

Two and a half years ago, I took over as their Assistant Governor. They had three to four members attending regular meetings. They thought about merging their club with another club. They thought about throwing in the towel. But they did not and started working on the future for Rotary in North Chicago.

This past Friday evening, DGE Mike Yesner, installed the club's 2012-13 board. With DGE Mike was DGN Sarah Oliver and PDG Mike Erickson. As for myself, I had the privilege of installing "7" new active members into their club!

You may ask how is this possible? President Wadell Brooks and Past President John Bair led a challenge to get the community involved, got every member of this small club engaged in the challenge, went over their ex-member lists, talked to local officials, and took his show on the road.

At the same, incoming club president Leo Melesio wanted and needed to raise funds for the cash strapped club. Leo has only been a member of the club for two years, but wanted to make a difference in North Chicago.

Leo wanted a big installation dinner and he wanted to send a positive message to North Chicago that the Rotary Club of North Chicago is here to stay. He asked for assistance from fellow Rotarians, friends and prospective members to help him in this endeavor.

This past Friday evening, incoming club President Leo Melesio saw the results of his vision and accomplished "Engagement" from everyone involved. A small club of just 10 active members sold 150 tickets to the installation.

They had more fellow Rotarians from "other" clubs attend than they had regular active. They had more guests, not related to Rotary, attend than they had Rotarians. To top off this great one night achievement, they had over 70 guests take a prospective member brochure with them.

This positive attitude towards this Rotary club and the community it serves deserves emulation. Congratulations to all the members of the Rotary Club of North Chicago!