

District 5040 Rotary Leadership Institute

For several years the District Governors of District 5040 have talked about the need for more training for the Rotarians in the District. In the spring of 2007 the Governor team of DG,DGE, DGN and DGND agreed that they would focus in the coming year on the development of a more comprehensive leadership-training plan for the District. They asked AG Penny Offer to spearhead this process.

This group and including PDG Chris Offer, reviewed a number of existing leadership-training programs in other Districts including RLI, PRLS, and the Rotary Academy. We decided that the Rotarians in District 5040 could benefit from a leadership-training program that would provide Rotary knowledge as well as leadership skill development. The programs we reviewed generally had one or the other of these components but not both until we looked at the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). This program provided both components we wanted and offered a well-developed and evaluated curriculum, a train the trainers course including trainers for the initial course and an existing support network. RLI uses a structured facilitated discussion learning format, our preferred training approach.

Before committing to RLI we also considered the possibility of developing our own leadership-training program from scratch. While this option had some benefits of being developed specifically to meet our individual needs we came to the conclusion that joining the established RLI network would enable us to offer a high level of leadership programming to our Rotarians quickly and efficiently while allowing enough flexibility to respond to any specific local needs. We saw no point in recreating the wheel.

After a couple of months of discussion we formed a new Division in RLI the Cascadia Division covering western Canada and the northwestern part of the US. District 5040 has set the date for their first train the trainers course this fall and the first three offerings of the three parts of the Rotary Leadership Institute program. The initial response from the Rotarians in the District is enthusiastic and we are looking forward to an exciting year as we introduce a leadership-training program in District 5040.

Rotary Leadership Institute website: <http://www.rotaryleadershipinstitute.org/>

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