**ORIENTATION TO ROTARY**

**(Updated: February 24, 2023)**

**Rotary**

Rotary is an international [service organization](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Service_club) whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian services, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. Rotary is a nonpartisan, secular organization open to business and professional leaders regardless of race, color, creed, religion, gender, sexual orientation, political preference or economic status. There are over 34,000 clubs worldwide with over 1.2 million Rotarians. Rotary’s motto is:

**“Service above Self."**

**Club**

The club is the basic unit of Rotary activity. Originally limited to a single club per city, municipality, or town, Rotary International now encourages the formation of one or more additional clubs in more populated areas. Most clubs meet weekly, usually at a mealtime on a weekday in a regular location. At these weekly meetings, Rotarians can discuss club business and hear from guest speakers. Each club promotes service to their community as well as to the wider world. Projects may be organized for the local community by a single club, but some special projects may involve collaboration with other clubs within the district or occasionally a "sister club" in another nation.

**The Four-Way Test**

The Four-Way test exemplifies Rotary ideals and each meeting concludes with members affirming these ideals:

“Of the things we think, say and do……

* Is it the TRUTH?
* Is it FAIR to all concerned?
* Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
* Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

**Membership**

Each club determines its own membership. Active membership is by invitation from a current Rotarian to professionals or business people working in diverse professions or areas of endeavor. One can contact a Rotary club to inquire about membership but can join a Rotary club only if sponsored by an existing Rotarian. Membership responsibilities include weekly attendance at the Fort Morgan Rotary meetings Tuesday at noon, participation in club service projects, and participation in weekly programs and club leadership opportunities.

**Dues**

Dues are paid quarterly and the Fort Morgan Rotary Club will email you an invoice each quarter. There will be three items on each invoice: dues $45 meals ($11 per meeting, regardless of attendance), and an optional Paul Harris donation of $25. The Paul Harris donation helps fund the Rotary Foundation. You are responsible for forwarding this invoice to your employer if they pay. Any outstanding balances owed from the prior quarter must be paid before the next quarterly invoice, or you will be asked to become “inactive” until you are caught up. Inactive members are still responsible for paying quarterly dues but are not responsible for other assessments. Honorary membership may be given to individuals who have distinguished themselves through meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals. Honorary membership is conferred only in exceptional cases and Honorary members are exempt from the payment of dues.

**Club Leadership**

Each club elects its own president and officers among its active members for a one-year term. The clubs enjoy considerable autonomy within the framework of the standard constitution and bylaws of Rotary International. The governing body of the club is the Club Board, consisting of the club president (who also serves as the Board chairman), a president-elect, club secretary, club treasurer, and a Board Directors, including the immediate past president and the President Elect. The president usually appoints the directors to serve as chairs of the major club committees.

**District Level**

Each club is a member of a regional District; the Fort Morgan Rotary Club is in District 5450. Each governor is nominated by the clubs of his/her district, and elected at the annual RI District Convention. The district governor appoints assistant governors from among the Rotarians of the district to assist in the management of Rotary activity and multi-club projects in the district.

### Zone Level

### Approximately 15 Rotary districts form a zone. A zone director also serves as a member of the RI board of directors. The zone director is nominated by the clubs in the zone and elected by the convention for the terms of two consecutive years.

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**Rotary International**

Rotary International is governed by a board of directors composed of the international president, the president-elect, the general secretary, and 17 zone directors. The international board meets quarterly to establish policies and make recommendations to the overall governing bodies. The chief operating officer of RI is the general secretary, who heads a staff of about 600 people working at the international headquarters in Evanston, Illinois and in seven international offices around the world.

# **The Rotary Foundation**

At the 1917 convention, outgoing RI President Arch C. Klumph proposed to set up an endowment “for the purpose of doing good works in the world.” In 1928, it was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. In 1929, the Foundation made its first gift of $500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The organization later grew into Easter Seals.

As a nonprofit organization, all of the Foundation's funding comes from voluntary contributions made by Rotarians and friends who share the Rotary vision of a better world. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. **The Rotary Foundation** helps fund humanitarian activities from local service projects to global initiatives and leads the charge on worldwide Rotary campaigns such as eradicating polio.

When Rotary founder Paul Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring in to Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created to build the Foundation. Today the Paul Harris Society recognizes and honors Rotary members and friends of The Rotary Foundation who contribute $1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, to PolioPlus, or to authorized global grants. The number of Paul Harris Fellows reached the one million mark in 2006. Since the first donation of $26.50 in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions totaling more than $1 billion. Rotary's recurring giving program, makes it easy to join the Paul Harris society.

The Board of Trustees manages the business of the Foundation, led by the trustee chair. The Rotary International president-elect nominates the trustees, who are elected by the Rotary International Board of Directors. The trustee chair serves for one year and trustees serve for four years.

### Local Involvement

### Locally, the Rotary club of Fort Morgan raises funds to provide student scholarships, delivers meals to seniors and disabled folks in the community through the Meals on Wheels program every Friday, is involved in Bobstock Music Festival, organizes an annual Chili Cookoff, sends youth to RYLA programs (more information on page 5), participates in the foreign exchange student program, and contributes to the community through other donations when an opportunity arises.

### Rotary Programs

### Interact

### Interact is Rotary International’s service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance. They are self-governing and self-supporting. Club membership varies greatly and can draw from the student body of a single school or from two or more schools in the same community. Each year, Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers international understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts, Interact members develop a network of friendships with local and overseas clubs emphasizing the importance of developing leadership skills and personal integrity, demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others, understanding the value of individual responsibility and advancing international understanding and goodwill. Interact is one of the most significant and fastest-growing programs of Rotary with involving almost 340,000 young people.

### Rotaract

### "Rotaract" stands for "Rotary in Action" although the name originally comes from a combination of "Rotary" and "Interact.” [Rotaract](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotaract) is a service club for young men and women aged 18 to 30 with around 215,000 members in 9,388 clubs in 176 countries.  As a leadership and community service organization, Rotaract focuses on member development as leaders in their communities and workplaces. Clubs around the world also take part in international service projects, in a global effort to promote peace and international understanding. Most Rotaract activities take place at the club level with Rotaract clubs holding formal meetings, usually every two weeks featuring speakers, special outings, social activities, discussions or visits to other clubs. Club members get together periodically for service projects, social events, or leadership development workshops.

### RYLA

RYLA, or [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotary_Youth_Leadership_Awards), is a leadership program for young people that aims to unite and provide resources for future leaders. Each year, thousands of young people are sponsored by Rotary Clubs to attend the event run by the club's district committee with participants chosen for their leadership potential. Rotary Clubs and the Rotary District cover all expenses for the participants. The format of the event varies from district to district, but commonly takes the form of a seminar, camp, or workshop to discuss leadership skills and to refine those skills through practice. Rotary clubs and districts select participants and facilitate the event's curriculum.

### Rotary’s Areas of Focus

Rotary’s efforts are directed toward six areas of focus to enhance local and global impact. The most successful and sustainable projects and activities tend to fall within the following areas:

* Promoting peace
* Fighting disease
* Providing clean water, sanitation and hygiene
* Saving mothers and children
* Supporting education
* Growing local economies
* Environment and Environmental Sustainability

### PolioPlus: A Signature Rotary Project

A highly infectious disease, polio causes paralysis and is sometimes fatal. As there is no cure, the best protection is prevention. Rotary, along with a variety of partners, has reduced polio cases by 99 percent worldwide since our first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979. Rotarians have helped immunize more than 2 billion children against polio in 122 countries. For as little as $0.60, a child can be protected against this crippling disease for life.

The goal of PolilPlus is to make polio the first human disease of the 21st century to be completely eradicated.

### Exchanges and scholarships

### Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) is an [international](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Rotary_International) [student exchange program](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Student_exchange_program) for secondary school students. Since 1929, Rotary International has sent young people around the globe to experience new cultures. Currently, about 9,000 students are sponsored by Rotary clubs every year. Typically, students are sent to another country for a year-long stay, generally living with multiple host families during the year. They are expected to perform daily tasks within the household as well as attend school in the host country. Short term exchange programs are also quite common, typically involving direct student exchanges between families arranged through Rotary to coincide with major school holiday periods.

### Rotary Peace Centers

Starting in 2002, [The Rotary Foundation](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Rotary_Foundation) partnered with eight universities around the world to create the Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution, also known as Peace Centers. Today up to 100 Rotary Peace Fellows are selected annually to earn either a professional development certificate in peace and conflict studies or a master's degree in a range of disciplines related to peace and security. Each Rotary Peace Center offers a unique curriculum and field-based learning opportunities that examine peace and conflict theory through a variety of different frameworks.

**Expanding Health Care**

More than 100 million people are pushed into poverty each year often due to medical costs. Rotary aims to improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in underdeveloped areas. Rotary members educate and mobilize communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Many of our projects ensure that medical training facilities are located where the workforce lives.

### Providing Clean Water

### More than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. At least 3,000 children die each day from diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe water. Rotary projects give communities the ability to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems and support studies related to water and sanitation.

### Health Care for Children

At least 7 million children under the age of five die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. To help reduce this rate, Rotary provides immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improve access to essential medical services, and support trained health care providers for mothers and their children. Rotary projects ensure sustainability by empowering the local community to take ownership of health care training programs.

### Literacy programs

Sixty-seven million children worldwide have no access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Rotary’s goal is to strengthen the capacity of increase adult literacy. Such importance has been placed on literacy that Rotary International has created a “Rotary Literacy Month” that takes place during the month of March. Rotary clubs also aim to conduct many literacy events including raising funds for schools and other literacy organizations, volunteering as reading mentors with designated students and participating in book donations, both locally and internationally.

### Growing Economies

### Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than $1.25 a day. Rotary carries out service projects that enhance economic and community development and develop opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. Rotary also helps strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.

### THANK YOU FOR JOINING THE ROTARY CLUB OF FORT MORGAN

### AND THE GLOBAL NETWORK OF 1.2 ROTARIANS

### CREATING POSITIVE CHANGE IN THEIR COMMUNITIES AND

### THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.