

## **Mark Daniel Maloney**

### **Answers to Interview Questions for Candidates for RI President in 2019-20**

#### **1. What is your perception of the position of RI President and why do you wish to be the President?**

The RI President is responsible to the Rotary world for the advancement of our organization. The President needs the broad experience to identify the issues to be addressed, organizational skills to develop the solutions, and leadership ability to implement the plan of action.

I believe that I have a proven record of bringing these skills to the table. As club president, I motivated members to bring in 30 new members. As district governor, I led Rotarians to form three new clubs, increase district membership by almost 8%, and increase Foundation giving by 63%. As RI Director, I proposed a solution to the US club insurance problem. I joined with other Trustees to formulate the Future Vision Plan. I was instrumental in establishing the TRF Stewardship Committee. I proposed the new WASH in Schools pilot. I continue to address significant issues facing Rotary as chair of the Operations Review Committee.

#### **2. What changes would you like to see in Rotary International structure and governance and why?**

We want individuals with the appropriate skill sets and independent thinking to serve Rotary. To facilitate good governance in Rotary, we must continue and expand the recent efforts to identify the best-qualified Rotarians to serve on committees. Rotarians should be nominated with an outline of the pertinent background and experience appropriate to the committee. These qualifications should be reviewed by disinterested senior leaders who identify the top candidates to the President.

Furthermore, the Directors should have the freedom, and realize that they have such freedom, to act independently in the best interests of Rotary without fear of retribution from the President or other leaders. During my service as its chair, the Operations Review Committee has proposed to the Board several practices and policies to institutionalize open discussions in the Board and to avoid inappropriate influence of the President. If nominated, I pledge to encourage the independence of Directors.

#### **3. How would you ensure continuity between the RI President, RI President-elect, RI President-nominee, and Secretariat?**

If nominated, from the beginning I would be committed to the actions and decisions of my predecessors. I would further ensure continuity and common purpose among the RI President, RI President-elect, RI President-nominee, and Trustee Chair by scheduling at least quarterly meetings with these officers and the General Secretary. The officers must ensure that the emphases promoted by each of them fall within the strategic plan and are coordinated in a transition that is as seamless as possible.

I would ensure continuity and good relations between the officers and the Secretariat by treating all staff members with professionalism and respect. I would do my best to ensure that volunteers and staff feel that they are part of the same team. I would ask the staff to offer their comments regarding new initiatives and take those suggestions into consideration in crafting their implementation.

**4. Rotary membership is growing in some parts of the world and declining in others—how would you address those areas with declining membership?**

We must take steps to attract more women to Rotary. Also, the changes in membership rules from the 2016 COL must be implemented to focus on younger people, including those in Rotaract. Too many good Rotaractors are being lost from Rotary.

Specifically, we must have a permanent structure of Rotarians whose service commitment is to attract these potential new Rotarians. This structure must reach into the clubs with a formalized committee structure and plan of action. Responsibility and accountability must extend through district and zone leaders. Implementation of the process, not just the resulting membership numbers, must be incorporated into the Presidential Citation and other recognition to ensure that the plan materializes and is not merely words on paper. I would personally lead the advance planning to establish such a structure in consultation with Rotarian leaders in the affected areas and in collaboration with the staff.

**5. What suggestions would you make to clubs with older members or poor diversity to enable them to add new members who better reflect their communities?**

I recommend that such clubs refocus their attention on the classification system to recruit members. Our classification system ensured diversity in our membership that has been a significant strength. The classification system will truly represent the community and should be a key component of the club committee structure mentioned in #4 above. This committee must include new and veteran Rotarians. Using the classification system, the committee should identify business leaders of all ages and backgrounds with the potential to be Rotarians. This must be an ongoing, permanent process, not just a campaign for a single year.

While focusing on women and the younger generation, such clubs must not forget to seek out the “just retired” and experienced people into Rotary. Given the assured longevity of lives and aging profile in many countries today, this is an important segment that must not be ignored.