5-Pillars Workshops
2026-27

Sept 27, 2026 – “That's Not How We Do Things”… Yet: Turning Ideas into Action

You come home from a NAYEN conference, or log off a NAYEN webinar, practically levitating with ideas: a streamlined interview process, an orientation that doesn't put anyone to sleep, a Rotex program that actually survives! You're ready to change the world. Then you pitch it to your committee, and someone drops the seven deadliest words in Rotary: "That's not how we do things." Suddenly your world-changing idea is gathering dust next to last year's world-changing idea.

Join Pauline Perreault and Kirk Langford for a webinar on reversing that resistance and increasing the excitement and buy-in of new ideas. We'll dig into why great ideas stall, how to prioritize when you've come home with seventeen "must-do-immediately" changes, and how to build genuine buy-in instead of polite nodding followed by nothing. Let’s face it: Youth Exchange deserves better than "we've always done it this way, “ if we want to continue strong for another 50 years, then the way we’ve always done it won’t cut it.

Team members from both district and club levels are welcome and consider asking multiple team members to attend to ensure your district is well-represented.

Due to the interactive nature of the Pillar workshops, it will NOT be recorded.

When: Sep 27, 2026 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada: 9:00am Pacific, 10:00am Mountain, 11:00am Central)

Oct 17, 2026 – Marketing

The RYE World-Class Pillars workshops are back by popular demand! Kick off the series by learning how to make your district's outstanding Youth Exchange program impossible to overlook. Discover proven marketing strategies to attract exceptional candidates and build awareness throughout your community.

Together, we'll brainstorm ideas, develop a marketing strategy for the 2026–2027 exchange year and beyond, and explore ways to create consistent messaging across your district. You'll leave with ready-to-use social media posts, practical promotional ideas, and a clear plan for your messaging, images, and marketing venues to help your program thrive.

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When: Oct 17, 2026 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada: 9:00am Pacific, 10:00am Mountain, 11:00am Central)

Dec 19, 2026 – Candidates

Who is the best fit for our ambassadorial exchange program—and how do we find them? This interactive workshop will help you answer these questions and more. Together, we'll identify the qualities of successful Youth Exchange candidates and explore effective ways to assess them throughout the selection process.

You'll leave with practical tools and a concrete plan to strengthen your candidate recruitment and selection process, helping your district attract students who are ready to embrace cultural exchange, serve as outstanding ambassadors, and are passionate about becoming peacemakers.

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When: Dec 19, 2026 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada: 9:00am Pacific, 10:00am Mountain, 11:00am Central)

Feb 20, 2027 – Orientations

Does your current orientation rely on lectures that could double as a cure for insomnia? Do students leave feeling less "prepared for a life-changing journey" and more "ready for a nap"? If so, this interactive workshop is for you!

Join Kirk and Pauline as they share practical tools and engaging strategies to help your district create a world-class orientation program. Learn how to evaluate your current approach, increase student and parent engagement, and better prepare participants for a successful exchange.

You'll leave with actionable recommendations and a plan to ensure your exemplary candidates are confident, well-prepared, and ready to serve as outstanding ambassadors of peace.

Team members from both district and club levels are welcome and consider asking multiple team members to attend to ensure your district is well-represented.

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When: Feb 20, 2027 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada: 9:00am Pacific, 10:00am Mountain, 11:00am Central)

Apr 10, 2027 – Experience

Tired of watching your students take the same selfie at the same tourist trap? Let's face it, students can get a tour of a local landmark on their own time. What they can't get is a truly transformative, peace-building experience without your help! So, let's move beyond tourism and focus on the peacebuilding and ambassadorial agenda. In this interactive workshop, Kirk and Pauline will help you reconsider the experiences your district offers to Inbound students. We will brainstorm and identify concrete improvements to your program, helping you shift from a "good" to a "best" version of your district's activities. This session is crucial for ensuring that our exemplary candidates have a truly world-class, transformative experience that enables them to become global citizens.

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Due to the interactive nature of the Pillar workshops, it will NOT be recorded.

When: Apr 10, 2027 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada: 9:00am Pacific, 10:00am Mountain, 11:00am Central)

June 12, 2027 – Impact

Are you tired of saying your program is "impactful" without the data to back it up? Do your impact reports consist of "one kid came home early, the rest were good"? How can we truly measure the enormous impact of Rotary Youth Exchange? This workshop is designed help us start solving the impact puzzle by looking beyond simple early return data. We'll talk about program stakeholders and developing a framework to measure success from the student, club, district, community, and global perspectives. Join us to brainstorm and plan new ways to quantify the profound, long-lasting effects of your program and communicate its value effectively.

Team members from both district and club levels are welcome and consider asking multiple team members to attend to ensure your district is well-represented.

Due to the interactive nature of the Pillar workshops, it will NOT be recorded.

When: Jun 12, 2027 12:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada: 9:00am Pacific, 10:00am Mountain, 11:00am Central)