

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF GOLDEN, COLORADO

Adopted November 15, 2011

ARTICLE I Definitions

As used in this Constitution, unless the context otherwise clearly requires, the words in this Article shall have the following meanings:

1. Board: The Board of Directors of the Club.
2. Bylaws: The bylaws of the Club.
3. Director: A member of the Club's Board of Directors.
4. Member: A member, other than an honorary member, of the Club.
5. RI: Rotary International.
6. Year: The twelve-month period which begins on July 1.
7. Club: The Rotary Club of Golden, Colorado

ARTICLE II Name

The name of this organization shall be the Rotary Club of Golden, Colorado, (a Member of Rotary International).

ARTICLE III Locality of the Club

The locality of the Club is the area surrounding, and including, Golden, Colorado.

ARTICLE IV Object

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- First. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- Second. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- Third. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life; and

Fourth. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

ARTICLE V **Meetings**

Section 1 - Regular Meetings

(a) Day and Time. The Club shall hold a regular meeting once each week on the day and at the time provided in the Bylaws.

(b) Change of Meeting. For good cause, the Board may change a regular meeting to any day during the period commencing with the day following the preceding regular meeting and ending with the day preceding the next regular meeting, or to a different hour of the regular day, or to a different place.

(c) Cancellation. The Board may cancel a regular meeting if it falls on a legal holiday or in case of the death of a Club Member, or of an epidemic or of a disaster affecting the whole community, or of an armed conflict in the community which endangers the lives of the Club Members. The Board may cancel not more than four (4) regular meetings in a year for causes not otherwise specified herein provided that the Club does not fail to meet for more than three (3) consecutive meetings.¹

Section 2 - Annual Meeting. An annual meeting for the election of Officers shall be held not later than 31 December as provided in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI **Membership**

Section 1 - General Qualifications. The Club shall be composed of adult persons of good character and good business and professional reputation without regard to gender, race, color, creed, national origin, sexual orientation, or any other condition of membership not specifically prescribed by the RI Constitution or the Bylaws. Further, the Club is committed to making its membership policies/procedures, Club meetings, activities, information, and functions accessible to all Members and potential Members of the Club as well as to the community which it serves. Any provision in the Club Constitution or Bylaws in conflict with this Section shall be null, void, and without effect.

¹ The Bylaws of Rotary International provide that each club admitted to membership in RI shall adopt this prescribed standard club constitution.

Section 2 - Kinds. The Club shall have two kinds of membership, namely: active and honorary.²

Section 3 - Active Membership. A person possessing the qualifications set forth in Article V, Section 2 of the RI Constitution may be elected to active membership in this Club.

Section 4 - Transferring or Former Rotarian. A Member may propose to active membership a transferring Member or former Member of a club, if the proposed Member is terminating or has terminated such membership in the former club due to no longer being engaged in the formerly assigned classification of business or profession within the locality of the former club or the surrounding area. The transferring or former Member of a club being proposed to active membership under this section may also be proposed by the former club. The classification of a transferring or former member of a club shall not preclude election to active membership, even if the election results in Club membership temporarily exceeding the classification limits. The admission of a transferring or former Rotarian as an active Member pursuant to this Section shall be contingent upon receiving a certificate from the board of the previous club confirming that the prospective Member's prior membership in that club and that all debts to the club, if any, have been paid. Potential Members of this Club, who are current or former members of another club and who have debts to the other club, are ineligible for membership in this Club.

(a) Current or Former Members. The Club shall provide a statement regarding whether money is owed to the Club when requested by another club with respect to a current or former Member of this Club being considered for membership in the other club.

Section 5 - Dual Membership. No person shall simultaneously hold active membership in this and another club. No person shall simultaneously be a member and an honorary member in the Club. No person shall simultaneously hold active membership in the Club and membership in a Rotaract club.

Section 6 - Honorary Membership.

(a) Eligibility for Honorary Membership. Persons who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals may be elected to honorary membership in the Club. The term of such membership shall be as determined by the Board. Persons may hold honorary membership in more than one (1) club.

(b) Rights and Privileges. Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of admission fees and dues, shall have no vote and shall not be eligible to hold

² Interim Provision Relating to Section 2 --- Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VI, Section 2, no one who was a member of a Rotary club as of 1 July 2001 shall lose membership by reason of enactment 01-148 adopted by the 2001 Council on Legislation.

any office in the Club. Such Members shall not hold classifications, but shall be entitled to attend all meetings and enjoy all the other privileges of the Club. No honorary Member of the Club is entitled to any rights and privileges in any other club, except for the right to visit other clubs without being the guest of a Rotarian.

Section 7 - *Holders of Public Office.* Persons elected or appointed to public office for a specified time shall not be eligible to active membership in the Club under the classification of such office. This restriction shall not apply to persons holding positions or offices in schools, colleges, or other institutions of learning or to persons who are elected or appointed to the judiciary. Members who are elected or appointed to public office for a specified period may continue as such Members in their existing classifications during the period in which they hold such office.

Section 8 - *Rotary International Employment.* The Club may retain in its membership any Member employed by RI.³

ARTICLE VII **Classifications**

Section 1 - *General Provisions.*

(a) **Principal Activity.** Each Member shall be classified in accordance with the Member's business or profession. The classification shall be that which describes the principal and recognized activity of the firm, company, or institution with which the Member is connected or that which describes the Member's principal and recognized business or professional activity.

(b) **Correction or Adjustment.** If the circumstances warrant, the Board may correct or adjust the classification of any Member. Notice of a proposed correction or adjustment shall be provided to the Member and the Member shall be allowed a hearing thereon.

Section 2 - *Limitations.* The Club shall not elect a person to active membership from a classification if the Club already has five (5) or more Members from that classification, unless the Club has more than fifty (50) Members, in which case, the Club may elect a person to active membership in a classification so long as it will not result in the classification making up more than 10% of the Club's active membership. Members who are retired shall not be included in the total number of Members from a

³ The 2001 Council on Legislation adopted an enactment which eliminated types of membership (senior active, past service, and additional active) and revised the classification principle. However, no one who is a member of a Rotary club as of 1 July 2001 will lose membership by reason of the new provisions. All such persons will be considered active members.

classification. If a Member changes classification, the Club may continue the Member's membership under the new classification notwithstanding these limitations.⁴

ARTICLE VIII Attendance

Section 1 - General Provisions. Each Member should attend the Club's regular meetings. A Member shall be counted as attending a regular meeting if the Member is present for at least 60% of the meeting, or is present and is called away unexpectedly and subsequently produces evidence to the satisfaction of the Board that such action was reasonable, or makes up for an absence in any of the following ways:

(a) 14 Days Before or After the Meeting. If, within fourteen (14) days before or after the regular time for that meeting, the Member: (1) attends at least 60% of the regular meeting of another club or of a provisional club; or (2) attends a regular meeting of a Rotaract or Interact club or Rotary Community Corps or of a provisional Rotaract or Interact club or Rotary Community Corps; or (3) attends a convention of RI, a council on legislation, an international assembly, a Rotary institute for past and present officers of RI, a Rotary institute for past, present, and incoming officers of RI, or any other meeting convened with the approval of the board of directors of RI or the President of RI acting on behalf of the board of directors of RI, a Rotary multi-zone conference, a meeting of a committee of RI, a Rotary district conference, a Rotary district assembly, any district meeting held by direction of the board of directors of RI, any district committee meeting held by direction of the District Governor, or a regularly announced intercity meeting of Rotary clubs; or (4) is present at the usual time and place of a regular meeting of another club for the purpose of attending such meeting, but that club is not meeting at that time or place; or (5) attends and participates in a Club service project or a Club-sponsored community event or meeting authorized by the Board; or (6) attends a Board meeting or, if authorized by the Board, a meeting of a service committee to which the Member is assigned.

1. When a Member is outside the Member's country of residents for more than fourteen (14) days, the time restriction shall not be imposed so that the Member may attend meetings in another country at any time during the travel period, and each such attendance shall count as a valid make-up for any regular meeting missed during the Member's time abroad.

(b) At the Time of the Meeting. If, at the time of the meeting, the Member is: (1) traveling with reasonable directness to or from one of the meetings specified in subsection (a)(3) of this Section; or (2) serving as an Officer or Member of a committee of RI, or a trustee of The Rotary Foundation; or (3) serving as the special representative

⁴ Interim Provision Relating to Section 2 --- Notwithstanding the provisions of Article VII, Section 2, no one who was a member of a Rotary club as of 1 July 2001 shall lose membership by reason of enactment 01-148 adopted by the 2001 Council on Legislation.) (See footnote for Interim Provision to Article VI, Section 2 of this Constitution).

of the District Governor in the formation of a new club; or (4) on Rotary business in the employ of RI; or (5) directly and actively engaged in a district, RI, or Rotary Foundation sponsored service project in a remote area where making up attendance is impossible; or (6) engaged in Rotary business duly authorized by the Board which precludes attendance at the meeting.

(c) Extended Absence on Out-posted Assignment. If the Member, while working within the Member's own country of residence for an extended period on an out-posted assignment and with the mutual agreement of the Member's club and a designated club, attends meetings of the designated club.

Section 2 - Excused Absences. A Member's absence shall be excused if:

(a) the absence complies with the conditions and under circumstances approved by the Board. The Board may excuse a Member's absence for reasons which it considers to be good and sufficient. Such excused absences shall not extend for longer than twelve (12) months.

(b) the age of the Member is sixty-five (65) or above and the aggregate of the Member's years of age and years of membership in one (1) or more clubs is 85 years or more and the Member has notified the Club Secretary in writing of the Member's desire to be excused from attendance and the Board has approved.

Section 3 - RI Officers' Absences. A Member's absence shall be excused if the Member is a current officer of RI.

Section 4 - Attendance Records. In the event that a Member whose absences are excused under the provisions of Section 2(b) and Section 3 of this Article attends a Club meeting, the Member and the Member's attendance shall not be included in the membership and attendance figures used to compute the Club's attendance.

ARTICLE IX **Directors and Officers**

Section 1 - Governing Body. The governing body of the Club shall be the Board constituted as the Bylaws may provide.

Section 2 - Authority. The Board shall have general control over all Officers and committees and, for good cause, may declare any office vacant.

Section 3 - Board Action Final. The decision of the Board in all Club matters is final, subject only to an appeal to the Club. However, as to a decision to terminate membership, a Member, pursuant to Article XI, Section 6, may either appeal to the Club or request arbitration. If appealed, a decision of the Board shall be reversed only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members present, at a regular meeting specified by the Board, provided a quorum is present and notice of the appeal has been given by the Secretary to

each Member at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. If an appeal is taken, the action taken by the Club shall be final.

Section 4 - *Officers.* The Club Officers shall be a President, President-Elect, and Vice-President, all of whom shall be members of the Board, and a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Sergeant-at-Arms, who may or may not be members of the Board, as the Bylaws shall provide.

Section 5 - *Election of Officers.*

(a) Terms of Officers other than President. Each Officer shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws. Except for the President, each Officer shall take office on July 1 immediately following election and shall serve for the term of office or until a successor has been duly elected and qualified.

(b) Term of President. The President shall be elected in accordance with the terms of the Bylaws, not more than two (2) years but not less than eighteen (18) months prior to the day of taking office. The President shall serve as President-elect for the year immediately preceding the year as President. The President shall take office on July 1 and shall serve for a period of one (1) year or until a successor has been duly elected and qualified.

(c) Qualifications. Each Officer and Director shall be a Member in good standing of the Club and shall otherwise meet the qualifications set forth in the Bylaws. The President-elect shall attend the district presidents-elect training seminar and the district assembly, unless excused by the Governor-elect. If so excused, the President-elect shall send a designated club representative who shall report back to the President-elect.

ARTICLE X
Admission Fees and Dues

Every Member shall pay an admission fee and annual dues as prescribed in the Bylaws, except that any transferring or former member of another club who is accepted into membership of the Club pursuant to Article VI, Section 4 shall not be required to pay a second admission fee.

ARTICLE XI
Duration of Membership

Section 1 - *Period.* Membership shall continue during the existence of the Club unless terminated as hereinafter provided.

Section 2 - *Automatic Termination.*

(a) Membership Qualifications. Membership shall automatically terminate when a Member no longer meets the membership qualifications, except that:

1. the Board may grant a Member moving from the locality of the Club or the surrounding area a special leave of absence not to exceed one (1) year to enable the Member to visit and become known to a Rotary club in the new community, if the Member is still active in the same classification and continues to meet all other conditions of club membership; or

2. the Board may allow a Member moving from the locality of the Club or the surrounding area to retain membership, if the Member remains active in the same classification and continues to meet all other conditions of Club membership; or

3. a Member whose classification is lost without default of the Member may retain such classification and be granted a special leave of absence not to exceed one (1) year to enable the Member to obtain new employment in the current or a new classification. Such Member must continue to meet all other conditions of Club membership. Termination of membership would take effect only at the end of the period of leave granted to the member.

(b) How to Rejoin. When the membership of a Member has terminated as provided in subsection (a) of this Section, such person may make new application for membership, under the same or another classification. A second admission fee shall not be required.

(c) Termination of Honorary Membership. Honorary membership shall automatically terminate at the end of the term for such membership as determined by the Board. However, the Board may extend an honorary membership for an additional period.

Section 3 - Termination - Non-Payment of Dues

(a) Process. Any Member failing to pay dues within thirty (30) days after the prescribed time shall be notified in writing by the Secretary at the Member's last known address. If the dues are not paid on or before ten (10) days of the date of notification, membership may terminate, subject to the discretion of the Board.

(b) Reinstatement. The Board may reinstate the former Member to membership upon the former Member's petition and payment of all indebtedness to the Club. However, no former Member may be reinstated to active membership if the former Member's classification has been filled.

Section 4 - Termination - Non-Attendance.

(a) Attendance Percentages. A Member must:

1. attend or make up at least 50% of club regular meetings in each half of the year;

2. attend at least 30% of this Club's regular meetings in each half of the year (assistant governors, as defined by the board of directors of RI, shall be excused from this requirement). If a member fails to attend as required, the member's membership shall be subject to termination unless the Board consents to such non-attendance for good cause.

(b) Consecutive Absences. Unless otherwise excused by the Board for good and sufficient reason or pursuant to Article VIII, Sections 2 or 3, each Member who fails to attend or make up four (4) consecutive regular meetings, shall be informed by the Board that the Member's non-attendance may be considered a request to terminate membership in the Club. Thereafter, the Board, by a majority vote, may terminate the Member's membership.

Section 5 - Termination - Other Causes.

(a) Good Cause. The Board may terminate the membership of any Member who ceases to have the qualifications for membership in the Club or for any good cause by a vote of not less than two-thirds (2/3) of the Board members, at a meeting called for that purpose. The guiding principles for this meeting shall be Article 6, Section 1, The Four Way Test, and the high ethical standards that one should hold as a Rotary Club Member.

(b) Notice. Prior to taking any action under subsection (a) of this section, the Member shall be given at least ten (10) days' written notice of such pending action and an opportunity to submit a written answer to the Board. The Member shall have the right to appear before the Board to state the Member's case. Notice shall be by personal delivery or by registered letter to the Member's last known address.

(c) Filling Classification. When the Board has terminated the membership of a Member, as provided for in this Section, the Club shall not elect a new Member under the former Member's classification until the time for hearing any appeal has expired and the decision of the Club or of the arbitrators has been announced.

Section 6 - Right to Appeal or Arbitrate Termination.

(a) Notice. Within seven (7) days after the date of the Board's decision to terminate membership, the Secretary shall give written notice of the decision to the Member. Within fourteen (14) days after the date of the notice, the Member may give written notice to the Secretary of the intention either to appeal to the Club or to arbitrate as provided in Article XV.

(b) Date for Hearing of Appeal. In the event of an appeal, the Board shall set a date for the hearing of the appeal at a regular Club meeting to be held within twenty-one (21) days after receipt of the notice of appeal. At least five (5) days' written notice of the

meeting and its special business shall be given to every Member. Only Members shall be present when the appeal is heard.

(c) Arbitration. In the event of a request for arbitration, each party shall appoint an arbitrator and the arbitrators shall appoint an umpire. Only a Member of a Rotary club may be appointed as umpire or as arbitrator.

(d) Appeal. If an appeal is taken, the action of the Club shall be final and binding on all parties and shall not be subject to arbitration.

(e) Decision of Arbitrators or Umpire. If arbitration is requested, the decision reached by the arbitrators, or, if they disagree, by the umpire shall be final and binding on all parties and shall not be subject to appeal.

Section 7 - Board Action Final. Board action shall be final if no appeal to this Club is taken and no arbitration is requested.

Section 8 - Resignation. The resignation of any Member from this Club shall be in writing, addressed to the President or Secretary. The resignation shall be accepted by the Board if the Member has no indebtedness to the Club.

Section 9 - Forfeiture of Property Interest. Any person whose Club membership has been terminated in any manner shall forfeit all interest in any funds or other property belonging to the Club.

ARTICLE XII

Community, National, and International Affairs

Section 1 - Proper Subjects. The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to the members of the Club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a Club meeting for the enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinions. However, the Club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure.

Section 2 - No Endorsements. The Club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office and shall not discuss at any club meeting the merits or demerits of any such candidate.

Section 3 - Non-Political.

(a) Resolutions and Opinions. The Club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions, and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature.

(b) Appeals. The Club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples, or governments, or circulate letters, speeches, or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature.

Section 4 - *Recognizing Rotary's Beginning.*

The week of the anniversary of Rotary's founding (23 February) shall be known as "World Understanding and Peace Week." During this week, the Club will celebrate Rotary service, reflect upon past achievement, and focus on programs of peace, understanding, and goodwill in the community and throughout the World.

Section 5 - *Five Avenues of Service.*

Rotary's Five Avenues of Service are the philosophical and practical framework for the work of the Club.

(a) Club Service. The first Avenue of Service involves action a Member should take within the Club to help it function successfully.

(b) Vocational Service. The second Avenue of Service has the purpose of promoting high ethical standards in businesses and professions, recognizing the worthiness of all dignified occupations, and fostering the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations. The role of Members includes conducting themselves and their business in accordance with Rotary principles.

(c) Community Service. The third Avenue of Service comprises varied efforts that Members make, sometimes in conjunction with others, to improve the quality of life of those who live within the Club's locality or municipality.

(d) International Service. The fourth Avenue of Service comprises those activities Members do to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace by fostering acquaintance with people of other countries, their cultures, customs, accomplishments, aspirations, and problems, through reading and correspondence and through cooperation in all Club activities and projects designed to help people in other lands.

(e) New Generations Service. The fifth Avenue of Service recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities, involvement in community and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

ARTICLE XIII
Rotary Magazines

Section 1 - *Mandatory Subscription.* Unless, in accordance with the bylaws of RI, the Club is excused by the board of directors of RI from complying with the provisions of this Article, each Member shall, for the duration of membership, subscribe to the official

magazine or to the magazine approved and prescribed for the Club by the board of directors of RI. The subscription shall be paid in six (6) month periods for the duration of membership in the Club and to the end of any six (6) month period during which membership may terminate.

Section 2 - *Subscription Collection.* The subscription shall be collected by the Club from each Member semiannually in advance and remitted to the Secretariat of RI or to the office of such regional publications as may be determined by the board of directors of RI.

ARTICLE XIV

Acceptance of Object and Compliance with Constitution and Bylaws

By payment of an admission fee and dues, a Member accepts the principles of Rotary as expressed in its object and submits to and agrees to comply with and be bound by the Constitution and Bylaws of the Club, and on these conditions alone is entitled to the privileges of the Club. Each Member shall be subject to the terms of the Constitution and Bylaws, regardless of whether such Member has received a copy of each document.

ARTICLE XV

Arbitration

Should any dispute, other than as to a decision of the Board, arise between any current or former Member(s) and the Club, any Club officer, or the Board, on any account whatsoever which cannot be settled under the procedure already provided for such purpose, the dispute shall be settled, upon a request to the Secretary, by any of the disputants, by arbitration. The procedure utilized for such arbitration shall be as provided in Article XI, Section 6, Subsections (c) and (e).

ARTICLE XVI

Bylaws

The Club shall adopt Bylaws not inconsistent with the Constitution and bylaws of RI, with the rules of procedure for an administrative territorial unit where established by RI, and with this Constitution, embodying additional provisions for the government of the Club. The Bylaws may be amended from time to time as set forth in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE XVII

Interpretation

Throughout this Constitution, the terminology “mail,” “mailing” and “ballot-by-mail” will include utilization of electronic mail (email) and internet technology to reduce costs and increase responsiveness.

ARTICLE XVIII
Amendments

Section 1 - *Manner of Amending.* Except as provided in Section 2 of this Article, this Constitution may be amended only by a vote of the Club Members in the same manner as is established in the bylaws of RI for the amendment of its bylaws. This Constitution may be amended at any regular meeting, a quorum being present, by a majority vote of all Members present, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been provided to each Member at least ten (10) days before such meeting.

Section 2 - *Amending Article II and Article III.* Article II (“Name”) and Article III (“Locality of the Club”) of the Constitution shall be amended at any regular meeting of the Club, a quorum being present by the affirmative vote of a majority of Members present and voting, provided that notice of such proposed amendment shall have been mailed to each Member at least ten (10) days before such meeting, and provided further, that such amendment shall be submitted to the board of directors of RI for its approval and shall become effective only when so approved.