

CONSTITUTION OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF RANCHO SANTA FE
(Restated June, 2018)

ARTICLE 1
DEFINITIONS

As used in this constitution, unless the context otherwise clearly requires, the words in this article shall have the following meanings:

1. Board: The Board of Directors of this club.
2. Bylaws: The bylaws of this club.
3. Director: A member of this club's Board of Directors.
4. Member: A member, other than an honorary member, of this club.
5. RI: Rotary International.
6. Fiscal Year: The twelve-month period which begins July 1st.
7. Budget Year: The twelve-month period which begins January 1st_

ARTICLE 2
NAME

The name of this organization shall be Rotary Club of Rancho Santa Fe.

ARTICLE 3
LOCALITY OF THE CLUB

The locality of this club is Rancho Santa Fe, California.

ARTICLE 4
PURPOSES

The purposes of this club are to pursue the Objectives of Rotary, carry out successful service projects based on the Five Avenues of Service, contribute to the advancement of Rotary by strengthening membership, support the Rotary Foundation, and develop leaders beyond the club level.

ARTICLE 5
OBJECTIVES

The objective of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- First.* The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

- Second* High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- Third.* The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life.
- Fourth* The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

ARTICLE 6 FIVE AVENUES OF SERVICE

Rotary's Five Avenues of Service are the philosophical and practical framework for the work of this Rotary club.

1. **Club Service**, the first Avenue of Service, involves action a member should take within this club to help it function successfully.
2. **Vocational Service**, the second Avenue of Service, has the purpose of promoting high ethical standards in businesses and professions, recognizing the worthiness of all dignified occupations, and fostering the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations. The role of members includes conducting themselves and their businesses in accordance with Rotary's principles.
3. **Community Service**, the third Avenue of Service, comprises varied efforts that members make, sometimes in conjunction with others, to improve the quality of life of those who live within this club's locality including their municipality, county, state, and country.
4. **International Service**, the fourth Avenue of Service, comprises those activities that members do to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace by fostering acquaintance with people of other countries, their cultures, customs, accomplishments, aspirations, and problems, through reading and correspondence and through cooperation in all club activities and projects designed to help people in other lands.
5. **New Generations Service**, the fifth Avenue of Service, recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities, involvement in community, local, national and international service projects, and exchange programs that enrich and foster world peace and cultural understanding.

ARTICLE 7 MEETINGS

Section 1- *Regular Meetings.*

- (a) Day and Time. This club's goal is to hold a regular meeting and/or member gathering once each week on the day and at the time provided in the Bylaws, and or an alternative date the Board may set.
- (b) Change of Meeting. For good cause, the Board may change a regular meeting to any day during the period commencing with the day following the preceding regular meeting and ending with the day preceding the next regular meeting, or to a different hour of the regular day, or to a different place.
- (c) Cancellation. The Board may cancel a regular meeting if it falls on a legal holiday, including a commonly recognized holiday, or in case of the death of a club member, or of an epidemic or of a disaster affecting the whole community, or of an armed conflict in the community which endangers the lives of the club members. The Board may cancel not more than four regular meetings in a year for causes not otherwise specified herein provided that this club does not fail to meet for more than three consecutive meetings.

Section 2 - *Annual Selection of Officers and Directors.*

At a regular scheduled club meeting, not to be later than June 30th the Board shall present to the membership for the ratification and election of the new club officers and Directors as applicable.

ARTICLE 8 MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - *General Qualifications.*

This club shall be composed of adult persons (minimum age of 18) of good character and good business, professional and/or community reputation.

Section 2 - *Kinds.*

This club shall have the kinds/types of membership as specified in the Club Bylaws.

Section 3 - *Active Membership.*

A person possessing the qualifications set forth in Article 5, section 2 of this Rotary Club of Rancho Santa Fe constitution may be elected to active membership in this club.

Section 4 - *Transferring or Former Rotarian.*

(a) *Potential Members.* A Member may propose to active membership a transferring member or former member of a club, if the proposed member is terminating or has terminated such membership in the former club. The transferring or former member of a club being proposed to active membership under this section may also be proposed by the former club.

Potential members of this club who are current or former members of another club who have debts to the other club are ineligible for membership in this club. This club may require that a prospective member present written proof that no money is owed to the other club. The admission of a transferring or former Rotarian as an active member pursuant to this section shall be contingent upon receiving notification from the Board of the previous club conforming the prospective member's prior membership in that club.

(b) *Current or Former Members.* This club shall provide a statement whether money is owed to this club when requested by another club with respect to a current or former member of this club being considered for membership in the other club.

Section 5 - *Dual Membership.*

A person wishing to hold active membership in this club and another club at the same time shall obtain the approval of both club Board's in order to have membership in each club. No person shall simultaneously be a member and an honorary member in this club.

Section 6 -*Honorary Membership.*

(a) *Eligibility for Honorary Membership.* Persons who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals and those persons considered friends of Rotary for their permanent support of Rotary's cause may be elected to honorary membership in this club. The term of such membership shall be as determined by the Board. Persons may hold honorary membership in more than one club.

(b) *Rights and Privileges.* Honorary members shall be exempt from the payment of admission fees and dues, shall have no vote, and shall not be eligible to hold any office in this club. Such members shall be entitled to attend all meetings and enjoy all the other privileges of this club. No honorary member of this club is entitled to any rights and privileges in any other club, except as set forth in Section 5 above and have the right to visit other clubs without being the guest of a Rotarian.

Section 7 - *HOLDERS of Public Office.*

Members who are elected or appointed to public office for a specified period may continue as members in this club.

Section 8 - *Rotary International Employment.*

This club may retain in its membership any member employed by RI.

ARTICLE 9 CLASSIFICATIONS

Section 1- *General Provisions.*

All persons possessing the qualifications set forth in Article 5, section 2 of this Rotary Club of Rancho Santa Fe constitution may be elected to active membership in this club. The historic classification requirements and limitations relating to professional classifications no longer apply.

ARTICLE 10 ATTENDANCE

Section 1- *General Provisions.*

Each Member is encouraged to attend this club's regular meetings. The club recognizes that both personal and business conflicts can arise and support club Member's commitment to each. If meetings have to be missed, the club sincerely hopes that the Member will broaden their Rotary experience and visit another Rotary club meeting(s).

Section 2 - *Outpost Assignment.*

If a Member will be working on an outpost assignment for an extended period of time, the Member is encouraged to attend a designated club at the site of the assignment, provided there is a mutual agreement between the two clubs.

Section 3 - *Attendance Records.*

The club, at its option, may take attendance at each meeting for the purpose of ensuring that the per head luncheon charges are accurate and to have a permanent record of member attendance should the club wish to acknowledge those members with the highest annual attendance record.

ARTICLE 11 DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

Section 1- *Governing Body.*

The governing body of this club shall be the Board constituted as the Bylaws may provide.

Section 2 - *Authority.*

The Board shall have general control over all officers and committees and, for good cause, may declare any office vacant.

Section 3 - Board Action Final.

The decision of the Board in all club matters is final, subject only to an appeal to the club. However, as to a decision to terminate membership for any reason other than the failure to pay delinquent dues as set forth in the club Bylaws, a Member, pursuant to Article 13, section 5 below, may appeal to the club, request mediation, or request arbitration. If appealed, a decision of the Board shall be reversed only by a two-thirds vote of the members present, at a regular meeting specified by the Board, provided a quorum is present and notice of the appeal has been given by the secretary to each member at least five (5) days prior to the meeting. If an appeal is taken, the action taken by the club shall be final.

Section 4 - Officers.

The club officers shall be a president, the immediate past-president, a president-elect, a president-nominee, (if one is designated), a treasurer, a secretary, the chairman of the club's Foundation, sergeant-at-arms and an additional number of club Members, as set forth in the club's Bylaws, all of whom shall be members of the Board.

Section 5 - Election of Officers.

Terms of Officers other than President. Each officer shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws. Except for the president, each officer shall take office on July 1st immediately following election and shall serve for their term of office for one year or until a successor has been duly elected and qualified.

(a) *Term of President.* The president shall be elected as provided in the Bylaws, not more than two (2) years but not less than twelve (12) months prior to the day of taking office and shall serve as president-nominee upon election. The nominee shall take the title of president-elect on **July** 1st in the year prior to taking office as president. The president shall take office on July 1st and shall serve a period of one (1) year or longer if necessary, until a successor has been duly elected and qualified.

(b) *Qualifications.* Each officer and Director shall be a member in good standing of this club, which includes not having any past due, unpaid membership dues. The president-elect shall attend the district presidents-elect training seminar (PETS) and the district assembly. If the president-elect is unable to attend the district assembly, the president-elect shall send a designated Club representative who shall report back to the president-elect. If the president-elect does not attend the president-elect training seminar and has not been excused by the governor-elect or, if so excused, does not send a designated club representative to such meetings, the president-elect shall not be able to serve as club president. In such event, the current president shall continue to serve until a successor, who has attended a presidents-elect training seminar and district assembly or alternative training deemed sufficient by the governor-elect has been duly elected.

ARTICLE 12
ADMISSION FEES AND DUES

Every Member shall pay an admission fee and annual dues as prescribed in the Bylaws, except that any transferring or former member of another club who is accepted into membership of this club pursuant to Article 8, section 4(a) shall not be required to pay a second admission fee. A Rotaractor who ceased to be a member of Rotaract within the preceding two years, who is accepted into membership of this club, shall not be required to pay an admission fee.

ARTICLE 13
DURATION OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 1 - Period.

Membership shall continue during the existence of this club unless terminated as hereinafter provided.

Section 2 - Automatic Termination.

(a) *Membership Qualifications.* Membership shall automatically terminate when a Member no longer meets the membership qualifications, including remaining current on club membership dues, except that:

(1) the Board may grant a Member moving from the locality of this club or the surrounding area a special leave of absence not to exceed one (1) year to enable the Member to visit and become known to a Rotary Club in the new community if the Member continues to meet all conditions of club membership;

(2) the Board may allow a Member moving from the locality of this club or the surrounding area to retain membership if the Member continues to meet all conditions of club membership.

(3) the Board may grant a Member the opportunity to pay past due membership dues under a personal "Dues Repayment Plan" when the Member's inability to pay is temporary, the Member has the desire to repay the past due amounts, or a lower amount that may be approved by the board, and there is a high likelihood that the Member has the ability to repay the past due amounts within a reasonable time period.

(b) *How to Rejoin.* When the membership of a Member has terminated as provided in subsection (a) of this section, such person, provided such person's membership was in good standing at the time of termination, may make new application for membership, A second admission fee shall not be required.

(c) *Termination of Honorary Membership.* Honorary membership shall automatically terminate at the end of the term for such membership as determined by the Board. However, the Board may extend an honorary membership for an additional period. The Board may revoke an honorary membership at any time.

Section 3 - Termination - Non-payment of Dues.

(a) *Process.* Any Member failing to pay dues within thirty (30) days after the prescribed time shall be notified in writing by the president or a Board member that the president may designate, to the Member's last known e-mail address of the delinquent status of their dues. If the dues are not paid on or before fifteen (15) days of the date of notification, membership may be terminated, subject to the discretion of the Board exercising the Board's discretionary right to grant a "Dues Repayment Plan" as set forth in Article 13 in section 2, a, (3) above.

(b) *Reinstatement.* The Board may reinstate the former Member to membership upon the former Member's petition and payment of all indebtedness or the lower amount that was determined at the discretion of the Board.

Section 4 - Termination - Other Causes.

(a) *Good Cause.* The Board may terminate the membership of any Member who ceases to have the qualifications for membership in this club or for any good cause by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Board members, at a meeting called for that purpose. The guiding principles for this meeting shall be Rotarian Four-Way Test; and the high ethical standards that one should hold as a Rotary Club member.

(b) *Notice.* Prior to taking any action under subsection (a) of this section, the Member shall be given at least fifteen (15) days' written notice of such pending action and an opportunity to submit a written answer to the Board. The Member shall have the right to appear before the Board to state the Member's case. Notice shall be by personal delivery, e-mail, or by registered letter to the Member's last known address.

Section 5 - Right to Appeal, Mediate or Arbitrate Termination.

(a) *Notice.* Within seven (7) days after the date of the Board's decision to terminate membership, the secretary shall give written notice of the decision to the Member. Within fifteen (15) days after the date of the notice, the Member may give written notice to the secretary of the intention to appeal to the club, request mediation, or to arbitrate as provided in Article 17.

(b) *Date for Hearing of Appeal.* In the event of an appeal, the Board shall set a date for the hearing of the appeal at a regular club meeting to be held within twenty-one (21) days after receipt of the notice of appeal. At least ten (10) days' written notice of the meeting and its special business shall be given to every Member. Only Members shall be present when the appeal is heard.

(c) *Mediation or Arbitration.* The procedure utilized for mediation or arbitration shall be as provided in Article 17.

(d) *Appeal.* If an appeal is taken, the action of the club shall be final and binding on all parties and shall not be subject to arbitration.

(e) *Decision of Arbitrators or Umpire.* If arbitration is requested, the decision reached by the arbitrators or, if they disagree, by the umpire shall be final and binding on all parties and shall

not be subject to appeal.

(f) *Unsuccessful Mediation.* If mediation is requested but is unsuccessful, the Member may appeal to the club or arbitrate as provided in sub-section (a) of this section.

Section 6 - Board Action Final.

Board action shall be final if no appeal to this club is taken and no arbitration is requested within 15 days of the club's decision and notice to the member of the club's decision.

Section 7 - Resignation.

The resignation of any Member from this club shall be in writing, e-mail is considered sufficient, addressed to the president and/or the secretary. The resignation shall be accepted by the Board. If the Member has indebtedness to this club, the club has the right, but not the obligation, to pursue the collection of the indebtedness through the appropriate legal means.

Section 8 – Forfeiture of Property Interest.

Any person whose club membership has been terminated in any manner shall forfeit all interest in any funds or other property belonging to this club if, under local laws, the member may have acquired any right to them upon joining the club.

Section 9 - Temporary Suspension.

Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution, if in the opinion of the Board

(a) credible accusations have been made that a Member has refused or neglected to comply with this constitution, or has been guilty of conduct unbecoming a member or prejudicial to the interests of the club; and

(b) those accusations, if proved, constitute good cause for terminating the membership of the Member; and

(c) it is desirable that no action should be taken in respect of the membership of the Member pending the outcome of a matter or an event that the Board considers should properly occur before such action is taken by the Board; and

(d) that in the best interests of the club and without any vote being taken as to his or her membership, the Member's membership should be temporarily suspended and the Member should be excluded from attendance at meetings and other activities of this club and from any office or position the member holds within the club. For the purposes of this clause, the Member shall be excused from fulfilling any leadership responsibilities they may have; the Board may, by a vote of not less than two-thirds of the Board, temporarily suspend the Member as aforesaid for such period and on such further conditions as the Board determines, albeit for a period no longer than is reasonably necessary in all the circumstances.

ARTICLE 14
COMMUNITY, NATIONAL, AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Section 1 - *Proper Subjects.*

The merits of any public question involving the general welfare of the community, the nation, and the world are of concern to the members of this club and shall be proper subjects of fair and informed study and discussion at a club meeting for the enlightenment of its Members in forming their individual opinions. However, this club shall not express an opinion on any pending controversial public measure.

Section 2 - *No Endorsements.*

This club shall not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office and shall not discuss at any club meeting the merits or demerits of any such candidate.

Section 3 - *Non-Political.*

(a) *Resolutions and Opinions.* This club shall neither adopt nor circulate resolutions or opinions, and shall not take action dealing with world affairs or international policies of a political nature.

(b) *Appeals.* This club shall not direct appeals to clubs, peoples, or governments, or circulate letters, speeches, or proposed plans for the solution of specific international problems of a political nature.

Section 4 - *Recognizing Rotary's Beginning.*

The week of the anniversary of Rotary's founding (February 23) shall be known as World Understanding and Peace Week. During this week, this club will celebrate Rotary Service, reflect upon past achievements, and focus on programs of peace, understanding, and goodwill in the community and throughout the world.

ARTICLE 15
ROTARY MAGAZINES

Section 1 - *Mandatory Subscription.*

Unless, in accordance with the Bylaws of RI, this Club is excused by the Board of Directors of RI from complying with the provisions of this article, each member shall, for the duration of membership, subscribe to the official magazine or to the magazine approved and prescribed for this club by the Board of Directors of RI. Two Rotarians residing at the same address have the option to subscribe jointly to the official magazine. The subscription shall be paid in six (6) month periods for the duration of membership in this club and to the end of any six (6) month period during which membership may terminate.

Section 2 - Subscription Collection.

The subscription dues are included in the quarterly dues collected by this club from each Member and will be remitted semi-annually to the Secretariat of RI or to the office of such regional publications as may be determined by the Board of Directors of RI.

**ARTICLE 16
ACCEPTANCE OF OBJECTIVES AND COMPLIANCE WITH CONSTITUTION
AND BYLAWS**

By payment of an admission fee and dues, a Member accepts the principles of Rotary as expressed in its objectives and submits to and agrees to comply with and be bound by the constitution, Bylaws and additional policies of this club and on these conditions alone is entitled to the privileges of this club. Each Member shall be subject to the terms of the constitution and Bylaws regardless of whether such member has received copies of them.

**ARTICLE 17
ARBITRATION AND MEDIATION**

Section I-Disputes.

Should any dispute, other than as to a decision of the Board, arise between any current or former member(s) and this Club, any Club officer or the Board, on any account whatsoever which cannot be settled under the procedure already provided for such purpose, the dispute shall, upon a request to the secretary by any of the disputants, either be resolved by mediation or settled by arbitration.

Section 2 - Date for Mediation or Arbitration.

In the event of mediation or arbitration, the Board shall set a date for the mediation or arbitration, in consultation with disputants, to be held within twenty-one (21) days after receipt of the request for mediation or arbitration.

Section 3 - Mediation.

The procedure for such mediation shall be that recognized by an appropriate authority with national or state jurisdiction or be that recommended by a competent professional body whose recognized expertise covers alternative dispute resolution or be that recommended by way of documented guidelines determined by the Board of RI or the trustees of The Rotary Foundation. Only a Member of a Rotary club may be appointed as mediator(s). The club may request the district governor or the governor's representative to appoint a mediator who is a member of a Rotary club and who has appropriate mediation skills and experience.

(a) *Mediation Outcomes.* The outcomes or decisions agreed between the parties as a result of mediation shall be recorded and copies held by each pair, the mediator(s) and one copy given to the board and to be held by the secretary. A summary statement of outcomes acceptable to

the parties involved shall be prepared for the information of the club. Either may, through the president or secretary, may call for formal mediation if either party has retracted significantly from the mediated position.

(b) *Unsuccessful Mediation.* If mediation is requested but is unsuccessful, any disputant may request arbitration as provided in section 1 of this Article.

Section 4 - Arbitration.

In the event of a request for arbitration, each party shall appoint an arbitrator and the arbitrators shall appoint an umpire. Only a Member of a Rotary club may be appointed as umpire or arbitrator.

Section 5 - Decision of Arbitrators or Umpire.

If arbitration is requested, the decision reached by the arbitrators or, if they disagree, by the umpire shall be final and binding on all parties and shall not be subject to appeal.

ARTICLE 18 BYLAWS

This club shall adopt Bylaws not inconsistent with the constitution, and amendments to the constitution whether or not memorialized in the current published constitution and Bylaws of RI, with the rules of procedure for an administrative territorial unit where established by RI, and with this constitution, embodying additional provisions for the government of this club. Such Bylaws maybe amended from time to time as therein provided.

ARTICLE 19 INTERPRETATION

Throughout this constitution, the terminology "mail," "mailing," and "ballot-by-mail" will include utilization of electronic mail (e-mail) and internet technology to reduce costs and increase responsiveness.

ARTICLE 20 AMENDMENTS

Section 1 - Manner of Amending.

This constitution may not be amended with any provisions that are in conflict with Rotary International Operational procedures and guidance provided by the council on legislation in the same manner as is established in the bylaws of RI for the amendment of its Bylaws.

Section 2 - Amending Article 2 and Article 3.

Article 2 (Name) and Article 3 (Locality of the Club) of the constitution shall be amended at any regular meeting of this club, a quorum being present, by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of all voting members present and voting, provided that notice of such proposed

amendment shall have been mailed (or e-mailed) to each member and to the governor at least fifteen (15) days before such meeting.