

# Getting Started in Rotary



## Rotary International

*"You will profit from Rotary in proportion to what you put into your efforts."*

— Rotary founder  
Paul P. Harris

# Getting Started in Rotary



## A word to sponsors

Thank you for extending the privilege of Rotary membership!

You can help new members get involved in Rotary in a number of ways, according to what is appropriate in your club. Following is a checklist of suggestions for ways you can help new members. Please complete this page, sign and return it to the club president.

- Introduce the new member to the club officers.
- Explain the committee structure.
- Offer to accompany the new member to his or her first board meeting, make-up at another club, and district conference.
- Provide a good knowledge of Rotary both at the international and club levels.
- Explain attendance requirements.
- Provide assistance with the new member's first "classification" talk.
- Explain the programs of The Rotary Foundation.
- Make a plan to keep the new member interested and active in the club and maintain contact with him or her.

I have completed these suggestions regarding

new member: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sponsor

**Please sign and return this form to your club president and complete pages 1 and 2 inside this booklet and give the booklet to your new member.**

## Getting Started in Rotary

Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. This is exemplified in our mottoes, "Service Above Self" and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best."

This little brochure is designed to give you, a new member in Rotary, an overview of Rotary's history, programs, and organization, and the privileges that Rotary membership confers. It also contains suggestions for involving your family in Rotary and expanding your knowledge and theirs of Rotary.

The Rotary emblem identifies Rotarians around the world. The gearwheel signifies that the Rotarian is a "worker" when it comes to serving others.



# Welcome to Rotary!

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Name of new Rotarian

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Date of induction

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Classification

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Committee assignment

The members of this Rotary club — one of approximately 29,000 in 159 countries and 35 geographical areas — extend to you a cordial welcome to take an active part in the service and fellowship activities of this club.

The Rotary Club of \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_ was admitted to Rotary International on

\_\_\_\_\_. It now has \_\_\_\_\_ members.

Date

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Sponsor

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Club President

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Date

Activities and projects that have been sponsored by our club include:

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Places and times of Rotary club meetings convenient for attendance make-up:

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# Modest start, worldwide impact

Rotary was born in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A., on 23 February 1905. Its founder was Paul P. Harris, an attorney. On that day, Paul met with three friends — Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer; Gustavus E. Loehr, a mining engineer; and Hiram E. Shorey, a merchant tailor. Paul's idea was to promote fellowship among business acquaintances.



*Rotary founding members  
(l to r) Silvester Schiele,  
Paul P. Harris,  
Hiram E. Shorey, and  
Gustavus E. Loehr*

Because the men met in rotation at each other's places of business, their club took the name Rotary. To make the club a representative cross-section of the business and professional community, only one representative of each business or profession was admitted. This was the beginning of the classification principle of membership.

While the original basis of Rotary was fellowship, service to others soon became its hallmark. Each club determines its own service activities, which it channels through four "Avenues of Service" — Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service. The avenues are based on the four-part Object of Rotary.



*The Four Avenues of Service*

## The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

**FIRST.** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

**SECOND.** High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

**THIRD.** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

**FOURTH.** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

## Rotary Programs

Rotary International encourages clubs to focus their Community Service activities in certain areas. Areas of emphasis include combating hunger and violence, promoting literacy, preventing drug abuse and AIDS, meeting the needs of children, helping the elderly, and protecting the environment (a program known as Preserve Planet Earth — PPE).



PPE



WCS



RCC



RV



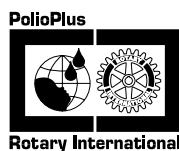
RYE

Rotary International programs such as World Community Service (WCS), Rotary Community Corps (RCC) and Rotary Volunteers (RV) link communities needing help with Rotary clubs and individuals willing to provide assistance. Popular RI programs for youth and young adults include Interact and Rotaract service clubs, Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE), and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. Friendship Exchange and Rotary Recreational and Vocational Fellowships are still other ways Rotarians nurture global fellowship.

Supported by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of Rotary, The Rotary Foundation provides humanitarian grants worldwide through innovative programs. The best-known program is PolioPlus, Rotary's ambitious program to help achieve the global eradication of polio. Other major initiatives include 3-H (Health, Hunger and Humanity) Grants, Matching Grants, and Peace programs.



*The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International*



*PolioPlus*

The Rotary Foundation's oldest educational program is Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships, the world's largest privately funded scholarship program. The Foundation also awards Grants for University Teachers to teach in less-developed nations and enables international exchanges of business and professional people through Group Study Exchange.

From a modest start, Rotary has spread around the world and has almost 1.2 million members. Today, Rotary International, the world's first association of service clubs, fosters fellowship and provides service on every continent.

**The 4-Way Test**  
**Of the things we think, say or do**

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The 4-Way Test was formulated by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor.



## Historical highlights

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- 1905 First Rotary club formed in Chicago, Illinois, U.S.A.
- 1910 First Rotary Convention held in Chicago; first club outside U.S.A. formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
- 1911 First European clubs formed, in Dublin, Ireland; Belfast, Northern Ireland; and London, England
- 1917 Endowment fund, forerunner of The Rotary Foundation, established
- 1919 Rotary enters South America and Asia with clubs in Montevideo, Uruguay, and Manila, Philippines
- 1921 Rotary goes “down under” with clubs in Melbourne, Australia, and Johannesburg, South Africa
- 1933 The 4-Way Test formulated by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor
- 1947 Rotary Founder Paul Harris dies; first Rotary Foundation scholarships awarded
- 1978 Tokyo convention, RI’s largest ever, with 39,834 registrants
- 1985 Rotary announces PolioPlus program to immunize all children against polio
- 1989 Council on Legislation opens Rotary to women
- 1997 Rotary expands to Antarctica with chartering of club at Base Marambio

## How Rotary is organized

A Rotary club is an organization of business and professional leaders within a defined community. Its purpose is fellowship and service. It has a president and a board of directors who are elected annually. Club members are adults of good character and reputation who are, or were prior to retirement, proprietors, partners, corporate officers, managers, executives, or leaders of a business or profession.

A Rotary district is a geographical territory in which Rotary clubs are associated for Rotary International administrative purposes. Each district is headed by a district governor, an officer of Rotary International, whose job is to assist clubs in the district. District governors are nominated by their districts, usually at the district conference, and elected for one-year terms at the RI Convention. The district conference is an annual meeting of Rotarians of the district which furthers fellowship and discussion of the affairs of clubs and Rotary International generally.

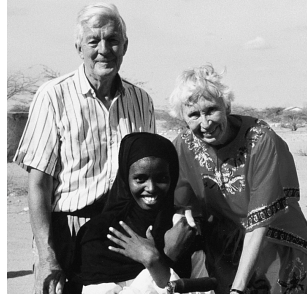
Rotary International is an association of Rotary clubs throughout the world. It is administered by a Board of Directors consisting of the President and President-elect of Rotary International and 17 other directors from around the world. Directors serve two-year terms and are elected at the Rotary International Convention. The convention, which is held annually in a major city, affords Rotarians the opportunity to deal with the association's business while expanding international fellowship and Rotary knowledge.

The Council on Legislation, the legislative body of Rotary International, meets every three years in a different part of the world. The clubs in each district elect a Rotarian to represent them at each council. Among the changes delegates have adopted: in 1995 the council opened past service membership to retired persons, and in 1998, the council allowed Rotarians to receive attendance credit for attending Club Service projects.

The World Headquarters of Rotary International is located in Evanston, Illinois, U.S.A., a suburb of Chicago. It has an international staff, headed by the

General Secretary. Service centers also are located in Parramatta, Australia; São Paulo, Brazil; Delhi, India; Tokyo, Japan; Zürich, Switzerland; Buenos Aires, Argentina; Seoul, Korea; and Manila, Philippines.

*The many faces of Rotarians worldwide*



## Your privileges as a Rotarian

- Fellowship with people of like ideals;
- Proposing new members of your club;
- Meaningful service to your community and your vocation;
- Unique opportunities to promote international friendship;
- Broad acquaintance with leaders of other businesses and professions;
- Participation in stimulating programs at weekly meetings;
- Development of leadership skills while serving on committees;
- Meeting Rotarians when making up attendance at other Rotary clubs, both locally and around the globe; and
- Participation in the district conference and the Rotary International Convention.

Every privilege has a corresponding responsibility. For example, proposing new members is both a privilege and a responsibility. In the same way, attendance at weekly meetings is both an opportunity to expand Rotary acquaintance and knowledge and an obligation. Rotarians have their membership terminated automatically if they are absent four consecutive times without making up attendance or attend less than 60 percent of the meetings during either six-month period of the club's fiscal year without being excused by the board.

## Getting started together

Because Rotary often involves private family time, as well as time away from business, it is important for family members to know about Rotary. Sharing this brochure with them may be the first step.

The ways that family members can be involved in Rotary work vary from club to club and country to country. The way they choose to be involved also varies. For example, in some communities Rotary spouses associate together to support the service activities of the local club; their associations are independent of Rotary International.

A number of exciting RI programs are open to either spouses or children of Rotarians, including Youth Exchange, Rotary Recreational and Vocational Fellowships, Rotary Friendship Exchange, and Pre- and Post-Convention Homestay. However, family members are ineligible to participate in some programs, for example, Foundation scholarships.

Here are some suggestions for including your family members in the world of Rotary:

- Introduce family members to Rotarians as you meet them in any circumstance.
- Invite family members to a Rotary club meeting.
- Tell your family about various projects and activities of your club.
- Invite to your home or to a social activity Rotary Youth Exchange students or Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars sponsored or hosted by your club or district.
- Include your family members in all appropriate activities, such as social events and various service activities.
- Encourage your spouse — and children, when permitted and appropriate — to attend the district conference, regional conferences, and the Rotary International Convention.

- Encourage your sons or daughters of the appropriate age to consider joining Interact (for ages 14-18) or Rotaract (for ages 18-30).

*Interact*

*Rotaract*

## Learning more about Rotary

Rotary International produces a wide range of printed and audiovisual resources. Helpful general publications include the *Rotary Basic Library* (990-EN), *Historical Review of Rotary* (334-EN), *Opportunities for Service* (375-EN) and *The ABCs of Rotary* (363-EN). Audiovisual resources include the *Rotary in an Hour* (512-EN) audiocassette and the videos *Take a Look at Rotary* (867-EN) and *Introduction to Rotary* (449-EN).

Periodic resources include **THE ROTARIAN**, Rotary's flagship monthly magazine since 1911, and official regional Rotary magazines in various languages; *Rotary World*, a newspaper published five times a year for Rotary clubs and leaders; and *Rotary News Basket*, a weekly electronic and printed newsletter. Another valuable resource is the regularly updated Rotary Web site (<http://www.rotary.org>).

Three special publications to which every Rotarian finds reason to refer are the *Manual of Procedure* (035-EN), updated every three years; the *Official Directory* (007-EN), the annually updated listing of clubs, meeting times, club and RI officers, and licensed RI suppliers; and the *Catalog* (019-EN), which describes and gives prices and language availability for every RI resource. (The numbers and initials listed in parentheses after each publication here indicate the catalog resource order number and language.)





# Rotary International

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