

## **MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION**

The Rotary Club of Los Gatos is committed to helping new members feel welcome as a new Rotarian and finding opportunities for meaningful engagement for each individual. Before joining Rotary, you learned a little about Rotary and the Los Gatos Club as a prospective member. The orientation activities are designed to build on that understanding by identifying resources that will help answer questions that you may have about Rotary and the Los Gatos Club. During the orientation activities, a new member is able to form relationships with both current and new members and to get involved in club activities that best fit their interests.

### **Membership Packet**

The membership packet is presented to each new member by their Sponsor and the Club President at a Tuesday luncheon meeting during their formal introduction to Club members. The packet includes the member's red badge, a Rotary lapel pin and plaque, a Club roster, and a Club membership information and resource guide.

### **Club Committees**

In the first year of membership, new members are asked to serve on the Welcome Committee whose members serve as greeters and cashiers for the weekly luncheon meeting on Tuesdays. Serving as a greeter or cashier is a terrific opportunity to meet members of the Club and for them to meet you.

In addition to serving on the Welcome Committee during their first year of membership, new members are invited to serve on two additional committees that match their interests. Most of the work of the Club is done through its committees, and that involvement is a good way to get to know fellow Rotarians. The Club committees are listed in the directory included in the new member packet, and your Sponsor is a good resource in assisting with determining which two committees best fit your interests. When you have decided the two committees on which you would like to serve, the Membership Committee Chair confirms your appointment to the committees with the respective committee chairs.

### **New Member Information Meeting**

The Membership Committee hosts a new member information meeting quarterly to provide an in-depth introduction to Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Los Gatos. The Club membership information and resource guide included in the new member packet is used as a resource at the meeting. The Membership Committee Chair schedules the quarterly information meetings and invites new members and their sponsors to attend.

### **Biographical Sketch**

In order to introduce new members to their fellow Rotarians, each new member is asked to present a brief biographical sketch at a Tuesday lunch meeting. The Membership Committee

Chair schedules a new member's biographical sketch with the Club President which generally occurs within the first couple of months of membership.

### **Events and Meetings**

To assist new members with getting a better first-hand understanding of the opportunities for engagement and club operations, new members are asked to participate in several Rotary events and meetings.

- Participating in a Los Gatos Rotary social event or service project
- Attending a Los Gatos Board of Directors monthly meeting
- Attending a Rotary district event or another Rotary club meeting

New members who are transfers from other Rotary clubs only need to attend the quarterly new member information meeting and to present a biographical sketch at a weekly lunch meeting as part of the orientation (red badge) activities for the Los Gatos club.

Upon completion of all the orientation activities by the new member, the Membership Committee Chair confirms completion with the new member's Sponsor. The Membership Committee Chair works with the President and Assistant Secretary to schedule presentation of the blue badge, symbolic of full Rotary membership, to the new member at a weekly lunch meeting.