

PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE QUESTIONS

Sushil Gupta

1. What characteristics do you personally have that would make you an effective leader of volunteers and Chairman of the Board for Rotary International?

I am a successful entrepreneur coming from a trading background I shifted to hospitality in 1980 and today I am considered as one of the pioneers in the Industry and duly recognized by our national Government and also many times my views on the business and industry are sought. I am much focused person and once I define my goals I have the capacity and will to achieve those.

Over four decades in Rotary has helped me in building strong leadership qualities, interpersonal skills along with fairness, which all put together help in achieving our collective objectives.

2. Rotary's membership has remained constant for decades and is falling in some areas. Do you see that as a problem? If so, what courses of action would you propose to address this? Are there any alternative membership models that you think we should consider?

Yes, we have been struggling with our membership for more than two decades, but at the same time we have been able to retain our membership numbers as compared to other service organisations. We have tried many out of box solutions in the past and currently we are rightly focused on women members, millennials and recently Gen-Z. Outcome of our recent initiatives, option of flexible meetings, global membership and involving Rotaractors is yet to be ascertained.

Surely, if I am given an opportunity to serve the organisation, will work with the current leadership and staff resources and if need be, would be open for any new initiatives.

3. As President, how would you highlight and utilize Rotary's new vision statement?

“Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.”

New Vision Statement is very crisp and clearly defines our philosophy and the role of Rotarians in building a top class world organisation with clearly defined objectives. My goal would be to take this Statement to the Club level and strongly work on developing leadership based on philanthropy and values.

Rotary is a membership based organisation and we do say that we believe in bottoms up approach, but however, in reality at times it becomes top down, so we need to go back to basics.

4. Does Rotary have a public image and awareness problem?

If so, what prevents the non-Rotary world from seeing Rotary as the great organization that we know it is and what would you do to alleviate the problem?

Yes and no, in many countries of the Rotary world, Rotary is very well respected which is very evident that how the top Rotary leadership is able to communicate with heads of the States including religious leadership. Even in United States, Rotarians are invited by the President and there is a Rotary Day at United Nations.

At the same time, there are situations when someone at the Immigration might ask you "Oh, what is Rotary and what it does."

We have to keep ourselves relevant to the needs of the community and continue to build on our successes.

I am a strong believer that we have a fairly reasonable public image and, however, this is one area, one has to continue making new efforts in creating more awareness.

We have to focus on demonstrating Rotary's community impact, sharing Rotary's story visually, and telling inspiring stories that demonstrate Rotary values.

5. What are Rotary's three main strengths as an organization?

Rotary has a well-structured & trained leadership like a pyramid with President and the Board at the top and clubs at the bottom. Right from the day you are inducted as a member there are enough opportunities to serve the communities and grow in the organisation right to the top.

Rotary has a strong Secretariat with knowledgeable and committed staff, and many of them have been with the organisation for a long time which provides stability and continuity.

Rotary has a strong financial base and have enough checks and balances in place to overcome any adversities.