



Being in Rotary:

An Opportunity for Service

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Rotary is the world's oldest service organization. In 1905, Chicago attorney Paul Harris recognized the need to do more than simply pursue one's business interests and realized that business and professional men coming together in fellowship and a spirit of service could be a powerful force in the community and the world. He invited three acquaintances to meet together weekly, rotating between their individual places of business, and Rotary was born.

Now in its second century, it is an association of local clubs gathered into a larger organization called Rotary International, which is headquartered in Evanston, Illinois.

Officially, Rotary is defined as an organization of business and professional people united worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Specifically, a Rotary club is composed of people in a community who have accepted the ideal of service as a basis for attaining fulfillment in their personal, professional and community lives. In fact, the ideal of service is the thread that runs throughout the Rotary worldwide and unites like-minded people in thought and action, no matter where in the world they live.

Rotary International has over 35,000 clubs in 167 countries. There are approximately 1.3 million Rotarians worldwide. To make such a large organization manageable, Rotary International is divided into districts.

The Rotary Club of Grants Pass is part of District 5110 comprising 68 Rotary clubs in western and central Oregon and northern California; from south of Lincoln, Oregon to Etna in northern California. The district has a team of Rotarians around the district to help clubs operate with the District Governor as our district leader. The District Governor visits each club at least once a year. This volunteer position changes annually.

Individual Rotarians are members of a local club and all clubs are members of Rotary International.

Clubs meet weekly, usually for lunch or dinner, sometimes breakfast, so that all members may enjoy each other's fellowship as well as hear timely programs and discuss Rotary projects.

Membership is by invitation only, and is based on choosing representatives of businesses, professions and institutions in the community to fill "classifications." The purpose of this "classification" system is to ensure that the members of each club comprise a true cross section of their community's business and professional life.

In its earliest days, each club would have only one banker, one baker, one lawyer and so forth. Today, the classification system is much broader and reflects the diversity within each profession or vocation by recognizing the variety and specialty now prevalent in

business, banking, law, real estate, medicine and many other fields.

While there are sometimes benefits to one's business from the acquaintance and fellowship of Rotary, its deeper purpose is founded in the ideal of "Service Above Self," which it expects members to carry into their business, the community at large, and into other lands. Official policy now specifically prohibits any attempt to use the privilege of membership for commercial advantage.

Non-sectarian and non-partisan, Rotary works to bring together, in a friendly and impartial atmosphere, people of all races, religions, faiths, and political beliefs. Its bond is fellowship toward the common end of service, despite individual differences regarding the means of reaching that end.

Thus, Rotary cultivates understanding and cooperation by emphasizing common interest while avoiding commitment on partisan measures or activities on which people are so often divided. Besides work in the club, a Rotarian is encouraged to serve as an individual in the community and the world in whatever ways possible.

Pursuing the Ideal of Service: How Rotary Works

The first motto of Rotary International, “He Profits Most Who Serves Best”, was approved at the second Rotary Convention, held in Portland, Oregon, in August 1911. At about the same time, the Minneapolis club had adopted the phrase “Service, Not Self” to guide its efforts. It was eventually modified to “Service Above Self”.

Both are still used today but in 1989, “Service Above Self” was formally adopted as the principal motto of Rotary since it best explains the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service.

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives.

One of the world’s most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is the Four Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor who later served as Rotary International President. Taylor was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy.

This 24-word test for employees to follow in their business and professional lives became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with dealers and customer, and the survival of the company is credited to this simple philosophy.

Adopted by Rotary in 1943, the Four Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages

and published in thousands of ways. It asks every Rotarian to consider four questions in their business and professional activities.

The Four 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?

Basic to Rotary and to individual Rotarians striving for “Service Above Self” are the tenets embodied in the Objects of Rotary.

The first written part of the 1906 constitution has been revised over the years but has always retained its central themes. It was last restated in 1951 into its current form:

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 opportunities for service.

Second: High ethical standards in business and the professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation to serve society.

Third: The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life.

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional people united in the ideal of service.

Implementing the Object of Rotary: How Our Club is Organized

The Rotary Club of Grants Pass was founded in 1924 with F. Gordon Hart as our first president. Like Rotary worldwide, we change most of our leadership annually.

The Rotary Club of Grants Pass is governed by its officers and directors. These are the President, President Elect, President Nominee (who will become President Elect), Secretary, Treasurer, Immediate Past President plus six directors serving two-year terms.

Three Directors are elected each year and serve overlapping terms thus providing experience and continuity in the leadership. Our club also has the advantage of both a Treasurer and Secretary who have continued to faithfully serve for many years.

Every Rotarian in the Grants Pass club is asked to serve as a member of one or more committees and to join with other Rotarians to help further the projects and programs we undertake.

Generally, Rotarians volunteer for particular committees but sometimes are asked to give their special expertise to the club or the community by their leadership. There are always opportunities for a Rotarian to serve.

Five Avenues of Service

We channel our commitment to service at home and abroad through five Avenues of Service, which are the foundation of club activity.

Club Service

Rotary's first avenue of service involves actions a Rotarian must take within the club to help it function successfully.

In our club, the basic committees are: Program, Public Relations, Sergeant-at-Arms, COGS (weekly bulletin), Rotary Information, Directory, Membership, Fellowship, Hospitality, and Special Events.

Vocational Service

Rotary's second avenue of service includes promoting high ethical standards in businesses and professions, recognizing the worthiness of all useful occupations, and fostering the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations.

The role of the club includes developing projects that help members contribute their talents to meeting society's needs. The role of Rotarians includes conducting themselves and their businesses in accordance with Rotary principles and responding to projects their clubs develop.

Community Service

The third avenue of service comprises varied efforts that Rotarians make to improve the quality of life within their club's locality or municipality.

The major committees working in this avenue are Community Service Projects, Rotary Invitational Track Meet, and Fund Raising (Duck Race).

International Service

Rotary's fourth avenue of service comprises all the things that a Rotarian can do to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace by getting acquainted with people of other countries, their cultures, customs, accomplishments, aspirations, problems - through personal contacts, travel and attendance at conventions, through reading and correspondence, and

through cooperation in all club activities and projects – including those of The Rotary Foundation – that will help people in other lands.

Our committees are World Community Service, Rotary Foundation, Group Study Exchange and Youth Exchange.

Youth Service

The fifth avenue of service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

Applying the Ideal of Service: What Our Club Does

Grants Pass Rotary Club Foundation

The Grants Pass Rotary Club gives about \$10,000 a year to local non-profit organizations.

It also provided the leadership for the formation of the Four Way Community Foundation, the creation of Reinhart Volunteer All Sports Park, Morrison Centennial Sports Park and recently the Josephine County Food Bank's Raptor Creek Farm.

Rotary has sparked or led many other efforts to improve our community, the lives of our fellow citizens and the larger world.

Each May the entire membership is asked to give time and energy helping out at our Rotary Invitational Track Meet. Now over 67 years old, the meet attracts students from over thirty high schools in Oregon and northern California. The students enjoy participating against other top notched competitors almost as much as the beautiful medals and trophies. The meet is regarded as one of the best in the state.

Our “Student of the Year” from each of the local elementary and middle schools is recognized for achievement at a luncheon meeting. The proud parents look on as the school principal extols the student’s virtues.

We also sponsor local high school juniors to the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), a weeklong camp for fellowship and learning leadership skills. Each spring we also contribute a \$2,000 cash scholarship to an outstanding high school graduate from each of the four local schools.

Each year we sponsor one or more high school students to go abroad for a year to live with Rotary families, to attend school, and become acquainted with the young people of that country as well as Rotary Youth Exchange Students from other countries.

At the same time, we are host to one or more students from abroad who live here with Rotarians and other supporting families while studying at local schools and learning about the culture and people of Oregon and the USA. The youth exchange program is the largest of its kind and serves to build lasting

friendships as well as goodwill and understanding worldwide.

Rotary Foundation

The Rotary Foundation is a non-profit corporation whose mission is to support the efforts of the Rotary International in the fulfillment of the Object of Rotary, Rotary's mission, and the achievement of the world understanding and peace through local, national and international humanitarian, educational, and cultural programs.

Rotarians support the Rotary Foundation monetarily and its projects through service. Locally, our members try to maintain 100 percent participation, either by becoming Paul Harris Fellows with a \$1,000 gift, or as Paul Harris Sustaining Members making small annual gifts toward the \$1,000 level.

Paul Harris Fellowships also can be given to non-Rotarians such as a spouse, children, parents or even friends. There are additional opportunities to support Rotary's work through other gifts to the Rotary Foundation.

Worldwide, Rotary has provided more than 3 billion dollars in grants to projects in over 160 countries. Funds are used for youth exchanges and group study exchanges where adult non-Rotarians learn about other people in other parts of the world during a five-week visit to clubs in another Rotary District. We entertain

foreign groups and nominate team members or group leaders from Grants Pass.

Other funds are used for Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) grants, and matching grants to support club and district projects. Our club has helped by providing microscopes and other medical equipment to remote third world villages.

The Rotary Foundation also sponsors other projects such as Polio Plus where Rotarian dollars and time are spent working to stamp out polio and five childhood diseases through inoculation programs around the world.

HISTORY OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

At the 1917 convention, outgoing RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed to set up an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” In 1928, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International.

GROWTH OF THE FOUNDATION

In 1929, the Foundation made its first gift of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. “Daddy” Allen, later grew into Easter Seals. When Rotary founder Paul Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring in to Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation.

In 1947: The Foundation established its first program, Fellowships for Advance Study, later known as Ambassadorial Scholarships.

EVOLUTION OF FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

1965-66: Three programs were launched: Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities in Keeping with the Objective of The Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants.

1978: Rotary introduced the Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants. The first 3-H Grant funded a project to immunize 6 million Philippine children against polio.

1985: The PolioPlus program was launched to eradicate polio worldwide.

1987-88: The first peace forums were held, leading to Rotary Peace Fellowships.

2013: New district, global, and packaged grants enable Rotarians around the world to respond to the world's greatest needs.

Since the first donation of \$26.50 in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions totaling more than \$1 billion. The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. As the charitable arm of Rotary, we tap into a global network of Rotarians who invest their time, money, and expertise into our priorities, such as eradicating polio and promoting peace. Foundation grants empower Rotarians to approach challenges such

as poverty, illiteracy, and malnutrition with sustainable solutions that leave a lasting impact.

Strong financial oversight, a stellar charity rating, and a unique funding model mean that we make the very most of your contribution. Give and become a part of Rotary's life-changing work!

DISTRICT GRANTS

District grants fund smaller, short-term activities that address needs in your community and communities worldwide. Each Rotary district gets to choose which projects it will fund with these grants.

GLOBAL GRANTS

Global grants support large international activities that have sustainable, measurable outcomes in one or more of our areas of focus. Rotarians create their own projects and carry them out. We accept and review applications as they arrive.

PACKAGED GRANTS

Packaged grants are designed by Rotary and our strategic partners. They fund activities that are similar to those for global grants, but the work of designing the activity's general framework has already been done.

Sharing Rotary: How Membership Works

An important distinction between Rotary and other organizations is that membership in Rotary is by invitation. Rotary clubs invite individuals to join and become members.

Membership is vital to a Rotary club's operations and community service activities. A primary goal of the club is to continually expand the club with committed members who have the interest and ability to get involved in service and humanitarian projects.

Prospects for active membership must:

- Hold, or be retired from, a professional, proprietary executive, or managerial position;
- Have the capacity to meet the club's weekly attendance and community project participation requirements;
- Have the financial ability to help support the club with dues and other financial obligations;
- Live or work within the locality of the club or the surrounding area.

A few individuals who would not otherwise qualify for membership are selected as honorary members for distinguished service in furthering Rotary ideals.

Joining Rotary should not be done for commercial purposes, as it is a service club, not a business networking organization. However, there are many opportunities to meet and get to know each other.

Proposing a New Member

There is a standard process for proposing someone for membership in the Rotary Club of Grants Pass.

It begins when a Rotarian believes an individual would qualify as a new member decides to sponsor him or her, and submits a proposal to the club secretary.

The secretary assigns an available classification and forwards the proposal to the Membership Committee.

The Membership Committee verifies the proposed member:

- Meets the above qualifications for membership;
- Has a good reputation both in business and in the community;
- Has no conflicts or commitments, such as an affiliation with another service club, which would interfere with Rotary membership or service.

Based on its review, the Membership Committee recommends either approval or denial to the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors reviews the proposal and either approves or denies. If denied, the proposer will be informed and no further action will be taken. If the Board of Directors approves, the proposal is returned to the Rotary Membership Committee.

One or two members of the Rotary Membership Committee will meet with the sponsor and the proposed new member. The proposed individual is told about the privileges and obligations of Rotary membership and is

asked if he or she wishes to become a Grants Pass Rotarian. If not, that is the end of the matter.

If the proposed expresses interest in becoming a Rotarian, his or her name, business affiliation, proposed classification and sponsor are made known to the entire membership by being published 2 times in the weekly bulletin.

Assuming no Rotarian objects to offering membership to the proposed individual, an invitation to join the Rotary Club of Grants Pass is extended.

As a new Rotarian, your sponsor will introduce you before the club. You'll get your pin and membership packet. You'll be given a Red Badge and information about what needs to be done so that you can "graduate" to your Blue Badge.

Come each week and get to know your fellow Rotarians. Enjoy the programs, volunteer, ask for a committee assignment that appeals to you, ask questions of any of the officers or board members, practice Service Above Self, and most of all enjoy the spirit of Rotary.

If It Is To Be, It Is Up To Me: What is expected of a Rotarian

The success of Rotary is up to every single Rotarian. Service is the goal of Rotary; fellowship and acquaintance are the foundation of which Rotary is built. So being present at Rotary meetings, volunteering time,

energy and expertise, and participating in Rotary activities are expected of all Rotarians.

Every Rotarian is expected to serve on at least one committee. You may either volunteer for a particular committee or be assigned to a committee by the leadership.

You are asked to step up and help with major projects such as the Track Meet and to assist in fundraising by volunteering for the annual Duck Race.

Attendance

Rotarians are expected to attend the weekly meeting or to “makeup” their absences. We encourage 100 percent attendance at the weekly club meeting. However, we know this is not always possible because of schedule conflicts, vacations, and busy lives.

At the very minimum one must attend or make up at least 50 percent of Rotary club meetings (anywhere), cannot miss more than three meetings in a row without a makeup, and attend a minimum of 30 percent of the local club’s meetings each six months.

Making up at another Rotary Club, whether nearby or halfway around the world is a wonderful opportunity to expand acquaintance and celebrate Rotary. A list of area clubs is in the club directory. Please let the club secretary know if you need to report a meeting makeup. When you sign in at any of the Josephine County Rotary clubs meetings, this sheet is automatically sent to the club secretary and notification is not necessary.

Participation in a club project, a committee meeting or attending a board meeting also qualify for attendance credit. Participation is reported by the committee chair to the secretary for an automatic meeting makeup.

If you know you will be traveling, check with the secretary and look at the Rotary International Directory for the meeting place and time in the area you'll be visiting. You can also find this information online at www.rotary.org. You will be welcome at every Rotary club in the world. You have fourteen days before or after a missed meeting to makeup your absence.

If you foresee a problem with your attendance, please speak with a club officer or board member and ask for their ideas. Discussing your situation in advance is always best, whenever possible.

Club members can request a leave of absence in writing to the board of directors. The request should show the time needed for the leave and a brief explanation of the reason. Your request will be discussed at the monthly board meeting.

During this approved leave, you will not be penalized for missing club meetings. However, you will not receive credit for meeting attendance.

Some of the more common reasons for a leave include medical, short-term business challenges, and personal needs.

The club does not like to lose members to poor attendance and will try to encourage those who fall short of the requirements.

A member whose attendance seems to be placing him or her at risk for termination will be alerted to that

fact and encouraged to improve participation. It is, however, the individual responsibility of each Rotarian to meet attendance requirements.

Financial Obligations

There are also financial obligations in being a Rotarian Annual dues are currently \$200 a year. Dues cover the costs of the club's obligation to Rotary International and to District 5110 as well as club administration.

Every Rotarian is asked to make a pledge to the club's charitable efforts. There is no required amount that must be pledged but the suggested donation is \$250. Should a Rotarian not indicate a specific amount, the suggested amount will be assessed.

For tax purposes, funds pledged for the local charitable work are maintained by the Grants Pass Rotary Club Foundation. As noted above, Rotarians are asked to support the work of The Rotary Foundation by becoming Paul Harris Fellows.

There will also be requests for you to support and donate for other things, such as the Duck Race, but participation is not required. Other costs of membership include lunches and fellowship activities.

Making the Most of Rotary: Your Opportunity for Service

As you can tell from the foregoing, being a Rotarian gives you a unique opportunity for service to your community, your vocation, and the world. As you spend time in fellowship with other Rotarians, on projects and in weekly meeting, you'll grow in your acquaintanceship with them and in your familiarity with the lore and trappings of Rotary. Our name badges showing our preferred nicknames indicate our willing acceptance of one another and respect for our differing views and common goals. The six-spoke cogwheel symbolizes the strength and effectiveness of working together. The banners from clubs around the globe transform a plain meeting room into a banquet hall while showing the reach and diversity of Rotary's message and mission.

These emblems all center on the opportunity Rotary presents each member to take the initiative, to extend a hand, to serve a larger ideal, and to have an impact on the human condition, here at home and around the world.

Being a Rotarian is a singular honor and a special obligation. It is up to you to make the most of your opportunity to serve.

The Rotary Club of Grants Pass
PO Box 1201
Grants Pass, OR 97528

Get to meet exchange students from all over the world and help students go to other countries. Then hear about their trips

Hear great presentations including trends in politics and culture

Learn about new members through vocational

Help distribute dictionaries to third graders

Get to sit with other Rotarians who support me for who I am and support them for who they are

Meet my Vet without a sick kitty under my arm

Meet my doctor without having to be treated

Can even have a real conversation with my dentist

Can embarrass myself and laugh with the rest

Can even listen to what is bothering my Garbage-Man besides my own garbage

Learn about updates regarding the Food Bank and the Library

Share the pride of the Students of The Year

Hear High-Schoolers perform for us

Work alongside High School Honor Students

Help get new sports tracks for the schools

Help support people as they make our communities stronger

Visit other Clubs and make new friends

Find out about struggles in other parts of the world

Support clean water for those who need it

Be a small part of a hospital in Nepal

Be part of a global peace effort

Help support the elimination of polio

Most of all, we get to come here and break bread together