

# Rotary Member Speaker Responsibilities

1. All members are expected to provide a speaker approximately every 14 months (based on a 55-member club) unless their health prevents it. These speakers can cover a wide multitude of topics, and members can even be their own speaker. Choose a speaker with a topic that is informational, educational, motivational or of entertainment value that will be of general interest to all Club members.
2. It has been proven again and again that a successful Rotary Club has quality speakers each week. To continue this quality, the Board of Directors has adopted the following guidelines:
  - A. A speaker or topic will not be allowed to be repeated within an 18-month period (ask the Program Chair to check their spreadsheet of past speakers). The exception to this rule would be a speaker speaking on an entirely different subject. Approval for this exception must be given by the Program Chair.
  - B. Members are encouraged to “step outside” their comfort level and secure a speaker who will introduce an interesting topic to the Club (examples: life as a beekeeper, an interesting hobby of yours or your family member like racing cars or brewing beer).
  - C. Asking City of Derby (each department) officials to speak will be limited to an 18-month rotation unless something exceptional occurs, which the Program Chair must approve.
  - D. Avoid political or religious topics. Rotary International is a non-political and non-religious organization. As a matter of policy, Rotary Clubs do not take positions on public questions including political or international issues.
  - E. No political candidates during their election year. It is okay to have a current congressman, senator or other elected official speak when the format is simply a report to constituents on congressional or legislative affairs, but not to campaign.
  - F. Speakers from non-profit organizations are welcome only if they have a unique topic & you have informed them they **cannot** solicit funds. Members may ask how to participate.
  - G. When inviting a businessperson to speak, clarify that the topic should not include how they operate their business or the services they provide. Ask them to speak on issues that affect their industry and the community (examples: cybersecurity, demographics, changing consumer preferences, or public health concerns like identifying dementia). You must inform them they **CANNOT** use the Rotary podium to promote their services or products. Members may ask how to buy books. Members may ask about products/services after adjournment.
  - H. Avoid controversial topics or volatile issues that could arouse anger and division among members. Refer to the Four-Way Test when considering speakers and topics: Is it the **Truth**? Is it **Fair** to all concerned? Will it build **Goodwill** & better friendships? Will it be **Beneficial** to all concerned?
3. Programs are to be given to the Program Chair AT LEAST 4 WEEKS prior to presentation to ensure there are no conflicts/problems with repetition and to give time for marketing.