

Rotary Prospective Member Checklist

It is recognized that the ability of individuals to participate and contribute to Rotary and its projects will vary. The amount of time allowed by family and work obligations to participate in Rotary is an individual decision. Prospective members should keep in mind that Rotary is a participatory service organization. As an added benefit there are opportunities for social fellowship, and networking, however, it is not primarily a networking group or a social organization (these are secondary benefits).

You will receive many invitations to help with club service, and to participate in projects and committees. The available time, interests, and financial resources of members vary, and few members are able to participate in everything. Please be judicious in allocating your time and resources, saying no to an offer is perfectly acceptable. We do not want members to become overloaded and burn out. Rotary should be an enjoyable way to serve others.

Financial Obligations

- ❑ Club dues are due on July 1 of each year and for 2024-25 the amount is \$200. For new members dues are prorated for the first year per month. Our club Secretary can offer a payment plan if that is needed.
- ❑ The raffle gift is generally in the \$25 range and each member will be asked to supply a gift once each rotation. At current membership that will be about once per year.
- ❑ Other activities that involve money are optional, but encouraged. These include Foundation giving, happy dollars, polio cans, and raffle tickets. Some members participate heavily, others do not. Happy dollars and the raffle proceeds are used to supplement the Club's internal operating budget, for things like paying for speaker meals.
- ❑ Meals are currently about \$17, the meal is at the SMCC dining hall and optional. If our normal venue changes, it may not be optional. Meals are a good time to get to know other members.

Meetings and Attendance

- ❑ Meetings are generally held Wednesday evenings at SMCC. We meet in a hybrid format, in person and via zoom.
- ❑ Current Rotary requirements are for members to participate by attending 12 meetings every 6 months, **OR** doing 12 hours of service, or any combination, with a minimum of attending 4 meetings. Members are encouraged to exceed 12 hours of service every half year.
- ❑ Going to another club's meeting, working on **Rotary projects**, attending a board meeting, or doing an e-make up all count. The club engagement policy has detailed information.

Project Commitments

- ❑ Tree sale: This is our major fundraiser and all members are required to work 12 hours' worth of sales shifts. The shifts do not count as the participation time described above. Lot set-up, take-down and tree unloading are not part of the 12 sales hours, but do count as part of participation. The tree sale runs from Thanksgiving to Christmas.
- ❑ SpringFest: This is a major fundraiser and participation is expected.
- ❑ Lobster bake – members attending are asked to help set up, cook, serve or clean up.
- ❑ We participate in the June Family Fun Day event, which is a minor fundraiser and fellowship opportunity. Although not a requirement, it is strongly suggested that you participate to get to know other members at their best --- feeding the community. We also participate in Art in the Park.
- ❑ There are a number of other projects, involving bug light, gardening, luncheons for public service and seniors, etc. You don't need to participate in all of these, but you are expected to participate for 12 hours every 6 months as noted above.
- ❑ Failure to complete required hours of tree sales or meet the 12 hour requirement without valid reasons may be cause for termination of membership.

Committees and Projects

Committees are used to coordinate projects, fundraisers and other club functions.

- Teams, Projects and Committees are all referred to as committees, it's what the software calls everything.
- New members will be asked to join a committee or project as this helps bring new ideas and viewpoints, and provides an opportunity to meet others. Working with a committee helps new members learn about the club.
- All members are expected to participate on at least one committee.
- Projects are usually very enjoyable and good fellowship.

Club Support

To make the club run effectively there are many tasks that need to be completed. It is expected that all members will pitch in to help where they can.

- Experienced members will be asked to mentor new members so that they get more out of Rotary.
- Duty Roster: Currently two activities are assigned weekly, and it is expected that the assigned member will participate. If travel or other issues, including personal beliefs, preclude fulfilling the obligation it is expected that the member will find a replacement. These activities are opening words, and raffle gift providers. Each member is assigned each activity approximately once per year.
- Club service activities support the running of the club and are done by members. These activities range from helping with meeting set up and take down, organizing speakers, setting the A/V up for speakers, doing PR, etc. The time commitment ranges from a few minutes per week to substantial. Participation is voluntary and should align with your ability to contribute.
 - It is expected that all local members will help with meeting setup and take down, as well as running the OWL.
- All members are asked to help recruit new members. The goal is to find people you think would like Rotary, and who would be beneficial to the club.

Character obligations

- All Rotarians are expected to follow the Four Way test:
Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the Truth?	3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?	4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

- All members are expected to follow Rotary International and club policies. This includes, but is not limited to, privacy, discrimination, and youth protection policies. These may be obtained from either the websites or a club officer.

Other Policies

- Rotary meetings and functions are not to be used for actively soliciting business.
- Member emails and telephone lists are not to be used for promoting a business, and are to be kept private.
- Rotary is not a political organization and as such any political grandstanding is unacceptable.
- Dress code: The meetings have flexible attire ranging from business to casual for meetings and work clothing for projects.

Work and Family

- While the motto "Service Above Self" is significant to most Rotarians, it is important to keep balance in your life. You cannot effectively serve if you are unhealthy, have no income, and an unstable family situation. You will find that family, work and member well being are respected, and come before Rotary. Many Rotary functions are family friendly.