

Program Name: 4-way Test project

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Program Summary: Every meeting of Nevada City 49er Rotary Club ends with the 4 Way Test. But, how does that translate in our every day professional and personal lives?? Two members formed a committee to discuss how the 4 Way Test could be used in more meaningful and active ways. It was also clear that in many day-to-day situations there are dilemmas where, for example, “Is it the truth?” may conflict with “Is it beneficial to all?”

The Committee developed ‘Dilemma’ scenarios that Rotarians might encounter in their professional lives. The Dilemma scenarios were presented at a Club meeting as the program. A Club member with professional experience facilitated. The Club was divided into 10 groups; 5 scenarios were selected so two groups each had the same scenario.

Focus of the Program: On each table was placed a tag card with the 4 Way Test to keep the group focused. The activity was introduced, scenarios distributed and discussion ensued. Each group needed to clarify what the dilemma was and, if possible, although not required, come to consensus as to the solution using the 4 Way Test. Three-minute presentations by each group followed.

How is the program best implemented: Evaluations were passed out and returned prior to closing of the meeting. Overall, the evaluations were very positive, however, scenarios need to be fine-tuned and some dilemmas need further work. The plan is to elicit real life professional or personal scenarios from our members (had planned to do it anonymously but members wanted to acknowledge their scenarios), select 5 or 6, and repeat the activity in 3 or 4 months. 40 minutes is a minimum requirement for presentation.

Results of the program: The goal is to expand the 4 Way Test working from the “inside out”. Begin with general scenarios as a model; solicit meaningful scenarios from members and find further small worthwhile 4 Way Test projects in the community. Also, add strategies for reaching consensus.