

**CONSTITUTION**  
of  
**THE ROTARY CLUB**  
of  
**TACOMA, WASHINGTON**

**ARTICLE I**

**Name**

The name of this organization shall be Rotary Club of Tacoma No. 8. Washington, a member of Rotary International.

**ARTICLE II**

**Territorial Limits**

Section 1: The territorial limits of this club shall be as follows: All of the city of Tacoma lying north of South 80th Street, on the west by Orchard Street, and parts of Pierce County bounded on the east by Canyon Road, and on the north by the Pierce County Line, except that territory which lies north and east of a line which follows Marine View Drive, Hylebos Waterway Access Road, East-West Road, Port of Tacoma Road to city limits to Fife, and to city limits of Tacoma and following that line to the Puyallup River.

Section 2: This club may admit or retain, as a member a person whose residence or place of business is within the territorial limits of the club or within the corporate limits of the city or territory in which the club is located or within the territorial limits of an immediately adjoining club.

**ARTICLE III**

**Object**

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in a 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 by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

*Third.* The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to this personal, business, and community life;

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

**ARTICLE IV**

**Meetings**

Section 1: This club shall meet regularly once each week on the day and at the time provided in the by-laws, provided that in an emergency, or for good cause, the board of directors of the club may change the regular meeting of any week to any day during the preceding regular meeting and extending to the day preceding the next regular meeting of the club, or to a different hour of the regular day, or to a different place, or cancel the regular meeting of any week when it

falls on a legal holiday, or because of the death of the club president or an epidemic or a disaster affecting the entire community.

## ARTICLE V Membership and Classification

Section 1: **Membership** in this Rotary club shall be as set forth in Article III of the by-laws of Rotary International, but shall include women as well.

Section 2: **Classifications.** (a) Each active member of this club shall be classified in accordance with their business or profession.

(b) The classification of each active member shall be that which covers the principal and recognized activity of the firm, company or institution with which they are connected, or if they are independently engaged in business or profession, their classification shall be that which covers their principal and recognized business or professional activity.

(c) **How corrected.** The board, in its discretion, may correct or adjust the classification of any member, whose membership has not terminated, if the circumstances warrant such action. Due notice of such proposed correction shall be given to the member, and they shall be allowed a hearing thereon.

Section 3: **Limitations.** The active membership shall consist of but one person from each classification of business or profession, excepting the religion, news media and diplomatic services classifications, which may have more than one person in each such classification, and excepting the provision for additional active memberships as provided in Article III of the by-laws of Rotary International.

## ARTICLE VI Directors and Officers

Section 1: The governing body of this club shall be a board of directors to be constituted as the by-laws of the club may provide.

Section 2: Except as herein otherwise specifically provided the decision of the board of directors in all club matters shall be final, subject only to an appeal to the club. The board shall have general control over all officers and committees and may, for good cause, declare any office vacant. It shall constitute a board of appeal from the rulings of all officers and action on all committees. Appeal may be taken from any decision of the board to the club. On such appeal the decision appealed from shall be reversed only by a two-thirds vote of the members present, at a regular meeting specified by the board, a quorum being present, notice of such appeal having been given by the secretary to all members of the club at least five days previous to such meetings.

Section 3: The officers of this club shall be a president, president/elect, a secretary and a treasurer, all of whom shall be members of the board of directors.

Section 4: Each officer shall be elected as provided in the by-laws of the club and, except as may otherwise be provided in relation to the president, shall take office on the first day of July immediately following their election and shall serve for the period of their election or until their successor shall have been elected and qualified.

The president shall be elected, as the by-laws of the club provide, within the period of not more than two years but not less than one year prior to the day on which they shall take office as president. They shall be a director of the board and shall serve as president elect for the year immediately preceding the year in which they have to serve as president. The president shall

take office on the first day of July in the Rotary year for which they are elected to serve as president, and shall serve for the period of their election or until their successor shall have been elected and qualified.

Each officer and each director shall be an active (including additional active), senior active or past service member in good standing of this club. For a better understanding of the duties and responsibilities of the office of club president, the elected club president should attend the district assembly. If for good reason, they cannot attend, they should send a designated representative from their club whose duty it shall be to report back to them.

## ARTICLE VII

### Admission Fees and Dues

Every active, additional active, senior active and past service member of this club shall pay as an admission fee and as annual dues such sums as may be prescribed in the by-laws of this club except that a senior active or past service member who has held active membership in this club shall not be required to pay a second admission fee.

## ARTICLE VIII

### Duration of Membership

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

Section 2: **How Terminated.** (a) Active membership shall automatically terminate if, and when, an active member ceases to be personally and actively engaged in the classification of business or profession under which they are classified in the club or ceases to have their place of business or residence located within the territorial limits of the club, or their connection with their business establishment is severed, except that by permission of the club directors,

(1) an active member moving from the territorial limits of the club may be given special leave of absence for a period not exceeding one year to enable them to visit and become known to a Rotary club in the community to which they move, providing they are still active in the same classification of business or profession and continue to comply with the attendance and all other conditions of Rotary membership; or

(2) an active member who would be losing classification without default on their part may retain their classification and be given special leave of absence for a period not exceeding one year to enable them to obtain new employment in their classification or in a new classification providing they continue to comply with the attendance and all other conditions of Rotary membership. The termination of their membership would take effect only at the end of the period of leave granted to them.

In the event an active member of a club ceases to have their place of business or residence within the territorial limits of the club, they may retain their membership in the club provided their new place of business or residence is located or within the corporate limits of the city in which the club is located or within the territory limits of an immediately adjoining club.

(b) Past service membership shall automatically become active membership when a past service member re-enters active business or professional life, provided the classification is vacant. If the classification is not vacant, or if, and when, they cease to reside within the territorial limits of this club, or within the surrounding area, or if, and when, they become a senior active member under the provisions of Article III, Section 4: (a) of the by-laws of Rotary International, past service membership shall automatically terminate. The second of these

provisions shall not apply to a past service member who has been an active member of this club. Such member may reside and continue to reside in the locality of their residence at the time they ceased to be active members of this club.

(c) Honorary membership shall automatically terminate on the thirtieth day of June next after the date of election. However, the board in its discretion may, by resolution, from year to year continue such honorary membership for the ensuing year. Such honorary membership may be continued by the board although the person so elected has ceased to reside within the territorial limits of the club.

Section 3: **How to Rejoin.** When the membership of an active member has terminated as provided in the foregoing Section 2, such person may make new application for membership, under the same classification or another classification. Such application by an additional active member elected under the provisions of Article III, Section 3(a) of the by-laws of Rotary International shall be considered, before any other, for membership under the classification in which they apply. If elected to membership, they shall not be required to pay a second admission fee.

Section 4: **Termination - Non-Payment of Dues.** Any member failing to pay their dues within thirty (30) days after the prescribed time shall be notified in writing by the secretary at their last known address. If the dues are not paid on or before ten (10) days from the date of notification said membership shall automatically terminate.

Such former member, at the discretion of the board, may be reinstated to membership upon their petition, and upon the payment of all their indebtedness to the club, provided that no former member can be reinstated to active membership if their former classification has been filled.

Section 5: **Termination - Non-attendance.** (a) The membership of any active, senior active or past service member except as provided in this Article, who is absent from four (4) consecutive regular weekly meetings of this club shall automatically terminate, unless such absence is made up as hereinafter provided, or they are excused by the board for good and sufficient reason.

Any member absent from a regular meeting of this club may make up such absence by attendance at a regular meeting of any other Rotary club or a provisional Rotary club at any time between the usual time of the regular meeting of this club immediately preceding the day of absence and the usual time of the regular meeting of this club immediately following the day of absence and be given full credit for attendance in this club for the regular meeting from which they were absent, provided notice of such attendance is given to this club by the secretary of the club visited or the member may make their own report, and provided, however, each member shall have attended at least thirty percent (30%) of regular meetings held by their home club during each half year, unless exempted by the board of directors of the club for good reasons upon written request from the member concerned.

Any active member of this club absent from a regular meeting of this club who attends a regular meeting of a Rotaract club or provisional Rotaract club or Interact club or provisional Interact club at the direction of this club at any time between the usual time of the regular meeting of this club immediately preceding the day of absence and the usual time of the regular meeting of this club immediately following the day of absence, shall be given full credit for attendance in this club for the regular meeting from which they were absent, provided notice of such attendance is given to this club by the member.

In the event active members of this club present themselves at the regular time and place of meeting of any other club for the purpose of attending the meeting of such club, and such club

has omitted, postponed or changed the time or place of its meeting for said week, then such member shall be credited with attendance by this club for the week for which they would be entitled to credit had such meeting been held at the regular time and place, provided notice of such circumstances is given to this club by the secretary of the club visited or the member may make their own report.

Any active member of this club who is serving as an officer of Rotary International, or a committee person of Rotary International, or as a special representative of the district governor, or who is in the employ of Rotary International absent from a regular meeting of this club on Rotary business shall be credited with attendance at such meeting missed while on such business, provided notice of such circumstances is given to this club by the member.

Any active member of this club absent from a regular meeting of this club while traveling with reasonable directness to or from a convention of Rotary International, a Council on Legislation, an international assembly, a Rotary Institute for past and present officers of Rotary International, a Rotary Institute for present, past and incoming officers of Rotary International, convened with the approval of the board, the president acting for the board of Rotary International, a Rotary regional conference, a Rotary International committee meeting, a Rotary district conference, a Rotary district assembly, any district meeting held by direction of the board of directors of Rotary International, any district committee meeting held by direction of the district governor, or a regularly announced inter-city meeting of Rotary clubs shall be credited with attendance at such regular meeting of this club, provided notice of such circumstances is given to this club by the member.

Any active, senior active or past service member of this club absent from a regular meeting of this club who attends a convention of Rotary International, a Council on Legislation, an international assembly, a Rotary Institute for past and present officers of Rotary International, a Rotary Institute for present, past and incoming officers of Rotary International, convened with the approval of the board, the president acting for the board of Rotary International, a Rotary regional conference, a Rotary International committee meeting, a Rotary district conference, a Rotary district assembly, any district meeting held by direction of the district governor, or a regularly announced inter-city meeting of Rotary clubs, at any time between the usual time of the regular meeting of this club immediately preceding the day of absence and the usual time of the regular meeting of this club immediately following the day of absence shall be credited with attendance at such regular meeting of this club, provided notice of such attendance is given to this club by the member.

Any Rotarian who is absent from their club meeting due to their being directly and actively engaged in a district-sponsored service project in a remote area where the opportunity of making up their attendance is completely impossible shall be credited with attendance at such meeting.

Any active, senior active or past service member who is not present for at least sixty percent (60%) of the time devoted for the regular meeting, attended either at this club or at any other Rotary club shall be deemed to be absent from such meeting.

(b) The membership of any active, senior active or past service member, except as hereinafter provided, whose percentage of attendance is less than sixty percent (60%) during the first or second six (6) months of the club's fiscal year shall automatically terminate, unless they are excused by the board for good and sufficient reasons.

(c) Any member, who, because of protracted ill health or impairment, is physically unable to comply with the provisions of this section may, during the period of its continuance, upon

application to the board, be excused from complying with attendance requirements and their absence shall not be computed in the attendance record of the club.

(d) Any senior active member who has been a member of one or more Rotary clubs for in the aggregate of twenty (20) years or more, and has reached the age of sixty-five (65) years, or who has been a member of one or more Rotary clubs for in the aggregate fifteen (15) years or more, and has reached the age of seventy (70) years, may notify the secretary in writing of their desire to be excused from complying with attendance requirements. If approved by the board, such member's absence shall not be computed in the attendance record of the club, but such member's attendance may be computed if they so desire.

**Section 6: Termination for Other Causes.** (a) The membership of any member who shall cease to have the qualifications for membership in this club may be terminated by the board by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members thereof, at a meeting called for that purpose.

(b) The membership of any member may be terminated by the board, for a reason which the board may deem to be sufficient, by the votes of not less than two-thirds of the members thereof, at a meeting called for that purpose.

(c) In either case (a) or (b) the member shall be given at least ten (10) days' notice in writing of such pending action and an opportunity to submit to the board a written answer. They shall also have the privilege of appearing before the board to state their case. Service of such notice shall be made by personal delivery or by registered letter to their last known address.

(d) In case of a decision to terminate membership this secretary shall, within seven days after the date of the board's decision, notify the member in writing of the decision of the board. Such member, within fourteen (14) days after the date of such notice, give written notice to the secretary of their intention either to appeal to the club or to arbitrate as provided in Article XII of this constitution. In the event they appeal, the board shall set a date for the hearing of the appeal at a regular meeting of the club, to be held within twenty-one (21) days after the receipt of such written notice of appeal. At least five (5) days' notice of such club meeting and its special business shall be given in writing to every member of the club, and only members of the club shall be permitted to be present when such appeal is considered at such meeting.

(e) When the board has terminated the membership of an active member as provided in this Section, the club shall not elect a new member under their former classification until the time for hearing the appeal, if any, has expired and the club's decision or the decision of the arbitrators has been announced.

(f) The action of the board shall be final if no appeal to the club is taken and no arbitration is requested. If an appeal is taken, the action of the club shall be final.

**Section 7: Resignation.** The resignation of any member from this club shall be in writing (addressed to the president or secretary) and shall be accepted by the board, provided that all indebtedness of said member to the club has been paid.

**Section 8: Property Interest - Forfeiture of.** Any person whose membership in this club has been terminated in any manner shall forfeit all interest in any funds or other property belonging to the club.

## ARTICLE IX

### Community, National and International Affairs

Section 1: The general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world is a concern to the members of this club, and the merits of any public questions involving such welfare shall be proper subjects of fair and intelligent study and discussion before a club meeting for the

enlightenment of its members in forming their individual opinion. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure.

Section 2: This 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: (a) This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or views, not take corporate action, dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature.

(b) This 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.

## **ARTICLE X**

### **Rotary Magazines**

Section 1: Unless this club is excused by the board of directors of Rotary International from complying with the provisions of this article in accordance with the by-laws of Rotary International, every active, senior active or past service member of this club, by acceptance of such membership, voluntarily subscribes to the official magazine or to the approved regional magazine prescribed for this club by the Board of Directors of Rotary International. Their subscription shall be handled in six (6) month periods and shall continue as long as they are a member of the club and to the end of any six month period during which they may cease to be a member of the club.

Section 2: The amount of the subscription shall be collected by the club from each member semi-annually in advance and remitted to the Secretariat of Rotary International or to the office of such regional publication as may be determined by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.

## **ARTICLE XI**

### **Acceptance of Object and Compliance With Constitution and By-Laws**

A member by payment of their admission fee and dues thereby accepts the principles of Rotary as expressed in its object and submits themselves to and agrees to comply with and be bound by the constitution and by-laws of this club, and on these conditions alone is entitled to the privileges of the club. No member shall be absolved from the observance of the constitution and by-laws on the plea that they have not received a copy of them.

## **ARTICLE XII**

### **Arbitration**

Should any dispute arise between any member or members, or a former member or members, and the club, or any officer or the board of the club, relative to membership or to any alleged breach of the constitution or by-laws, or the expulsion of any member from the club, or on any account whatsoever which cannot be satisfactorily settled under the procedure already provided for such purpose, the matters in difference shall be settled by arbitration. Each party shall appoint an arbitrator and the arbitrators shall appoint an umpire. Only members of a Rotary club may be appointed as umpire or as arbitrators. The decision arrived at by the arbitrators, or, in the event of their disagreement, by the umpire, shall be final and binding on all parties.

### ARTICLE XIII By-Laws

This club shall adopt by-laws not inconsistent with the constitution and by-laws of Rotary International (and the rules of procedure for an area administration where established) and with this constitution, embodying additional provisions for the government of this club. Such by-laws may be amended from time to time as therein provided.

### ARTICLE XIV Amendments

Section 1: **Time.** This constitution, except in an emergency as provided in Article VI, Section 2, of the by-laws of Rotary International, and except as provided in Section 4 of this article, may be amended only by the Council on Legislation, and except that in the event a sufficient number of votes are filed with the General Secretary by clubs recording their opposition to action by the council in adopting any proposed enactment to amend this constitution, which will require action by the convention, as provided in Article IX, Section 10(h), of the by-laws of Rotary International, this constitution may be amended by the convention in the year following the meeting of the Council on Legislation by a majority vote of the electors present and voting at the time such amendments are submitted to the Convention.

Section 2: **Who May Propose.** Amendments to this constitution, except as provided in Section 4 of this article, may be proposed only by a club, by a district conference, by the general council or by the conference of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland, by the Council on Legislation, or by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.

Section 3: **Procedure.** Any proposal to amend this constitution shall be delivered to the General Secretary of Rotary International not later than the first day of May in the Rotary year preceding that in which the Council on Legislation is to meet.

The General Secretary of Rotary International shall mail a copy thereof to the secretary of each club not later than 120 days prior to the date the Council shall be convened.

The General Secretary of Rotary International shall transmit directly to the Council all duly proposed amendments.

The Council shall consider and act upon each such duly proposed amendments and any proffered amendment thereof.

Section 4: Article I (Name) and Article II (Territorial Limits) of this constitution may be amended at any regular meeting of this 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 Rotary International for its approval and shall become effective only when so approved. In the event of reconsideration of a decision not to relinquish or share territory for the organization of an additional club, as directed by the district governor or Board of Directors of Rotary International, as provided in Article I, Section (d), of the by-laws of Rotary International a two-thirds vote is required to sustain the previous negative decision.