



## Keep it simple

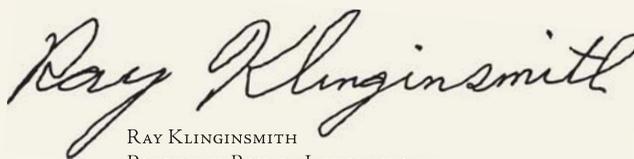
**W**hen I first joined Rotary in 1961, I often heard Rotary leaders say “Keep Rotary Simple.” In fact, that phrase was part of the RI theme in 1956-57! However, as Rotary has grown in both the number of members and the number of programs during the last 50 years, simplicity has become more difficult.

The revised RI Strategic Plan for 2010-13 is a refreshingly simple approach to keeping Rotary strong and vibrant in the future. The three priorities of the plan are clear and brief statements calling us to (1) support and strengthen our clubs, (2) focus and increase our humanitarian service, and (3) enhance our public image and awareness.

It is a true strategic plan because each of the three priorities has a list of measurable goals, and in turn, there is a scorecard to track progress of all the goals. We are realigning the RI budget to reflect the new priorities, and we are trying to balance the priorities in all RI activities. Even the breakout sessions at the 2011 convention in New Orleans will be balanced between the three priorities. The new plan with the simply stated priorities will not be left to merely gather dust on an office shelf!

Please note the interdependence of the three priorities. We have recognized for many years that Rotary cannot provide exemplary service projects without strong clubs and that clubs cannot recruit and retain high-quality members without significant service projects. The third priority now recognizes that in the modern world, Rotary needs the support of our communities, of partner organizations, and sometimes of governments, to conduct larger service projects, which in turn build stronger clubs.

Rotary is now on the world stage due to PolioPlus. But we are still a grassroots organization, and our strength is dependent on the health of our clubs. The three priorities of the strategic plan remind us that the success of Rotary is based on a simple formula of strong clubs, significant service projects, and a favorable public image. Thanks to Paul Harris and other Rotary pioneers, it is a simple formula that produces extraordinary results – and a better world!



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