



Each January, as Rotary district governors-elect meet at the International Assembly for training and fellowship, they can be certain of two things: a lot of take-home reading and the announcement of a new RI theme.

The tradition of crafting a theme is credited to 1949-50 RI President Percy C. Hodgson, who outlined a list of four objectives for his term in office. Among them were the better application of the principles of vocational service and dedication to world understanding and peace through international service programs.

Though Hodgson's 83-word proclamation ran substantially longer than today's shorter, punchier themes, Rotarians' desire to celebrate and support their president's annual program of service has remained the same.

In the decades that followed, RI presidents introduced theme logos, lapel pins, ties, and scarves.

The first theme tie was designed by the wife of 1993-94 RI President Robert Barth and unveiled at the 1993 International Assembly. Although its design did not incorporate the theme for that year ( Believe in What You Do – Do What You Believe In ), many others have.

The first scarves showing the RI theme were designed by 1998-99 RI President James L. Lacy and his wife, Claudine, Follow Your Rotary Dream .

# HISTORIC MOMENTS RI THEMES

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