

## An Introduction to the Rotary Club of Andover

### What is Rotary?

Rotary is one of the most prestigious service organization in the world. Rotary International consists of 1.2 million members in 34,000 clubs worldwide. Its mission is to *provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through its fellowship of business, professional and community leaders*. Rotary's motto of "service above self" is channeled through the five avenues of service: club service, vocational service, community service, international service and new generation service.

If you want to know where the leaders of a community meet just check out its local Rotary club. Here in Andover our club has been home to many of our town government leaders, bank executives, local business owners, physicians, attorneys and an army general. However, it is not social status that distinguishes a Rotarian—it is a commitment to serve. We welcome all who share that commitment.



### What makes the Rotary Club of Andover special?

If you have an impression of Rotary as being a bunch of older men trading stories over lunch you haven't attended a meeting of the Rotary Club of Andover. Our Club is one of the most active clubs in New England. Its success is underscored by the growth of membership of over 50% in the past 4 years. The reason is simple: We gather to do good but we stay because we have a good time. Laughter is a common denominator to all of our meetings.

Though each meeting is unique there is a common structure to all. The meeting starts with general announcements. The highlight of the meeting is a talk by a leader in the community or in his/her vocation. They are nearly all thought provoking and provide fodder for water cooler conversation the rest of the day. We end by volunteering "happy dollars" for just about any excuse to entertain each other.

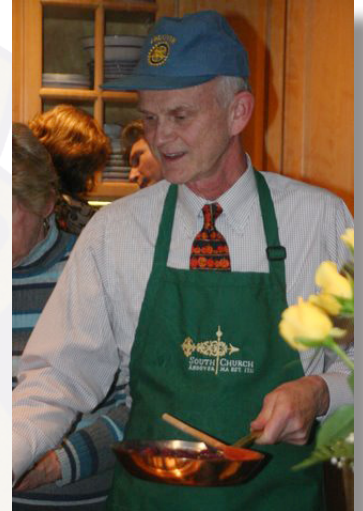




## Are there networking opportunities?

As Rotarians we gather each week to enjoy each other's fellowship and to serve our community. We are not the Chamber of Commerce nor are we a business leads group for which the primary activity is the exchange of business cards. We do not solicit business from other members.

Nonetheless it is a truism that people do business with people they like and trust. Members who are actively involved with club activities invariably gain the respect of their fellow Rotarians. When a member does need a service or product he or she is likely to think of an active Rotarian. The social and business network of fellow Rotarians may take time to develop but it is stronger than those that are forged in a networking organization.



## What are the expectations of a Rotarian?

New members are selected to the Andover club after careful screening to ensure that they will be productive members of the club. Members usually discover that fulfilling the responsibilities of a Rotarian is more of a fun activity than a task. These responsibilities fall into any of the five avenues of service mentioned above.

Attendance to at least 50% of the weekly meetings is required by Rotary rules though we hope that members make most of them. Those who travel much will find that one of the great joys in Rotary is making up a meeting at any of the thousands of clubs worldwide. (There is an app for that.) Though fellowship is the basis of our coming together every week, it is service that drives the Rotary mission forward. We expect that every member will be involved in at least one committee and actively help out with our two annual fund-raising events.



## What is the financial commitment?

Members of all clubs pay dues to their local club and to Rotary International. Dues to the latter are very modest — less than \$100 per year. Dues to the Andover club primarily go to cover the expense of our meals. This amount is approximately \$1200 per year.

As with all Rotary clubs we actively encourage every member to contribute to the Rotary Foundation. Gifts to the Foundation not only do valuable work around the world—50% comes back to our own district for use in our own area.

## How do I find out if Rotary is a good fit?

Acceptance into the Rotary Club of Andover is by sponsorship. Prospects are vetted, then brought to a vote before the Board and, finally, accepted by a vote of the membership. We encourage you to contact us to attend a breakfast meeting as our guest. Once you have seen the club in action you can decide whether or not you would like to be considered for membership.

We meet at the Lanam Club every Friday morning from 7:30 to 8:30.

If you are interested in finding out more please call our membership chair Bill Buck at 978-475-0077 or e-mail him at [bbuck@stonewallre.com](mailto:bbuck@stonewallre.com)