

THIENSVILLE-MEQUON ROTARY CLUB

WHAT IS ROTARY?

The Rotary movement began on February 12, 1905, when Paul Harris, a young lawyer in Chicago, who had been born in Racine, met with three friends to discuss an idea he had been developing. The three men were Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer; Gustavus E. Loehr, a mining engineer; and Hiram Shorey, a merchant tailor. They met in Gus Loehr's office in the Unity Building at 127 North Dearborn Street. Paul Harris' idea was that businessmen should get together periodically in the spirit of camaraderie and to enlarge their circle of business and professional acquaintances. Out of this discussion came the idea of men's club whose membership would be limited to one representative from each business and profession. Weekly meetings were to be held at each member's place of business in turn. Hence, the name "Rotary" was adopted early on. After enlisting a fifth member, Harry Ruggles, a printer, the group was formally organized as The Rotary Club of Chicago. The first official meeting was held on February 23, 1905. The second Rotary club was founded in San Francisco, in 1908. In 1910 Rotary became international with the founding of the Rotary Club in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.

Expansion has been steady since 1910, and today there are about 29,728 Rotary clubs, with a membership of over 1,193,461, in 528 districts, in 188 countries and geographic regions. Each Rotarian is a member of a local club and each club is a member of Rotary International. Rotary clubs blanket much of the free world. From the outbreak of World War II to the recent changes in Eastern Europe, Rotary was dormant or non-existent in the so-called "Iron Curtain" countries; but within the last decade Rotary clubs have reappeared in Budapest, Prague, Warsaw, Moscow, Leningrad, etc. Rotary espouses an international goodwill program felt by many persons everywhere.

Rotary Clubs are service organizations. Their purpose is service to others through efforts to improve community, to promote high ethical standards in business and professional life, and to advance the cause of world peace by building bridges of knowledge and understanding among peoples of different nations. These efforts are exerted through four avenues of service, namely: club service, vocational service, community service and international service. The Rotary motto is "Service above Self". The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life; maintaining high ethical standards in business and occupations; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotary clubs meet weekly, with a program, usually for lunch or dinner; however, in recent years a number of breakfast clubs (Sunrise clubs) have sprung up. The original practice of rotating meetings from week to week has given way to meeting in the same location and at the same given time. Membership in Rotary is by invitation only and representation. Although Rotary started as a male organization, it has been open to women since 1987. Rotarians are asked to observe the ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST, of the things we think, say or do. It is:

1. Is it the TRUTH?

2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

20 Answers to the Question: Why Join Rotary?

1. **Friendship:** In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: the need for friendship and fellowship. It is one of the two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.
2. **Business Development:** The second original reason for Rotary's beginning is business development. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross section of every business community. Its members come from all walks of life. Rotarians help each other and collectively help others.
3. **Personal Growth and Development:** Membership in Rotary continues one's growth and education in human relations and personal development.
4. **Leadership Development:** Rotary is an organization of leaders and successful people. Serving in Rotary positions is like a college education. Leadership: - learning how to motivate, influence, and lead leaders.
5. **Citizenship in the Community:** Membership in a Rotary Club makes one a better community citizen. The average Rotary club consists of the most active citizens of any community.
6. **Continuing Education:** Each week at Rotary there is a program designed to keep one informed about what is going on in the community, nation, and the world. Each meeting provides an opportunity to listen to different speakers and a variety of timely topics.
7. **Fun:** Rotary is fun, a lot of fun. Each meeting is fun. The club projects are fun. Social activities are fun. The service is fun.
8. **Public Speaking Skills:** Many individuals who joined Rotary were afraid to speak in public. Rotary develops confidence and skill in public communication and the opportunity to practice and perfect these skills.
9. **Citizenship in the World:** Every Rotarian wears a pin that says "Rotary International." There are few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary Club. Everyone is welcome – even encouraged – to attend any of the 29,000 clubs in 194 nations and geographical regions. This means instant friends in both one's own community and in the world community.
10. **Assistance when Traveling:** Because there are Rotary clubs everywhere, many a Rotarian in need of a doctor, lawyer, hotel, dentist, advice, etc., while traveling has found assistance through Rotary.
11. **Entertainment:** Every Rotary club and district has parties and activities that provide diversion in one's business life. Rotary holds conferences, conventions, assemblies, and institutes that provide entertainment in addition to Rotary information, education and service.
12. **The Development of Social Skills:** Every week and at various events and functions, Rotary develops one's personality, social skills and people skills. Rotary is for people who like people.

13. **Family Programs:** Rotary Provides one of the world's largest youth exchange programs; high school and college clubs for future Rotarians; opportunities for spouse involvement; and a host of activities designed to help family members in growth and the development of family values.
14. **Vocational Skills:** Every Rotarian is expected to take part in the growth and development of his or her own profession or vocation; to serve on committees and to teach youth about one's job or vocation. Rotary helps to make one a better doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc.
15. **The Development of Ethics:** Rotarians practice a 4-Way Test that governs one's ethical standards. Rotarians are expected to be ethical in business and personal relationships.
16. **Cultural Awareness:** Around the world, practically every religion, country, culture, race, creed, political persuasion, language, color, and ethnic identity is found in Rotary. It is a cross section of the world's most prominent citizens from every background. Rotarians become aware of their cultures and learn to love and work with people everywhere. They become better citizens of their countries in the process.
17. **Prestige:** Rotary members are prominent people: leaders of business, the professions, art, government, sports, military, religion, and all the disciplines. Rotary is the oldest and most prestigious service club in the world. Its ranks include executives, manager, professionals – people who make decisions and influence policy.
18. **Nice People:** Rotarians above all are nice people – the nicest people on the face of the earth. They are important people who follow policy of it is nice to be important but it is important to be nice.
19. **The Absence of an “Official Creed”:** Rotary has no secret handshake, no secret policy, no official creed, no secret meeting or rituals. It is an open society of men and women who simply believe in helping others.
20. **The Opportunity to Serve:** Rotary is a service club. Its business is mankind. Its product is to service. Rotarians provide community service to both local and international communities. This is perhaps the best reason for becoming a Rotarian: the chance to do something for somebody else and to sense the self-fulfillment that comes in the process and return of that satisfaction to one's own life. It is richly rewarding.

“He profits most who serves best.”

Rotary's Yearly Costs:

Meals @ \$227.50 per Quarter	\$910.00
Club, District and International Dues @ \$44 per Quarter:	\$176.00
Annual Fund Raiser Expectation:	\$200.00
Total:	\$1,286.00 Yearly
	\$321.50 Quarterly
	\$107.17 Per Month
	\$24.73 Per Week

Opportunities for fellowship, service, networking and fun:

Priceless!

Thiensville-Mequon Rotary Club New Member Proposal Form

Name: _____

Nickname (if applicable): _____

Home Address: _____

Home Telephone: _____ Cell: _____

Email:(both home and/or business): _____

Employer: _____

Title (if applicable): _____

Business Address: _____

Business Telephone: _____ Ext: _____ Fax: _____

Birthday: _____

Former Rotarian? _____

If yes, name & location of former club: _____

Spouse's Name (if applicable): _____

Children & Ages: _____

Sponsoring Rotarian: _____

Possible Club Classification: _____

Hobbies & Special Interests: _____

Additional information you would like included in the Directory: _____
