



Handy Primer for New Members

March 2015

Handy Primer for New Members

This document is intended for new Rotarians as a way to familiarize them with Rotary International, The Rotary Foundation and the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor.

Comments on the contents and suggestions for changes, rearrangements and formats are welcome.

Please contact John White (734-662-1734 or administrator@annarborrotary.org) with your inputs. Thanks.

The Mission of Rotary International



We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.

A One-Sentence Definition of Rotary

"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."

The Rotary Motto

"Service Above Self"

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.

The Four-Way Test

In 1932, Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created The Four-Way Test, a code of ethics adopted by Rotary 11 years later. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

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?

Rotary's Five Avenues of Service

Based on the Object of Rotary, the Avenues of Service are Rotary's philosophical cornerstone and the foundation on which club activity is based:

- **Club Service** focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club.
- **Vocational Service** encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards.
- **Community Service** covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community.
- **International Service** encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.
- **Youth Service**, the fifth Avenue of Service, recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities, involvement in community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

Rotary Code of Conduct

As a Rotarian, I will

- **EXEMPLIFY** the core value of integrity in behaviors and activities
- **USE** my vocational experience and talents to serve in Rotary
- **CONDUCT** all my personal, business and professional affairs ethically, encouraging and fostering high ethical standards as an example to others
- **BE FAIR** in all dealings with others and treat them with the respect due to them as fellow human beings.
- **PROMOTE** recognition and respect for all occupations which are useful to society
- **OFFER** my vocational talents: to provide opportunities for young people, to work for the relief of the special needs of others and to improve the quality of life in my community.
- **HONOR** the trust that Rotary and fellow Rotarians provide and not do anything that will bring disfavor or reflect adversely on Rotary or fellow Rotarians.
- **NOT SEEK** from a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship.

Rotary International's Strategic Plan (effective July 1, 2010)

Support and Strengthen Clubs

- Foster club innovation and flexibility
- Encourage clubs to participate in a variety of service activities
- Promote membership diversity
- Improve member recruitment and retention
- Develop leaders
- Start new, dynamic clubs
- Encourage strategic planning at club and district levels

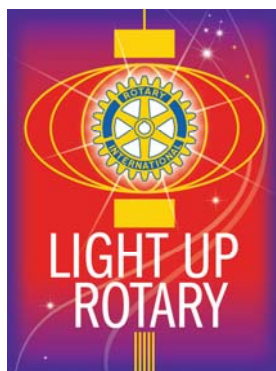
Focus and Increase Humanitarian Service

- Eradicate polio
- Increase sustainable service focused on:
 - New Generations Service programs
 - The Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus
- Increase collaboration and connection with other organizations
- Create significant projects both locally and internationally

Enhance Public Image and Awareness

- Unify image and brand awareness
- Publicize action-oriented service
- Promote core values
- Emphasize vocational service
- Encourage clubs to promote their networking opportunities and signature activities

The Rotary Theme for 2014-2015



Paul Harris Fellow

An individual who contributes, or in whose honor or memory there is contributed, a gift of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Each additional \$1,000 results in a higher level. The fellowship is named after Paul Harris, the founder of Rotary.

The History of Rotary International

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on February 23, 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread, and within a decade, clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York to Winnipeg, Canada. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents. The organization adopted the Rotary International name a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving club members' professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self.



The first four Rotarians: (*from left*) Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, and Paul P. Harris
Courtesy of Rotary Images

By 1925, Rotary had grown to 2,000 clubs with more than 108,000 members. The organization's distinguished reputation attracted presidents, prime ministers, and a host of other luminaries to its ranks.

In 1932, Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created The Four-Way Test, a code of ethics adopted by Rotary 11 years later. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

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?

During World War II, many clubs were forced to disband, while others stepped up their service efforts to provide emergency relief to victims of the war. In 1942, looking ahead to the postwar era, Rotarians called for a conference to promote international educational and cultural exchanges. This event inspired the founding of UNESCO.

In 1945, 49 Rotary club members served in 29 delegations to the UN Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and covering the United Nations in its publications.

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In 1962, the first Interact club was formed. Interact is a service club for youth ages 12-18 (14-18 until recently). Clubs benefit from the sponsorship of local Rotary clubs which provide support and guidance. Interact clubs are self-governing and self-supporting and can be either school or community based. Interact's name is a combination of the words international and action.



In 1968, Rotary International initiated Rotaract, a service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30 who are dedicated to community and international service. Like Interact, Rotaract clubs are self-governing and self-supporting and are sponsored by local Rotary clubs. They can be either university-based or community-based.

In 1989, the organization voted to admit women into clubs worldwide. Today, women are an integral part of Rotary's membership.

As it approached the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet society's changing needs, expanding its service efforts to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk.

After the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Rotary clubs were formed or re-established throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The first Russian Rotary club was chartered in 1990, and the organization underwent a growth spurt for the next several years.

More than a century after Paul Harris and his colleagues chartered the club that eventually led to Rotary International, Rotarians continue to take pride in their history. In honor of that first club, Rotarians have preserved its original meeting place,



Room 711 in Chicago's Unity Building, by re-creating the office as it existed in 1905. For several years, the Paul Harris 711 Club maintained the room as a shrine for visiting Rotarians. In 1989, when the building was scheduled to be demolished, the club carefully dismantled the office and salvaged the interior, including doors and radiators. In 1993, the RI Board of Directors set aside a permanent home for the restored Room 711 on the 16th floor of RI World Headquarters in nearby Evanston.

Today, 1.2 million Rotarians belong to over 34,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Around the globe, there are over 350,000 Interactors in almost 16,000 clubs and over 130,000 Rotaractors in nearly 6,000 clubs.

The History of The Rotary Foundation



Arch C. Klumph,
founder of The Rotary
Foundation,
circa 1916

In 1917, RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed that an endowment be set up “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than \$5,000, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to “hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property . . . as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI.”

Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization, created by Rotarian Edgar F. “Daddy” Allen, later grew into the Easter Seals.

The Great Depression and World War II both impeded the Foundation’s growth, but the need for lasting world peace generated great postwar interest in its development. After Rotary’s founder, Paul P. Harris, died in 1947, contributions began pouring into Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation.

That year, the first Foundation program – the forerunner of Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships – was established. In 1965-66, three new 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. Ambassadorial Scholars are now known as Global Grant Scholars.

The Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants program was launched in 1978, and Rotary Volunteers was created as a part of that program in 1980. PolioPlus was announced in 1984-85, and the next year brought Rotary Grants for University Teachers . The first peace forums were held in 1987-88, leading to the Foundation's peace and conflict studies programs.

Throughout this time, support of the Foundation grew tremendously. Since the first donation of \$26.50 in 1917, it has received contributions totaling more than \$1 billion. More than \$70 million was donated in 2003-04 alone. To date, more than one million individuals have been recognized as Paul Harris Fellows – people who have given \$1,000 to the Annual Programs Fund or have had that amount contributed in their name.

Such strong support, along with Rotarian involvement worldwide, ensures a secure future for The Rotary Foundation as it continues its vital work for international understanding and world peace.

The Rotary Foundation's Six Areas of Focus

The Trustees of The Rotary Foundation have identified six Areas of Focus which reflect critical humanitarian issues and needs that Rotarians are addressing worldwide. They align Rotary with other international developmental efforts and strategically further the mission of The Rotary Foundation.

1. Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to promote their practice of peace and conflict prevention/resolution by:

- a. Training leaders, including potential youth leaders, to prevent and mediate conflict
- b. Supporting peace-building in communities and regions affected by conflict
- c. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to peace and conflict prevention/resolution

2. Disease Prevention and Treatment

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to prevent disease and promote health by:

- a. Improving the capacity of local health care professionals
- b. Promoting disease prevention programs, with the goal of limiting the spread of communicable diseases and reducing the incidences of and complications from non-communicable diseases
- c. Enhancing the health infrastructure of local communities
- d. Educating and mobilizing communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases
- e. Preventing physical disability resulting from disease or injury
- f. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to disease prevention and treatment

3. Water and Sanitation

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to ensure that people have sustainable access to water and sanitation by:

- a. Providing equitable community access to safe water, improved sanitation, and hygiene
- b. Strengthening the ability of communities to develop, fund and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems
- c. Supporting programs that enhance communities' awareness of the benefits of safe water, sanitation and hygiene
- d. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to water and Sanitation

4. Maternal and Child Health

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to improve the health of mothers and their children by:

- a. Reducing the mortality and morbidity rate for children under the age of five
- b. Reducing the maternal mortality and morbidity rate
- c. Improve access to essential medical services, trained community health leaders, and health care providers for mothers and their children
- d. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to maternal and child Health

5. Basic Education and Literacy

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to ensure that all people have sustainable access to basic education and literacy by:

- a. Involving the community to support programs that strengthen the capacity of communities to provide basic education and literacy to all
- b. Increasing adult literacy in communities
- c. Working to reduce gender disparity in education
- d. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to basic education and literacy

6. Economic and Community Development

The Rotary Foundation enables Rotarians to invest in people by creating sustainable, measurable, and long-term economic improvements in their communities and livelihoods by:

- a. Building the capacity of entrepreneurs, community leaders, local organizations, and community networks to support economic development in impoverished communities
- b. Developing opportunities for productive work
- c. Reducing poverty in underserved communities
- d. Supporting studies for career-minded professionals related to economic and community development

Mission Statement for the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor



The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor encourages, fosters, and implements the ideals of Rotary International in our local community and throughout the world in ways that enhance the quality of life and human dignity, create greater understanding among all people, and advance the search for peace. In all of our activities, we will abide by the highest ethical standards and always be guided by the Rotary principle of "Service Above Self."

The Vision for the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor, comprised of dynamic and caring people who demonstrate the principle of "Service Above Self," makes a significant difference in the local community and beyond.

Defining Characteristics for the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor

The Club's leadership and its members believe that, by implementing this plan, the Club will continue its growth and, by the end of the planning period, it will be characterized by the following statements:

We Serve Our Community: The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor will expand and publicize its service role in the community, demonstrating its impact on areas of critical need to the City and its citizens, and especially to the community's youth. Whenever feasible, Rotary members will be active participants in this work.

We Serve Our World: The Club will increase its International Service work by organizing and funding multiple international humanitarian projects per year, sometimes partnering with other domestic Rotary clubs. The Club will encourage its members to engage in international contacts and especially to travel to Rotary sites outside the United States. The Club will make substantial contributions to the final phase of Rotary International's global polio eradication project.

We Involve Our Members: The Club will foster a welcoming ambience at its meetings, engage and educate its members through its weekly programs, offer opportunities for fellowship and service through its many committees and social events, and provide effective communication channels to inform the membership about the Club's multiple opportunities for involvement. Every member will have a specific role in one or more of the Club's activities.

We Select Our Members: The Club will recruit new members by promoting its ongoing programs and active service opportunities. Its membership will be diverse, reflecting all facets of the community. Recruitment will focus on the past, current, and future leaders of local businesses and nonprofit organizations and on faculty and staff of the University of Michigan. Younger members will be welcomed, their needs considered, and their opinions valued in the Club's deliberations.

We Fit In Rotary's World: The Club will foster cooperative work and programs with other local Rotary clubs and will support the work of District 6380 and Rotary International as it demonstrates leadership in Rotary at all levels.

We Fund Our Vision: The Club members will provide sufficient financial resources to support the multiple activities envisioned in this plan through the Club's dues structure and fundraising activities. In addition, within their own means and based on their charitable inclinations, each member will continue to contribute to both the Ann Arbor Rotary Endowment and The Rotary Foundation. The Club will develop a long-term strategy to increase the financial resources available to support its service work.

The History of the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor

The year was 1916, Woodrow Wilson was in the White House and won a second term in the November election. The Michigan Union was under construction and late in the year provided temporary barracks and mess hall for soldiers training on campus. Also in 1916, Rotary came to Ann Arbor. Dr. Theron S. Langford, a surgeon, took steps to have an Ann Arbor club after learning of Rotary from a Toledo acquaintance. The nucleus for the new organization was Langford, the Rev. Lloyd C. Douglas, pastor of the First Congregational Church and later famed author of "Magnificent Obsession," "The Robe" and five other volumes. Other members included Harlan H. Johnson, editor of the Ann Arbor Times-News; Charles Sink, secretary of the School of Music at U-M; and Shirley Smith, Secretary of the University of Michigan. These five originally met to plan the new club in April, 1916. The group had grown to 15 when the club was fully organized on July 21. Their occupations included: landlord, abstractor, attorney, business manager, efficiency engineer, insurance, motor manufacturing, farmer, banker and steel ball manufacturing.

Rotary International permitted only one person per occupation, so classifications became a problem. Other problems through the years were tardiness at meetings, maintaining required attendance level, lack of Rotary spirit for the club itself and for the ideals of Rotary, how to handle political speeches, how to limit verbosity, departure of large numbers just before the main speaker of the day, and delinquent dues (Sound familiar?)

Service to our own community and beyond has always been one of the precepts of Rotary. In our records the first mention of a service project was less than a year after the founding. Our Club spent \$125 to purchase a horse for Col. A.C. Pack, the commanding officer of the military unit on campus and sent \$123.50 to aid French war

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orphans. In addition to gifts of money, in the 1920s the Club acted as a political action committee (PAC) and sent serious resolutions to government and other agencies. We sent a resolution to President Warren Harding stating "full accord with all legitimate efforts by government to secure deeper respect for the prohibition laws," to the governor of Michigan to halt the wholesale destruction of Michigan forests by the Christmas tree industry, and to the District Governor to use his influence to prevent drunken and rowdy behavior at the District Conference in Flint. (We assume these raucous delegates were not from Ann Arbor).

The beginning of the 1930s saw Rotary, and everyone else, affected by the Great Depression. Farmers were especially in trouble. In an effort to help these folks, Ann Arbor Rotary held annual social events and invited local farmers and their wives. Records show that around 75 farmers and their wives would accept this invitation.

The first meeting place for the Ann Arbor Rotary Club was the Catalpa Inn, located at the corner of Ann Street and Fourth Avenue. With the ending of the war in 1918 and the departure of service men who were billeted and fed at the Michigan Union, Rotary moved into the large facility, which had been completed just the year before. The club continued to meet at that location until it was interrupted by another war in 1942 when the Union was again appropriated for war-related activities. For 14 years the club met at the Allene Hotel which stood at the corner of Fourth Avenue and Huron, with its limited space, dark paneling and no air conditioning. The chief advantage of the Allene, aside from its availability, was that it was two blocks west of Division St. In this location it was two blocks west of the dry line that kept the University area free from serving liquor, hence the name Division Street. At the Allene it was possible to have a beer or cocktail with lunch. Wine wasn't considered a man's drink in those years. By 1956 the post World War II explosive student population leveled off and Rotary left the Allene and moved back to the Michigan Union to the recently completed wing that includes the Anderson room.

During the decade of the 1970s, an attempt was made to add variety to meetings by having catered luncheons at various sites that were the subject of the Wednesday program. These included the remodeled Michigan Stadium press box, Washtenaw Community College, Washtenaw County Service Center and Jail, the new St. Joseph Mercy Hospital, Baird Carillon, the new Power Center for Performing Arts (built through the generosity of Rotarian Eugene Power), and the Lutheran Retirement Center, now known as Glacier Hills. As interesting as these excursions were, attendance was always less than when we met at the Union. In the 1980s there were two truly significant developments that changed our club and influence in the community. In 1984, John Rosemergy, Joe Payne and Frank Kennedy initiated a permanent Endowment Fund. Traditionally, half of our yearly dues that were paid in December was allocated to charities, hence tax deductible. The June portion of our dues was for Club operations (non deductible). The downside of this longstanding tradition was that our funds for charities were quite small compared to national averages in per capita Rotary giving. We gave smaller dollar amounts than many smaller Rotary clubs which developed annual fund raising projects. An endowment fund raising campaign was begun in 1985 with a goal of \$70,000 by our 70th anniversary in October, 1986. That goal was achieved!

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The other development in the 1980s was the admission of women to membership. Our club first admitted women in February, 1988 (Gloria Kerry and Diane Farber). This was two years before Rotary International deleted the all-male restriction at the Stockholm International Convention in 1990. Behind this progressive posture there is an anecdote. During the late 1970s and early 1980s, the issue of women members always came up at the annual International Convention. At the 1980 Convention, the amendment was defeated by a majority of 60 percent against admission and 40 percent for admission. It was not surprising since as an international organization, women in some of these countries had low status outside the home. Before that 1980 Convention a straw vote was taken in our club and the results mirrored those of the international meeting: 60 percent against and 40 percent for the admission of women. Admitting women did make some things different in the Club. When the Rotary membership directory was published, the day and month of members' birthdays was recorded, but, for the first time in our history, the year of birth of noticeably absent. Our first female president was elected in 1993, Elaine Didier.

Over the past fifteen years there have been several changes. First of all Rotary has received national and international attention for its Polio Plus projects, aimed at eradicating polio around the world. And our Club has been recognized for its support of the Rotary International Foundation and literacy projects at the district and zone level. From World War II to the 1960s, membership in the Ann Arbor Rotary grew to around 200. Commensurate with the city's growth the need for another Rotary Club in Ann Arbor was apparent. With our assistance, the Ann Arbor North Club was chartered on December 26, 1967, during the presidency of Jim Brinkerhoff. We also helped found the Briarwood Club (later renamed as "Ann Arbor Sunrise") which was chartered in 1990. Unfortunately, it failed in 2010. Our membership now is over 300 with a gradual rise in the average age of members.

We now have increased committee activities; two high school Interact clubs; a Rotaract Club at the University of Michigan and another that is community-based, and an expanded International Committee supporting many projects around the world. The Allocations committee continues our social service giving and food is collected to fill the Food Gatherers pantry. Rotary Readers has expanded to include math as well as reading, with over 40 volunteers. It includes two elementary schools, Angell and Burns Park.

We have just held our annual golf outing with the proceeds supporting Success by 6, the replacement of trees from the devastation of the Emerald Ash Borer and scholarships supporting outstanding students from local high schools and the STRIVE program at Stone School. Overall, we are 95 years strong and leading the way!

For additional information, go to www.annarborrotary.org