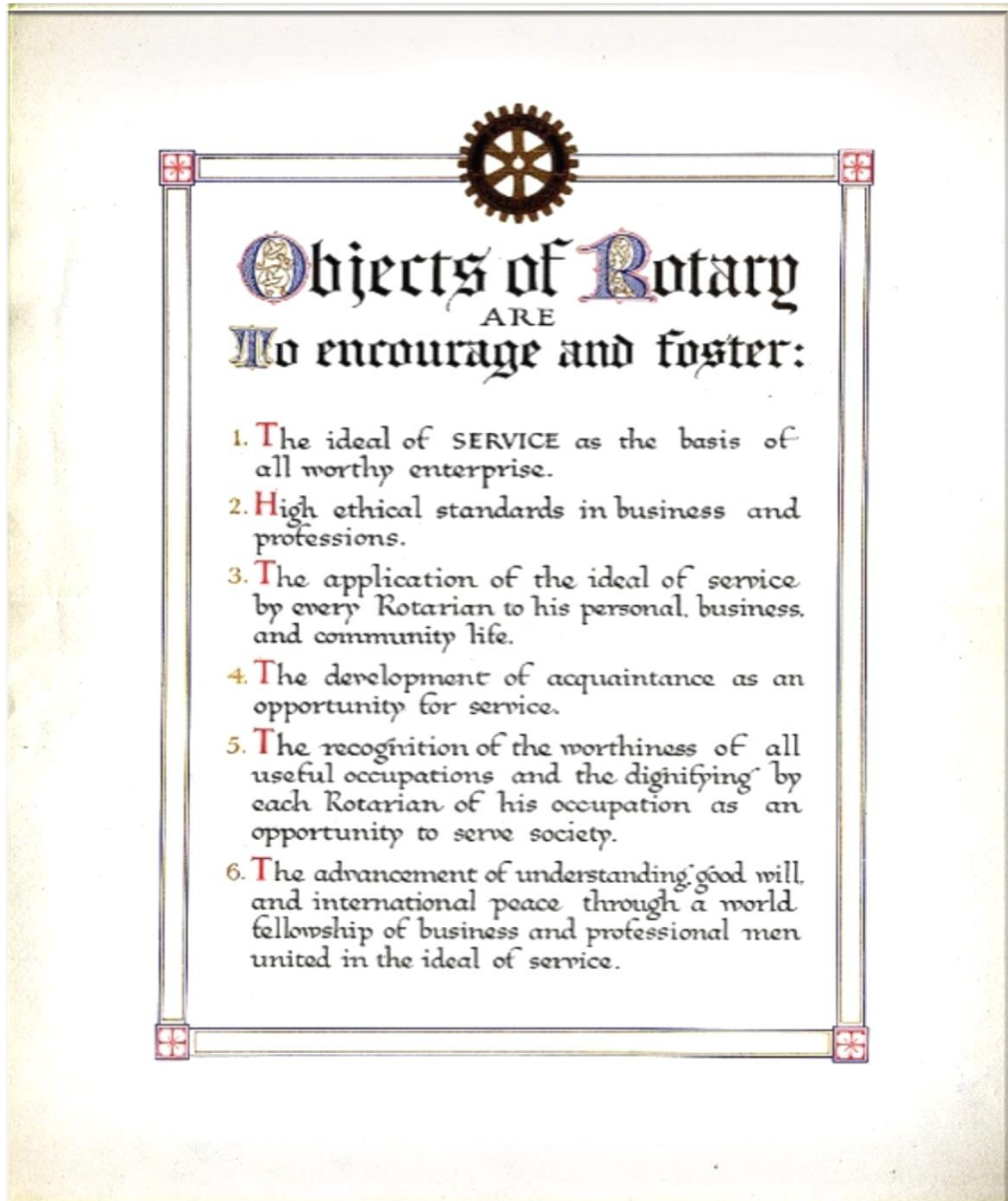


The above objects are set forth in the Standard Constitution for Local Rotary Clubs, prepared by a special committee, approved by the International Board of Directors, and authorized and adopted by the Sixth Annual Convention of the International Association of Rotary Clubs at San Francisco, July 1915, as the Constitution which all clubs affiliating in the Association are expected to adopt as soon as the necessary steps can be taken for amending their respective constitutions.



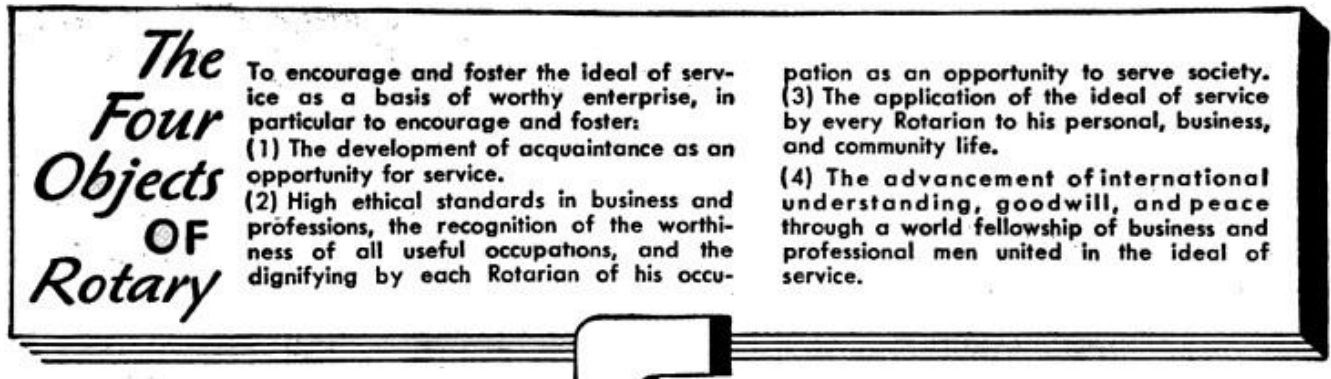
By 1921 The Sixth Object of International Service was incorporated

In 1921 after the World War I was over and Rotary saw the great need for closer understanding between the nations, the great Sixth Object was formulated at the Edinburgh Convention in 1921. The application of the other five objects was made international, that is to say, Rotarians' relations of service should go beyond even their own country and should include the relations of one country to another. The ideal of "international understanding and peace" was incorporated and to be encouraged as the Sixth Object. Read the revised version here:

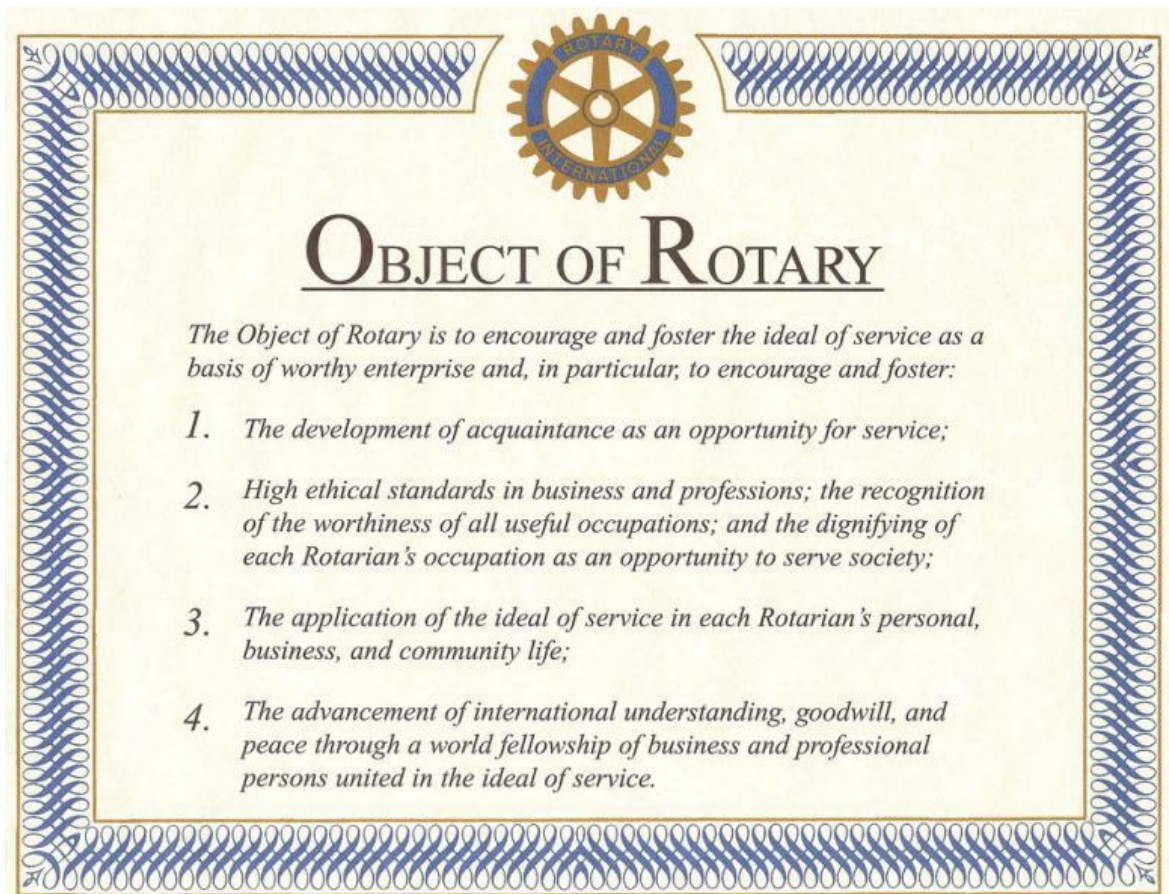


The Single Object of Rotary Today

In 1922, the organization shortened the name to “Rotary International” (國際扶輪). The objects had again revised in 1927. Finally, at the 1935 Mexico City Convention, the six objects were restated and reduced to four.



The last major change came in 1951 when the objects were streamlined to “a single object with four parts”. Since 1990, the word “men” on the last line was changed to “persons” in respecting both genders. Here is today’s version as stated in the Rotary International Constitution 2013:



《扶輪宗旨》的演化

世界上有些地區的扶輪社，例會開始時，全體站立朗誦《扶輪宗旨》。《扶輪宗旨》這個宣言，申明在國際扶輪章程內。

扶輪的宗旨是「鼓勵與培養以服務理想為可貴事業的基礎」，這個宣言並列舉四個培養服務理想的範圍：增廣相識為擴展服務的機會；在各種事業及專業中提高道德標準，認識一切有益於社會的職業的價值，及每一扶輪社員應尊重其本身的職業，藉以服務社會；每一社員能以服務的理想應用於其個人、事業及社會生活；透過結合具有服務理想的各種事業及專業人士，以世界性聯誼，增進國際間瞭解、親善與和平。

扶輪宗旨並不是一直都這樣表達的。1906 年原始的芝加哥扶輪社章程只有三項宗旨：促進事業關係；促進友誼；增進社區最好的利益關係。

到 1910 年因強調擴展，增加扶輪宗旨至有五項。1918 年，扶輪宗旨再改寫減為四項。到了 1921 年，增加第六項 -- 「促進國際瞭解與和平」，並在 1927 年再修訂。這是中華民國境內扶輪社的華文版本：

扶輪社之宗旨

鼓勵與養成

- 一、服務感念為各種有價值之企圖之基礎
- 二、增進商業與職業上之道德
- 三、社員應用服務感念於個人職業及社會之生活
- 四、多朋友即多服務之機會
- 五、承認各種有用之職業其價值而自尊所業以為服務社會之機會
- 六、以服務感念為目的聯合世界各種商業與職業社員
努力增進國際間之瞭解善意及和平

終於，在 1935 年墨西哥市國際年會，這六項宗旨再次修改並減為四項。下面是中華民國境內扶輪社的華文版本：

扶輪社四大宗旨

- 一、藉普遍世界之扶輪社組織，
增進社員公私關係上之友誼，瞭解與合作。

- 二、承認各種業務之價值，
鼓勵社員實踐各種職業中之高尚倫理標準，促進對於社會之貢獻。
- 三、助促職業界人士，注意公共幸福，
實行社會服務，而於社會及公民事業上，樹立完善之模範。
- 四、藉世界職業人士之合作，增進國際間之瞭解、善意與和平。

最後的主要變更是在 1951 年，簡化成「單一扶輪宗旨包含四個重心」。官方英文文本請參閱第 5 頁。以下是 2013 年國際扶輪章程所示的臺灣華文版本，應用至今：

扶 輪 宗 旨

扶輪之宗旨在於鼓勵並培養以服務之理想為可貴事業之基礎，

尤其著重於鼓勵並培養：

- 一、藉增廣相識為擴展服務之機會。
- 二、在各種事業及專業中提高道德之標準；
認識一切有益於社會的職業之價值；
及每一扶輪社員應尊重其本身之職業，藉以服務社會。
- 三、每一社員能以服務之理想應用於其個人、事業及社會之生活。
- 四、透過結合具有服務之理想之各種事業及專業人士，
以世界性之聯誼，增進國際間之瞭解、親善與和平。



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