



## Welcome to the Rotary Club of North Penn

*Some FAQs and interesting facts that will be helpful in making your decision to join Rotary  
We hope your interest in our club will be both a pleasant and rewarding experience*

### **What is Rotary?**

- Rotary is a diversified group of volunteers with a common passion for community and world-wide humanitarian service while encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations and helping to build goodwill and peace in the world. Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self"
- The members who get the most out of their Rotary membership are those who participate in the local Club's service projects, programs and activities.
- Rotary International, of which our club is a part, is the largest service organization in the world with many areas of focus for humanitarian aid.
- We recommend visiting Rotary International's official website at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) However, any North Penn Rotarian will be happy to answer questions you may have, so please feel free to ask!

### **When was Rotary founded and by whom and for what reason?**

- Rotary International was founded in 1905 in Chicago, IL by Paul Harris, who was a local businessman with high ethical standards who saw a serious humanitarian need in his community
- Knowing he could not do this alone, Mr. Harris reached out to other local business professionals in the surrounding communities with the hope that their like-minded combined efforts could fulfill the humanitarian needs in the area.
- Paul Harris formed this group of business professionals that 'rotated' their meeting location every week in order to discuss and plan how the group as a whole could help each other's community needs.

### **How many Rotary clubs are in the world?**

- Paul Harris's vision has grown into 1.4 million Rotarians worldwide, divided into 46,000 Rotary Clubs
- The entire Rotary International organization is divided into geographic districts.
- The Rotary Club of North Penn is part of District 7430 which is comprised of 43 clubs primarily in Montgomery, Bucks and Berks Counties & the Lehigh Valley.

### **Tell me a little about the Club history:**

- In 1924, the Lansdale Rotary Club was founded and later combined its membership with the North Wales Rotary Club, forming the eventual Rotary Club of North Penn; a 501(c)(4) charitable organization.
- Current membership trends vary between 25-50 members, but there is no maximum limit.

**What are the personal requirements for membership? Are there any restrictions?** We welcome all individuals who are in good standing with their community, have a passion for service and wish to make a difference in the world by putting Service Above Self; regardless of religion, race, color, age, sex, ethnic background or nationality

### **What are some of the organizations and service projects the Rotary Club of North Penn has supported?**

The work of Rotary begins in the community and every community has its own unique needs and concerns. The Rotary Club of North Penn has focused its efforts in numerous areas to maximize our impact. We have annually supported a long list of local and global non-profit and charitable organizations that include:

- Manna-On-Main Street
- The Lansdale YMCA
- The PEAK Center
- Boys & Girls Clubs
- Easterseals
- Garden of Health Food Bank
- RSVP of Mont.Co.
- local North Penn schools
- Laurel House
- The eradication of Polio (globally) through the Rotary Foundation (which has the highest possible rating by *Charity Navigator*, an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.
- Through District & global grants from the Rotary Foundation, our club has been able to help fund numerous service projects in our community and world-wide.

### **What are some of the youth programs that the Club sponsors?**

- Annual scholarships to deserving High School seniors
- Several opportunities per year for students to participate in scholarship contests and/or attend leadership and business camps, like Camp Neidig and the STEM-YEA academy.
- Our club sponsors a local Interact Club at Lansdale Catholic H.S. which is a youth Rotary Club

### ***What are some of the fundraisers & projects of the Club?***

- We proudly host “Lansdale Day Art & Craft Festival” which is an outdoor community event held annually
- Highway Clean-up project; a few times per year
- One of our largest projects was raising \$225,000 to build a band shell for the North Penn community at White’s Road Park in Lansdale.
- We have also donated \$25,000 to the North Penn Commons project in the heart of Lansdale that is home to four local non-profit organizations
- We add various service projects to our schedule as volunteer times allow (e.g. Shredding Event, Food Drive)
- Through grants from Rotary District 7430, our club has funded and participated in numerous service projects. Some of the ones in recent years include:
  - Housing upgrades for Laurel House
  - New computers for the local Boys & Girls Club
  - Specialized educational equipment for Easterseals of Montgomery County
  - A newly constructed message board kiosk for Lansdale Borough in White’s Road Park
  - Mass quantity food purchases for Manna on Main Street

### ***What is the time commitment required for Rotarian membership?***

- Regular dinner meetings are held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** of the month, at Main Street Pizzeria & Grille, located at 328 W. Main Street / Lansdale - beginning at 5:30 pm and typically ending before 7pm.
- **Attendance is strongly encouraged** by each member
- ALL members and potential members are strongly encouraged to volunteer at our largest fundraiser, Lansdale Day, which is held on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of June annually. This event is extremely important and requires the participation of every member for its success.
- All members are strongly encouraged to participate in all club activities, fundraisers and service projects.
- We do understand the busy lives we have while always trying to put “Service Above Self.”

### ***What are the costs or fees associated with membership into the Rotary Club of North Penn?***

*Check with your business or company as many will pay some of these costs for your membership in a service organization*

- There is no application fee or entrance fee to become a member of our Rotary Club
  - Membership Dues - \$165 every 6 months (\$330 annum) Dues is a required payment by all members in order to continue membership with Rotary and the North Penn Club.
  - Meal charges: We do not bill members for meals – each is responsible for his/her own meal costs when attending our dinner meetings. You may order directly from the menu.
    - ▶ Prospective members are treated to their meal for their first 3 meetings
  - *All members are encouraged to financially support The Rotary Foundation, but this is not a requirement for membership with a Rotary Club*

### ***I'm seriously interested in joining The Rotary Club of North Penn, so what happens next?***

That’s wonderful, so please voice your interest! This can be as simple as speaking with one of our members who will guide you through the friendly process of applying for membership and gladly answer any questions you may have ☺

The following will occur upon your expressed interest:

- A personal invitation to attend up to 3 club meetings or community service projects so we have a chance to get to know one another a little better. After 3 meetings, a member of our membership committee would like to talk with you about your desire for official membership
- Complete a basic Membership Profile
- Meet with your sponsor to discuss your interests and have any questions answered & discussed
- Sponsor sends written recommendation to our Board of Directors regarding your candidacy for membership which is reviewed and responded to within a few days.
- You are welcomed into our Club with full membership rights and privileges with official induction to follow
- We invite you to visit our club’s website and find us on Facebook for additional Club and membership info

[www.rotaryclubofnorthpenn.org](http://www.rotaryclubofnorthpenn.org)

[www.facebook.com/rotary.club.of.north.penn](http://www.facebook.com/rotary.club.of.north.penn)

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of our Membership Committee for additional information. Questions and comments are always welcome! We look forward to getting to know you and hope the information in this letter was helpful with regard to Rotary membership.

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