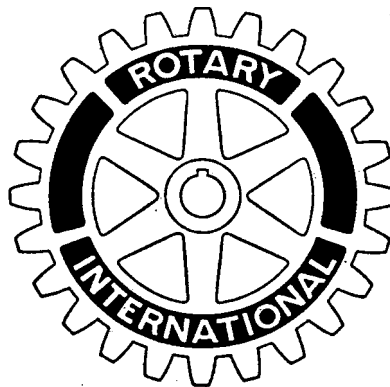


# SO, YOU'VE BEEN INVITED TO BECOME A ROTARIAN !

A HANDBOOK OF INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE ROTARIANS

OF

THE ROTARY CLUB OF SOUTH PORTLAND/CAPE ELIZABETH



What is Rotary?

Rotary is a service organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who conduct humanitarian projects, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and work toward world understanding and peace.

## What is Rotary?



Rotary is more than 1 million service-minded leaders who belong to more than 24,000 clubs in more than 167 countries. Membership is by invitation. You were first proposed by a club member; no one becomes a member of a Rotary Club simply by applying.

Rotary was initially founded by Paul Harris in 1905. In a small office on Dearborn Street in downtown Chicago, four businessmen gathered on February 23rd to start the first club. Rotary got its name because these early founders "rotated" their meeting places among their places of business. The first project undertaken by the first club was to lead a campaign to install comfort stations in Chicago's City Hall -- hardly pretentious, but it did set a precedent for service to the community.

Rotary's mottos are "Service Above Self" and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best" ... and we abide by a "Four Way Test" which you will learn about.

In Rotary, thoughtfulness of others is regarded as the basis of service and helpfulness to others as its expression. Rotary is not a secret organization. It does not seek to supplant or to interfere with any religious or political organizations.

Rotarians meet weekly, not just to eat but to enjoy fellowship and discuss and plan how they can serve others. You will soon begin to learn the many ways Rotary serves around the world.

## What can you tell me about the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Club?

We are a club of about 50 members with an average age of about 47. We meet every Wednesday evening at 6:15 p.m. at the Purpoodock Club on Spurwink Road in Cape Elizabeth.

After members sign in and pay for their meal, there is time for socializing. At 6:15 p.m. the Club President calls the meeting to order with a salute to the flag, a patriotic song, and an invocation. The meal is then served. Following dinner, we normally introduce guests and visiting Rotarians, conduct a raffle, and then conduct a brief business meeting to announce and/or discuss any Club projects or events. "Happy Dollars" are a portion of the meeting where a

member can make an announcement or relate a brief story -- births, graduations, vacations, anecdotes, etc. all fall under "Happy Dollars." Occasionally, there will be some good-natured (and small) fines -- for not wearing your Rotary pin, having your photo in the paper, etc. Around 7:00 p.m. or so, the guest speaker (our program for the night) is introduced by a fellow Rotarian and, once that is concluded, we adjourn.

Most of the effective work of our Club is, naturally, not done during the Wednesday meetings. In the course of our year, we provide scholarships, help worthwhile organizations with projects, and do our best to raise some money that can be contributed back into our community and into worldwide Rotary projects. Our major annual fund-raiser is the sale of Christmas trees at Mill Creek Park in South Portland. 1990 will mark our 28th year of this effort.

The money we raise has gone into scholarships, substance abuse programs, playgrounds, homes for the elderly, theater/drama, Special Olympics, Junior Achievement, the two high schools we serve and the programs for which they need special funding, and a wide variety of other community support efforts. We also do a lot of "hands on" projects such as building bleachers at the Cape's Family Field and selling fried dough at a booth during Family Fun Day every year.

But it's not all work-related activity! We have a softball team that competes against other Rotary clubs and various organizations ... and we schedule several evenings a month for basketball at a local gym during that season.

#### What is expected of individual members?

The honest answer is "as much or as little as you can do." But we take pride in being Rotarians -- and in selecting other men and women who will also be active, helpful and caring. So, aside from the expectation that you will attend meetings (we'll talk about attendance requirements later), Rotarians are also expected to do a fair share to help with Club projects and activities. Each of us takes several shifts each Christmas season selling trees at the lot, for example. Each Club member is expected to provide a guest speaker about once a year. We encourage members to be active on asked to donate a fund-raising raffle prize (\$15-\$25 on average) about once a year.

### How much time will it take me?

The weekly meeting goes from 6:15 to about 7:30 p.m.. Beyond that, it would be time involved with committees and/or projects. Some members have functions which require a lot of time, such as our President. Others find it takes very little time. If every member would spend just an hour or two a week beyond the meetings, we would be a very "contributing" club in our community.

### Isn't Rotary just for "older" people?

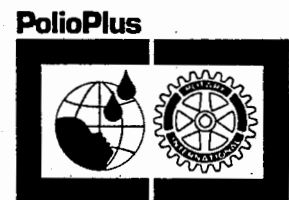
Of course not. In fact, we greatly value men and women of all ages as resources to help us assist the communities we serve. Naturally, since there is a requirement that Rotarians be executives, managers, owners, etc., one finds men and women who are old enough to have achieved these leadership positions. Therefore, you generally would not find a teen-ager as a member.

### Can women be Rotarians?

Absolutely! A unanimous (7-0) U.S. Supreme Court decision on May 4, 1987, admitted women to membership in Rotary. And many now are. We need more in our club and we welcome their membership. The contributions they can make to helping our organization grow and extend its usefulness are essential.

### How is Rotary structured?

*Rotary International* : This is the association of Rotary clubs throughout the world. Our international headquarters is in Evanston, Illinois. Like any large organization, "RI" (as it is known) sets standards for membership, organizes international projects, funds scholarship programs, sponsors both youth and group study exchange programs, and administers Rotary worldwide.



Among recent projects, RI and its member clubs worldwide raised -- in one year -- pledges of more than \$ 225,000,000 for a Rotary-instituted project called "PolioPlus." Polio Plus had as its goal to eradicate the crippling childhood diseases -- such as polio, measles, whooping cough, and others -- within a five-year period through providing proper inoculations and the means to deliver

those inoculations to children throughout the world. That project is now in process. Obviously, RI also establishes bylaws, procedures and other precepts by which we govern ourselves.

*Rotary Districts* : The next level in the "chain of command" is the District level, headed by a District Governor. RI has some 465 Districts worldwide. Our Club is proud to claim two Past District Governors and a current Club member has been named District Governor of the recently-formed District 778, of which we will be a part in 1990. District Governors and their staffs monitor and assist the various Clubs in their Districts. District 778, which becomes effective July 1, 1990, will have some 30 Clubs and more than 2000 members. Prior to that date, our District will have been No. 779 with some 73 Clubs and more than 4000 members.

*Rotary Clubs* : At the individual community level, Rotarians belong to Clubs. Clubs are set up with a President, President-Elect, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, various committees and a Board of Directors.

You'll learn more details about Rotary organization and its missions and functions as you attend and participate with us.

You mentioned committees. In what ways could I serve?

There are committees at both the Club level and the District level. The District has a lengthy list of committees and functions -- we won't name them here but, if you're interested, just ask and we'll get you a listing. At the Club level, our primary "Avenues of Service" include Vocational Service, Club Service, International Service and Community Service. Just ask our President, any Board member or the Chairpersons of any committee you're interested in, and they'll be glad to talk with you about what they do. We also have the positions of Publicity Chairman, Sergeant at Arms, Program Chairman, and other functions.

What are the attendance requirements?

You are encouraged to strive for 100% attendance at the meetings ... but required to make at least 60 percent of all the weekly club meetings during each six month period. RI feels that number is fair and, frankly, without participation no organization can be effective. In addition, you are expected to make at least 30 percent of your

meetings at your "home" club during any given six month period, in this case South Portland/Cape Elizabeth. If you miss a meeting, you are encouraged to attend a "make up" meeting at another Rotary Club within six days (before or after) of your normal home club meeting date. You will be provided with a listing of clubs in our District and the times, dates and places where they meet. Actually, "make ups" are fun and give you a chance to meet other Rotarians and share ideas. And, when you travel, there is usually a Rotary Club nearby to welcome you. Missing four consecutive meetings without a makeup is an automatic resignation of membership.

#### How much will it cost me?

Weekly meetings at the Purpoodock Club currently cost us \$10 for the meal. Annual dues -- which cover membership in RI, a subscription to RI's magazine *The Rotarian*, dues for our own Club, our Club's weekly newsletter called *Two Lights* -- are currently \$120 per year. You will probably spend a few dollars for a raffle prize, for "happy dollars," for special events such as Theater Night tickets and other events.

#### What is this "classification" I've heard about?

Each Rotarian holds a "classification" naming your business or profession. This classification is loaned to you by your club. There are also various categories of membership that will be explained to you as you go along such as "Active" (your status), "Senior Active" (basically someone who has been a member of Rotary for 15 years or more), "Honorary," "Additional Active," etc.

#### What is the "Four-Way Test"?

Rotarians are asked to guide their daily lives with the Four-Way Test:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



## Why should anyone become a Rotarian?

There are as many reasons as there are Rotarians. They include developing acquaintances as an opportunity for service and making lasting friendships, maintaining high ethical standards in business and professions, having the opportunity to apply the high ideals of Rotary to everyday life, helping to advance international understanding and good will, working for peace on a global scale, serving those less fortunate in your local community and the worldwide community, expanding your knowledge through interesting guest speakers each week, the feeling of being welcome anywhere you may travel, and many other reasons.

No one should join Rotary just to generate more business! That may *result* from your membership, but it shouldn't be a prime motivation. In fact, one of the basic premises of Rotary meetings is that our specific businesses are not discussed.

## WELCOME!

There's a lot more printed material that covers virtually every aspect of Rotary and being a Rotarian. We will try to make any of that material available to you if you're interested and we'll be happy to answer as many questions as you may have. Meanwhile, we hope this brief introduction will help you in your decision to become a Rotarian.

We feel we have a very special Club ... and special men and women ... in the South Portland/Cape Elizabeth Rotary Club. We hope you feel just as special in having been selected for membership. We look forward to getting to know you and we also look forward to many years of association with you. We would be pleased and privileged to have you with us!

