



West St. Paul-Mendota Heights Rotary Club

“Having Fun While Making A Difference”

*We are a growing fellowship of diverse men and women,
dedicated to making a positive difference
while serving our youth, community and the world.*

NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

We want you to learn about the benefits of Rotary membership, as well as the expectations that go along with being a Rotarian. This informational guide will help you learn about Rotary International, about our Club and about what it means to be a Rotarian.

History of Rotary International

Rotary International was founded in Chicago in 1905 as the world's first volunteer service organization. Today, there are approximately 32,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 200 countries with a total of 1.2 million members. The Object of Rotary was first formulated in 1910 and adapted through the years to provide a succinct definition of the organization's purpose as well as the Club member's responsibilities.

The Object of Rotary

First: The development and acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of 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.

Mission of Rotary International

Rotary International's mission is to provide humanitarian service, help build goodwill and peace through projects that address illiteracy, disease, hunger, poverty, lack of clean water and environmental issues. In 1985, Rotary International initiated PolioPlus, its flagship program, to eradicate polio from the world. As of 2009, Rotary club members have contributed more than \$880 million and countless volunteer hours to immunize more than 2 billion children in 122 countries. There are only 3 countries remaining where polio still exists, with less than 2,000 cases of polio reported.

Our Club

Our Club was chartered on February 9, 1990, with 31 members. Although our membership has fluctuated over the years, we typically have approximately 40 members. There are several members of our Club today who were original Charter members. Each year around February, we celebrate our “birthday” with a fun social event for members and their families. We hold our regular meetings every Wednesday morning from 7:30 a.m. to 8:30 a.m. at Southview Country Club. We try to have diverse, interesting speakers each week that will enlighten our minds and broaden our knowledge of the world.

Financial Obligations

Our Club is a member of Rotary International and a member of the local Rotary District 5960. We pay dues to Rotary International for each member. Our Club does not charge any additional dues. *Quarterly statements* are sent to our members. We offer 2 levels of individual membership, depending on whether or not you want to eat breakfast and a corporate membership option if you have more than one person from your company who would like to join.

Individual Membership Option 1 with breakfast

RI dues	\$ 35.00
Cost of meals	<u>\$169.00</u>
Total	\$204.00

Individual Membership Option 2 with optional breakfast

RI dues	\$35.00
+Cost of meals/meeting	\$13.00/meeting if you eat breakfast

Corporate Membership (1 member + up to 3 additional members from the same organization)

Ind. Membership fee	\$204.00
Add'l fee per person	<u>\$ 50.00</u>
	\$254.00
+Cost of meals/meeting	\$13.00/meeting attended

Members may choose to contribute to Rotary International on an individual basis, which is tax-deductible as a charitable donation, but that is each member’s decision. We encourage donations to Rotary International as it is a worldwide organization that also supports our efforts locally.

Attendance

Attendance at all meetings is encouraged. We recognize that it is not always possible to attend every meeting, but the best way to stay informed, involved and engaged is to attend the weekly meetings. We give attendance awards for perfect attendance each month. As the winner of the perfect attendance award, the Club will donate \$50 to the charity of the winner’s choice, in his or her honor. We encourage members to attend at least 60% of the Club meetings.

If you are unable to attend our regular meetings, you can still get attendance credit by attending a meeting of another Rotary Club. There are many clubs in the area, with convenient meeting times and locations. In addition, attendance credit is given for participating our community service events, Board meetings, District conferences, social events or other Rotary-related events.

Community Service Projects

We are an active service Club and volunteer in our community to help others. Some examples of our activities include:

- Serving at least 10 meals a year at Loaves & Fishes at St. Matthew's Church
- Adopt A Highway: Cleaning up a mile-long stretch of highway in our neighborhood twice a year
- Adopting several families at Christmas through Neighbors, Inc.'s Adopt a Family program. We buy and wrap the presents for those in need.
- Conducting an inventory of Neighbors, Inc.'s food shelf once a year
- Handing out candy at South St. Paul's Great Halloween Get Together to more than 2,000 ghouls and goblins
- Serving root beer floats at West St. Paul Days City Hall Open House
- Sponsoring and conducting an Ethics Class for Henry Sibley High School juniors and seniors

Donations

We financially support many local and international charitable or civic organizations. We adopted the following donation policy, which helps guide our decision to make a donation to any particular organization:

1. The request should be in writing and if the request is for more than \$1,000, a member of the organization or a representative from our Club must be present at a Board meeting to make the request. The Board reserves the right to approve, reject or modify all requests.
2. The request should fit the 4-way Rotary test and fit into one of our avenues of service – Club, Community, International and/or Vocational.
3. One of our members should be involved in the organization making the request.
4. The request should be for a service that is not otherwise available in the community.
5. The request should be available to all in the community.

6. To maximize our recognition for the donation, the minimum donation should be \$250. In addition, regardless of the amount of the donation, our Club should receive some public recognition for the donation.

Each year, we donate around \$15,000 domestically, most of which is given to local charities, including the following organizations:

- Henry Sibley ALMAS Club
- 360 Communities
- Henry Sibley scholarships
- Neighbors, Inc.
- Boy Scouts Northern Star Council
- West St. Paul YMCA

In addition, we typically donate approximately \$5,000 each year to international projects, including:

- Common Hope
- Polio Plus (Rotary International)
- Fast for Hope (Rotary International)
- Puerto Vallarta Rotary Club scholarship
- Holy Cross Anglican School in Belize

Fundraisers

In order to offer financial support to local and international charities, we hold two major fundraisers each year: Moonstruck and Rotary Roses.

Moonstruck!

We have been holding our Moonstruck golf tournament for 25 years! It is a 9-hole golf tournament held entirely at night in early September at the luxurious Southview Country Club. Complete with dinner, a silent auction, dessert auction and wine raffle, it is an amazing evening filled with fun, excitement and lots of laughter. All members of the Club are asked to participate in Moonstruck, either by finding sponsors, donations, foursomes, bringing guests to the dinner or working at the holes during the event to assist the golfers (it is played in the dark, remember?). We typically raise nearly \$20,000 so it is a huge event and takes all of our members to make it successful.

Rotary Roses

In April each year, we sell roses that are delivered on Administrative Assistant's Day. Each member is asked to either sell 22 dozen roses or to pay the profit the Club would have made had you sold your roses. Depending on our actual wholesale cost for the roses, the financial commitment varies each year, but it is generally about \$200. It is easier to just sell the roses!

Club Organization and Committees

Our fiscal year is consistent with that of Rotary International, from July 1 – June 30. The Board elects a President, President-Elect, Treasurer and Secretary each year so that there is always a smooth transition into the next term.

Beyond the elected positions, our Club has several committees. The President chooses the committee chairs for the upcoming Rotary year to serve a one-year term. Our Club committees are as follows:

- *Vocational Service*: Encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards
- *Community Service*: Covers the projects and activities the Club undertakes to improve life in the community
- *Club Service*: Focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the Club
- *World Service*: Encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace
- *Membership*: Brings in new people to our Rotary Club to let them experience fellowship and service firsthand
- *Foundation*: Educates the Club about the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International, which enables Rotarians to advance world understanding, good-will, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty
- *Communication/Public Relations*: Promotes our Club's activities and events in the region to attract members and provide recognition for our accomplishments

All the elected positions and the committee chairs are members of the Board. We hold Board meetings about once a month.

We are excited about your interest and involvement in our Rotary Club. We hope to make this a very valuable and rewarding experience. Welcome to the Club! Our Club website is found at: <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/8700>

Questions? Contact Kori Land, Club Secretary kland@levander.com