

From a post by Margaret Wheatley

“28 Things Every Rotarian Should Know”

The power of Rotary knowledge
will enhance any conversation
and create both awareness and
confidence in belonging to Rotary.



1- DEFINITION OF ROTARY

How do you describe the organization called "Rotary"? There are so many characteristics of a Rotary club including features of service, internationality, fellowship, classifications of each vocation, development of goodwill and world understanding, the emphasis of high ethical standards, concern for other people and many more descriptive qualities.

After numerous drafts, in 1976 the Rotary International Board of Directors presented this definition, which has been used ever since in various Rotary publications:

"Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world."

How else can you answer the question: What is Rotary?

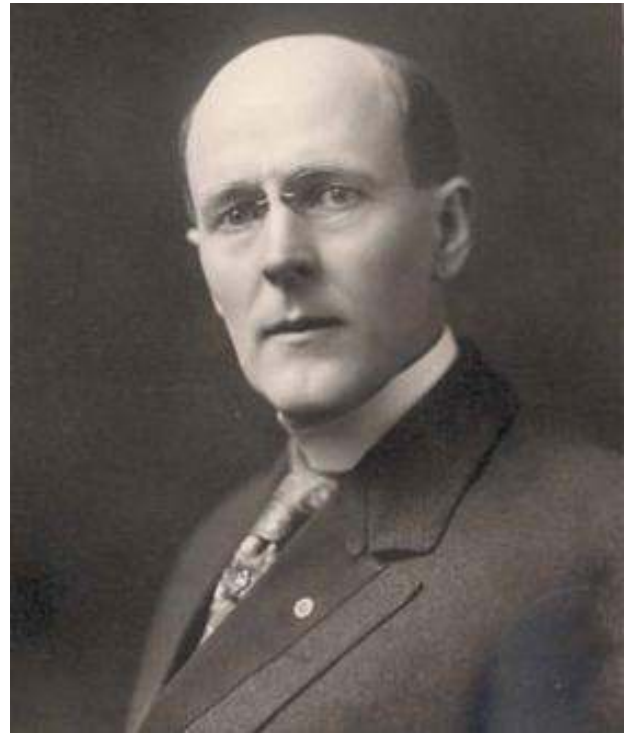


2 - ROTARY'S BEGINNING

Our 1.2 million-member organization started with the vision of one man—Paul P. Harris.

The Chicago attorney formed one of the world's first service organizations, the Rotary Club of Chicago, on 23 February 1905 as a place where professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form meaningful, lifelong friendships.

Rotary's name came from the group's early practice of rotating meetings among the offices of each member.



*“WHATEVER ROTARY MAY
MEAN TO US, TO THE
WORLD IT WILL BE KNOWN
BY THE RESULTS IT
ACHIEVES.”*

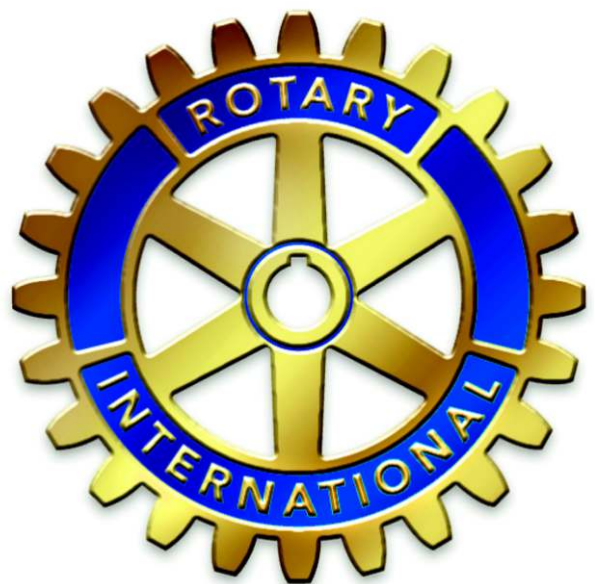
—PAUL P. HARRIS

3 - ROTARY'S WHEEL EMBLEM

A wheel has been the symbol of Rotary since our earliest days. The first design was made by Chicago Rotarian Montague Bear, an engraver who drew a simple wagon wheel, with a few lines to show dust and motion.

The wheel was said to illustrate "*Civilization and Movement.*" Most of the early clubs had some form of wagon wheel on their publications and letterheads.

Finally, in 1922, it was decided that all Rotary clubs should adopt a single design as the exclusive emblem of Rotarians. Thus, in 1923, the present gear wheel, with 24 cogs and six spokes was adopted by the "Rotary International Association." A group of engineers advised that the geared wheel was mechanically unsound and would not work without a "keyway" in the center of the gear to attach it to a power shaft. So, in 1923 the keyway was added and the design which we now know was formally adopted as the official Rotary International emblem.



4 - OBJECT OF ROTARY

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD: The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

5 - THE FOUR-WAY TEST

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships. The test has been translated into more than 100 languages, and Rotarians recite it at club meetings:

Of the things we think, say or do

- Is it the TRUTH?
- Is it FAIR to all concerned?
- Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
- Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



6 - FIVE AVENUES OF 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 through strong relationships and an active membership

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VOCATION SERVICE calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society.



COMMUNITY SERVICE encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest.



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.



YOUTH SERVICE recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as Rotaract, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, and Rotary Youth Exchange.

7 - SIX AREAS OF FOCUS



1) PEACE AND CONFLICT PREVENTION / RESOLUTION



2) DISEASE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT



3) WATER AND SANITATION



4) MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH



5) BASIC EDUCATION AND LITERACY



6) ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

8 - THE PRINCIPLE MOTTO OF ROTARY

Service Above Self

... is the principal motto of Rotary, since it best explains the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service.



SERVICE Above Self

9 - INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF EVERY ROTARIAN

As an international organization, Rotary offers each member unique opportunities and responsibilities. Although each Rotarian has first responsibility to uphold the obligations of citizenship of his or her own country, membership in Rotary enables Rotarians to take a somewhat different view of international affairs.

In the early 1950s a Rotary philosophy was adopted to describe how a Rotarian may think on a global basis. Here is what it said:

"A world-minded Rotarian:

- looks beyond national patriotism and considers himself as sharing responsibility for the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace;
- resists any tendency to act in terms of national or racial superiority;
- seeks and develops common grounds for agreement with peoples of other lands;
- defends the rule of law and order to preserve the liberty of the individual so that he may enjoy freedom of thought, speech and assembly, and freedom from persecution, aggression, want and fear;
- supports action directed toward improving standards of living for all peoples, realizing that poverty anywhere endangers prosperity everywhere;
- upholds the principles of justice for mankind;
- strives always to promote peace between nations and prepares to make personal sacrifices for that ideal;
- urges and practices a spirit of understanding of every other man's beliefs as a step toward international goodwill, recognizing that there are certain basic moral and spiritual standards which will ensure a richer, fuller life."

10 - THE SPONSOR OF A NEW MEMBER

Without a sponsor, an individual will never have the opportunity to become a Rotarian. The task of the proposer should not end merely by submitting a name to the club secretary or membership committee. The sponsor should:

1. Invite a prospective member to several meetings prior to proposing the individual for membership.
2. Accompany the prospective new member to one or more orientation/informational meetings.
3. Introduce the new member to other club members each week for the first month.
4. Invite the new member to accompany the sponsor to neighboring clubs for the first make-up meeting to learn the process and observe the spirit of fellowship.
5. Ask the new member and spouse to accompany the sponsor to the club's social activities, dinners or other special occasions.
6. Urge the new member and spouse to attend the district conference with the sponsor.
7. Serve as a special friend to assure that the new member becomes an active Rotarian.

When the proposer follows these guidelines, Rotary becomes stronger with each new member.



11 - WOMEN IN ROTARY

Until 1989, the Constitution and By-laws of Rotary International stated that Rotary Club membership was for males only.



Who was the first female member of Red Deer and possibly Central Alberta?

12 - EXCHANGE OF CLUB BANNERS

One of the colorful traditions of many Rotary clubs is the exchange of small banners, flags or pennants. Rotarians traveling to distant locations often take banners to exchange at "make up" meetings as a token of friendship.

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 a tangible symbol of our international fellowship.



13 - HONORARY MEMBERSHIPS

"Honorary" is one of the two types of membership a person may have in a Rotary club. This type of membership is the highest distinction a Rotary club can confer and is exercised only in exceptional cases to recognize an individual for unusual service and contributions to Rotary and society.

Honorary members cannot propose new members to the club, do not hold office and are exempt from attendance requirements and club dues.

Many distinguished heads of state, explorers, authors, musicians, astronauts and other public personalities have been honorary members of Rotary clubs, including King Gustaf of Sweden, King George VI of England, King Badouin of Belgium, King Hassan III of Morocco, Sir Winston Churchill, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, Charles Lindbergh, explorer Sir Edmund Hillary, Thomas Edison, Walt Disney, Bob Hope, British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and many of the presidents of the United States.

Truly, those selected for honorary membership are those who have done much to further the ideals of Rotary.

Who does Red Deer East have as honorary members?



14 - DISTRICT GOVERNOR

The Rotary district governor performs a very significant function in the world of Rotary. He or she is the single officer of Rotary International in the geographic area called a Rotary district, which usually includes about 45 Rotary clubs. The district governors, who have been extensively trained at the worldwide International Assembly, provide the "quality control" for the 27,000 Rotary clubs of the world. They are responsible for maintaining high performance within the clubs of their district.

He or she is a very experienced Rotarian who generously devotes a year to the volunteer task of leadership. The governor has a wealth of knowledge about current Rotary programs, purposes, policies and goals and is a person of recognized high standing in his or her profession, community and Rotary club. The governor must supervise the organization of new clubs and strengthen existing ones. He or she performs a host of specific duties to assure that the quality of Rotary does not falter in the district, and is responsible to promote and implement all programs and activities of the Rotary International president and the RI Board of Directors. The governor plans and directs a district conference and other special events.

Who is the incoming District Governor for 2016 - 2017?



15 - THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE

If you have not attended an annual Rotary District Conference, you have not experienced one of the most enjoyable and rewarding privileges of Rotary membership.

A district conference is for all club members and their spouses, not just for club officers and committee members.

The purpose of a district conference is for fellowship, good fun, inspirational speakers and discussion of matters which make one's Rotary membership more meaningful. Every person who attends a district conference finds that being a Rotarian becomes even more rewarding because of the new experiences, insights and acquaintances developed at the conference. Those who attend a conference enjoy going back, year after year.

The program always includes several outstanding entertainment features, interesting discussions and inspirational programs.

Where is the 2016 district conference? And the one after in 2017?

16 - 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 members should plan to participate in a Rotary International convention to discover the real internationality of Rotary. It is an experience you'll never forget.

Where is the next International Convention?



17 - YOUTH SERVICES

Youth Exchange

Rotary Youth Exchange is one of Rotary's most popular programs to promote international understanding and develop lifelong friendships.

The values of Youth Exchange are experienced not only by the high school-age students involved but also by the host families, sponsoring clubs, receiving high schools and the entire community. Youth Exchange participants usually provide their fellow students in their host schools with excellent opportunities to learn about customs, languages, traditions and family life in another country. Youth Exchange offers young people interesting opportunities and rich experiences to see another part of the world. Students usually spend a full academic year abroad, although some clubs and districts sponsor short term exchanges of several weeks or months.

How is Rotary club of Red Deer East participating in current Youth Exchange?

18 - ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARDS (RYLA)

Each summer thousands of young people are selected to attend Rotary-sponsored leadership camps or seminars in an informal out-of-doors atmosphere. The young men and/or women participate in a challenging program of discussions, inspirational addresses, leadership training and social activities designed to enhance personal development, leadership skills and good citizenship.

When is the next Ryla in our district?



19 - ROTARY YOUTH PROGRAM OF ENRICHMENT (RYPEN)

Rypen provides youth 13-18 years of age with the opportunity to enhance and develop individual self confidence and personal growth/life skills. This particular conference is focused on youth who have had limited opportunities to attend leadership development programs. The leadership development philosophy of the RYPEN program is based upon the “wholistic - meaning whole person” approach, with self esteem enhancement through the small group process as the foundation.

Youth will be involved in a variety of active experiential sessions addressing areas such as cooperation, goal setting, group decision making, interpersonal skill development, problem solving attitudes, values clarification, conflict resolution, active listening and communication. This is all accomplished through a “learn by doing” approach, and a “fun with a purpose” attitude.

The students that have gotten the most out of this experience in the past have been students that have been willing to participate, step out of their comfort zone, and be open to expanding their leadership style. Youth with varying levels of leadership skills have attended and gotten a lot out of the program. Priority should be given to students that have never attended this type of camp, have limited resources, and/or would get the most out of an opportunity like this.

When is the next Rypen camp in this district?



20 - Youth Adventure Programs

Rotary Clubs across Canada host and sponsor a variety of Adventure programs for youth, our leaders of tomorrow. These short term programs offer great opportunity for the Adventurers to explore their field of interest and also to experience Rotarians' hospitality. Some of these programs include:

- Adventures in Citizenship
- Adventures in Film
- Adventures in Forestry
- Adventures in Industry
- Adventures in Technology
- Adventures in Tourism
- Adventures in Agriculture



21 - INTERACT

Interact provides opportunities for boys and girls of secondary school age to work together in a world fellowship of service and international understanding. "Interactors" develop skills in leadership and attain practical experience in conducting service projects, thereby learning the satisfaction that comes from serving others.

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.

22 - ROTARACT

Rotaract was created in 1968 after the success of Interact Club. The new organization was designed to promote responsible citizenship and leadership potential in clubs of young men and women, aged 18 to 30.

Rotaract clubs in over 100 countries emphasize the importance of individual responsibility as the basis of personal success and community involvement. Rotaract also provides opportunities leading to greater international understanding and goodwill. The programs of Rotaract are built around the motto "Fellowship Through Service."

How many members does Red Deer's Rotaract Club have and when was it chartered?



23 - RECREATIONAL AND VOCATIONAL FELLOWSHIPS

From stamp collecting to wine appreciation, to Hospital Administration and Finance / Banking - the hobbies and interests of Rotarians are as diverse as the membership itself. Yet, among the more than one million Rotarians worldwide, an amateur-radio enthusiast or a chess player is bound to find others who share the same passions.

Fellowship members share more than just their common interest in sport diving or Esperanto; they share an interest in fellowship and service and in promoting world understanding. As such, it's no wonder that the International Skiing Fellowship of Rotarians donates the profits from ski events to The Rotary Foundation or that the Flying Rotarians help ferry medical personnel and supplies. Vocational Members exchange technical information and seek opportunities to employ their expertise in service not just to their own communities and countries, but to their professions as well.

Who in this club is a member of either a Recreational or Vocational Fellowship?



24 - ROTARY AND THE UNITED NATIONS

During and after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting international understanding.

In 1945, 49 Rotary members served in 29 delegations to the United Nations Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and promoting the United Nations in Rotary publications. Rotary International's relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) dates back to a 1943 London Rotary conference that promoted international cultural and educational exchanges.

Attended by ministers of education and observers from around the world, and chaired by a past president of RI, the conference was an impetus to the establishment of UNESCO in 1946.

25 - AMBASSADORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS

The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships Program is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. In 1947, 18 "Rotary Fellows" from 11 countries were selected to serve as ambassadors of goodwill while studying in another country for one academic year. Since that time, approximately \$242 million has been expended on some 25,000 scholarships for people from more than 125 countries, studying in 105 countries around the world.

The purpose of the Scholarships Program is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different countries. Scholars are expected to be outstanding ambassadors of goodwill to the people of the host country through both informal and formal appearances before Rotary and non-Rotary groups.

26 - MATCHING GRANTS

Among the programs of The Rotary Foundation are the Matching Grants that assist Rotary clubs and districts in conducting international service projects. Since 1965, more than 3,700 grants have been awarded for projects in about 135 countries with awards of more than \$23 million.

A club or district must contribute an amount at least as large as that requested from The Rotary Foundation with at least half the funds that the Foundation will match coming from a country outside of the country where the project will take place.

Grants have been made to improve hospitals, develop school programs, drill water wells, assist the handicapped or persons requiring special medical attention, provide resources for orphanages, create sanitation facilities, distribute food and medical supplies and many other forms of international community service in needy areas of the world. Some grants are for projects in the magnitude of from \$15,000 to \$50,000, but most are in the range of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

The Matching Grants program is a very significant part of The Rotary Foundation and provides an important incentive for clubs to undertake worthwhile international service projects in another part of the world. They certainly foster goodwill and understanding, which is in keeping with the objectives of The Rotary Foundation.

27 - POLIOPLUS

PolioPlus is Rotary's massive effort to eradicate poliomyelitis from the world. It is part of a global effort to protect the children from five other deadly diseases as well-the "plus" in PolioPlus.

Rotarians have helped immunize more than 2 billion children against polio in 122 countries. For as little as \$0.60, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life.

No other non-governmental organization ever has made a commitment of the scale of PolioPlus. Truly it may be considered the greatest humanitarian service the world has ever seen. Every Rotarian can share the pride of that achievement!

Today, there are only two countries that have never stopped transmission of the wild poliovirus: Afghanistan and Pakistan. Less than 370 polio cases were confirmed worldwide in 2014, which is a reduction of more than 99.9 percent since the 1980s, when the world saw about 1,000 cases per day

Every dollar Rotary commits to polio eradication will be matched two-to-one by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation up to \$35 million a year through 2018. These funds help to provide much-needed operational support, medical personnel, laboratory equipment, and educational materials for health workers and parents.



28 - PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

Undoubtedly the most important step to promote voluntary giving to The Rotary Foundation occurred in 1957, when the idea of Paul Harris Fellow recognition was first proposed. The distinctive Paul Harris Fellow medallion, lapel pin and attractive certificate have become highly respected symbols of a substantial financial commitment to The Rotary Foundation by Rotarians and friends around the world.

The companion to the Paul Harris Fellow is the Paul Harris Sustaining Member, which is the recognition presented to an individual who has given, or in whose honor a gift is made, a contribution of \$100, with the stated intention of making additional contributions until \$1,000 is reached. At that time the Paul Harris Sustaining Member becomes a Paul Harris Fellow.

A special recognition pin is given to Paul Harris Fellows who make additional gifts of \$1,000 to the Foundation. The distinctive gold pin includes a blue stone to represent each \$1,000 contribution up to a total of \$5,000 in additional gifts.

