

One of the most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics in the world is the Rotary 4-Way Test. Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created it in 1932 when he was asked to take charge of a company that was faced with bankruptcy. Taylor looked for a way to save the struggling company mired in depression-caused financial difficulties. He drew up a 24-word code of ethics for all employees to follow in their business and professional lives. Herb Taylor became president of Rotary International in 1954-55. The 4-Way Test was adopted by Rotary in 1943 and has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways.



In 2007, a new 4-Way Test Banner was purchased.

THE FOUR WAY TEST

Of the things we think,
say and do.

1. "Is it the truth?" ascribes allegiance to the ultimate test a universality of wholeness-integrity-that binds honest people together as one.
2. "Is it fair to all concerned?" seeks a common justice for people whose natural relations and compatibilities bring them together regularly.
3. "Will it build good will and better friendships?" is the cement binding, throughout the years, in a common love that increases with time of people for people.
4. "Will it be beneficial to all concerned?" addresses the final test of significant improvement in the lot of people, world without end.

These four questions, quoted by Rotarians around the world weekly, stand as cornerstones to an organization built on "Service Above Self" a motto that, like great creeds of faith, holds selflessness above selfishness, ours above mine, giving above taking, and integrity above divisiveness.

-Reprinted from the District Governor's Newsletter with comments from our District Governor - Norm Kloker.

Morris Rotary Club - History Book