

***The New Member's ABC's***  
***of the***  
***Rotary Club of Barboursville***



***Montani Semper Liberi !***

**The New Member's ABC's of the Rotary Club of Barboursville**

**dedicated to the memory of**

**PDG Patrick J. Thomas,  
1948 – 2010**



**D7550, 1998 – 1999**

**Rotarian of the Year: 1998 – 1999**

**President: 1992 – 1993**

**Paul Harris Fellow**

**Rotary Club of Barboursville: 1988 - 2010**

**My Sponsor**

## **The New Member's ABC's of the Rotary Club of Barboursville**

The original **ABC's of Rotary** were created by Cliff Dochterman. These short articles about Rotary were first published in the weekly bulletin of the Rotary Club of North Stockton, California, originally called "Did Ya Know?" The pieces were prepared to share interesting facts about Rotary International with members of the North Stockton club. When their author, Cliff Dochterman, became President of Rotary International in 1992-93, the articles were collected and published as The ABCs of Rotary. The collection provides a guide for Rotarians to the colorful history of their organization, its customs and traditions and the some of its global programs. (An online search will provide multiple sites with this most valuable document.)

What follows is a respectful supplement to Cliff's original masterwork, created to give new Members of the Rotary Club of Barboursville a resource which will answer some questions that they might have. They first appeared in the Club's newsletter as "New Members' Minute: Exploring The Many Aspects of Rotary So You Can Be Involved" edited by Ken Jaskot.

While some items are original, many articles are taken and/or adapted from Cliff's original work and numerous other Rotary sources.

The "New Member's ABC's" may be reprinted in Rotary club bulletins or otherwise presented as Rotary information in suitable formats. Clubs are encouraged to adapt articles to best meet their particular needs and requirements.

(Revised: 10/20/16)

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**Attendance:** Each member of our club should foster an ideal toward attendance expressed by a Rotarian who said: "When Rotary Club meeting day comes around, I do not have to decide whether to attend or not, for that has already been decided for me. It was one of the obligations I accepted when I joined Rotary." Each member should attend this club's regular meetings. A member shall be counted as attending a regular meeting if the member is present for at least 60% of the meeting. Regular attendance at weekly Club meetings is an expectation of Rotary and a foundation of Rotary's success. A member must (1) attend or make up at least 50 percent of Club regular meetings or engage in club projects, other events and activities for at least 12 hours in each half of the year, or a proportionate combination of both; (2) attend at least 30 percent of our Club's regular meetings or engage in our Club's projects, other events and activities in each half of the year.

For example, if there are 25 scheduled meetings in half the Rotary year (July to December, January to June), you must attend at least 8 meetings, and make up at least 5 additional meetings. Notices for make ups should be in writing. They may be brought to a club meeting or sent to: Rotary Club of Barboursville, Attention: Secretary, P. O. Box 395, Barboursville, WV 25504 or [wcrabtree@fja-cpas.com](mailto:wcrabtree@fja-cpas.com)

Please note: Missing and failing to make up four consecutive regular Club meetings can lead to termination of membership.

There are several reasons why Rotary promotes regular attendance. Most important among these is the fact that one of the pillars of a good Rotary club is strong Fellowship. The more cohesive the club is, the more it is likely to do. But there is another reason why your regular attendance is important. By not having lunch with us, you can be costing the club money!

We have an agreement with Guyan to pay each week a minimum of 30 lunches. This is an entirely fair and reasonable obligation, given the fact that an adequate amount of food must be prepared for us, regardless of how many folks actually come to the meeting. If, for example, only 20 Rotarians attend, the club must pay \$110 from our operational funds to meet our obligation. While this example is fortunately extreme, it does stress the point. (And we must also pay for the speaker's lunch.) Rot-a-lot (another reason to play) does help for some of our lunch losses, as does Happy Dollar (another reason to share), or whenever we have an in-meeting raffle (something to think of when you have something cool). But on many days when we have less than 30 Rotarians, these things do not generate enough to cover the tab.

So please make a mental note that having lunch once a week with a group of friends is a good habit to keep because it makes our club stronger, and helps to keep our funds doing what their supposed to do!

The **Charity Golf Tournament** has been our Club's major annual fundraiser for over 20 years. It is responsible for the majority of our charitable budget each year, on average \$15,000 to \$20,000. Although other fundraisers are held yearly as well, none of them produce the amount of revenue that the Golf Tournament does. In recent years, the tournament is held in early June at the Esquire Golf Club in Barboursville. Various levels of sponsorship are offered, and Members are responsible for securing sponsors and golfers, as well as securing "goodies" to be distributed to the golfers at the tournament. Traditionally, a breakfast, an on-course lunch, and a dinner at the Awards Banquet are provided, as well as on-course beverages. The Golf Committee is responsible for the organization, but all Members need to provide assistance in this most important event for our Club.

**CHOICES.** An annual hands-on project of our Club for many years at Barboursville Middle School, the mission of CHOICES is to empower students with vital tools that will increase their career and life opportunities. In two hour-long sessions, business and community volunteers take students through real-world exercises on academic self-discipline, time and money management and goal setting.

The CHOICES Workshop is composed of several modules:

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**Factors Influencing Self:** Recognize how many factors influence students' lives. Determine how many factors can be controlled. Identify self-discipline as the most important factor. Consider what self-discipline means to participants.

**The CHOICES Challenge:** Learn that every decision has a consequence. Understand that choices made about education have both short and long-term consequences.

**Time Management:** Discover how many free time hours are available each week. Consider the benefits of doing homework in light of the free time available.

**Money Management:** Discover how much money it takes to live on one's own. Realize the possible long-term impacts of dropping out of school.

**School Decisions & Career Consequences:** Realize the numerous ways a career can be rewarding. Make a clear connection between student's level of education and the number and variety of career options available to them.

**Connections Between School And Work:** Identify the five building blocks of success and the reward they can provide; types of classes, grades earned, attendance, free time activities, relationships, and time activities. Understand that there is a connection between what is expected at school and what will be expected at work.

**Future Impact:** Discover how today's decisions impact many others besides themselves in the future. Realize that they can make an enormous difference in the lives of their people.

**My Plan To Take Charge Of My Life:** Review the main point in each segment of the CHOICES program. Learn a method to set goals and make a plan to achieve them. Set one initial goal for their education and plan the steps needed to accomplish.

**Classification System:** Rotary is unique among service clubs in having a classification system designed to promote a membership which represents a broad cross-section of the businesses and professions in the community. Therefore, active club members are classified by vocation. Originally only one person in any particular classification could belong to a Rotary club. Over the years this restriction has been relaxed somewhat.

A member's classification does not represent his or her particular position within a company or profession, but rather describes the work the member does. Classifications are shown on members' name badges. Retired members and members who were previous Rotarians in other clubs do not count toward classification limits.

Rotary International does not maintain a general or standard list of classifications due to ever changing landscape of professional work and unique commercial environments. Classifications are not rigid but flexible to reflect the various positions or professions in the area. By limiting active membership by classifications, each club becomes a cross-section of the business and professional life of the community it serves. Also, the classification principle makes sure that no one profession or business becomes the dominant force within the club.

Another benefit of the classification system is that representatives of many fields are brought together, providing the opportunity for Rotarians to broaden their knowledge of the contemporary workplace. This, in turn, enables Rotarians to fulfill one of the basic obligations of vocational service – recognizing the worthiness to society of all useful occupations.

A club shall not elect a person to active membership from a classification if the club already has five or more members from that classification, unless the club has more than 50 members, with no classification making up more than 10 percent of the club's active membership.

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Members who are retired are not included in the total number of members in a classification. If a member changes classification, the club may continue the member's membership under the new classification notwithstanding these limitations.

**Classification Talks** are a long-standing feature in many Rotary Clubs throughout the world. This practice began in the earliest years of Rotary and in its founding principles, networking, fellowship and professional ethics. A classification talk by a Member gives insight into their business and careers, their methods, and into their personality and character. After such a presentation, the Club has a better understanding not only of the Member, but of their profession as well. This promoted the business to everyone in the Club, one of the earliest benefits of being a Rotarian. Also, since Rotary Clubs seek representatives of many fields for Membership, this provides the opportunity for Rotarians to broaden their knowledge of the contemporary workplace. Over the years, community service became the main and sometimes only focus of many Rotary Clubs, to the point where open discussion of one's business was frowned upon and Vocational Service became the "forgotten" Avenue of Rotary. (Our Club was such a Club.) Forward-looking Rotarians are currently reinforcing the value of this avenue, particularly as we court younger Members who are still in the formative years of their careers and can gain real value from a Club with strong vocational programs.

Some of the things that can be included in a classification talk: A brief history of your career, including why you chose your particular business or profession. Where you work now. Where you have worked before. What your business does or sells. How long you have been there. What you do for the company or position. Any special items you sell or special services your company does. What makes your company special. Business History: how long its been there. Any business travels to other countries or places. How often. The parts of your job you find most rewarding and most difficult. (Don't be afraid to express personal feelings.) Standards of practice within your field. Current challenges facing your profession. The ethical issues you face in your work. Insights into the community that you gain from your work. The characteristics most needed for success in your business or profession. The changes that technology, regulations, environmental factors, and other outside forces have generated in your field. A forecast of employment opportunities in your field for the coming decade. Educational requirements for entry-level jobs in your vocation. The advice you would give to young people thinking of entering your career field. And remember that you are not only speaking to the Members attending the meeting. They all have family and friends who may find your insights helpful.

**Club Banners** and Exchanges. One of the more colorful traditions of Rotary is the exchange of club banners. Rotarians traveling to distant and not-so distant locations often take banners to exchange at meetings as a token of friendship. Many clubs use the decorative banners they have received for attractive displays at club meetings and district events.

The approximately 20,000 banners in the Rotary History and Archives collection reflect clubs' hometown pride and their connection with the international organization.

In addition to incorporating the Rotary emblem, banners often include symbols or imagery of a club's town, region, or country. Others represent local craftsmanship or cultural traditions by displaying leatherwork, weaving, embroidery, or hand-painted designs.

Exchanging club banners is a very pleasant custom, especially when a creative and artistic banner tells an interesting story of community pride. The exchange of banners is a significant tradition of Rotary and serves as tangible symbol of our international fellowship.

**Club Committees.** Our Club has a committee structure which includes: Club Administration, Membership, Public Relations, Service Projects, Fund-Raising, Foundation, and arguably the most important committee, Golf, which is responsible for putting on our yearly Charity Golf Tournament, which raises, the majority of funds for the Club's charitable activities. Every member is encouraged to be an active committee member. This is a good way, especially for a new member, to get involved and get to

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know other members. It is suggested that you bring this topic up with others at your lunch table to help you form an opinion of which committee would best suit you. Find—or create—something to do that will allow you to do something that is close to your heart.

Recent **Club Donations**: (“Hands-On” indicates projects with active Members’ participation as well as monetary donations)

ACS - Relay for Life  
Barboursville Elementary Multiple Years Hands-On  
Barboursville Little League Multiple Years  
Barboursville School Multiple Years Hands-On  
Big Brothers, Big Sisters Multiple Years Hands-On  
Boy Scout Camp  
Barboursville First United Methodist Church  
Cabell County Special Olympics  
Cabell Midland Choir Multiple Years  
Cabell Midland Interact Multiple Years Hands-On  
Cabell Midland Scholarship Multiple Years Hands-On  
Children's Home Society of WV Multiple Years  
Choices Multiple Years Hands-On  
Christmas Angels  
Christmas Shopping for Kids Multiple Years Hands-On  
City Mission Multiple Years Hands-On  
Davis Creek Pre-School Planting Program  
Dictionary Project Multiple Years Hands-On  
Easter Baskets Barboursville School Multiple Years Hands-On  
ECCHO Multiple Years Hands-On  
Faith In Action Multiple Years  
Future Business Leaders of America  
Gym Nest Boosters Multiple Years  
Helping Hands Barboursville Middle School  
Huntington High Choir Multiple Years  
Huntington Outdoor Theatre Multiple Years  
Huntington VMAC Homestarter Kits  
Japan Student GSE  
Jeffrey George Comfort House  
Jonathan Decker/Eagle Scout  
Little Victories Multiple Years  
MCTC - Brick  
MCTC Scholarships Multiple Years  
National Student Leadership Conference-Jacob B.  
Nicaragua Education, Shelter & Health Fund (NESH) Multiple Years Hands-On  
Rocky Ledges Day Camp  
Cabell-Wayne Coalition of Rotary Clubs Multiple Years Hands-On  
Rotary Club of Pune Riverside, India  
Rotary Foundation - Polio Plus Multiple Years Hands-On  
ShelterBox Hati  
Shelter Box Multiple Years  
The Dictionary Project Multiple Years Hands-On  
The Healing Field/100 Flags  
Underwood House  
Walk for Women-WVBCCC Multiple Years Hands-On

**Club Independence.** Although Rotary is a worldwide organization that is more than 100 years old, it is remarkably democratic in its structure. While there is a Rotary International organization with offices and staff that provides an organizing function and some joint purpose and focus, there is no real supremacy of

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RI over the Club. RI provides a basic Standard Rotary Club Constitution that the Club must accept, but that has remarkably few requirements within it. The Club actually forms itself, under District supervision, as a mostly autonomous unit, with near total individuality from RI authority. A Club once chartered may direct itself as it sees fit, given certain basic requirements as to dues and reporting, basic structure and non-political status. A Club is free to pursue its work without pre-approval from any other authority, provided it does nothing that improperly or inappropriately involves the brand which then may invite RI's intervention and action. The sole "official" RI representative, the District Governor, does have the authority to judge a Club's behavior and seek redress.

A Rotarian is also provided a remarkable amount of freedom, to define what it means to be a Rotarian and what actions can be taken using the name Rotarian. The Club does have responsibility for its members. A Club may choose to support a member's idea or not, but it cannot easily prevent that member from pursuing the development of that idea with other Rotarians, as long as such efforts are within "acceptable" Rotary interests and concerns.

**Club Governance.** Our Club's governing structure is a remarkably independent blend of Rotary International rules and our own determination. As pointed out elsewhere in these ABCs, the requirements of RI are few and limited, allowing Rotary Clubs almost total discretion in how it is formed and operates. RI provides a standard Constitution that all Rotary Clubs must adopt, but it is more general than specific in its language and intent. Among the items included in the Constitution are the Object of Rotary, the Five Avenues of Service, Membership requirements, and Attendance requirements. Our own Membership then develops and adopts a set of Bylaws which is much more specific and really is the primary governing document of our Club. Among the items included in the Bylaws are Election practices, the Duties of Officers, and the responsibilities of various Club Committees. It is both the Constitution and the Bylaws which form the basis of a Rotary Club.

It is an elected Board which is the governing body of the Club, and is charged with both the day-to-day and the long term wellbeing of the Club, so that the majority of Club Members and Club meetings are freed from concern of such details unless otherwise necessary, as determined by the two governing documents. Elections are held annually the first meeting in December, with a call for nominations at the first meeting in November. The elected Board consists of the President, the President-Elect (PE), the President-Designate (PD), the immediate Past President (PP), the Secretary, the Treasurer, and four Directors. At any given election, nominations are solicited for the President-Designate, the Secretary, the Treasurer, and two Board members, since the Board Directors are elected to two year terms which are staggered. Since both the Secretary and the Treasurer tend to remain incumbents, the election is really for three new individuals to assume a 4 year commitment for the President-Designate, and a two year commitment for the two Board members.

In our Club, the President is the head of the Board, is responsible for conducting the weekly meetings, and is charged with overseeing the operations of the Club for the year. The President-Elect is responsible for the fund-raising for the year. The President-Designate is responsible for providing the programs for the year, and serves as the Board's liaison with the various committees. Under the guidance of the Board, how these individuals realize their responsibilities is at their own discretion.

Various committees are formed to perform other necessary functions to further the goals and activities of the Club.

**Club Officers.** Each year in December, the Club elects Club officers for the upcoming Rotary year, which is July 1 to June 30. The office of President, President-Elect, President-Designate, Secretary, Treasurer, and Director are the elected positions. Members tend to serve as Secretary and Treasurer for numerous years. Four Directors are elected for two year terms and are overlapping in their terms. The Sergeant-At-Arms is appointed and is a non-voting Member of the Board.

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**Club Service** is one of the Avenues of Service in Rotary. The others are Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service and Youth 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 focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by robust relationships and an active membership. Often overlooked among the Five Avenues, because of its arguably narrow focus, it is considered by some to be the most important of the Avenues: it emphasizes on making the club, the basis of all Rotary, more effective and productive, which in turn makes all other Avenues possible.

What is involved in effective Club Service? Every aspect of the Club should be considered and improved. Communications to programs to lunch menus. Training programs to service projects to strong committees. Fellowship activities to new member recruitment to public relations. The list is long, but often these common, ongoing factors of a Club are overlooked by leadership. The answer can be as simple as a member picking one area of the Club and thinking on how to improve it, and developing a plan to submit to the Board. It's YOUR Club! How can you make it more awesome?

**DaCdb** (Dak-dee-bee) or "District and Club database", is a secure online service which provides Rotary Districts and Clubs, including our District 7550 and our Club, with the ability to automate some reporting responsibilities for the District and RI, as well as provide access to Club members to register for events, their contact information and that of other club members. Change email address? Phone number? Employment? DaCdb is where you go to update it. Go to and click on the "LOG IN Here" button in the upper left hand corner. Your User Name is your Rotary email address, and your password is your 7 digit RI membership number (found on your copy of The Rotarian Magazine on the line above your name, starting with #0 such as #01234567.) Take a few minutes to explore this useful Rotary tool.  
<https://www.directory-online.com/Rotary/>

**Dictionary Project.** An annual hands-on project of our Club for many years at several local third grade classes. The goal of this program is to assist all students in becoming good writers, active readers, creative thinkers, and resourceful learners by providing them with their own personal dictionary. The dictionaries are a gift to each student to use at school and at home for years to come. Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn. The dictionary is sometimes the first book a child has possessed. The Rotary emblem and the Four-Way Test is affixed to each book.

**Rotary Districts.** There are approximately 530 districts in the Rotary world. These are administrative areas of varying size, in membership and geography, formed to enable Rotary to better serve the needs of clubs and their members. The District Governor, elected yearly, is the sole official representative of Rotary International and is responsible for working with past, current and future leaders in the district to achieve the goals of Rotary clubs and RI by setting district goals that align with the district's and Rotary's strategic plan and needs.

Districts are grouped into 34 geographic areas called Zones. There are two Rotary Districts in West Virginia: 7550, covering southern WV, and 7530, covering northern WV. Both are part of Zone 33, which also includes Delaware, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, Washington DC, and part of Tennessee.

A **District Conference** is one of the requirements of the District Governor's tenure. They happen every year, in every Rotary District in the world. Why is this such a major focus of Rotary? The purpose of the district conference is to provide opportunities for networking, inspirational addresses, and discussions of Rotary-related matters. The event recognizes the service programs, projects, and public relations achievements of the Clubs in the district in order to share with and inspire Rotarians to become more involved in their service. The conference also gives Rotarians a vision of Rotary beyond the club level and provides a memorable fellowship experience. Many Rotarians have said that they were never truly enthusiastic about Rotary until they saw an inspirational presentation at a district conference.

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**District Grants.** District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs in local communities and communities abroad. Each district chooses which activities it will fund with these grants. You can use district grants to fund a variety of district and club projects and activities, including: Humanitarian projects, including service travel and disaster recovery efforts; Scholarships for any level, length of time, location, or area of study; Vocational training teams, which are groups of professionals who travel abroad either to teach local professionals about a particular field or to learn more about their own; other appropriate projects as determined by the district and which supports the mission of The Rotary Foundation.

Through Rotary's SHARE system, contributions to The Rotary Foundation are transformed into grants that fund local and international humanitarian projects, scholarships, and activities, such as vocational training teams. At the end of every Rotary year, contributions directed to the Annual Fund-SHARE from all Rotary clubs in the district are divided between the World Fund and the District Designated Fund, or DDF.

At the end of three years, the district can use the DDF to pay for Foundation, club, and district projects that clubs and others in the district choose. Districts may use up to half of their DDF to fund district grants. The remaining DDF may be used for global grants or donated to PolioPlus, the Rotary Peace Centers, or another district.

**Dues** are a requirement of Rotary Clubs all over the world. But the final amount charged the club member varies from club to club. That's because there are three parts involved: Rotary International's portion, the District portion, and the individual Club's portion. In our Club, dues are \$190 per year, payable either in one payment, or one \$95 payments each half year. Of that total, we currently pay RI \$56 per year, \$30 to the District, and the remaining \$108 goes to our Club.

Of that \$56 to RI, \$19.28 is spent on Programs and Member Services, \$11.75 on IT, Operations and Administration, \$9.58 on Messaging and Communications, \$4.83 on International Operations, \$4.40 on Governance and Executive Expenses, \$3.36 on Financial Expenses, and \$2.26 on HR, Legal and Audit. Dues account for about 65 percent of Rotary's revenue. The next largest source of income comes from return on investments. Rotary also earns money through publication sales, international convention registration revenues, royalties, license fee income, and rental income at the world headquarters building in the U.S. On occasion, the Board will take extraordinary measures to support the Foundation financially. For example, in past years, RI contributed \$10 million from the general surplus fund to PolioPlus. As a result of that commitment, the Foundation received a \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation.

The District breakdown of the \$30 portion is an estimate based on a recent district budget: \$8.40 on DG/DGE/DGN Expenses, \$4.54 on District Training, \$3.36 on International Conference, \$2.94 for Donations, ShelterBox, etc, \$2.52 on District Activities, \$2.23 on RI Programs, \$2.12 for Miscellaneous, Fees, Supplies, \$1.85 for DacDb, \$1.26 on Awards, Pins & Plaques, \$.42 on District Publications, \$0.38 for Zone Support.

As for our Club's share, \$40 is spent on Speakers and Guest lunches, \$25 on Member Development and Training, such as PETS, RLI, etc, \$20 on Supplies, Postage and Awards, \$12 on the subscription to Rotarian Magazine, \$6.50 on Miscellaneous and Incidental Expenses, \$2.43 to General Liability and other Insurance, \$1.00 for the Council on Legislation.

While all Rotarians pay the same RI dues worldwide, each District and Club sets its own structure. For example, a \$100 per year Sustaining Member donation to the Rotary Foundation is included in some dues packages. Some Clubs add the cost of the weekly meal in their dues. Some Clubs have other charitable donations built in to their dues to subsidize various Club activities and charities.

It should also be noted that both RI and the District have deadlines that our Club must meet with our payments. If a member does not pay on time, by July 30 and January 30, it is up to the discretion of the Board to pay for the member in expectation of a tardy payment, or to report the member terminated. If

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our Club does pay, and the member doesn't make payment, that \$82 is a cost that must be absorbed by the Club's Operational budget.

As a final note, our Club has two distinct budgets each year: the Operational Budget, which is funded by dues, and a Charitable Budget, which is solely funded by activities such as our Golf Tournament and smaller efforts like flower sales. (As Of '14 – '15)

(Prospective Members pay a one-time \$35 application fee when inducted.)

**Fines.** A time honored tradition in many Clubs, which began in the first Rotary Club in Chicago. In fact, in the early years, most of the Club's income came from fines. The fines were viewed as part of the fellowship and fun, not as a punishment, and thus were generally creative and a source of amusement. Levied by the Sergeant-at-Arms, who prided himself with an eagle-eye for transgressions, or in some cases the President from the podium and collected by the Sergeant, infractions were both understood and created on the spot. The overall purpose of fines was to raise funds for the Club and to have fun.

Each Club had its own set of finable offenses, including having a Member's photo or business in the newspaper or on television, being late for the meeting, leaving early, missing a meeting, calling another Member "Mister," not wearing their Rotary pin, having their birthday on a meeting day, wearing an ugly tie or otherwise dressing "funny," not eating dessert, promoting their business in a non-vocational service setting, not knowing another member's first name, inability to properly answer a question posed by the Sergeant, and so on.

In our Club, fines are generally assessed for: not wearing your pin and/or badge at a meeting (\$1 each); sitting at a table with a Rotarian whose birthday is recognized for the month (\$1 each); inappropriate promotion of your business to the meeting (\$5); appearing in the newspaper or on television (\$5); having your cell phone ring or taking a call during a meeting (\$5). But, it remains within the discretion of the Sergeant and President to impose fines as they see fit.

The **Five Avenues of Service** form the foundation of Rotary's work, ensuring focus on Service Above Self and that a Club's service efforts are balanced and advance all aspects of the Object of Rotary which is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise. There are many ways for an individual to serve in Rotary. These five avenues, all equally worthy, are distinct in nature. You can be committed to one, or more, now or later, but traveling an avenue is how you'll find your Rotary.

**Club Service:** We are a volunteer organization which requires everyone's help to make the club operate. Everyone gets a chance to pitch in at various times throughout the year. Club Service includes tasks such as collecting money at the door, giving the invocation, greeting arriving members and the like. It also involves active membership on committees.

**Vocational Service:** As business leaders, Rotarians share their skills and expertise through Vocational Service. Your Vocational Service efforts can play a vital role in improving the quality of life for those hardworking members of the community who need direction and expertise. By participating in any of a number of Vocational Service activities, such as mentoring, career days, vocational awards, business assistance, or even talking about your job at a club meeting, you can turn your experience into an invaluable resource for others.

**Community Service:** Many members focus on Community Service projects which can be likened to "rolling up our sleeves" to serve our community. Projects include Christmas shopping for underprivileged children, distributing dictionaries, teaching Choices, or any one of many others projects.

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International Service: is for the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service, to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.

New Generations Service: the newest Avenue of Service, created by the 2010 Council on Legislation, recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults involved in leadership development activities, community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural under

**The Four-Way Test** is recited by our members at the beginning of all our meetings, along with the Blessing and the Pledge of Allegiance, which indicates the importance of this declaration to Rotary and Rotarians. In the midst of the Great Depression, Herbert J. Taylor, a U.S. Rotarian devised a simple, four-part ethical guideline that helped him rescue a beleaguered business, Club Aluminum. Profound in its simplicity, the Test became the company's basis for decisions large and small. The statement and the principles it embodied also helped many others find their own ethical compass. Soon embraced and popularized by Rotary International, The Four-Way Test today stands as one of the organization's hallmarks.

Too idealistic for the real world? The Four-Way Test was born in the rough and tumble world of business, and put to the acid test of experience in one of the toughest times that the business community has ever known. It survived in the arena of practical commerce. In 1942, Richard Vernor of Chicago, then a director of Rotary International, suggested that Rotary adopt the Test. The R.I. Board approved his proposal in January 1943 and made The Four-Way Test a vital element in all Avenues of Service.

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?

**The Four-Way Test 2:** The 4-Way Test had its beginning in a desperate attempt to save a company from bankruptcy in 1932. The author of the test wanted to change the ethical climate of the company, to give it a competitive edge, and thought that if his employees were right minded, they'd do the right thing for their Customers. He thought that these 24 words, easily enough remembered, should first be applied to any situation where a decision was required, or behavior judged. It worked, and the company not only survived, but thrived!

Later, in the 40's, Rotary International adopted this same test for internal use, and to promulgate to its Clubs to promote and encourage high ethical standards among its members and their businesses. It remains to this day, as forceful as ever! Thousands of Rotarians recite the Test every day at their meetings, and thousands more have it hanging on the walls of their businesses. It also hangs in every court room in the country of Ghana.

Truth, justice, friendliness, and helpfulness were once thought to be easily understood principles. In today's politically correct world, these simple concepts are sometimes less clear than they once were. It serves every Rotarian well to occasionally think afresh about each of the concepts, particularly when confronted with an ethical or moral challenge.

One of the strengths of the 4-Way Test is that it does not tell you what to do. Instead, the Test asks you to think about what is right, or not, about a situation. It leaves all the deciding and judgement up to you. It also leaves it up to you on how to proceed with your actions.

You can Google "4-Way Test" and easily find graphical images of the Test, that you can print and hang on the wall of your office. Try it! When confronted with a problem, see if it helps. And with co-workers, use it as a jumping off point to talk about your Rotary Club. Maybe you'll find a new Member!

The 4-Way Test: over 80 years old, and it still packs a powerful punch.

## The New Member's ABC's of the Rotary Club of Barboursville

The **Greeter** is a different member every week, and has several important functions. The first is to welcome our members as they arrive, and may assist with retrieving the member's badge. The second is to welcome and assist any visitors who may attend, explaining our meeting and eating procedures, helping to find them a seat and introducing them to members already seated. The Greeter list is generally alphabetical and the four week schedule can be found at the top of the newsletter each week. If you cannot attend the meeting for which you are scheduled, contact the newsletter editor two weeks in advance. You are responsible for finding any last minute replacement.

The **Happy Dollar** is also used to help offset the cost of the Club guest's lunches. Members share personal items within their lives for which they're happy. Members also use this opportunity to promote events outside the Club, thank fellow Club members, tell a story, etc. A "commercial" announcement for their business generally costs a member \$5.

**Honoring Barboursville's Finest** is our newest community outreach project. Designed to occur twice annually, our Club works with the office of the Mayor of the Village of Barboursville in identifying two public servants who exemplify the highest levels of performance and dedication to the community. An award plaque with their names engraved on it will be circulated among local businesses for display. The plaque has room for three sets of recipients. When filled, that plaque will be retired to the Village Hall and a new plaque will be started. Do you have a space in your business to display this award to your Customers? Contact any Board member.

**Interact**, one of Rotary's youth programs, was launched by the RI Board of Directors in 1962. (New Generations is Rotary's Fifth Avenue of Service.) The first Interact club was established by the Rotary Club of Melbourne, Florida. Interact clubs provide opportunities for boys and girls of secondary school age to work together in a world fellowship of service and international understanding. The term, Interact, is derived from "inter" for international, and "act" for action. Every Interact club must be sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club and must plan annual projects of service to its school, community and in the world. Today there are over 7,200 Interact clubs with more than 155,000 members in 88 countries. "Interactors" develop skills in leadership and attain practical experience in conducting service projects, thereby learning the satisfaction that comes from serving others. A major goal of Interact is to provide opportunities for young people to create greater understanding and goodwill with youth throughout the world. Our Club sponsors the Interact Club at Cabell Midland High School.

**Make-ups** are a method of increasing your attendance statistics. Many Rotarians take great pride in having 100% attendance for the year, year after year. Sounds impossible? One way to do a make-up is at other Rotary clubs. This is also for many Rotarians an excellent avenue for networking. There are approximately 35,000 other clubs throughout the world, and as a Rotarian, you are welcomed at any of their meetings. The Rotary website provides a club finder with meeting locations and times, and many people find this to be a remarkable way to meet "locals" in their travels, whether professional or personal. Locally, there are approximately 72 clubs in West Virginia and neighboring eastern Kentucky and southeastern Ohio, with 42 clubs in our "local" geographic area. If you attend another Club, you can get a Make-Up form to submit, or simply tell the Club Secretary within two weeks.

Another avenue for Make-Ups is by visiting one of the e-clubs in Rotary that offer Make-Ups. Like other Rotary clubs, e-clubs meet weekly, carry out service projects, support The Rotary Foundation, and socialize. But instead of meeting in person, they connect through the Internet. You can "attend" one of their meetings by visiting one of their websites, reading the program information, answering a few questions, and you'll get a Make-Up form to print for our Club's Secretary. The first e-club is [rotaryclubone.org](http://rotaryclubone.org), located in Colorado, but have members throughout the world. They offer a variety of make-up programs to choose from and make the process simple and enjoyable.

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**Meeting Location:** Barboursville Rotary has not always met at Guyan. As businesses changed, so did the location of our weekly meeting at noon on Wednesdays. Prior to Guyan, we met at these locations, some of which are no longer in business. (For awhile, a weekly Location Reminder in the newsletter was critical!)

Guyan Country & Golf Club, Rte 60 (9/2004+)  
HIMG, Rte 60, Januarys (2006+)  
Barboursville Baptist Church, Main St (9/2004)  
Lewis Memorial Family Life Center, West Pea Ridge Road (4/2004)  
American Legion Hall, Rte 60 (7/2003)  
Ponderosa Restaurant, Rte 60 (4/2003)  
Shoney's Restaurant, Rte 60 (where CVS is now) (3/2003)  
Picadilly Restaurant, Huntington Mall (2001)  
Holiday Inn, Rte 60 (where the River Place Plaza is now) (1996)  
Stone Lodge, Rte 60 (where Prestera at Pinecrest is now)  
Young's Restaurant, Eastern Heights Shopping Center (12/1980)  
First State Bank, Main Street (organizational meetings)

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.

In some areas of the world weekly Rotary club meetings begin with all members standing and reciting the Object of Rotary This statement, which comes from the Constitution of Rotary, is frequently seen on a wall plaque in Rotarians' offices or place of business. The Object of Rotary has not always been expressed in this manner. The original Constitution of 1906 had three objects: promotion of business interests, promotion of good fellowship and the advancement of the best interests of the community By 1910 Rotary had five Objects as increased emphasis was given to expanding Rotary. By 1915 there were six Objects. In 1918 the Objects were rewritten again and reduced to four. Four years later they had again grown to six and were revised again in 1927. Finally, at the 1935 Mexico City Convention the six Objects were restated and reduced to four. The last major change came in 1951, when the "Objects" were streamlined and changed to a single "Object" which is manifested in four separate ways. The "ideal of service" is the key phrase in the Object of Rotary. This ideal is an attitude of being a thoughtful and helpful person in all of one's endeavors. That's what the Object truly means.

Just what is a **Paul Harris Fellow**? You might have seen the names of our Club's Paul Harris Fellows on the banners around the room. In honor of the founder of Rotary, the Paul Harris Fellow recognition acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation (TRF). It was established in 1957 to show appreciation for and encourage substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships. Early Paul Harris Fellows received a certificate of recognition. In 1969, the Foundation unveiled the first Paul Harris Fellow medallion at the RI Convention in Honolulu, Hawaii. Japanese metal artist Fiju Tsuda created the piece under the direction of then-past Foundation Trustee Kyoza Yuasa. Today, Paul Harris Fellows receive a certificate and pin. They are also eligible to purchase a Paul Harris Fellow medallion.

The contribution to The Rotary Foundation can be made in one sum or by cumulative giving over a number of years. Individuals can make a personal contribution or the contribution can be from a club, a company or business. Additional \$1000 contributions to TRF earn a sapphire or ruby added to the Rotarian's PHF pin. There are over one million Paul Harris Fellows and Multi-Fellows worldwide.

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It is important to remember that a Paul Harris Fellowship is a recognition, not an award. Although you can be awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship for a variety of reasons, most people earn this recognition by donations to TRF. By itself, a PHF pin does not necessarily mean you are a great Rotarian, just a generous one. Or that someone has been generous on your behalf. And, you don't have to be a Rotarian to be a Paul Harris Fellow. Grandfather Rotarians give a Fellowship to their grandchildren. Rotarians will honor an anniversary by making their spouse a Fellow.

In our Club, remember that you can donate every week or so when you are paying for lunch. Just \$5 a week extra can make you a Fellow in just 4 years. Not only will you be benefitting one of the world's great charities, but you'll also be making yourself one of the elite in Rotary.

**PolioPlus** was first launched on February 23, 1985 even though Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio began much earlier. In the spring of 1972, two Rotarians from Pennsylvania district 7300, Charles Rowlands, and Niles Norman, decided to make-up a meeting at a neighboring club, and attended a meeting of the Rotary club of Oakland, a Pittsburgh suburb. The Oakland club regularly featured vocational services presentations by club members, and on that day, in-coming club president, Dr. Robert Hingson spoke about his career. Rotarian Hingson, among a number of notable career achievements, had invented the "jet injector" a needle-less device that provided multiple inoculations in a very rapid fashion, as many as 1,000 people per hour. (It came to be called the "peace gun.") Beginning in 1967, it was used by the world health organization to facilitate mass immunizations worldwide, leading to the eradication in 1977 of smallpox, the first disease to be so eliminated. The two visiting Rotarians, Norman and Rowlands, were inspired by Hingson's talk, and the idea of the jet injector, and over the next year developed a district-wide project to inoculate 1 million Guatemalan children against polio, in 1973 & 1974. This was the chance, magical beginning of the PolioPlus program. What's YOUR Rotary Dream?

Rotary and Polio: Two polio vaccines are used throughout the world to combat polio. The first was developed by Jonas Salk and first tested in 1952. Announced to the world on April 12, 1955, it consists of an injected dose of inactivated (dead) poliovirus. An oral vaccine was developed by Albert Sabin, an honorary Rotarian of the Cincinnati Club, using attenuated poliovirus. Human trials of Sabin's vaccine began in 1957, and it was licensed in 1962

Dr. Sabin became very excited when physicians in Cuba reported that they had used the oral polio vaccine in a new way. They gave all of the children in Cuba the vaccine during just a few days, rather than at age specific intervals. They showed that with this approach, they not only protected the children from polio, but they succeeded in eradicating it from Cuba by 1967. It became the basis for the worldwide use of National Immunization Days.

In 1973 and 1974, Pennsylvania's Rotary District 730 partnered with Guatemalan Rotarians to inoculate one million children, the first such Rotary effort and the forerunner of PolioPlus.

Rotary International's involvement in polio eradication began in 1979, when RI's president Clem Renouf learned that smallpox had just been eradicated and wondered if it might be appropriate for Rotary to use its new humanitarian grants program to take on a comparable goal. In 1980, at Rotary's International Convention in Chicago, Dr Sabin urged Rotarians to become involved with mass immunizations against polio. He believed that with Rotary clubs in nearly every country in the world and a total membership then of about one million, Rotary was well positioned to help public health authorities reach millions of children with the oral polio vaccine.

It was Dr. Sabin's oral polio vaccine used in National Immunization Days that empowered Rotary and their partners to immunize more than two-and-a-half billion children against polio — bringing the virus to the brink of eradication. And it will be Dr. Salk's injectable, inactivated vaccine, used during the end-game phase of the campaign, that will enable the door to slam shut once and for all on this terrible disease.

Since the launch of the PolioPlus program in 1985, progress against polio has been nothing short of tremendous. Currently, the objective is to stop all WPV transmission by the end of 2018. The primary geographic focus is on the three endemic countries.

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(It should also be noted that PolioPlus also serves as THE model for global partnerships to combat significant problems. Nigeria has credited the infrastructure created by PolioPlus as the main force that has helped to keep their exposure to the Ebola outbreak in 2014 to a minimum.)

**Rotary Clubs and Politics.** (From Rotary 2013 MANUAL OF PROCEDURE) RI and its member clubs refrain from issuing partisan political statements. Rotarians are prohibited from adopting statements with a view to exerting any pressure on governments or political authorities. However, it is the duty of Rotarians: 1) In their clubs, to keep under review political developments in their own communities and throughout the world insofar as they affect service to their vocations and communities as well as the pursuit of the Rotary objective of world understanding and peace. They are expected to seek reliable information through balanced programs and discussions so that members can reach their own conclusions after a fair, collective examination of the issues. 2) Outside their clubs, to be active as individuals in as many legally constituted groups and organizations as possible to promote, not only in words but through exemplary dedication, awareness of the dignity of all people and the respect of the consequent human rights of the individual. Rotarians may not use the name and emblem, Rotary club membership lists, or other lists of Rotarians for the purpose of furthering political campaigns. Any use of the fellowship of Rotary as a means of gaining political advantage is not within the spirit of Rotary. The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinions. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure. This club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office and shall not discuss at any club meeting the merits or demerits of any such candidate. This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions, and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature.

The **Program** segment of the meeting is a very important part of Rotary. A good program helps to drive regular attendance, as well as inform members on a variety of topics, which, it is hoped, a majority will find interesting. The Club's President-Elect is responsible for the scheduling of programs, but all members are encouraged to participate in suggesting and providing programs.

If you have a potential program idea, come up with the appropriate person to contact, including email and phone number, and contact the P-E with this info. Or you can contact the P-E upfront, tell her your suggestion, and ask her what dates are open—it's usually better to have more than one when trying to schedule someone. You can then finalize arrangements and secure that date P-E. You can also be the one to introduce that person at the meeting, which normally involves a typical (or not) bio-type intro and any personal remarks you may have if you know this person or organization. Or you can just pass on the suggestion to P-E and leave it all in her hands, to do with as she thinks best.

**Project Helping Hand.** A relatively new project for our Club, PHH is designed to offer local school teachers grants of up to \$500 each for needs they may have but are not funded through school resources. Teachers are invited to submit requests, which must be approved by the principal, to our PHH committee, who decide which requests to fund.

**Proposing a New Member** is an important part of a Rotarian's responsibilities. It remains a lifelong source of pride when you sponsor someone who becomes a good Rotarian. It is the way to contribute to our club's membership by bringing in qualified business and professional leaders who are interested in Rotary and who would become committed to advancing the mission of Rotary. Together with our fellow Rotarians, you can help our club fully represent our community's business and professional world by seeking out potential members as you go about your career and personal life. It is relatively simple to do.

Begin by wearing your Rotary pin daily and use it as an excuse to initiate conversations about your involvement with Rotary. Share stories of club projects with colleagues, friends, and acquaintances. Invite

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friends, co-workers, and colleagues to join you at our weekly Rotary meeting. Leave our Club brochure and follow-up in a few days. Ask potential members to become involved with one of our club's activity or service project. Encourage prospective members to tour the RI Web site.

Once a prospective member demonstrates an interest in membership, have them complete Part A of the Membership Proposal Form, and return the form to our club secretary for submission to the club's board of directors. Remember, a new member is not accepted until three readings to the membership and the board's approval. Do not inform the prospective member of membership until after the board approves it.

**SHARE YOUR PASSION FOR ROTARY! SPONSOR A NEW MEMBER!**

**RLI.** Rotary Leadership Institute is a multi-district, grassroots leadership development program of member districts organized into regional divisions in various parts of the world. RLI is not an official program of Rotary International and is not under its control. RLI seeks to have Rotary Clubs in its member districts identify those Rotarians who appear to have the potential for future club leadership (not necessarily as club presidents) and provide those so identified with a quality education in Rotary knowledge and leadership skills so important in voluntary organizations.

RLI believes that having leadership skills does not alone assure good Rotary leadership. An effective Rotary leader must ALSO have Rotary knowledge, perspective about where Rotary has been, where it is now going and a vision of what Rotary can be. The ideal candidate is early in his/her Rotary career and has a strong interest in Rotary and is prepared to be exposed to the larger world of Rotary outside of the club

Provided over three days, called Parts I, II and III, they are not necessarily taken consecutively at one training event in order for the participants to gain perspective through their club activities in between the Parts. Since the founding of RLI, the curriculum has been continually reviewed, updated and revised as the result of experience and the evaluations of the attendees.

The Institute believes in course sessions with as much discussion/participation as possible. Discussion breakout sessions are limited to approximately 15 persons. Lectures are strictly limited. Course methods include discussion groups, role-playing, problem solving workshops and creating projects. Everyone participates during one of the Institute's sessions. Course materials including session outlines, the daily program, faculty listings and resource materials are provided to all participants.

Our Club provides reimbursement for session costs and some related expenses.

**Rot-a-Lot** is a \$1.00 50/50 raffle, in which the Club's 50% share goes to helping offset the costs of Club guests' lunches, which otherwise would solely be charged to the Club's operational budget, and the winner receiving the remainder. Members are encouraged to participate, but it is not required. They are also encouraged to think of it as another way to help support the Club, not a way to win money.

**A Rotarian's Examination of Conscience:** Being a Member of a Rotary Club is not the same as being a committed Rotarian. As with many other institutions based upon ethics and high standards, it is incumbent upon all Rotarians to periodically examine one's conscience to determine if they are properly performing their duties to Rotary. Here are some questions to ask yourself: How active a participant am I in my Club's projects and activities? Do I make a reasonable effort to attend Club meetings? Do I voice my interests and concerns in Club affairs? Do I practice the 4-Way Test in my life? Do I take an active role in sponsoring new Members? Do I look for opportunities for new projects for my Club? Do I support the Rotary Foundation adequately? Do I promote Rotary when the opportunity arises? Do I appreciate the honor of being a Rotarian? What role does Rotary play in my life? Do I have any new ideas for my Club's programs? Do I try to raise funds for my Club? Do I know what projects my Club is involved with? Do I try to get to know the other Members? Do I know what Rotary International is doing? What do I give to

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Rotary? What do I get from Rotary? What have I learned through Rotary? What are my responsibilities to Rotary?

A **Rotarized Rotarian** differs from other members because somehow, somehow, the power of Rotary made a very strong and deep impression, and that member is no longer a “knife and fork” member (who comes to meetings for the fellowship and food), but one who recognizes that Rotary can do magic, and that each Rotarian can wield that capacity to accomplish amazing things. For some, the moment comes from an inspiring speech at a Rotary event, or reading a story of another Rotarian who touched the lives of people they will never meet. Maybe it comes from meeting other Rotarians at other clubs and realizing how much they have in common, despite differences in language and culture. There are many inspirations, but the result is the same: a light goes off, a feeling builds, a determination is instilled to accomplish something more as a Rotarian. Whether one finds an avenue to contribute to their Club, to their community, or to people on the other side of the world, a Rotarized Rotarian makes the most of membership and is a model of Service Above Self.

**Rotary Annual Themes.** According to the Rotary Global History Fellowship, the first theme used was by RI President S. Kendrick Guernsey, 1947-48: Enter to Learn, Go Forth to Serve. In the immediate subsequent years, either no theme was used, or a relatively lengthy list of objectives or goals for the year was promoted. The tradition of crafting an annual theme, as we know it today, did not take hold until 1957-58 with RI President Charles G. Tennent: Enlist-Extend-Explore-Serve.

The tradition of an annual theme logo graphic to go along with the slogan began with RI President Joseph A. Abey, 1961-62, with: ACT. It has been an evolutionary process as the culture has changed and the public relations and graphic design industries have grown in influence and sophistication and perceived importance.

In the decades that followed, RI presidents introduced theme lapel pins, ties, and scarves, and more. Theme ties were introduced in the 1990s, and are now given out yearly, incorporating the theme for the year. The first scarves showing the RI theme were designed by 1998-99 by RI President James L. Lacy. Rotary's licensed vendors offer a variety of products emblazoned with the annual theme.

What are the reasons for this tradition? Rotary's annual changing of the presidential and district leadership uses the theme to coalesce the class around an unique focus for their year. It also provides the RI President with his own brand which he can use to highlight his vision for the direction that he hopes to facilitate during his term.

**Rotary “Bling” Merchants.** Rotary has a number of licensed vendors, supplying Rotarians with everything from wearables to chocolates. Russell-Hampton Company is Rotary's original Licensed Vendor and the most complete source of Rotary Club Supplies and Rotary Emblem Merchandise in the world. Run by a Rotary family, they have been serving Rotary since 1920. They help Rotarians spread the word and generate interest in Rotary with a large selection of men's and ladies' Rotary polos, dress shirts, jackets, blouses, ties, scarves, caps and hats, travel accessories, purses, bags/briefcases/attaches, umbrellas and outdoor products. Other products include the largest selection of Rotary member lapel pins, Rotary theme merchandise including theme lapel pins, banners, ties and scarves. They also feature Rotary jewelry, patches, Rotary emblem crystal, glasses, mugs and barware. Although it may be tempting to purchase Rotary emblem merchandise from a local supplier, Rotary International “requires”, except in very specific cases, that you purchase only from licensed Rotary suppliers. When you do, you will be following the “rules” AND 10% is returned to Rotary in the form of a royalty payment.

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**Rotary Days.** RI President Gary Huang, has asked Clubs to “Light Up Rotary” by participating in Rotary Days. The Rotary Day concept is a simple one: hold a fun, informal event in your community for the non-Rotary public and use it as an opportunity to introduce them to Rotary. It's that easy. Rotary Days can help your club drive up interest in membership, strengthen your club's relationships with local institutions and community members, and improve Rotary's image in your community. Rotary Days can take any form, as long as they are fun and appealing to the non-Rotary public.

Here are just a few possibilities: Hold an outdoor picnic or barbecue; Host a sporting event or concert; Organize a family fun run; Align the event with a public parade or festival; Sponsor an event at a museum, art gallery, or cultural center; Secure an auditorium or arena and plan a ticketed reception or buffet dinner. Feature guests that will appeal to a non-Rotary audience. Consider inspirational speakers, celebrities, musicians, or other public figures. Keep admission prices low. Approach local businesses to sponsor your event. Make your event welcoming to families. Encourage members to bring their spouses, children, and other relatives.

Avoid using Rotary jargon or referring to internal traditions; present Rotary as an enticing opportunity for prospective members to make new friends, exchange ideas, and take action to improve their local community and the world. Highlight the work of ordinary Rotary members doing extraordinary humanitarian work. Recognize non-Rotary community members who embody Rotary's service ideals. Seek coverage for the event in local news media. Collect participants' contact information and follow up within two weeks to invite them to attend a club meeting or event.

**Rotary Direct.** All Rotarians are encouraged to contribute annually to The Rotary Foundation, the charity of Rotary. As you can imagine, there are many ways to do so, from giving something every week while paying for your lunch, to writing a check, or making an online donation at [Rotary.org](http://Rotary.org) or My Rotary. Another way is by setting up a Rotary Direct account and having a fixed amount deducted from your credit or debit card periodically.

Rotary Direct provides the simplest method of regular giving to TRF. Once you create the account, it will automatically charge your credit or debit card the amount you specified on the schedule you establish. There is a \$10 minimum amount required, and you can choose a monthly, quarterly, or annual deduction. Monthly gifts are charged on the first day of the month. Quarterly gifts are charged July 1, October 1, January 1, and April 1. For annual gifts, you choose the month, and your card is charged on the first of that month.

Upon enrollment, new Rotary Direct participants will receive an acknowledgement letter confirming the amount and frequency of their contributions. Each scheduled contribution will be credited to a donor's individual account, Rotary club and district and will be used wisely on quality Rotary projects. Following the close of each calendar year, participants will receive one contribution receipt for all Rotary Direct contributions received during the previous year.

When enrolling, as with most TRF donations, you will be asked to designate how you wish your gift to be used: Annual Fund-SHARE, PolioPlus Fund, or Other Area of TRF. It is always encouraged that Club Members designate the Annual Fund-SHARE category. Contributions directed to the Annual Fund-SHARE are divided between the World Fund and the District Designated Fund, or DDF. At the end of three years, the DDF can be used for club, and district projects as district grants.

To change the amount or frequency of your gift, or your method of payment, or to stop your contributions, contact Rotary's Support Center at +1-866-976-8279 or [contact.center@rotary.org](mailto:contact.center@rotary.org) For security reasons, please do not send credit card information by email.

Enroll Online: [www.rotary.org/give](http://www.rotary.org/give)

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**Rotary Fellowships.** June is Rotary Fellowships Month, but these Fellowships are active year 'round. Rotary Fellowships are independent groups of Rotarians, their spouses, and Rotaractors who share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends from around the world. Fellowship activities vary widely. Members come together around hobbies or interests such as cricket or jazz, or vocations such as writing or medicine. Some groups are purely social while others use their fellowship for service projects. You can also contact a fellowship directly by using the information listed in the Rotary Fellowships directory. Rotary Fellowships are valuable for Rotarians who wish to further their vocational development with others in the same profession or field. They also enhance their Rotary experience by exploring new opportunities and making connections around the world. Each fellowship functions independently of Rotary International, establishing its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure. Fellowships must have an international scope, with active members in at least three countries. Fellowships enable Rotarians to make lasting friendships outside their own club, district, or country. They also contribute to the advancement of Rotary's public image and identity, and serve as an incentive for joining Rotary and for continuing as a member.

Amateur Radio	Cooking	Flying	Marathon	Quilters and	Scuba Diving
Antique	Convention	Geocaching	Running	Fiber Artists	Shooting Sports
Automobiles	Goers	Go	Motorcycling	Railroads	Singles
Authors and	Cricket	Golf	Music	Recreational	Skiing
Writers	Curling	Home	Old and Rare	Vehicles	Social Networks
Beer	Cycling	Exchange	Books	Rotary Global	Tennis
Bird Watching	Diplomacy	Horseback	Past District	History	Total Quality
Bowling	Doctors	Riding	Governors	Rotary Heritage	Management
Canoeing	Doll Lovers	Internet	Photographers	and History	Travel and
Carnival and	E-Clubs	Italian Culture	Police and Law	Rotary Means	Hosting
Festivals	Editors and	Jazz	Enforcement	Business	Wellness and
Chess	Publishers	Latin Culture	Pre-Columbian	Rotary on	Fitness
Computer	Environment	Lawyers	Civilizations	Stamps	Wine
Users	Fishing	Magicians		Scouting	

**The Rotary Foundation** (TRF) is the charity of Rotarians. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. While Rotary was initially founded for fellowship and networking, charitable endeavors began almost immediately. 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." Its first donation was \$26.50, and it now exceeds \$1 Billion in contributions. In 1928, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. In 1929, the Foundation made its first gift of \$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. (This 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. Also in 1947, The Foundation established its first program, Fellowships for Advance Study, later known as Ambassadorial Scholarships. In 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. In 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. Then, in 1985, The PolioPlus program was launched to eradicate polio worldwide. In 1987-88, the first peace forums were held, leading to Rotary Peace Fellowships. And in 2013, new district, global, and packaged grants enable Rotarians around the world to respond to the world's greatest needs. The real effect of TRF on the world would be impossible to estimate, but it is the heritage and pride of all Rotarians.

**Rotary Friendship Exchange.** An interesting Rotary program of fellowship is the Rotary Friendship Exchange. This activity is intended to encourage Rotarians and spouses to visit with Rotarian families in

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other parts of the world. It may be conducted on a club-to-club or district-to-district basis. The idea is for several Rotarian couples to travel to another country on the Rotary Friendship Exchange. Later the hospitality is reversed when the visit is exchanged. The Rotary Friendship Exchange is frequently compared to the (now defunct, but replaced by Vocational Training Teams) Group Study Exchange program of The Rotary Foundation, except that it involves Rotarian couples who personally pay for all expenses of their inter-country experience. Doors of friendship are opened in a way which could not be duplicated except in Rotary. Rotarians seeking an unusual vacation and fellowship experience should learn more about the Rotary Friendship Exchange. Some unusual Rotary adventures are awaiting you! For more information, email at [friendshipexchange@rotary.org](mailto:friendshipexchange@rotary.org)

**Rotary Infrastructure.** The world of Rotary is vast — spanning over 220 countries in the world with over 1.2 million members. Our club is one of more than 35,000 Rotary clubs, each one meeting in a different place and at a different time. As you'd expect, such a diverse organization has a developed infrastructure.

The Rotary world is structured as such: Clubs (Barboursville is Club number 5702) belong to one of 536 Districts (ours is 7550), Districts belong to one of 34 Zones (ours 33). Zones are geographic. All clubs are in a Rotary District. These Rotary Districts are much like political boundaries (ours is southern West Virginia), and drawn based on the population of Rotary members (about 1,200 in 7550, one of the smallest in Members). Some districts are compact and span only one county, whereas some districts span multiple countries. All districts belong to a specific Rotary Zone. These are regional entities for Rotary, and often include 20 or more separate Rotary districts. Every two Rotary Zones is led by a RI Director who sits on the Rotary International Board of Directors. (Rotary International Directors hold two-year terms in office.) All Rotary Clubs, Districts, and Zones are under the greater RI umbrella.

Our official Rotary International headquarters are in Evanston, Illinois (a suburb of Chicago). (You can visit RI headquarters Monday through Friday during regular business hours. See the birthplace of Rotary! It's a cool tour!) Rotary International also has offices throughout the world, including Switzerland, India, Japan, Korea, Australia, Brazil, Argentina, and Great Britain. Over 500 employees work full-time for Rotary International at the main headquarters in Evanston. All Rotary operations are paid for by Rotary membership dues. Approximately \$56 every year of your membership dues goes directly to Rotary International.

Rotary International is a complicated organization but still exists as a membership governed organization. That means that while the Rotary International President and the Rotary International Board of Directors have a lot of say in providing the direction and the goals of the organization, the most important decisions ultimately are still decided by the Rotary membership and our representatives. Every three years, Rotary convenes a Council of Legislation. This is the international legislative body of Rotary International. Think of it like our Congress. Every district is given one voting delegate. These voting delegates decide changes to the organization. The power ultimately remains in the hands of the members.

**Rotary International Conventions.** Each May or June, Rotary International holds a worldwide convention "to stimulate, inspire and inform all Rotarians at an international level." The convention, which may not be held in the same country for more than two consecutive years, is the annual meeting to conduct the business of the association. The planning process usually begins about four or five years in advance.

The RI board determines a general location and invites cities to make proposals. The conventions are truly international events which 20,000 to 40,000 Rotarians and guests attend. All Rotarians should plan to participate in at least one Rotary International convention to discover the real internationality of Rotary. It is an experience you'll never forget!

Aside from the fellowship, there are many planned events: diverse speakers on issues and events affecting the Rotary World; entertainment provided by international stars; reports by RI officials; breakout sessions covering many aspects of Rotary and Club development; project presentations. And, there are many opportunities to interact with the local culture, through Rotarian hosted trips and dinners.

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The **Rotary International Website**. Rotary.org is a Rotarian's portal to a wealth of information about Rotary. On this recently redesigned site, you can find the answers to many questions about Rotary, training information and videos on many aspects of Rotary life, forums for communicating with Rotarians around the world, information on the Rotary Foundations and many of its projects, the ability to search Clubs and meeting locations, information on grants and the grant process, Rotary news, images and media, the ability to make donations, and much more!

While this website does not provide easy access to everything (Google can often find answers to specific questions quicker and easier), it is a good place to start. The new interface allows for easy navigation for many of the most popular features that many Rotarians are interested in.

Certainly, for a new Rotarian, spending some time on rotary.org is a required investment in understanding what it can mean to be a Rotarian. For example, under the Learning and Reference tab, you'll find Learn by Role, which includes New Member and Club Roles, and Learn by Topic, including Membership, Projects and Public Relations, among others. With just a little time, you can acquire a fuller picture of the potential of membership in your Rotary Club. Also under this heading is the Learning Center, where you can find guided courses on a variety of topics, and upcoming and on demand past Webinars on many current Rotary topics.

All members are encouraged to visit the site regularly to stay current in their Rotary knowledge. There is a secondary portal, My Rotary, which is for current and active Rotarians, which gives you access to members-only features. At the top of the page, you will see three items: My Rotary, Club Finder and Location/Language. Click "My Rotary to begin. Now, at the top left, you will see the option to "Sign in/Register". Click that to continue to the registration page. If you were already registered for Member Access in the old system, enter the same log in information in the new sign-in page. You will then get a registration email at the Member Access email on file to complete the new account registration process. This may require you to change your password for security purposes.

If you were not already registered in Member Access, or you cannot remember your log in credentials, click "Create Account" to proceed. You will need to answer some identifying questions to match you up with your member record.

The **Rotary Lapel Pin** is one of the things you receive as a new member. The first lapel pin in the history of Rotary was designed and made by New York Rotary Club member, John Frick on October 14, 1909, and worn by the club's first president Bradford Bullock from 1909 until his death in 1911. The forerunner of the traditional Rotary pin worn today, it featured the Rotary wheel as it appeared in its earliest representation with eight spokes, no cogs, and no keyway. (The wheel itself became the symbol of Rotary in 1906, a year after the club's formation in Chicago.) In 1918, two Rotarian engineers from the Duluth Club, Charles Henry Mackintosh and Oscar Bjorge, sketched a new wheel, with 6 spokes (symbolizing the 6 Objects of Rotary at that time) and 24 cogs or teeth. This design was presented to the Rotary world in 1920. However, there remained many versions of the Rotary wheel in use around the world by the different clubs. It wasn't until 1922 that the Rotary International Association declared that all Rotary clubs should adopt a single design as the exclusive emblem of Rotarians.

The President of Rotary Club of Los Angeles, Will Forker, submitted one change: "The 'hub' design of the new 'wheel' is that of an 'idler' wheel or gear, there being no provision for the reception or transmission of power to or from a shaft," he argued. But, he said, incorporating a keyway would make the new wheel "a real worker." So, in 1923 the keyway was added and the design, which we see on our pins was formally adopted as the official Rotary International emblem. With this 90 year+ history, and all it represents, members are encouraged to wear their pin every day, to proudly announce their membership. On Wednesdays, our meeting day, members are "required" to wear their pin to the meeting or be fined, and should proudly wear it all day at least on this one day.

**Rotary Presidential Citation** is a yearly recognition of world-wide Rotary Clubs who meet a series of criteria selected by that year's RI President. While they change from year to year, they generally fall into

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25 – 30 goals in the following areas: Humanitarian Service, Membership Attraction and Engagement, New Generations Service, The Rotary Foundation Giving, Rotary Central Website Online Tool Adoption, and Public Image. These reflect both the President's and RI's standards for vibrant Clubs and is used to encourage Clubs to challenge itself to improve. Awards are Gold, Silver and Bronze, depending on how many goals are achieved.

In 2015, of the 35,000 rotary Clubs in the world, only 6.6% received a Gold Citation. We have proudly been recognized as a Gold Presidential Citation Club twice, in 2015 and 2016, and it has become a goal to achieve this recognition yearly.

Why is this important? There are three reasons for this. Every Club may believe itself to be special, but the Presidential Citation is the only objective recognition in Rotary that it is true. Second, bragging rights! We are proud of our Club, and the Citation gives us an excuse to toot our own horn. And lastly, it gives all our Members an opportunity to participate in Club Service in a meaningful way.

**Rotary Service.** There are many ways to serve as a Rotarian. The Five Avenues of Service in Rotary is the basic definition of how Rotarians focus their attentions. While this list makes for an easily expressed and understood statement, it doesn't mention all the variations that exist in each category. Club Service, in the broader sense, is an excellent example of this. (And to be sure, many Rotarians avail themselves of multiple and varied opportunities to serve.) There are Club Level Rotarians who are primarily concerned with their own Club, and most of their activities are directed towards the benefit of their Club. For example, they serve as an officer or board member, work on a committee, organize a fundraiser or project, edit a newsletter. Then there are District Level Rotarians whose interests take them to work in their District's affairs, with the purpose of helping achieve the District's goal of assisting its Clubs to become stronger and more effective. They may serve on a District Committee, as a RLI facilitator, or as an assistant Governor. Then there are Rotarians who focus on the level above the District, the Zone, The Rotary Foundation, the Council on Legislation, or other RI leadership roles. It is important to recognize that none of these services are more important than the others. The Club President is as important as the District Governor and as the President of RI. All have to work to make Rotary an effective organization. It is a complex and varied operation that requires many different talented and dedicated individuals.

**Telling Your Rotary Story.** Membership is all of our responsibility, to ensure the longevity and success of our organization and our Club. We need every member to understand the value of being a Rotarian and referring prospective members. One way to help this is by telling your personal story, explaining what Rotary means to you. Take a couple of moments to "fill in the blanks" and create your "elevator" speech about Rotary.

"Rotary International is the largest service organization in the world. I am a member of the Rotary Club of Barboursville. I've been a member for \_\_\_\_ years. Our members are professional men and women like you who want to get involved in their communities to make a difference. My favorite part of being a Rotarian is \_\_\_\_\_. In our local community, my club does service projects that are focused on such things as \_\_\_\_\_. I've been involved in projects like \_\_\_\_\_ that have helped my community's organizations such as \_\_\_\_\_ in order to provide \_\_\_\_\_. The most meaningful moment for me as a Rotarian was \_\_\_\_\_. You would be a great fit for a Rotary club. Come to a meeting and let me show you all that my club has to offer and how you can get involved!" (When you finish your story, send it to the Newsletter to share with all of us!)

**Service Above Self.** Early in its history, the members of the first Rotary club realized that fellowship and mutual self-interest were not enough to keep a group of busy professionals meeting each week. Undertaking efforts to improve the lives of others proved an even more powerful motivation. By 1910, there were 16 clubs in the United States, and the first convention was held in Chicago where the clubs organized themselves to form the National Association of Rotary Clubs. At that convention, a member proposed a motto for the new organization, recognizing its commitment to the idea of service: "He Profits Most Who Serves His Fellows Best." The following year, another leader, Frank Collins, then President of the Minneapolis Rotary Club, spoke of the importance of serving others and promoted the idea that a club

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should be organized on the principle of "Service, Not Self." The two sayings, modified to "He Profits Most Who Serves Best" and "Service Above Self," were quickly embraced by all Rotarians and were officially designated as Rotary mottoes at the 1950 convention in Detroit, Michigan. In 1989, the Rotary International Council on Legislation established "Service Above Self" as the organization's principal motto.

Every Rotarian may have a slightly different explanation of what this motto expresses, but most would agree that it indicates the spirit and passion of a true Rotarian, the willingness to sacrifice in order to benefit others.

**Rotary Spouse Couples.** There are no rules against spouses both being Rotarians, either in the same or different Clubs. In fact, just the opposite! Rotary is a wonderful thing to share, and inviting your spouse to join Rotary is actively encouraged. Not only does this improve Rotary membership, it also gives spouses something noble to share outside their family. And spouses are also encouraged to not sit together at meals, so that the benefits of fellowship can be increased.

Being a **Sustaining Member** and participating in the **Every Rotarian Every Year** (EREY) program are two important avenues for supporting The Rotary Foundation (TRF), the Charity of Rotary. While contributions to the Foundation come from many sources, Rotarians are the single most important donor segment. A Sustaining Member is a Rotarian who commits to giving \$100 every year. EREY is a program that encourages every member to give something, regardless of the size of the donation, every year. Many clubs attain 100% Sustaining Members through the voluntary participation of each member, or by building in the \$100 into the annual Club dues structure. At a minimum, every Rotarian should at least donate a minimum amount so that the club has 100% EREY status. As you pay for your lunch, you may also contribute to TRF, by giving the Cashier an additional amount, which will be tracked and totaled by the Club Treasurer.

**Vocational Service** is one of the Five Avenues of Service in Rotary. The concept of vocational service is rooted in the Second Object, which calls on Rotarians to "encourage and foster" high ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

As a Rotarian, how can you put these ideals into action? Consider these suggestions: talk about your vocation in your club, and take time to learn about fellow members' vocations; use your professional skills to serve a community; practice your profession with integrity, and inspire others to behave ethically through your own words and actions; help a young person achieve his or her career aspirations; guide and encourage others in their professional development.

If you do any of these things, you are performing vocational service. And if vocational service motivates and energizes you, then you're in the right place, because vocational service is the very essence of Rotary. It is what sets Rotary apart from other service organizations.

**The Water Jug.** Our District and our Club has a decade-long history of participating in international water and sanitation projects, particularly in Ghana, West Africa. District Governors and various Club Members have traveled to Ghana along with other Rotarians from the East coast to oversee the projects and gauge future needs. The Jug's contents will be combined with all the other Jugs in the District in order to form the basis for matching funds which will ultimately triple our donations now. As we pass this jug around every week, when you are holding it, please think of it filled with water. At capacity, that's about 40 lbs. Many African women have to carry that liquid load, in not such a handy container, carefully on their heads every day, for sometimes many miles. Now imagine your 10 year old daughter walking that distance every day, with even half that amount of water on her head, as so many African children have to do. So her family will have enough water for the day: water to drink, water to cook with, water to wash

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with. Your generosity will lighten her load as we fill this jug instead with money. And it will have the additional benefits of better health, and will free up her time every day, so she can go to school instead.

**Ways to Give to The Rotary Foundation.** Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member: A Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member is an individual who contributes \$100 or more each year to the Annual Fund. These contributions also count toward Paul Harris Fellow, Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Paul Harris Society, Major Donor, and club recognition.

**Paul Harris Fellow:** Paul Harris Fellow recognition is given to an individual who contributes (or in whose name is contributed) \$1,000 or more cumulatively to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant.

**Multiple Paul Harris Fellow:** Multiple Paul Harris Fellow recognition is given at subsequent \$1,000 levels. Recognition consists of a pin set with stones corresponding to the recognition amount.

**Paul Harris Society:** The Paul Harris Society recognizes Rotarians and friends of The Rotary Foundation who personally contribute \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant each year.

**Major Donor:** The Rotary Foundation recognizes individuals or couples whose combined giving has reached \$10,000, regardless of the gift designation.

**Arch Klumph Society:** Donors who contribute \$250,000 or more become members of the Arch Klumph Society.

**Benefactor:** A Benefactor is an individual who informs The Rotary Foundation in writing that he or she has provided for the Foundation in his or her estate plan, or who makes an outright gift of \$1,000 or more to the Endowment Fund.

**Bequest Society:** The Rotary Foundation recognizes couples or individuals who have made commitments in their estate plans totaling \$10,000 or more.

**Women in Rotary.** Women and Rotary, why bring it up? It's always been this way, hasn't it? The answer is no. Women have only been included as members of Rotary since 1987. Go back in time to 1983 or 84 and there might have been women walking into the International Convention, but you would know she wasn't a Rotarian. She might be a Rotary Ann or a spouse of a Rotarian. Today, approximately 20% of Rotarians are women.

When Rotary was created, it was considered essentially a male preserve, and the Board of what was then the National Association of Rotary Clubs, vigorously opposed any attempt to change this. This remained the official attitude until the last quarter of the 20th century. In Minnesota and possibly elsewhere, clubs were formed in 1911 and 1912 called "The Women's Rotary Club" of Minneapolis and of Duluth based on the ideals and organization of Rotary. The clubs were composed of business women, one woman from each line of business making up the membership and thus echoing the set up in Rotary. Official Rotary objected to the use of this language, and so the name of "Inner Wheel" was adopted. "Rotary Anns" was also used to denote the female part of the Rotary world throughout the years.

On January 26, 1989, meeting in Singapore, RI's Council on Legislation (COL) voted to admit women into Rotary clubs worldwide, a watershed moment in the history of Rotary. The vote followed the decades-long efforts of men and women from all over the Rotary world to allow for the admission of women into Rotary clubs, with several close votes at previous Council meetings. An enactment to delete the word "male" from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution is first proposed by a Rotary club in India for the Council on Legislation meeting in 1950. Between 1964 to 1977, various Rotary clubs worldwide propose admitting women into Rotary at COLs.

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In 1977, the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, admits women as members in violation of the RI Constitution and Standard Club Constitution. Because of this violation, the club's membership in RI is terminated in March 1978. (The club was reinstated in September 1986.) In a lawsuit filed by the Duarte club, the California Superior Court in 1983 rules in favor of Rotary International, upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Rotary clubs. In 1986, the California Court of Appeals reverses the lower court's decision, preventing the enforcement of the provision in California. And ultimately it is appealed to the US Supreme Court. On 4 May, 1987, the Supreme Court rules that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender.

In the following July, Sylvia Whitlock, of the Rotary Club of Duarte, became the first female Rotary club president. At its first meeting after the Supreme Court decision, the Council on Legislation votes to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men. In 2005, Carolyn Jones began her term as the first woman appointed as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation. In 2008, Catherine Noyer-Riveau began her term as the first woman elected to the RI Board of Directors. And in 2013, Anne L. Matthews, Rotary Club of Columbia East, SC, began her one year term as the first woman to serve as RI vice president.

When will RI have its first female president? The traditional path to the presidency in Rotary is highly defined by RI's culture and generally takes 40 years, 35 at a minimum! During those years, a multitude of Rotary positions must be successfully filled. And, an achievement rich career resume is also standard. The journey is both time consuming and expensive. Not many people of either gender rise to this expected level of service to Rotary. Given the established expectations of a successful candidate, we can anticipate our first female President sometime in 2022 to 2027, and regularly thereafter. There are several women who are past or current RI Directors, a necessary step, that joined Rotary in 1987 and later. The line is forming!