

# BRATTLEBORO ROTARY CLUB FIRESIDE CHAT

Purpose: To give potential members an opportunity under no pressure to ask questions about and be given information of our Club's expectations of members in a less formal setting than our orientation. Our objective is to induct person(s) who will be member(s) for years to come because they understand and share our vision and goals.

Time needed: About 30-45 minutes in a mutually acceptable location.

To be discussed:

## Overview:

Our Club has five Officers: a President, Vice President, President Elect, Secretary and Treasurer. For continuity purposes, the immediate Past President serves as a Director along with 1 Director for each of the Avenues of Service: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service and New Generations Service. Together these 11 Rotarians comprise our Board of Directors. Elections are held each December for the five Officers. The Avenues of Service Directors may or may not continue in the new administration which begins July 1 of the following year.

Our Club is a non-profit but is not a 501(c)3, so payments to the Brattleboro Rotary Club are not tax deductible. However, payments to Pure Water for the World, the Gateway Foundation and Rotary International are.

We belong to District 7870 which consists of a total of 60 Clubs and covers Southern Vermont and New Hampshire. We operate on a fiscal year which runs from July 1 through June 30. District 7870 is part of Zone 32 which has 20 other Districts and covers Bermuda, Canada, all of New England, New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey. We have 1053 Clubs with almost 38,000 members in our Zone. Each zone has approximately the same number of Rotarians and is reviewed every eight years. There are 34 Zones with 34,000 Clubs with 1.2 million members worldwide.

## 1. Finances

### A. Fixed Expenses:

**Dues** Current dues are \$160.00 per year payable either in total on July 1 (preferable) or in two installments of \$80.00 by July 1 and January 1. Before a potential member is inducted into the Club,

prorated dues for the remainder of the 6 month period during which they join plus a one time initiation fee of \$25.00 must be paid. Members are expected to pay dues in a timely manner thereafter.

We pay dues to the District once a year in July based on our membership as of June 30. **The figures following are the costs per member.** Currently the dues paid to the District are \$31.00. Additionally included in the invoice, Clubs pay the President Elect Training Registration Fee and Materials held each year in March, for D&O insurances and Fidelity Bonds for our Club and for our Gateway Foundation, plus a District Meeting Fee which covers our District Assembly in March and the Foundation Seminar in November. Each year at the District Assembly in March or April, the President Elect votes to approve the District budget. We pay dues to Rotary International twice a year in July and January based on our membership June 30 and December 31. The dues were \$52.00 per year this year, plus the subscription to "The Rotarian," a monthly magazine of Rotary activities all over the world (\$12.00 per year), plus a small amount for insurance for Club activities. Approximately \$45.00 per year each member's dues stay in our Club to run our Administrative activities, such as new badges, pins, awards, and funding to send our President-Elect to the District Conference.

**Birthdays:** For \$1.00, we sing Happy Birthday to you at the Club meeting nearest to your birthday. Also on that day, you have the privilege of unlimited brags and fines at no cost to you.

### B. Variable Expenses:

**Lunches** are \$12.00 payable before the meeting. Members not eating pay a \$5.00 meeting fee. If a member arrives after the President has rung the opening bell at 12:15 PM, a \$.25 fine is payable to the piggy bank. If a member must leave early prior to the speaker presentation, please introduce yourself to the speaker when you arrive, apologize for needing to miss their presentation and leave a \$2.00 "streaking" fee on the table which the Sergeant-at-Arms will collect. Note: **It is not payable to the speaker.**

**Every Member Every Year** is a program which supports Rotary International and generates the funds for many projects such as Group Study Exchange, Peace Scholar Program, Humanitarian

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Grants and Polio Plus. For every \$1.00 you donate (tax deductible), you earn a point and upon attaining 1000 points you earn a Paul Harris Fellowship Award. Paul Harris was a Vermonter from Wallingford who founded Rotary in February 1905 when he was living in Chicago. One of our Club Visioning Goals is to have 100% participation in this program. We do not care whether you donate \$5.00 or \$5000.00 but if you contribute at least \$50.00 **AND** participate in a Club service project, our Club will then match your contribution with \$50.00. To further clarify, if you donate \$45.00, the Club will not match your donation. If you donate \$50.00 and do not participate in a Club service project, the Club will not match your donation. If you donate \$100.00 and participate in a service project, our Club will contribute \$50.00.

Braggs and Fines: It is customary in our Club to brag for our fellow Rotarians, our families, friends and businesses. Any amount is acceptable and checks are accepted made out to Gateway, Pure Water, and Rotary International, as well. These three organizations are 501(c)3s and contributions are tax deductible. Fines cost \$.10 and are proposed in good humor. A member will be given a chance to defend themselves and then a voice vote will either confirm or deny the fine.

Special Occasions: We have 2-3 evening dinners for members and their spouses and partners throughout the year. The cost is generally the actual cost to our Club which is usually \$25.00-\$35.00 per person. New members are encouraged to attend to broaden their connections with Club members and their partners through these events.

### **2. Attendance**

We set our attendance requirements in alignment with Rotary International. Currently the requirements are based on a six month period (same as dues). At a minimum, you must attend 50% of the meetings (13) each 6 month period. Of those 13 meetings, 8 must be at your home club. You may make up meetings either 2 weeks prior or two weeks after a missed meeting by attending an E-Club meeting on the RI website ([www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)), attending a meeting at another Rotary Club, working on a Club service project (except Christmas Trees and the Golf Tournament), attending a Club Board meeting, attending a Club committee meeting, attending a District or Rotary International activity, or giving

Blood. That being said, we believe a strong club comes from active engaged members working together to accomplish great things.

If you miss four (4) meetings in a row, the Board could terminate your membership.

If you should need a leave of absence for a good reason, you may ask the Board in writing to grant an excused leave for a specific length of time. Generally, these are given for medical reasons.

If you find you need to leave the area and transfer to another Rotary Club, upon payment of any existing financial obligations to our Club, we will be happy to issue a letter to your new Club advising them of your good standing. If you should decide to resign at some point in the far, far future, please notify the President by written letter or electronic communication.