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## ROTARY CLUB OF LIONS GATE



## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

# 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:*

- 1** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- 2** 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;
- 3** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;
- 4** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.



## **ROTARY'S AREAS OF FOCUS**

Rotary has identified specific causes to target to maximize its local and global impact. At the same time, we understand that each community has its own unique needs and concerns. Through global grants and other resources, Rotary International helps clubs focus their service efforts in the following areas.

### **Promoting Peace**

Today, 42 million people are displaced by armed conflict or persecution. Through our partnerships with several leading universities, Rotary Peace Fellows develop the skills to strengthen peace efforts, train local leaders to prevent and mediate conflict, and support long-term peace building in areas affected by conflict. We provide up to 100 peace fellowships per year at Rotary Peace Centers.

### **Fighting Disease**

More than 100 million people are pushed into poverty each year because of medical costs. We aim to improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in underdeveloped areas. Our members educate and mobilize communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Many of our projects ensure that medical training facilities are located where the workforce lives.

### **Providing Clean Water**

More than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. At least 3,000 children die each day from diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe water. Our projects give communities the ability to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems and support studies related to water and sanitation.

### **Saving Mothers and Children**

At least 7 million children under the age of five die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. To help reduce this rate, we provide immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improve access to essential medical services, and support trained health care providers for mothers and their children. Our projects ensure sustainability by empowering the local community to take ownership of health care training programs.

## **Supporting Education**

Sixty-seven million children worldwide have no access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

## **Growing Local Economies**

Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 a day. We carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and develop opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. We also help strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

## **WHY JOIN ROTARY?**

### **WHAT IS IN IT FOR ME?**

#### **Friendship**

In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: the need for friendship and fellowship. It is one of two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.

#### **Business Development**

The second original reason for Rotary's beginning is business development. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross section of every business community. Its members come from all walks of life. Rotarians help each other and collectively help others.

#### **Personal Growth and Development**

Membership in Rotary continues one's growth and education in human relations and personal development.

#### **Leadership Development**

Rotary is an organization of leaders and successful people. Serving in Rotary positions is like a college education. Leadership: - learning how to motivate, influence, and lead leaders.

#### **Citizenship in the Community**

Membership in a Rotary club makes one a better community citizen. The average Rotary club consists of the most active citizens of any community.

#### **Continuing Education**

Each week at Rotary there is a program designed to keep one informed about what is going on in the community, nation, and world. Each meeting provides an opportunity to listen to different speakers and a variety of timely topics.

#### **Fun: Rotary is fun, a lot of fun**

Each meeting is fun. The club projects are fun. Social activities are fun. The service is fun.

## **Public Speaking Skills**

Many individuals who joined Rotary were afraid to speak in public. Rotary develops confidence and skill in public communication and the opportunity to practice and perfect these skills.

## **Citizenship in the World**

Every Rotarian wears a pin that says “Rotary International.” There are few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary club. Every Rotarian is welcome – even encouraged – to attend any of the 29,000 clubs in 194 nations and geographical regions. This means instant friends in both one’s own community and in the world community.

## **Entertainment**

Every Rotary club and district has parties and activities that provide diversion in one’s business life. Rotary holds conferences, conventions, assemblies, and institutes that provide entertainment in addition to Rotary information, education, and service.

## **Social Skills**

Every week and at various events and functions, Rotary develops one’s personality, social skills and people skills. Rotary is for people who like people.

## **Youth & Family Programs**

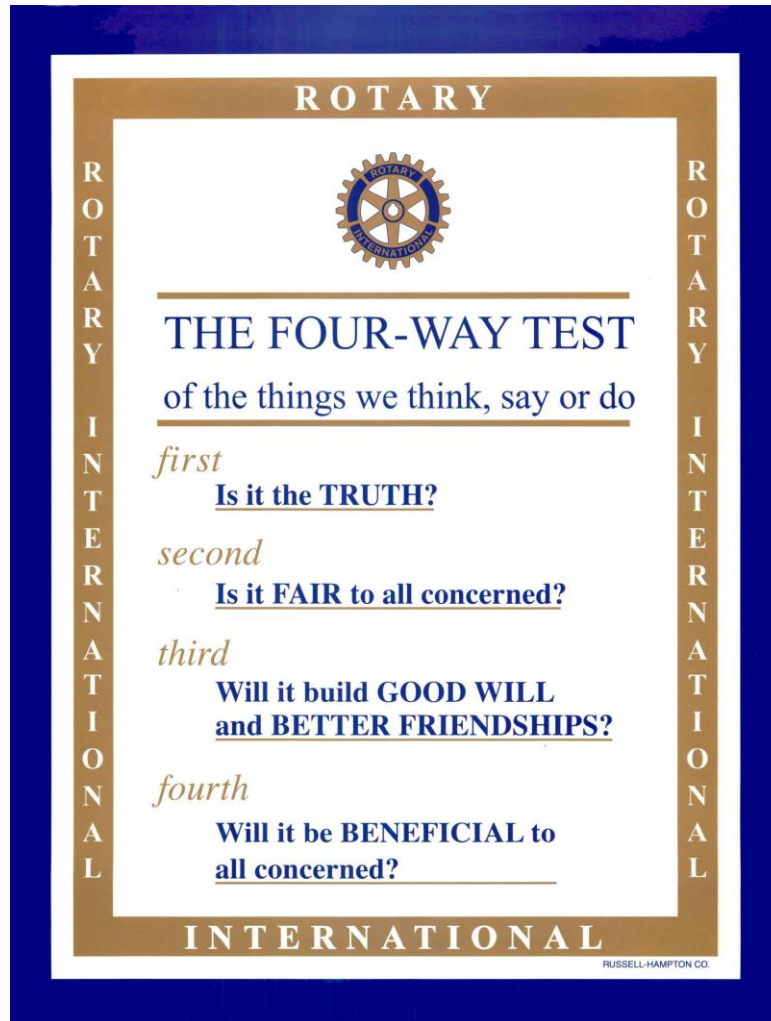
Rotary provides one of the world’s largest youth exchange programs; high school and college clubs for future Rotarians; opportunities for spouse involvement; and a host of activities designed to help family members in growth and the development of family values.

## **Vocational Skills**

Every Rotarian is expected to take part in the growth and development of his or her own profession or vocation; to serve on committees and to teach youth about one’s job or vocation. Rotary helps to make one a better doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc.

## **The Development of Ethics**

Rotarians practice a 4-Way Test that governs one’s ethical standards. Rotarians are expected to be ethical in business and personal relationships.



### Cultural Awareness

Around the world, practically every religion, country, culture, race, creed, political persuasion, language, color, and ethnic identity is found in Rotary. It is a cross section of the world's most prominent citizens from every background. Rotarians become aware of their cultures and learn to love and work with people everywhere. They become better citizens of their countries in the process.

### Prestige

Rotary members are prominent people: leaders of business, the professions, art, government, sports, military, religion, and all disciplines. Rotary is the oldest and most prestigious service club in the world. Its ranks include executives, managers, professionals – people who make decisions and influence policy.

## **The Opportunity to Serve**

Rotary is a service club. Its business is mankind. Its product is service. Rotarians provide community service to both local and international communities. This is perhaps the best reason for becoming a Rotarian: the chance to do something for somebody else and to sense the self-fulfillment that comes in the process and return of that satisfaction to one's own life. It is richly rewarding. Many Rotarians undertake travel to other countries for the purpose of serving, whether it is immunization, building a school or some other project.

## **Assistance when Traveling**

Because there are Rotary clubs everywhere, many a Rotarian in need of a doctor, lawyer, hotel, dentist, advice, etc., while traveling has found assistance through Rotary.

## **CLUB MEMBERSHIP RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Club is the cornerstone of Rotary, where the most meaningful work is carried out. All effective Rotary clubs are responsible for four key elements: sustaining or increasing their membership base, participating in service projects that benefit their own community and those in other countries, supporting The Rotary Foundation of RI financially and through program participation, and developing leaders capable of serving in Rotary beyond the club level.

What Rotarians get out of Rotary depends largely on what they put into it. Many membership requirements are designed to help members more fully participate in and enjoy their Rotary experience.

## **Attendance and Volunteer Hours**

Attending weekly club meetings allows you to enjoy Club fellowship, enrich your professional and personal knowledge, meet other community business leaders, and be in touch with Club activities. While Rotary no longer formally tracks attendance, we do encourage you to attend as many meetings as possible.

Rotary now emphasizes volunteer hours as a method of reflecting our Club's service to our community and internationally. Your service hours devoted to committee meetings, projects, and training all count towards volunteer hours. (Regular meetings and socials are the two exceptions.) You will learn more about this.



You are also welcome to attend another local Club meeting. We are happy to provide you with other North Shore meeting times. While traveling, you're encouraged to attend meetings at any Rotary Club in the world — a practice that guarantees you a warm welcome around the globe. Before you leave on your travels, find meeting places and times in the Club Finder at the [Rotary International site](#).

*We want to work with you to enable you to be a engaged member. We encourage you to talk to us about your individual needs and how we can make one of these options work for you, as we are mindful of the changes in our society and the more demanding economic environment.*

### Service Requirements

All Rotary clubs share a key mission: to serve their community and those in need throughout the world. By participating in club service projects, you will learn about our club's involvement in local and international projects and can volunteer your time and talents where they are most needed. Every club member must belong to at least one service committee.

### Financial Requirements

**Regular Membership:** Our current annual dues are \$330.00 per Rotary year (due *before* June 30th of each year). If you join mid-year, we pro-rate the fees. There is a one-time initiation fee of \$60.00.

**Happy/Sad Dollars; Other Donations:** Participation is optional. A regular feature of our meetings is a collection of Happy/Sad Dollars. Members (and guests) can contribute with comments about something Happy or Sad. The donation amount is up to the individual, if no amount is specified a \$2.00 donation is recorded. Amounts are noted by the treasurer and money is collected quarterly. The money is treated as a donation to our Club Foundation and an income tax receipt will be provided at year end. During the year, the Club infrequently asks for individual member donations. One example would be to a Christmas hamper to a needy family. Again, participation is optional.

**Rotary Foundation:** Our *average* annual contribution to the Rotary Foundation is \$100.00 USD. We ask that you contribute some amount to the Rotary Foundation annually, even if less than the average amount. We have an annual goal of 100% participation by our members.

## Registering at Rotary Central

We ask that you register on the [Rotary International site](#). Signing in to your “My Rotary” account gives you a customized experience and easier access to tools and information that are relevant to you. Our Membership Director or your Mentor is happy to assist you with this process, as it is an important part of Club membership.

## Finding and Retaining Members

To keep our Club strong, each Rotarian shares the responsibility to bring new members into Rotary. Even new members can bring guests to meetings or invite them to participate in a service project. The value of Rotary speaks for itself, and the best way to spark the interest of potential members is by letting them experience fellowship and service firsthand.

Keeping members interested in Rotary is another responsibility. Good club fellowship and early involvement in service projects are two of the best ways to sustain the club’s membership.

The ideal composition of a Rotary club reflects the community’s demographics, including professions, gender, age, and ethnicity. Such diversity enriches every aspect of the club’s fellowship and service.