

New Rotary Club Member Frequently Asked Questions



Q. How does our club fit into the world-wide Rotary International?

Rotary is a worldwide collection of over 34,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries and other territories. Each club is a member of a Rotary District, which is led by a District Governor and their leadership team. Districts typically have between 40 and 80 clubs.

We are a part of District 6440, comprised of 73 clubs in Northeast Illinois, including Chicago's north, northwest and many of the western suburbs. Districts are part of one of 34 Zones. Rotary International is led by a President and a 17 member Board of Directors, all of whom are volunteer Rotarians. Each Zone is paired with another Zone, and each pair of Zones elects one of its members to serve on the RI Board.

Q. What does it cost to be a member?

Membership dues are \$125 a quarter and quarterly lunch costs \$150, which is a total of \$275 per quarter. As an alternative, you can pay for lunch on pay-as-you-go basis @ \$15 a week.

Q. How do I pay my dues?

Quarterly invoices for dues and meal charges are emailed around the first of July, October, January and April. Payments may be made by check at lunch (give your check to Bob Baker or Patti Van Cleave) or mailed to the club c/o the Winnetka Community House, or online.

If you have a question regarding your dues, contact the club Treasurer:

Patti Van Cleave / vancleave.patti@gmail.com

Rotary Club of Winnetka-Northfield

c/o Community House Winnetka

620 Lincoln Ave

Winnetka IL 60093

Q. Is business networking acceptable?

A. While Rotary first started as the first business networking organization, it has evolved over time into an organization focused on fellowship and service with a dedication to upholding the highest ethical standards. Business owners who join Rotary can expect to see their businesses supported by fellow Rotarians over time, as they and their business become known. However, aggressive promotion of one's business is frowned upon and not in keeping with the core mission of Rotary which is to serve communities locally and internationally while forming lasting friendships. One way to promote your business is sponsorship of our club's benefit events. Also, you may make announcements about your business at our weekly meetings, by adding a little more to the Dig 'n Grin pot.

Q. How can I get a list of members?

You may find lists of our members on the administration page of our [website](#). You will need to log on to the site. If you do not know your user id and password, there is a link to have it emailed to you. Once on the admin page, look in the My ClubRunner links for the View Club Directory and View Club Photo Directory links.

Q. How do I log onto the website? What is on the website?

Our website is at www.wnrotary.org. The home page includes stories about our club, a list of upcoming speakers and club events, links to email club leaders and links to other Rotary websites

and resources. All club members can log onto the site using the Login link in the upper right. Once in the Admin section, members may update their own profile, access lists of club members, use an email feature to send emails to other club members, and help with club administration. If you do not know your user id and password, there is a link to have it emailed to you.

Q. What is the attendance requirement for members?

Our club has a flexible attendance requirement. New members are expected to regularly attend weekly meetings, generally maintaining at least 50% attendance. Members are encouraged to “make up” missed meetings by attending another local Rotary meeting. A list of local clubs and meeting times and locations may be found on the [District 6440 website](#). As life’s circumstances change, established members sometimes find they cannot continue to regularly attend meetings, but they wish to continue supporting the club and be a part of Rotary. The club’s Board determines when it is acceptable for a member to maintain their membership while not being an active weekly participant in the club.

Q. How can I get involved and help?

All of our club projects and activates have small committees who plan and manage them. Volunteer to help the next time a committee is starting. We also have a standing Membership and PR committee which could use your help. Finally, serving on the Board (a two year term) is a great way to get to know the club, a bit about the District and other leaders in our club. Board elections take place every December for terms beginning in July. Let the President Elect know of your interest in serving on our Board.

Another way to get involved is to bring new project ideas to the club. All of our great projects happen because one or two members think it’s a great idea and propose it to the club’s Board and provide the leadership to make it happen.

Q. How is the Club managed?

All of us are volunteers, and we are self-governing. The club is led by a President who serves a one-year term and a Board of Directors who serve two-year terms. The Rotary year runs from July through June. Prior to assuming office, the President Elect organizes his/her leadership team, prepares a Club Planning Document and attends Presidents Elect Training (PETS) with PEs from other clubs in the Midwest. Key members of the Leadership Team include a VP/President Elect, Secretary/President Nominee, Treasurer and finance committee, Public Relations, Membership, International, Youth Exchange Officer and committee, and ad hoc committees for our various projects. The WNRCF is managed by a separate President and Board who is elected each July by the club’s Board.

Q. What is “The Foundation”?

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is the charitable funding arm of Rotary International. TRF engages in humanitarian and educational programs with the support and participation of Rotary Clubs. Detailed information about TRF can be found [on their main webpage](#).

All Rotarians are expected to support the work of the Rotary Foundation with tax deductible contributions the TRF “**Annual Fund**”. This campaign is referred to as “*Every Rotarian Every Year,*” and \$100 is the suggested minimum donation. [Donations are easy through Rotary.org](#). You can make a one-time donation or set up recurring donations throughout the year. Note that you can also make a donation to our club’s foundation, designating it for TRF.

The **Winnetka-Northfield Rotary Charitable Foundation** (WNRCF) is the 501(c)(3) charitable arm of our club, and your contributions are tax deductible. WNRCF is led by a President and Board of Directors, who manage its activities and projects. WNRCF traditionally makes annual community

grants and supports club service projects in conjunction with other charitable organizations like Operation Warm and Kids Against Hunger and TRF. Our club usually has one or more fundraisers each year for WNRCF, and club members are expected to contribute time and resources, as their circumstances permit.

Q. How does the club and its foundation decide what charitable work to support?

The WNRCF Board ultimately determines which projects and charitable organizations to support, in consultation with the Club's President, Board and membership.

Q. What is a Paul Harris Fellow?

To encourage and recognize support of The Rotary Foundation, and to honor Rotary founder Paul Harris, the Paul Harris Fellowship award was created. Rotarians are awarded a Paul Harris Fellow award and special pin for contributing \$1,000 to TRF.

In addition to cash contributions, Rotarians may have "Paul Harris points" contributed in their name by fellow Rotarians or clubs. Once a Rotarian has become a Paul Harris Fellow for the first time, all subsequent cash contributions are matched by Paul Harris points which may be donated to other Rotarians or non-Rotarians to help make them a Paul Harris Fellow. Each time someone's contributions plus points reaches another \$1,000 milestone, another Paul Harris Fellow award is made by The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Club of Winnetka Northfield will donate up to 500 points to any Rotarian who contributes \$200 or more in one Rotary year in order to help the Rotarian reach a Paul Harris Fellow award. Learn more about Paul Harris Fellowships at Rotary.org.

Questions about Meetings

Q. Where and when does the Club meet?

We meet weekly for lunch on Thursdays, 12:15 – 1:30pm, at the Winnetka Community House. Members and guests enjoy a catered lunch, opportunities for networking and fellowship and an interesting and informative program. Guests are always welcome and your first lunch is on us!

Q. What are the meeting assignments?

Each week, club members are assigned to one of four meeting responsibilities on a rotating basis. Members are notified in advance through the weekly club email. If you cannot fulfill your service in a given week, then you should arrange your own replacement and inform the club President.

The four roles are:

1. **Greeter**
 - a. Welcome each member and guest,
 - b. collect names of visiting Rotarians and guests to be introduced during the meeting, and
 - c. arrive before noon.
2. **Thought of the Day / Sargent at Arms**
 - a. Provide an opening inspirational message,
 - b. assist with setting up the room and returning club property to the "Rotary Closet" after the meeting, and
 - c. arrive before noon.
3. **Dig 'n Grin:** Entertain the club with a joke or anecdote
4. **Scribe:** Take the minutes of the meeting

Q. What is Dig ‘n Grin?

Every Rotary club has its own meeting traditions, which can change over time as club leadership changes. Our club enjoys the tradition of “Dig ‘n Grin,” where a member entertains the club with a few jokes or humorous stories (the Grin part). Members in attendance dig into their pockets for \$2.00. These small tips are collected by our foundation (WNRCF). In recent years, the first \$2,000 collected are forwarded to TRF’s **End Polio Now** fund to support the RI led effort to eradicate polio from the world.

Q. What are “Happy Bucks”?

Each week, members are encouraged to share good news from their lives with the club and to express their gratitude by contributing a little extra to the Dig ‘n Grin pot.

Q. I see some people making donations on their birthdays. What is expected?

Many members of our club make an annual contribution to WNRCF or TRF on their birthday. In years past, it was customary to contribute \$1 for each year. Members who choose to continue this tradition should feel comfortable contributing whatever amount they deem appropriate. Donations may be designated for a specific WNRCF or TRF project with a note in the check’s memo line.

Q. Is it ok to leave a meeting early?

Leaving during our weekly program is discouraged and should be avoided. If you must leave a meeting early, common courtesy suggests that you should notify the program speaker during the pre-meeting social time, and leave prior to the start of their presentation.

Q. What is the “4 Way Test”?

We close all of our meetings by standing and reciting the Rotary Four-Way Test:

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?

Q. What if I have a good program idea?

Our club has a great history of consistently terrific programs. Each year, one member serves as Program Chair, currently David Grant. If you have a great idea for a program, pass it on the Program Chair or Club President.

Q. What if I have a good project idea?

All club projects originate from one of our members. If you have an idea, discuss it with the Club President or member of the Board. Consider attending a monthly Board meeting and discussing it with the board there. If you bring the leadership for a project and it is consistent with the mission of Rotary, history shows that our club will support the project.

Contacts:

Web: wnrotary.org

Email: info@wnrotary.org.

Mail:

Rotary Club of Winnetka-Northfield

c/o Community House Winnetka

620 Lincoln Ave

Winnetka IL 60093