

CONSTITUTION
AND BY-LAWS
OF THE ROTARY CLUB
OF PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
NO. 691

and the
Objects, Benefits and Obligations of a Rotary Club
Rotary Code of Ethics
The Rotary Platform

THE ROTARY CLUB

Meets once a week for luncheon or dinner.

Membership formed on the unique plan of one active and representative person from each line of business and profession in the community.

OBJECTS

To encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his or her occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
3. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian, to his or her personal, business and community life;
4. The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men & women united in the ideal of service.

BENEFITS

Making the acquaintance of people you ought to know.

Genuine, wholesome good-fellowship.

Developing true and helpful friends.

Enlightenment as to other people's work, problems and successes.

Education in methods that increase efficiency.

Stimulation of your desire to be of service to your fellows and society in general.

OBLIGATIONS

To attend meetings regularly.

To pay my dues promptly.

To do my part when called upon.

To be a big-hearted, broad-minded person -- a person of energy and action -- a Rotarian.

The By-Laws of Rotary International, adopted at Los Angeles, California, USA, June 6, 1922, require that each Rotary Club thereafter organized shall adopt the prescribed standard constitution, which is as follows:

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
ROTARY CLUB
OF
PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS

ARTICLE I

Name

The name of this organization shall be Rotary Club of
Pittsfield, Mass. (No. 691)

(Member of Rotary International)

ARTICLE II

Objects

***Section 1 The objects of Rotary are to encourage and foster the idea of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.
2. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his or her occupation as an opportunity to serve society.
3. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his or her personal, business, and community life.
4. The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men & women united in the ideal of service.

***As amended at 1933 (Boston) convention.

ARTICLE III

Membership

Section 1 - General Qualifications.

This club shall be composed of adult persons of good character and good business or professional reputation.

Section 2 - Kinds.

This Rotary club shall have four kinds of membership, namely; active, senior active, past service and honorary.

Section 3 - Active.

This club may elect to active membership a person who is

1. engaged as proprietor, partner, corporate officer or manager of any worthy, recognized business or profession.

or

2. holding an important position in an executive capacity with discretionary authority in any worthy and recognized business or profession.

or

3. acting as the local agent or branch representative of any worthy and recognized business or profession having charge of such agency or branch in an executive capacity;

and

personally and actively engaged in business or profession in which he or she is to be classified in the club and having his or her place of business or residence located within the territorial limits of this club or within the corporate limits of the city in which the club is located or within the territorial limits of an immediately adjoining club.

There shall not be more than one active member in each classification of business or profession excepting the religion, news media and diplomatic classifications, and excepting the provision for additional active members as provided in Section 4 of this article.

Section 4 - Additional Active Member

(a) Any active member of this club may propose for and the club may elect to active membership one additional man or woman who is actively engaged in the same classification of business or profession as that of the proposer, whose classification shall be the same as that of the proposer. The qualifications of such additional active member shall be

the same as set forth in Sections 1 and 3 of this Article for active membership. Such additional active member is in all respect an active member except that he or she may not propose an additional active member under this paragraph.

(b) This club may, subject to the approval of the holder of the classification, also elect to active membership an additional man or woman who is a former active member of another Rotary club and who is actively engaged at a place of business, or who resides, within the territorial limits of the club and who is otherwise qualified for membership provided:

1. that there shall, in no case, be more than one additional active member elected under this paragraph of this section in respect to any one classification, and
2. that any member so elected shall have terminated membership of his or her former club only because he ceased to or she be actively engaged within the territorial limits of that club in the classification of business or profession under which he or she was classified in that club, and
3. that, although such additional active member is in all respects an active member, he or she shall have no right to propose an additional active member under Section 4(a) hereof.

(c) In the event of the termination of active membership of the holder of the classification or in the event that he or she becomes a senior active member or for any other reason he or she ceases to be the holder of the classification, the membership of the additional active member or members elected under Section 4(a) and (b) shall be dealt with as follows:

1. If there is only one such additional active member, that member shall automatically become an active member and the holder of the classification.
2. If there are two additional active members, then the club shall elect one of the additional active members to be the active member and the holder of the classification.
3. Upon the election to active membership of one of the additional active members as prescribed in 2 above, the status of the other additional active member shall remain unchanged.

Section 5 - Senior Active Membership

(a) Any active member of this club or past service member whose combined active and past service membership in one or more clubs conforms with the service requirements as hereinafter set forth.

1. who has been a member of one or more clubs for a total of fifteen or more years,

or

2. who is of the age of sixty or more after having been a member of one or more clubs for a total of ten years or more,

or

3. who is of the age of sixty-five or more after having been a member of one or more clubs for a total of five or more years,

or

4. who is a present or a past officer of Rotary International shall automatically and forthwith become a senior active member.

(b) This club may elect to senior active membership any former member of any club who was a senior active member or was eligible to become a senior active member at the time he or she ceased to be a member of the club,

(c) A senior active member shall have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of an active member, except that,

1. he or she shall not be considered as representing any business or professional classification; and
2. he or she shall not have the right to propose an additional active member under Section 4(a) hereof.

This club may admit to membership a qualified person in the classification of business or profession in which such senior active member may be engaged.

Section 6 - Past Service

(a) A former active member of a club, whose active membership was terminated because of his or her retirement from active business or professional life, may be elected a past service member in the club in which he or she held active membership or in any other club provided that he or she has held active membership in any one or more Rotary clubs for three or more years or he or she has attained the age of 55 years irrespective of the length of his or her membership. Such former member may be elected to past service membership at the time of, or at any time after, the termination of his or her active membership, provided he or she has all the other qualifications of a past service member. If his or her retirement from business or professional life occurs after he or she has ceased to be a member of a club, he or she is not eligible to past service membership. A past service member shall be required to pay an admission fee unless he or she was formerly an active member of this club, in which case he or she shall not be

required to pay a second admission fee.

(b) A past service member shall have all the rights, privileges and responsibilities of an active member except that he or she shall not be considered as representing any business or professional classification nor may he or she become a senior active member (except as provided in Section 5(a) of this Article); nor shall he or she have the right to propose an additional active member under Section 3(a) hereof.

Section 7 - Honorary Membership

A person who has distinguished himself or herself by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals, may be elected to honorary membership in this club.

Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of admission fees and dues, shall have no vote and shall not be eligible to hold any office in this club; shall not be considered as representing a classification, but shall be entitled to attend all meetings and enjoy all other privileges of the club. No honorary member of this club is entitled to any rights or privileges in any other club.

Section 8 - Religion, News Media and Diplomatic Service
Representatives of more than one religious denomination, representatives of more than one newspaper and/or other news media and diplomatic representatives of more than one government may be eligible to active membership under such classification as set forth in this constitution.

Section 9 - Public Office

Persons elected or appointed to public office for a specified time only shall not be eligible to active membership in this club under the classification of such office. This shall not apply to persons holding a position or office in schools, colleges, or other institutions of learning or to persons who are elected or appointed to the judiciary.

An active member in this club who is elected or appointed to public office for a specified period may during the period in which he or she holds such office continue as such active member in the club under the classification represented by him in the club immediately prior to such election or appointment.

Section 10 - Rotary International Employment

This club may retain in its membership any member thereof who enters the employment of Rotary International, so long as he or she remains in such employment.

ARTICLE IV
DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Period.

(a) Active membership shall continue during the existence of the club unless terminated as hereinafter provided or by death of the member.

(b) Honorary membership shall terminate on the first day of July next after the date of election, provided, however, that the Board of Directors in their discretion may, by resolution, continue such honorary membership from year to year thereafter. Such honorary membership may be continued by the Board although the person so elected has ceased to reside within or to be definitely associated with the territorial limits of the club.

(c) Past service membership shall endure for life except that the Board of Directors for good and sufficient reason may at any time cancel the membership of a past service member provided that each member of the club shall have been served in writing with a notice at least thirty (30) days in advance of such proposed action by the Board. Past service membership shall automatically terminate if, and when, a past service member re-enters active business or professional life, or if he or she ceases to reside within the territorial limits of this club or within the residential territory recognized as the suburbs of the city in which this club is located.

Section 2 - How Terminated

(a) The membership of any active member who has ceased to be personally engaged within the territorial limits of the club in the classification of business or profession under which he or she is classified in the club, or

(b) Whose connection with his or her business establishment is severed, shall automatically terminate.

Section 3 - How to Rejoin

Where the membership of an active member has been terminated as provided in the foregoing Section 2, such person may make new application for membership, and whether under the same classification or another classification, his or her application shall be considered in advance of any other, for membership under the classification in which he or she now applies, and if elected to membership, he or she shall not be required to pay a second admission fee.

Section 4 - Classification - How Corrected

The Board of Directors in its discretion, may correct, or

readjust the classification of any member, whose membership has not terminated, if the circumstances warrant such action, but due notice of such proposed correction or readjustment shall be given to the member and he or she be allowed a hearing.

Section 5 - Termination - Misconduct

(a) The membership of any member who fails to conduct themselves or their business in accordance with the principles and ethics of Rotary, or who ceases to have the stated qualifications for membership in Rotary, may be terminated by the Board of Directors by a two-thirds vote of the Board at a meeting called for that purpose, provided that said member shall have been given at least ten (10) days' notice in writing of such pending action. Service of such notice shall be made by personal delivery or by registered letter mailed to his or her last known address. Said member may be represented at the hearing before the Board of Directors by counsel.

(b) In case of such termination of membership, such former member may, within thirty (30) days after the date of the Board's action, submit a written notice of his or her intention to appeal to the club. The Board shall thereupon set the date for such hearing, which shall be at a regular meeting of the club, held within thirty (30) days after the receipt of such written notice of appeal. At such hearing only members of the club shall be present excepting that the appellant may be represented by counsel.

(c) Where the Board has terminated a membership as provided for in this section, the club shall not elect a new member under such classification until the time for hearing the appeal if any, has expired and the club's decision announced.

Section 6 - Termination - Non-payment of Dues and Other Financial Assessments

Any member failing to pay his or her dues within thirty (30) days after the prescribed time shall be notified in writing by the Secretary at his or her last known address, and if said dues are not paid on or before ten (10) days from date of such notification said membership shall automatically terminate.

Such former member, at the discretion of the Board, may be reinstated to membership upon his or her petition, and upon the payment of all his or her indebtedness to the club, provided his or her former classification has not been filled meanwhile by the election of a new member.

Section 7 - Termination - Non-attendance

*** (a) The membership of any active or past service member who is absent from four consecutive regular weekly meetings of this club shall automatically terminate, unless such absence is made up as hereinafter provided, or he or she is

excused by the Board of Directors for good and sufficient reason. Absence at a regular meeting of this club may be made up by attendance at a regular meeting of any other Rotary club on any of the six (6) days immediately preceding the day of absence, on the day of the absence itself, or on any of the six (6) days immediately following the day of the absence, provided notice of such attendance is given to this club.

***As amended at 1935 (Mexico City) convention.

(b) The membership of any active or past service member whose percentage of attendance is less than sixty per cent during the first or second six months' period of the club's fiscal year shall automatically terminate, unless he or she is excused by the Board of Directors for good and sufficient reason.

Section 8 - 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 of Directors, provided that all indebtedness of said member to the club has been paid.

Section 9 - 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.

Section 10 - Arbitration

Should any dispute at any time arise between any member or members, or a past member or members, and the club, or any officer or the Board of Directors 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 all ready provided for such purpose, the matters in difference shall be settled by arbitration in the usual manner, each party to appoint an arbitrator and the arbitrators to appoint an umpire. The arbitration shall be conducted in the manner prescribed by law and 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 V TERRITORIAL LIMITS

Section 1. The territorial limits of this organization shall be as follows:

Pittsfield and nearby towns
(note: These territorial limits are understood to include the immediate tributary rural territory for which the community in which the club is located is the principal banking, trading, and shipping center.)

ARTICLE VI MEETINGS

Section 1. This club shall meet regularly once a week as provided in the by-laws.

Section 2. Annual Meeting. The annual meeting of this club shall be held on the first Thursday of July in each year, at which time the newly elected officers will be inducted into office.

ARTICLE VII ADMISSION FEE AND DUES

Section 1. Every 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 past service member who has held active membership in this club shall not be required to pay a second admission fee.

ARTICLE VIII OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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. The decision of the Board 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 actions of all committees. Appeal may be taken from any decision of the Board of Directors to the club and on such appeal the decision appealed from shall be reversed only by a two-thirds vote of the members present, at a regular meeting to be specified by the Board of Directors, a quorum being present, notice of such appeal having been given by the Secretary to all members of the club at least five (5) days in advance of such meeting.

Section 3. The officers of this club shall be a President, one or more Vice-Presidents, all of whom shall be members of the Board of Directors, and a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Sergeant-at-Arms, any or all of whom may or may not be members of the Board of Directors as the by-laws of the club shall provide.

*Section 4. These officers shall take office on the first day of July following their election and shall hold office for one year to until successors have been elected and have qualified.

Each officer and each director shall be an active, senior active or past service member in good standing of this club.

ARTICLE IX AVOIDANCE OF POLITICS

Section 1. 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.
*As amended at 1933 (Boston) convention.

Section 2. The merits of any public question involving the social, economic, moral or physical welfare of the people may be fairly and intelligently studied and discussed before a club meeting for the enlightenment of its members, but this club shall not take any action endorsing or condemning any measure which is to be submitted to the vote of the people.

ARTICLE X OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Section 1. Acceptance of active, senior active or past service membership in this club shall be a declaration by each person, so doing, that he or she voluntarily becomes a bona fide subscriber to the monthly publication of Rotary International. His or her subscription shall be handled in six month periods and shall continue as long as he or she is a member of the club and to the end of any six-month period during which he or she may cease to be a member of the club.

Section 2. The amount of the subscription shall be collected by the club for each member, semi-annually in advance, in addition to his or her annual dues. The Secretary shall enter such subscriptions and the amounts so collected in a special account and remit to the business office of said publication.

Section 3. The Board of Directors of Rotary International may prescribe this standard club constitution without this article for the use of clubs outside of the United States, Canada and Newfoundland.

ARTICLE XI ACCEPTANCE OF OBJECTS AND COMPLIANCE WITH CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

A member by payment the admission fee and dues thereby accepts the principles of Rotary as expressed in its objects 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 he or she has not

received a copy of them.

ARTICLE XII BY-LAWS

Section 1. 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 this constitution, embodying additional provisions for the government of this club, which adoption shall be by a majority vote of the members of the club present and voting and may be amended from time to time in accordance with the provisions therein contained.

ARTICLE XIII AMENDMENTS

***Section 1. Amendments to this constitution shall be made only at a convention of Rotary International by a majority vote of the electors present and voting at the time such amendments are submitted to the convention provided that no proposed amendment shall be acted upon at any convention unless the text of such proposed amendment shall have been delivered to the Secretary of Rotary International not later than the first day of February immediately preceding the date of opening of such convention, and unless a copy thereof shall have been mailed to the Secretary of each member club not later than the first day of March immediately preceding the opening of such convention, provided, however, that in the event the Board of Directors fixes the date of the convention for a date prior to June fifth then the dates on which said proposed amendments shall be filed and mailed shall be advanced by the same number of days as that by which such convention date is advanced. It shall be the duty of the Secretary of Rotary International to cause such copies to be mailed.

**Section 2. Amendments to this constitution may be proposed only by a member club, by a district conference, by the Board of Directors and/or the conference of a territorial unit, by a council on legislation, and by the Board of Directors of Rotary International.

*Section 3. It shall be the duty of the Secretary to transmit directly to the council on legislation all duly proposed amendments. The council on legislation, shall consider and act upon all such proposed enactments with or without amendment and shall report its action on all enactments to a session of the voting delegates of the convention for such action as they may determine.

***As amended at 1935 (Mexico City) convention
**As amended at 1934 (Detroit) convention
*As amended at 1933 (Boston) convention