

# District Badge Policy

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## A. Description of Current Situation

The District budget has provided RI-themed name badges to Presidents, Assistant Governors and most members of the District Leadership Team. Badges cost about \$11 each plus tax and shipping. The new DLP organization structure prompted many chairs and vice-chairs to request badges. It is hard to argue that Foundation and Membership Mentors who travel to clubs do not need them.

Aside from the administrative issues of deciding who gets a badge and then tracking to determine how it is paid for, the issue boils down to cost. With many agreeing to serve for three years does it really make sense to keep buying new badges every year for a new theme? White Badges with blue lettering (or something similar) would be much cheaper and could last for the full three year term. Badges could be “themed” by using annual stickers.

## B. New Policy Statement

Generic name badges will be provided to Presidents, AGs, Foundation and Membership Mentors, and all Chairs and Vice Chairs. Badges are expected to last for three years.

## C. Analysis

### a. PROs

- Cost - Providing a single badge for three years will reduce district costs by approximately \$1,500 a year. Using a single color name badge could further reduce costs by up to a third.
- Ease of Administration

### b. CONS

- Morale – Presidents may be expecting themed badges and could be disappointed with just a themed sticker. They can always purchase their own badge from a vendor of choice.

## D. Recommendation

- Approve the Policy statement

## E. Implementation Issues, if any

- Implement this policy starting with the 2010-2011 Rotary Year

## F. Training Issues, if any

- None

## Vocational Service and Youth Service Policy

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### G. Description of Current Situation –

The RI website has six major tabs for the activities of Rotary; five of which loosely correspond to the five suggested standing committees of Rotary Clubs found in the new Club Leadership Plan. The sixth tab is designated “Students and Youth.” This appears to be a deliberate and inspired idea – to recognize the importance of youth programs and to organize them into a single group of related service opportunities.

RI’s Club Leadership Plan (Plan) has an intrinsic weakness because Youth Services is never mentioned and Youth Services plays such a significant role in Rotary. The Four Avenues of Service are discussed in the Plan, but there is no mention whatsoever of youth programs or where they fit into the Plan or into the suggested five standing committees. The result of that oversight is that clubs are left to assign responsibility for youth services in a haphazard manner and the assignments end up differing greatly from club to club.

The District 5340 Organizational Chart (DOC) recognizes the importance of Youth Services as does RI’s website. The DOC is similar to the proposed club standing committee structure found in the Plan with one key difference, i.e., the DOC recognizes that Youth Services is an essential part of Rotary’s activities and has a combined Youth Services with Vocational Services Chair under the General Services Chair.

Youth Services and Vocational Services should each have its own appointed District Chair because (a) Vocational Services and Youth Services are sufficiently distinct; and (b) Youth Services, by itself, has a large number and variety of distinct programs and each program has its own District and club chair.

### H. New Policy Statement –

It is the policy of District 5340 that the following District Chairs be appointed by the District Governor and shall appear under the General Services Chair on the District 5340 Organizational Chart: Club Services Chair, Vocational Services Chair, International Services Chair, Community Services Chair, and Youth Services Chair. Furthermore, it is the policy of District 5340 that Rotary Clubs be encouraged to adopt a similar structure with respect to the appointment of their services chairs.

### I. Analysis

#### 1. PROS

- a. It will retain the similarity with RI’s website organizational structure of Rotary programs.
- b. It will improve upon the Club Leadership Plan by recognizing Youth Services as an essential component of Rotary.
- c. Vocational Services will no longer be dwarfed by, and largely forgotten because of, the enormity of Youth Services.
- d. Youth Services would assume responsibility for the following distinct youth programs: Rotaract, Interact, RYLA, LEAD, Model UN, Youth Exchange, MusiCamp, Video Contest, Four-Way Speech Contest, and Scouting.
- e. The Youth Protection Policy, under the guidance of the District Youth Committee, the District Review Committee, and the District Youth Protection Officer, would fall under Youth Services (currently it does not appear on the DOC).
- f. Vocational Services would assume responsibility for encouraging Rotarians to (a) serve others through their professions and to practice high ethical standards; (b) share skills and expertise through their vocations and inspire others in the process; and (c) use their professional skills in District and club initiated service projects.
- g. It would enable efficient and consistent lines of communication between the District Chairs and the Club Chairs.
- h. It would help clubs organize their services in a more pragmatic fashion and avoid the often unguided and random assignment of a youth program to one of the club’s Service Chairs.
- i. The youth programs are intertwined with each program contributing to the success of the others and grouping them under a Youth Services Chair will encourage more frequent “cross-pollination.”

#### 2. CONS

- a. It will require the District to prepare and present each Rotary Club with a suggested standardized Club Organizational Chart (this might even be considered a PRO).
- b. It would require most clubs to reorganize their services if they are to adopt the Club Organizational Chart.
- c. Rotarians hate change! “We’ve always done it this way ...”

**J. Recommendation**

It is recommended that the District Governor appoint a Club Services Chair, a Vocational Services Chair, an International Services Chair, a Community Services Chair, and a Youth Services Chair; that those positions appear under the General Services Chair on the District 5340 Organizational Chart; that Rotary Clubs be encouraged to adopt a similar structure with respect to the appointment of their services chairs; and that the District prepare and present each Rotary Club with a suggested standardized Club Organizational Chart.

**K. Implementation Issues, if any**

1. Someone has to be the bearer of news of change.
2. Encourage at Pre-PETS, PETS, and every other meeting of P's PE's and AG's.
3. It will take a couple of years before the vast majority of clubs have adopted the new Club Organizational Chart. But once they have ... Look out!

**L. Training Issues, if any**

1. None – it should be easy for Rotarians to understand and implement without guidance as it is merely a reorganization of existing club positions.