



Nunzio Scibilia
District Governor
2016-2017

Palermo, August 1st, 2016

My dear friends in Rotary,

During the training course for Governors, matters relating to growth and development of membership carry a fundamental and historic predominance, almost as though the growth, indeed the very existence, of Rotary in the world depends on these very matters.

For several years, this theme has been the subject of Governors' letters, of presentations during seminars and articles in Rotary publications in the awareness that Rotary must look to a vast but pondered expansion. In this awareness, we have always set ourselves prudent limitations taking care not to drop in membership quality, which would indicate negativity within the clubs as well as in relation to Rotary's very image.

This is a serious concern which strengthens our determination to ponder on new admissions which are to be welcome only when the men and women to be admitted to our association. Are young professionals or are men and women no longer active in their professions who fall within the new guidelines created by the Council of Legislation in its latest meeting in April 2016, which stressed that new entries are to be known professional people who are of proven good reputation within their communities and voluntarily place their professional abilities to the service of civil community.

The above concerns the research for new life-blood as well as the guidelines to be followed by the existing membership so that Rotarian aims may be attained and goals reached in an efficient, functional and serene manner.

What is to be avoided is the lack of regularity in attendance, weak participation in the association's activities and silent arbitrary unreasonable abdications. It is frequently true that such 'dropping out' is due to silent protests against unspecified grievances or disappointments suffered as well as to admissions that are not sustained or affected.

Unfortunately, protests that are not expressed are meaningless, especially in our clubs which ought to be the meeting place of friends where none should feel penalized. Rotarians should not leave their clubs because they feel disorientated and betrayed.

Frank confrontation and open and peaceable dialogue should be the means for overcoming misunderstandings and the attainment of the peace which should epitomize our Rotarian culture.

This is valid also for the chartering of new clubs which are most useful when required but are far from indispensable when they are the expression of small, personal ambitions.

Litigation does not belong to Rotary. It is most embarrassing for me to state that in recent months I have witnessed disagreeable episodes. I therefore feel that it is honest and dutiful to appeal to our consciences so that our Rotary may continue to be united to be seen from the outside as useful for a progressive human society.

I wish you all a pleasant summer.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Nunzio".