

Potsdam Rotary Honorary Membership Criteria

(adopted by the Board of Directors 5-22-2025)

Rotary International offers honorary membership to individuals who have demonstrated significant contributions to Rotary ideals and service, or who are considered friends of Rotary due to their support. These individuals are typically recognized for their distinguished service, embodiment of Rotary values, and support of Rotary causes.

Honorary Membership is open to both non-Rotarians and former Rotarians, although Honorary Membership should not be seen as a way to “retire” from active Rotary membership. The “Rule of 85” (sum of age and years of Rotary membership is at least 85) is available to ease attendance requirements for longtime members.

To be designated as an Honorary Member, the candidate should meet the following criteria:

Criteria for active or former active members:

- Has been an active regular member for a minimum of five years with an attendance record of at least 50% (including regular club meetings, club projects, events, and other activities)
- Continues to be active in club activities by attending at least four meetings each year
- Has participated in at least three club activities in the past year
- Has served as an officer
- Has sponsored at least one new member to the Club
- Contributes annually to the Rotary Foundation
- Exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances, e.g. illness
- Honorary Membership for active or former active members must be granted by a vote of the full board of directors

Criteria for non-Rotarians:

- The candidate should be considered a “friend of Rotary” for their support of Rotary's causes.
- The candidate should have demonstrated service in furthering Rotary ideals.
- The candidate should have made significant contributions to the club's activities and projects.
- Exceptions may be granted for extenuating circumstances, e.g. illness
- Honorary Membership for non-Rotarians must be granted by a vote of the full board of directors

Rights and Privileges of Honorary Members (per Constitution, Article 8, Section 6):

- Honorary members are exempt from paying Rotary International dues.
 - Honorary members do not have voting rights in club or district matters.
 - Honorary members are not eligible to hold any club office.
 - Honorary members are entitled to attend all club meetings and enjoy all other privileges in the club
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- Honorary members can visit other clubs without being a guest of a Rotarian.