



ROTARY CLUB OF MADISON **NEW MEMBER INFORMATION**

The Philosophy of Rotary

(From www.rotary.org)

The vision of Rotary founder Paul Harris was of a club that would kindle friendship among members of the Chicago business community. He wanted to find in the large city the kind of friendly spirit and helpfulness that he had known in the small towns where he had grown up -- the spirit to reach out in service to others less fortunate. Through the subsequent spread of the Rotary movement, the spirit of friendship and service evolved quite naturally into a focus on helping to build goodwill and peace in the world.

It was also Harris's thought that the first club should represent a cross-section of the business and professional life of the community. From this idea developed Rotary's Classification Principle. Admission to Rotary club membership is by invitation, and accepting the invitation represents a personal commitment of the Rotarian to exemplify high ethical standards in one's own vocation or occupation.

As the entity representing the global association of all Rotary clubs, Rotary International's mission is to assist Rotarians and Rotary clubs to accomplish the Object of Rotary, emphasizing service activities by individuals and groups that enhance the quality of life and human dignity, encouraging high ethical standards, and creating greater understanding among all people to advance the search for peace in the world.

The Object of Rotary

(From www.rotary.org)

The main objective of a Rotary club is service -- in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotary International (RI) has developed a broad range of programs designed to help clubs carry out this vital mission. Some of these programs have been underway for many years, while others have been developed more recently to meet emerging needs.

Rotary's community development programs address many of today's most critical issues - - hunger, the environment, literacy, to name a few. RI also offers programs that focus primarily on young people, including service clubs for high school students and young adults, leadership training workshops, and student exchanges. The international component of RI programs enables clubs and districts to assist Rotary efforts abroad and to share information and arrange exchanges with Rotarians in other countries. Vocational concerns figure in many club and district projects designed to promote high ethical standards in the workplace and to help young people and others become and remain productive members of society.

Avenues of Service

(From www.rotary.org)

The term "Five Avenues of Service" is frequently used in Rotary. The "Avenues" refer to the four elements of the Object of Rotary: club service, vocational service, community service and international service. They describe the primary areas of Rotary activity.

Club service involves all of the activities necessary for Rotarians to make their club function successfully. Vocational service is a description of the opportunity each Rotarian has to represent the dignity and utility of one's own vocation to other members of the club. Community service pertains to those activities which Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life in their community. It frequently involves assistance to youth, the aged, the handicapped and others who look to Rotary as a source of hope for a better life. International service describes the many programs and activities which Rotarians undertake to advance international understanding, goodwill and peace. International service projects are designed to meet humanitarian needs of people in many lands.

Important Information about Madison Rotary

Financial Obligations:

Quarterly Dues: Members pay quarterly dues of \$40.00. The dues cover the operational costs of the club including fees paid to District 7470 (includes the district Newsletter, InFlight) and Rotary International (includes the monthly Rotary International magazine)

Meal Charges: Weekly lunches cost \$15.00. Rotarians are billed in advance for meals by the quarter (usually 13 weeks). Credit is given for missed meetings that are made up at other clubs (make-up cards need to be turned in at a weekly meeting). The credit will show up on the next quarterly bill. No credit is given for meetings missed and not made up.

Personal Obligations:

Attendance:

Club meetings are held every Thursday at 12:15 – 1:30 PM at the Madison Hotel or 7:30 AM at the Madison Area YMCA Family Center. Members may attend either meeting. Madison Rotarians are encouraged to maintain 100% attendance; the minimum requirement is 60%. Missed meetings can be “made-up” at one of the many local clubs (district directories is available or for clubs out of the area you can contact www.rotary.org) or at any of the 28,000 clubs worldwide. Meetings should be made up two weeks prior or two weeks after the missed meeting. Meetings that are cancelled (major holidays, etc) do not need to be made up. Meal credit is given for meetings made up (see above).

Personal Obligations (continued):

Committees: Members are encouraged to get involved in the various avenues of service by joining a committee. The major committees are as follows:

- Community Service
- Grants and Sponsorship
- Membership Development
- Fund Raising Projects
- Special Events
- Nominating Committee
- Scholarship Interview
- Public Relations
- Website Development
- Other Committees and task forces as needed

Annual 50/50:

In order to provide support to our extensive charitable giving program the club runs an annual 50/50. Six Hundred tickets are sold for \$100 each. After the prize money (\$30,000 to several winners) and other expenses the raffle nets around \$30,000 for our charity fund. It is the expectation that each member sell at least four tickets.

Community Events:

The Madison Rotary Club has a very high profile Madison especially with the various community events. Members are encouraged to participate in as many events as possible. Examples of some of these events include selling food at Bottle Hill and Community Days, the Christmas Parade and participating in Madison cleanup day, Columbia Day, Shred It. Members are also encouraged to extend their volunteer commitment by working with and supporting community organizations.

Classification Talk:

Sometime during the first six months each new member is asked to do a classification talk. This is an opportunity for the new member to tell the club about themselves as well as their "classification." These talks typically are about 8 minutes long.

Other Information:

Board of Directors:

The board of directors serves as the governing body for the club. The board consists of the officers elected for one year terms and two classes of directors, each serving two year terms

Madison Rotary Club Foundation:

On September 20, 1995 the Madison Rotary Club Foundation became operational. The foundation is a separate not-for-profit corporation (501(c)(3)) that enables members (and others) to make tax-deductible donations in order to support the various Madison Rotary charities (must also be 501(c)(3)). The Foundation board of trustees, made up of past club presidents, oversees the operations of the Foundation.

Red Badge:

New members will receive a name badge with a red tag signifying their "rookie" status. The red badge serves as a reminder for other members to introduce themselves to the newcomers. The Red Badge can be retired by one of two ways; the first is to accumulate 90 points in the Red Badge Program the other is to wait one year, when it will be retired automatically. All new members should receive a Red Badge Program Flyer.

Sponsors: New members should take advantage of their sponsors. The sponsor's role does not end at the new member's induction into the club. Sponsors can be a resource for club information, a buddy to go with on the first make-up at another club, and the "introducer" to the club for the new member.

New Members:

Once a new member is settled into life in Madison Rotary they are encouraged to tell others about the club and to recruit new members. Prospective members can be invited for one lunch on the club. Proposal cards for a prospective member can be attained from the Membership committee chair.

Getting the Most out of Rotary:

You have just joined one of the strongest service clubs in the area. Get involved with committees, programs, and community events. Attend district activities including District Assemblies (which you have already paid for your first one). Enjoy the social aspect of Rotary not only at the weekly lunch meetings and special club events but also but visiting other clubs (near and far).

