

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

In addition to reading this document, we recommend that you review the “Rotary Basics” booklet to understand Rotary International overall.

About Rotary Club of Petoskey

Chartered November 4, 1921, the Rotary Club of Petoskey has been serving our community and world for 100 years and counting. Join us! We welcome kind-hearted, service-minded individuals willing and able to be active participants in our club.

We have a membership that currently numbers approximately 80 active members. Our members are a mix of all levels of career professionals and a significant number of retirees. Together we represent diverse occupations, hobbies, political and spiritual affiliations, etc. though we are all deeply united in our commitment to Rotary’s motto: ***Service Above Self.***

Rotary Club of Petoskey has an “extended family” feel to it. A member’s triumph is the club’s triumph; a member’s loss is the club’s loss. The sense of connection and caring that Rotarians feel for each other, and for the community we serve together, is real.

Perhaps that’s why we have relatively low turnover in our club. Once people join us, they tend to stay with us! 83% of our members have been Rotarians for five years or longer. Our mix of club meetings, socials, service projects and fundraisers – all 100% organized by our members – provide fantastic opportunity for personal, professional and community enrichment.

Avenues of Service

As prescribed by Rotary International, our club performs five Avenues of Service:

1. Club Service focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.

What this looks like in our club: Members who perform Club Service help attract and retain new members; plan weekly meeting content and other social activities; coordinate acts of caring when members experience hardship; keep our website, social media. and e-newsletter.

2. Vocational Service calls on all Rotarians to work with integrity and contribute their work expertise to the problems and needs of society.

What this looks like in our club: Recently we have refocused our scholarship efforts in support of North Central Michigan College programs in health sciences, nursing and fast track vocational efforts. Members who perform Vocational Service also present at school Career Exploration Days; give presentations to the club about their own occupations, and more.

3. 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.

What this looks like in our club: Members who perform Community Service organize events like roadside and beach clean-ups, Salvation Army bell ringing, Toys for Tots collection, tree plantings, Festival of Races aid/cheer station, and more.

4. International Service and the Rotary Foundation expands our reach around the world by supporting international service projects and promoting global peace and understanding.

What this looks like in our club: Members who perform International Service organize fundraisers for the Rotary Foundation, to support Rotary's polio eradication efforts. Occasionally there are also opportunities to work with other chapters to apply for special grants to fund projects overseas. For example, we recently received a grant to fund water/sanitation infrastructure in Honduras and our Rotary district 6290 supports similar efforts for the country of Haiti.

5. Youth Service recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs.

What this looks like in our club: Members who perform Youth Service support struggling teens through our STRIVE mentorship program, select students to attend an annual Life Leadership Conference, and organize our Teacher of the Year Award to honor an outstanding teacher and more.

Philanthropy

Rotary Club of Petoskey complements our service with robust charitable giving. Our club is fortunate to donate thousands of dollars each year to worthwhile charitable activities and to local students in pursuit of higher education. Some of this giving is managed by Petoskey Rotary Club Charities Inc. (PRCCI), the 501(C)(3) charitable arm of our club. While we give to many causes, our club has a particularly strong history in supporting outdoor recreation. Over the last century, we've played a role in establishing and/or upgrading several recreational facilities. These include Camp Daggett, Curtis Field, Winter Sports Park, River Road Sports Complex, Petoskey Northmen Stadium, Little Traverse Wheelway, Riverbend Park, pickleball courts, and the Petoskey High School tennis courts.

Currently our charitable giving comes from three primary sources:

Petoskey Rotary Charities Fund: This is a charitable fund currently managed for us by the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. Yearly grants depend upon the performance of permanently invested funds. Typically, this fund is able to grant roughly \$20,000 per year to a variety of local nonprofit activities. Members volunteer to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the PRCCI Board of Directors.

Petoskey Rotary Park Fund: This is a second, separate fund also managed for us by the Petoskey-Harbor Springs Area Community Foundation. We access this fund to grant nonprofit capital projects. Like above, members volunteer to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the Rotary Club of Petoskey Board of Directors.

Charitable income (fundraising): Throughout the year, our members organize a variety of fundraisers, most notably our calendar/raffle sales and our longstanding Spaghetti Dinner for the community. Proceeds from our fundraisers support scholarship awards for local students and ad-hoc charitable giving outside of the formal grantmaking programs described above.

Time Commitment

Our club gathers for weekly meetings every Wednesday from Noon – 1:00 PM at the Perry Hotel in downtown Petoskey. We ask members to attend at least 50% of the time. Each meeting includes time to eat lunch, socialize with fellow Rotarians, and receive club announcements. Each meeting concludes with a 15-20 minute presentation by a guest speaker on a topic of interest to our community.

Additional time is required to conduct Rotary's many service activities, such as helping to plan a social or fundraiser, scheduling a speaker for a weekly meeting, mentoring a teen in our STRIVE program, etc.

Between attending the weekly meeting and contributing to chosen service activities, most members can generally expect to devote 1-2 hours per week to Rotary. Sometimes more, sometimes less.

Financial Commitment

Members are billed quarterly for their participation in Rotary. Some fees are flat across all members. Other fees vary based on members' actions.

Annual Flat fees

Club Dues:	\$100.00
International and District Dues:	\$166.00
Rotary Foundation Dues:	\$26.00

Variable fees

Weekly meeting meals:	Varies based on the number of meetings attended. Members are charged \$16.50 per meal. At 100% attendance, this totals \$858.00 per year. At 50% attendance, this totals \$429.00 per year. Members can also choose to forego meals at the Perry and not be charged for them.
Spaghetti Dinner tickets:	\$100.00 per year (members may sell the tickets to recoup all or part of this expense)
Calendars/raffle tickets:	\$200-250.00 per year (members may sell the calendars to recoup all or part of this expense)

Based on the information above, for budgeting purposes, each member can generally expect to invest between \$700 and \$1,500 per year (billed quarterly) into their Rotary membership. For some, these fees qualify as a business expense and are covered by their employers. Ask your employer if you aren't sure.

New Member Application Process

Anyone wanting to explore membership in the Rotary Club of Petoskey is invited to join us for a meeting to learn more. New members must be sponsored by a current member of our club (if you do not have a sponsor, one will be assigned to you.) Sponsors act as 'chaperones' of sorts. Your sponsor will bring you to a few of our weekly meetings, introduce you to current members, and generally help you determine if our club's values, activities and expectations are a right fit for you.

If you decide to pursue membership in our club, the next step is to submit a brief application (available on our website) to our Board of Directors. The board will review and approve your application.

As part of the membership process, you will be invited to a "fireside chat" with 2-4 Rotarians. We call it a fireside chat because it is an opportunity for deeper conversation on your motivations for joining Rotary, what you hope to gain from membership, how you intend to contribute to our club, etc. The fireside chat is also a great time to address any lingering questions or concerns, and to hear from current members about their Rotary experiences.

Following the fireside chat, you decide once and for all if you'd like to join our club. We hope you do! All new members are recognized in a brief Induction Ceremony. Prior to the ceremony, your sponsor will gather information about you to share with the club so members can get to know you better.

Rotary Club of Petoskey—General Calendar of Events

Below is a rough calendar of events, depicting club happenings in any given month. Specific event details (date, time, location, etc.) are shared during weekly club meetings and in the weekly Club Bulletin. Event details are subject to change. Many service and fellowship opportunities often arise throughout the year.

JANUARY

- STRIVE meeting
- Board meeting
- Spaghetti Dinner planning

FEBRUARY

- STRIVE meeting
- Board meeting
- Spaghetti Dinner planning

MARCH

- STRIVE meeting
- Board meeting
- Spaghetti Dinner Planning
- Rotary Park Fund grant applications due
- PRCCI Fund grant applications due

APRIL

- Spaghetti Dinner fundraiser
- STRIVE meeting
- Board meeting
- Club assembly
- Teacher of the Year interviews
- Spring roadside cleanup along US 131

MAY

- STRIVE banquet and Club presentation
- Board meeting
- Teacher of the Year award ceremony
- Top of Michigan Festival of Races volunteering
- Rotary Park Fund grants awarded
- PRCCI Fund grants awarded
- High School scholarships awarded
- Service Above Self awards given

JUNE

- Board meeting
- Paul Harris Fellows Luncheon
- Summertime Pedal for Polio
- Exchange of Officers dinner

JULY

- Board meeting
- 4th of July volunteering

AUGUST

- Board meeting
- Annual visit from District Governor
- Calendar Raffle Fundraiser begins

SEPTEMBER

- Board meeting
- Autumn roadside cleanup along US 131

OCTOBER

- STRIVE kickoff meeting
- Board meeting
- Autumn Pedal for Polio
- Autumn gathering at the Billy Duff cabin

NOVEMBER

- STRIVE meeting
- Board meeting
- Toys for Tots toy collection

DECEMBER

- STRIVE meeting
- Board meeting
- Calendar Raffle Fundraiser ends
- Toys for Tots toy collection
- Salvation Army bell ringing
- Club assembly / officer elections
- Madrigals Luncheon