



# Rotary



Club of  
Bellingham

## *Getting To Know Us!*

The Rotary Club of Bellingham was chartered September 17th in 1917 and was the 331st Club to be founded. Today there are 46,000 Rotary Clubs worldwide in over 200 countries



We know there is a lot to take into consideration as a potential Rotarian. Will the Club members be a good fit for my personality? Does the Club take on the important issues that I care about? Can I make the time commitment that Rotary requires? What monetary commitment can I expect?

We are glad you are asking these questions and we have laid out the answers to those and more on the following pages. Really, if you have a desire to serve and have a heart for your community, we can figure the rest out because you have the most important issues covered.



VISIT US AT:  
[www.BellinghamRotary.org](http://www.BellinghamRotary.org)

LEARN MORE ABOUT  
ROTARY:  
[www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org)



# ROTARY CLUB

BECOME PART OF THE LEGACY!  
OF BELLINGHAM

## Why should I join Rotary?

There are a lot of reasons to join Rotary, reasons that are unique as our many members. Here are just a few of those reasons and the benefits!:

### COMMUNITY SERVICE -

Whether we are doing a service project, building a community asset, or raising money for our local non-profits, Rotarians are dedicated to making their community better.

### INTERNATIONAL SERVICE -

Our Club participates in several larger Rotary initiatives that help underserved parts of the world - both from a monetary contribution and boots-on-the-ground approach.

### YOUTH SERVICE -

From international youth exchange, our robust scholarship programs, and our student awards, Rotary Club of Bellingham is committed to supporting the youth in our community...and beyond!

### CONNECTING WITH MOVERS AND SHAKERS -

Our Club attracts business owners and community leaders. When you join, you will be rubbing shoulders with familiar names and faces in the Bellingham community.

### AN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY -

When you join Rotary, you become part of an international community with Clubs in over 200 countries throughout the world. Imagine going to a Club meeting in Germany or exchanging club flags with a Club in Japan!



Colleen Baldwin  
Member Since 2013

"I enjoy the opportunity to learn more about the members in RCOB and information about their personal and professional interests. Rotary provides a magnitude of different opportunities to support our local community as well as internationally. I joined because I am very blessed and hope to make a difference in any way I can!"



# CLUB HISTORY

The Rotary Club of Bellingham was founded September 17, 1917. It was the 331st club in the world, with over 46,000 clubs to follow! In its long history of service, the RCOB has included many of this area's most notable personages. In fact, the Club has a significant list of cherished older members; several have been in Rotary for over 50 years!

If you join our Club, you are joining an organization who has given millions back to the community and has been instrumental in developing many parks and attractions that are utilized in Whatcom County as well as helping those in need. We hope you will join us and be a part of that tradition!

Throughout the years RCOB has carried out an impressive number of community and international projects. The long list includes playgrounds, soccer fields, parks (including Boulevard Park), YMCA's and YWCA's, Scouts, the city pool; environmental projects, and more. To support these efforts, the Club has had many fund-raising projects including raffles, circuses, and more.

How much money have we given? Well, one study shows over \$4,000,000 donated in recent years since the Club starting keeping careful, annual track. This money went to over 250 separate charities!

Major gifts through 2024 of between \$75,000- \$100,000 each include the Bellingham Food Bank, Bellingham Swimming Pool, Bellingham Technical College, Bellingham Theatre Guild, Boys & Girls Club, Brigid Collins House, Hospice House, Lighthouse Mission, Rotary International Foundation, Rotary Polio Plus Campaign, Remodeling the Sun House, The Whatcom Museum, the YWCA, Lydia Place, the parking lot at Galbraith Mountain, the Recovery House by the Opportunity Council, the Max Higbee Center, the Community Boating Center, Whatcom Center for Early Learning, and the Lighthouse Mission. During our 2017-18 100th anniversary year, over \$400,000 was added to our scholarship endowment which provides more than \$90,000 per year to deserving young scholars.

The long history of the Club stands as testimony to the hard work of the hundreds of Members and officers who, through the years, have never forgotten the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self".



© Whatcom Museum



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# EXPECTATIONS OF ROTARIANS

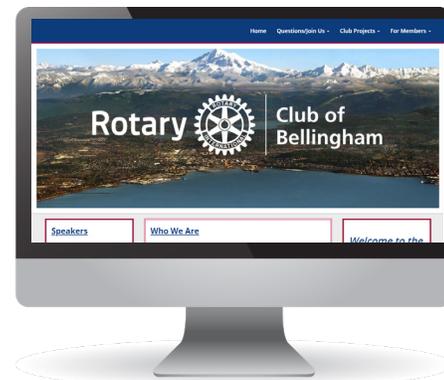
Rotary has changed a lot over the years! When times were simpler, regular attendance at our Monday meetings was required, and we would have close to 200 members in attendance. These days, we realize there are members who are ready to be active, attending meetings regularly as well as attending service projects and social events, but there are also members who want to take a more-passive role, contributing to our major project fundraising efforts and paying dues. Either of these approaches are fine ways to be a Rotarian!

## IN SHORT:

- Don't base your decision on weekly meeting attendance.
- Don't worry about committing to projects taking your whole weekend
- Don't worry about a requirement to recruit other people
- Don't worry if you are not in upper management

## SO WHAT WE DO NEED FROM YOU?

- A Rotarian spirit, with you finding avenues for service that resonate with you
- A commitment to building our Rotarian community by engaging with other Rotarians and the community about your Rotary experience
- An appreciation for our Club's history, legacy, and a desire to leave your own positive mark
- A commitment to paying your dues and being a financially-contributing member to the best of your ability



BellinghamRotary.com



@BellinghamRotary





**Del VandeKerk**  
Member Since 1998

“When I first joined Rotary, I was impressed by all the local charitable activities it supported. There were projects and fund-raising efforts that went directly to the stated causes. I saw it as a chance to give back to the community. Since that time, I’ve learned that Rotary is much more than just local projects. Through Rotary, we have a real impact throughout the world, and as it true locally. The vast majority of our contributions go directly to those who need it. So Rotary is a means by which all members can have a tremendous impact on whatever cause is important to them.”

## THE RCOB CALENDAR

### - WEEKLY EVENTS -

Weekly meeting: Mondays 12:15-1:30 pm  
except holidays

### - MONTHLY & QUARTERLY EVENTS -

Board Meetings - 2nd Thursday of each  
month at 4:30 pm

Social Outings

Quarterly Student  
Award Presentations

Community Service Projects

### - ANNUAL EVENTS -

January	February Ski Trip	March Rotation Day	April District Conference
May Sunnyland Memorial Park Clean-Up Memorial Day Parade	June Annual Youth Awards RI Convention Rotary Cruise	July Changing of the Guard	August District Golfun
September	October Blood Drive	November	December Salvation Army Bell Ringing





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## THINK YOU MIGHT BE A GOOD ROTARIAN?

The next step is to either connect with your Rotary Club of Bellingham contact or, if you don't have one, connect with our Club Secretary at: [rcob@comcast.net](mailto:rcob@comcast.net) and she will help you with what happens next!



2200 Vining Street  
Bellingham, WA 98229  
tel: (360) 734-5532  
email: [rcob@comcast.net](mailto:rcob@comcast.net)

[www.BellinghamRotary.org](http://www.BellinghamRotary.org)



# ANTICIPATED COSTS

## DUES

- \$450 Annual Dues (non-tax-deductible)
- \$200 Annual Assessment for Basic Club Charities (tax-deductible)
- \$100 Annual Recommended Voluntary Rotary International Foundation contribution (tax-deductible)

*Billed in two segments on November 1 and May 1.*

## MAJOR PROJECT

Recommended \$750 - \$1000 per year, usually pledged in October, due by January 31st of the following year (talk to us if this is out of reach)

## OTHER

ANNUAL SKI TRIP - *Optional*

PERIODIC FUNDRAISERS

## AT MEETINGS

**LUNCH** - Usually available a la carte at the meeting venue.

**RAFFLE** - \$1 per ticket - *optional*

**MINISTER OF FUN** - Max \$5 per meeting

**HAPPY BUCKS** - Grateful for something? Have you been blessed? Been on vacation? We want to hear about it! Provide a donation and establish your bragging rights.

**HAPPY ANNIVERSARY BUCKS** - Many of our members choose to celebrate their wedding anniversary by providing a donation to the Rotary Club of Bellingham Foundation of \$1 for every year they have been married.



## ROTARY CLUB OF BELLINGHAM

### MEMBERSHIP PROPOSAL FORM

**We propose the following Candidate to the Classification & Membership Committee and Board of Directors**

Print Candidate's FULL Name \_\_\_\_\_

We believe this candidate:

1. Meets the qualifications for membership as defined in RI's and RCOB's policies, bylaws, and constitutions;
2. Holds a position that enables the candidate to exercise decisive influence over his/her business or organization; and
3. Understands and will fulfill the requirements of Rotary membership.

Complete/answer the following:

1. Suggested Classification: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you wish to appear before the Classification & Membership Committee to advocate for your candidate?  Yes  No
3. If approved for membership, we will accompany her/him to the first several meetings and provide ongoing new member support.  Yes  No

I have known the candidate for _____ years. My acquaintance with the candidate has been of a _____ nature. (e.g., Social or Business)	I have known the candidate for _____ years. My acquaintance with the candidate has been of a _____ nature. (e.g., Social or Business)
PROPOSER #1: _____ (Signature)	PROPOSER #2: _____ (Signature)
(Print Name) _____	(Print Name) _____
Date _____	Date _____

**IMPORTANT! Proposers must review, complete and sign this form following the Candidate's completion of the information below. Return the signed form to: Executive Secretary, Rotary Club of Bellingham**

**PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION:** Candidate must personally complete this section.

Name in full \_\_\_\_\_

The call name desired on your badge, (e.g., "Bob" rather than Robert) \_\_\_\_\_

Business/Organization Name \_\_\_\_\_

Business Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Fax \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Primary function of business/organization \_\_\_\_\_

Position and/or Title \_\_\_\_\_

Describe your role in the business or organization \_\_\_\_\_

Where is the main office of your company/organization? \_\_\_\_\_ Years in present company/org? \_\_\_\_\_

List 3 previous positions prior to present occupation:

Dates, Position	Name of Business/Organization	Location (City and State)
1. _____	_____	_____
2. _____	_____	_____
3. _____	_____	_____

**PERSONAL INFORMATION:** Candidate must personally complete this section.

Home Address \_\_\_\_\_ City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Fax \_\_\_\_\_ Home E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Post Secondary Schools Attended \_\_\_\_\_  
 Hobbies or special interests: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Years in Bellingham \_\_\_\_\_ Time annually away from Bellingham \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMUNITY SERVICE INFORMATION:** Candidate must personally complete this section.

List other Rotary clubs, location, dates of membership, committees served and offices held: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

List other service clubs (e.g., Kiwanis) you belonged to including location, dates and offices held:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

List community service (church, school, clubs, etc.) organizations you belong(ed) to including dates, location and offices held:  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**PERSONAL OR PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES:** Candidate must personally complete this section.

PRINT names of at least three (3) or more members of the Rotary Club of Bellingham with whom you are well acquainted, the number of years you have known each, and their phone numbers. These names are in addition to your Proposers. **NOTE: Candidates may use non-Rotarian professional references if they are not well-acquainted with enough members of the RCOB.** Please notify all references that a member of the Membership and Classification Committee may contact them:

	Name	No. of Years Known	Email Address
1.	_____	_____	_____
2.	_____	_____	_____
3.	_____	_____	_____
4.	_____	_____	_____

**Proposal Completion/Submission:**

By completing this form and signing below, the candidate confirms his or her desire to be considered for membership in the RCOB. The candidate recognizes that the RCOB, its Directors, Classification and Membership (“C&M”) Committee and membership will discuss his or her qualifications during the membership selection process. The candidate specifically authorizes these groups to communicate about his or her qualifications, and releases and discharges RCOB, its Directors, C&M Committee and members from any liability or claims arising from (or alleged to have arisen from) such communications. The candidate also authorizes RCQB to publish his or her name in the Tattler as part of this process in accordance with RCOB’s membership procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Candidate’s Signature Date

**APPROVAL PROCESS**

Classification Committee Action \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Approved Classification \_\_\_\_\_

Board Action \_\_\_\_\_ By \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_