Alternate Membership Types

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such as family, corporate or trial memberships. This document is intended to provide broad

guidelines on these alternate membership types. If your club decides to implement any of

these alternate membership types, it must be included in your club’s by-laws. All of these

alternate membership types are optional.

Rotary International has recently clarified its approach to alternate membership types. Rotary

International has two types of membership: “Active” and “Honorary”. Please note that clubs

are free to have other types of membership, but that Rotary International will only recognize

individuals, not entities. Additionally, when reporting to Rotary International, the only types of

membership which will be recognized for any individual are “Active” and “Honorary”, and only

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**Family Membership**

Family Membership consists of any family (e.g.’ Spouse, Partner, Adult aged Child). The main benefit provided with a family membership is a reduction in dues as determined by the club. Family members are all active members and have all the same rights, privileges and obligations as other members.

As an example, the financial obligations of a family member may be as follows:

1. Initiation fee: If used, an amount determined by the club with a reduced rate for all members after the initial family member.
2. RI dues and District dues: Payable for each member as stipulated in RI bylaws 17.030.
3. Annual club dues: An amount determined by the club with a significant reduction for all family members after the initial family member.
4. Meal/beverage costs: An amount determined by the club.

**Corporate Membership**

The main purpose of a corporate membership is to provide the corporation or other entity positive publicity through the activities of and membership in the Rotary club. The cost for corporate membership should be somewhat higher than the individual membership as the Rotary club agrees to include their name as a corporate sponsor of their club. The actual membership fees would be determined by the club. Here is an example from the Harrisburg Rotary Club:

The Rotary Club of Harrisburg has had corporate memberships for the past six years and has about six corporate members at present. Since the club meets at noon at the downtown Harrisburg Hilton Hotel and lunch is included with their dues, the average member spends about $1000 per year for dues and contributions. Corporate members pay $5000 per year. These corporations have advertising in recognition in all club publications and newsletters.

Corporations Are expected to designate two employees to become active in the club with all of the normal requirements and responsibilities of club membership. The corporate CEO or his/her designee may attend any of the clubs meetings at any time without charge but have no responsibilities of membership. In so far as Rotary International is concerned, each corporate membership counts as two members.

In the Harrisburg Club, this has been a real two way street. Corporations get visibility in a strong organization and the club enjoys relationships with these corporations. These corporate memberships are an excellent way for clubs to get significant involvement in a strong community organization.

Trial Membership

The goal of a trial membership is to give both the individual and the club an opportunity to get to know each other over a defined period of time (e.g., not more than six months). It will allow an individual to become familiar with the club, its members, its programs and projects, and the expectations of membership, thereby positively influencing recruitment and retention trends. In addition to meeting attendance and participation in club service and fellowship event, the trial member should include assigning a mentor, attending a new member orientation and obtaining a sponsor. The trial member is responsible for meal costs, but does not pay dues until he/she is inducted after the trial period ends. The trial member has no voting privileges nor can this member hold office. This membership level is not considered to be an “Active” by Rotary International standards.