

## What does it mean to be President of the Rotary Club of White Plains?

For one thing, you follow a long line of distinguished Rotarians who have held this office. Your peers have selected you because they believe you are the most qualified person to guide our Club in the year 2015-2016.

The letters comprising the word “**President**” give us some clues what it means to be one in the Rotary Club of White Plains.

First you must be “**patient.**” You will have to recognize that Rotary does not run like a corporation. All of the members are “volunteers.” A president has to ask, not tell. As important as Rotary is in the lives of its members, it is not the only organization or association to which a member belongs.

A president has to be “**responsive.**” You must be a good communicator. When information comes from Rotary International and the District Governor, you have a responsibility to make sure the Board and the membership are informed.

A president in White Plains has to be “**energetic,**” always on time for meetings, always follows up on projects, attends new member orientation sessions and assigns new members to important committees.

**Bill**, being president means being “**service**” oriented. Rotary’s “Avenues of Service” will be your bible.

Being president means being “**innovative.**” You will be the instigator of ideas, new projects, and the Club will look to you for creative ways to solve problems.

Being president means being “**determined.**” Neither rain, nor snow, nor gloom of night will keep you from accomplishing the goals you will outline for the Club early on during your administration.

Being president means you will be “**enthusiastic.**” You will see well in the opinions and suggestions of all of the members. You will be non-judgmental and fair to all. You will enthusiastically champion our club’s activities.

Being president also means being “**nice.**” You will have favors requested from Rotarians around the world, and requests from literally hundreds of community organizations. It’s important to be nice and respond to each with respect.

Most of all, being president means being “**tactful.**” You will respect the decisions of Club members especially when you have delegated authority. But in the final analysis you are the spokesperson for our Club, and only you can make pronouncements concerning the official position of the White Plains Rotary Club. So the buck stops with you.

And **Bill**, just when you finally put this whole thing together, just when you have a handle on what it really means to be a president, just when you are finally qualified to do the job right, somebody comes along and puts a past-president's pin on your lapel and tells you to take a seat in the back of the room along with all of the other second-best presidents the Club ever had!

**Presented by Ted Nygreen for Bill Fishman's induction as RCWP's 100<sup>th</sup> president on July 7, 2015. This was excerpted and condensed from a longer presentation originally written by PP George Koplinka for the installation ceremony of Ted Nygreen on June 26, 2007.**