



Welcome to Rotary



**Membership Orientation
Lincoln South Rotary Club**

We are so happy to have you as a member of Lincoln South Rotary . . .

- ▶ This orientation Power Point is designed to help you know more about your Lincoln South Rotary Club.
- ▶ We want you to feel welcome, feel at home, and feel a part of the club.
- ▶ You will also learn a little bit about the Rotary International organization and our District organization.
- ▶ So let's get started



Rotary is an International Organization . . .

- ▶ When you joined Rotary, you became a member of a much larger organization.
- ▶ We have 1.4 million members who are in 46,000 clubs in over 200 countries around the world!
- ▶ Rotary is broken up into Zones and Districts – your club is in District 5650 which covers eastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa.



In everything we do as Rotarians, we are guided by the Rotary motto of

“Service Above Self”



Our club member Jenny Cardwell and former member Vi See assisting refugees from the Ukraine who had escaped to Warsaw, Poland.

What does Rotary do?

Rotary is dedicated to causes that build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio forever.

Rotary's Causes

- Promoting peace
- Fighting disease
- Providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene
- Saving mothers and children
- Supporting education
- Growing local economies
- Protecting the environment





Ending polio forever . . .

- ▶ Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for over 35 years.
- ▶ We are almost there!
- ▶ Today, Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only countries where polio remains.
- ▶ Each week our club donates its “Happy Dollars” to help in this fight to eradicate polio.
- ▶ In addition, we have other events during the year that support this program, such as a Salt Dogs fundraiser, and bike rides.



To learn more about your Rotary International organization, we encourage you to go to the web site at

Rotary.org

You will also receive a subscription to the Rotary International magazine. Look it over to find out what Rotary is doing around the world.

How Lincoln South Rotary began . . .

- ▶ Lincoln South Rotary was chartered on 4/30/84.
- ▶ It was sponsored by the Lincoln Downtown Rotary Club #14.
- ▶ We are now a club of about 40 members.



You are part of an award winning club!

- ▶ From Rotary International, we have received the Rotary Citation for Outstanding Club almost every year for over 25 years.
- ▶ For over 25 years, we have been one of the top clubs in the district in per capita giving to the Rotary International Foundation.
- ▶ In the past decade, eight times our club has ranked 1st place in the District's Top Ten Clubs.



- ▶ In the last decade, three times our club president has been recognized as the top president in the district – Clay Ehlers, Kay Wunderlich, and Suzanne Tyrrell.



Clay Ehlers



Kay Wunderlich



Suzanne Tyrrell

The Cadwallader Award . . .

- ▶ This award is presented by our Rotary District 5650 to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to Rotary – who represents the embodiment of Rotary.
- ▶ Seven of our club's members have received this honor: George Lytton, Nicki Klein, Bill Schmeeckle, Joe Roberts, Tom Cardwell, John Herdman, and the latest winner, Clay Ehlers in 2020 (pictured here receiving his award from District 5650 officer, Gary Bren).
- ▶ And this is only a small listing of the huge amount of awards and recognitions that have been given to our club and to a number of our individual members.
- ▶ You are part of an award-winning club with a strong commitment to the ideals of Rotary.



Rotary  Lincoln South

- ▶ Be sure and go to our club's web page at lincolnsouthrotary.org.
- ▶ You will find our newsletter, dates of meetings, articles, our history, a listing of all our honors and awards, upcoming events, photos, and all kinds of information about the club. Take a few minutes to browse and explore it and click on the various links to give you more information.
- ▶ Be sure to "like" our Lincoln South Rotary Facebook page. It, too, will keep you up-to-date on what is happening.



How can you get involved?

- ▶ The purpose of being involved in Rotary is to utilize your *time, talent, and treasure*.
- ▶ Each of us determines how to make the best contributions of those three things.
- ▶ There are plenty of opportunities at Lincoln South Rotary.
- ▶ You might choose to be involved in "special projects." Or perhaps you would prefer something that is regular and continuing.
- ▶ Whatever it is you prefer, *here are some ideas . . .*



Help at our weekly meetings . . .

- ▶ Help with the weekly set-up and take-down (banners, plaques, etc.).
- ▶ Help collect money and do check-in (either regularly or as a substitute).
- ▶ Collect Happy Dollars.
- ▶ Be a greeter at the door.
- ▶ Assist with technology.
- ▶ Contact the program chair and volunteer to get a speaker for an upcoming meeting.



Help with our club's projects . . .

- ▶ Assist with delivering "Meals on Wheels" – either regularly or as a substitute. (Here are some of our club members receiving recognition from Tabitha for their help with this program.)
- ▶ Help with the annual Dictionary Project. (Once a year, just a few hours.) Help put on book labels and pack the books – a group effort that takes about an hour. You can also help deliver the dictionaries to 4th graders in schools across Lincoln



- ▶ Assist with planning and attending our periodic Strike Out Polio with Rotary and the Saltdogs event.
- ▶ Join those who go on bike rides to end polio.
- ▶ Help with the annual scholarship awards we give to students going on in higher education. This is once a year – you read scholarship applications and help make the selection.
- ▶ Help with the club's annual holiday party held in December. Volunteer to host it --- or help the host with set-up and clean-up.



- ▶ Assist with the annual Salute to Business put together by all the Rotary Clubs in Lincoln. Help with the event planning. Or assist the day of the event – helping with registration, serving as a greeter or usher.
- ▶ Support our weekly club meetings – try to attend as regularly as possible.
- ▶ Invite friends, family members, and business associates to one of our club meetings – ask them if they are interested in joining our group.



Help with the club's special events and projects . . .


Every year, our club does some special events and short-term projects giving members many opportunities to participate at a variety of levels. Here are just a few of the many examples from the past years

- ▶ Held an event at Kuck Motorsports raising funds for Clinic with a Heart and for our club's scholarship fund.
- ▶ Conducted annual food drives to support the Food Bank of Lincoln.
- ▶ Provided a contribution to the Food Bank's capital campaign to expand their facilities and capabilities.
- ▶ Did a Tribute to First Responders with contributions made to Shop with a Cop, Safe Kids of Lincoln-Lancaster County, and Crime Stoppers.



- ▶ Supported Community Action's Head Start program by donating commercial strollers for transporting kids.
- ▶ Did a blanket drive for the People's City Mission.
- ▶ Provided supplies to veterans facing hard times.
- ▶ Provided supplies to the Little Pantry to give food assistance.
- ▶ Have provided health care and food to the rural areas in the country of Georgia.
- ▶ Provided trees to Habitat for Humanity homes.
- ▶ Have actively participated in providing assistance to war-torn Ukraine.
- ▶ Donated used eyeglasses for an eye clinic in Kenya.

And these are just a few examples of a variety of our club's special events and projects!



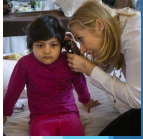

You will have many opportunities to participate at whatever level you choose and in activities that are of interest to you.



Two Rotary Foundations – both are important!

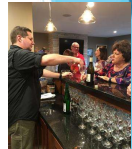

The Rotary International Foundation

- ▶ The Rotary International Foundation supports the work of its areas of emphasis around the world as shown earlier in this Power Point.
- ▶ You can participate in these international endeavors.
- ▶ One way is to become a **sustaining member** which is a contribution of \$120 per year. (This can be made as a one-time gift or you may pay automatically on your credit card at \$10 per month.)
- ▶ When a Rotarian has contributed \$1,000, they become a **Paul Harris Fellow** and are given special recognition including a special pin.
- ▶ **Important:** Eventually, half of what you give comes back to our Rotary District – and then becomes available to our clubs to provide grants for the things that are important to us!


Lincoln South Rotary Club Foundation

- ▶ Our Lincoln South Rotary club has its own Foundation ("LSRF").
- ▶ This Foundation is run by a separate Board of Directors.
- ▶ You can support it by a one-time gift. (Suggested amount of \$30 – but any amount is appreciated!)
- ▶ You can also support it by attending and contributing to any special event that its Board holds – usually one or two events per year.
- ▶ Grants are then made into our community from the Foundation.
- ▶ The emphasis of these grants is often related to children's issues in our community. (Pictured are the Boy Scouts receiving a grant for one of their projects.)


Supporting these two Foundations . . .

- ▶ At various times throughout the year, you will be asked to consider supporting each of these two foundations and the work they are doing.
- ▶ You will also be asked to make suggestions of various causes and groups that you think would be worthy of receiving one of the grants that are distributed through these foundation channels.
- ▶ Your participation is important – and always appreciated!



Now just a little bit about our club's leadership . . .

- ▶ What makes Rotary so successful is the dedication of a group of volunteers that have the "heart" for service . . . a true commitment of **Service Above Self**.
- ▶ Here are your fellow members who have taken on those responsibilities for this 2025-2026 Rotary year under the leadership of our President, Syd Widga.



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Here is your Board leadership team for 2025-2026 . . .

Syd Widga	President
Tami Lambie	President-Elect
Suni Kasibhatia*	Immediate Past President
Nicki Klein	Secretary, Executive Director
John Herdman	At Large
Brad Carter	At Large
Matt Horak	At Large
Corey Vandewege	Treasurer, non-voting

* = no longer a member

LINCOLN SOUTH ROTARY LEADERSHIP

Here is the club leadership team for 2025-2026 ---
volunteer and help them out!

Bob Vrana, Tom Hyde	Service Team
Clay Ehlers, Bobby Cunningham	Technology
John Herdman	Photography
Nicki Klein, John Herdman	Membership
Syd Widga	Program/Speakers
Nicki Klein	Scholarships
Joe Roberts, Scott Delisi	Public Image
Clay Ehlers	Rotary International Foundation
Heather Loughman	Youth Services/New Generation
DeEtta Vrana	Club Service Projects
Nicki Klein	Lincoln South Rotary Foundation
Polio Chair	Executive Secretary
	Matt Horak

To get the most out of your Rotary membership, do these 3 things . . .

▶ Contact our club's Executive Administrator, **Nicki Klein**, at nklein2@neb.rr.com to help you set up these three things:



- 1) Create your Rotary International membership account – Rotary.org.
- 2) Create your club membership account – lincolnsouthrotary.org.
- 3) Download onto your smartphone the app for **Rotary ClubRunner**.

▶ These three items will give you a wealth of information and serve as great reference tools.

Miscellaneous Information but it is all important!

- ▶ We **meet** from 12:00 to 1:00 p.m. each Friday at The Venue Restaurant.
- ▶ **Meeting fees** are \$17, and that includes your lunch. (Meeting fees are required whether you eat or not – they cover the cost of providing lunch for our guest speakers and other related costs.)
- ▶ Weekly **attendance** is not mandatory – we know business and personal issues are a reality that can conflict with a meeting. But we hope you enjoy the meetings enough to want to come if possible – and it is certainly a courtesy to our speakers.



▶ The **Rotary year** runs from July 1st through June 30th. You will receive an annual billing statement for your dues in late spring of each year for the upcoming Rotary year.

▶ You can **visit any Rotary club** in any part of the world – and you will always be welcomed!

▶ **Invite** your friends, family members, and business associates to visit our club and consider becoming a member of our wonderful group. (Your spouse or partner is a good place to start as we have many couples as members of our club!)



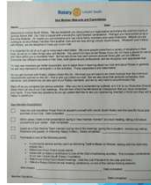
▶ You will be given opportunities to attend a **Rotary Leadership Institute** ("RLI") to learn more about Rotary and being a leader. It is a wonderful program worthy of your time and your registration fees are paid by our club.

▶ As a Lincoln South Rotary club member, you will have access to the **club roster** with the names and pertinent information of all our members. This information is not to be used as a list for your business, organization, or nonprofit, and should not be used for fundraising or advertising. If your organization has a special event coming up that you would like to announce to the club membership, you are welcome to do an announcement while making a contribution to Happy Dollars during the club meeting where the donations go toward Polio Plus.



Completing your orientation and new member expectations

- ▶ You will have received a single sheet called **New Member Welcome and Expectations**.
- ▶ Once you have completed the four things listed there, you will have completed your entire orientation process to our club and will be a **Member in Good Standing**. With that done, you will also be eligible to serve on our Board of Directors.
- ▶ Once you **complete the four tasks**, send or give the form to Nicki Klein, our Executive Administrator (2831 Kipling Circle, Lincoln, NE 68516).



Here are your four tasks to complete . . .

- ▶ **First:** Complete a New Member Orientation.
- ▶ **Second:** When asked by the club President, make a brief 2-3 minute presentation during a "new member moment" at a club meeting, telling a bit about yourself and your career.
- ▶ **Third:** Assist as part of the Club Service Team during one of the meetings: introduce visitors and guests, collect the Happy Dollars.

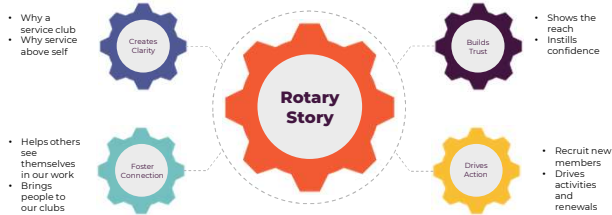


- ▶ **Fourth:** Participate in **one** of the following events:
 - A community service activity (such as delivering Tabitha Meals on Wheels; helping with the dictionary project, etc.); **or**
 - Attend one of our Club's social events; **or**
 - Assist with or make a contribution to one of the Club's fundraising activities. This includes contributions to our own Lincoln South Rotary Foundation; **or**
 - Attend one of the Club's Board meetings (ask the club President for the date and time); **or**
 - Attend a Rotary District annual meeting, conference, or one of the various training sessions.



We just want you to know we are delighted you are part of our Lincoln South Rotary Club!

Tell a Story about Rotary Introduce others to your Rotary Club



One-Liner to Bring it Together



Hint: A 2e cord-grader should be able to understand and remember it.



In Action

In a time when communities feel increasingly divided, Rotary brings people together across differences to serve something greater than themselves – building goodwill, strengthening relationships, and shaping communities rooted in purpose.

The guiding principle of everything we do in Rotary is the “Four Way Test”

Of the things we think, say, or do . . .

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOOD WILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

We are so delighted to have you as a member of Lincoln South Rotary!

- ▶ If you have any questions about anything in this orientation Power Point, or about any other aspect of your Lincoln South Rotary Club, feel free to contact any of the following people. Also, if you have an area of interest where you would like to be involved, share it with them. They will be happy to help you.
- ▶ **Syd Widga**, Club President for 2025-2026, swidga@hamilton.net.
- ▶ **Nicki Klein**, Club Executive Administrator, nklein2@neb.rr.com.
- ▶ **Nicki Klein**, Membership Chair for 2025-2026, nklein2@neb.rr.com.



We are Rotary

Consider all the possibilities of what Rotary can do around the world!

Thank You