

# NOVATO ROTARY CLUB

## ATTENDANCE FAQ's

*Everything you always wanted to know about Rotary attendance rules, and then some.*

- 1. Why make such a big deal out of meeting attendance?** The attendance rules may at times seem unnecessarily rigid, but being present at club meetings is one of the basic obligations a member accepts on joining a Rotary club. The constitutional rules emphasize that Rotary is a participatory organization that highly values regular attendance. When a member is absent the entire club loses the personal association with that member, and the member loses touch with the activities of the club. Attendance is the "glue" that holds the club together and provides the basic framework for service. It is a vital part of the operation and success of every Rotary club.
- 2. What are the basic Rotary rules for meeting attendance?** Except for members specifically granted an attendance exemption by the Board of Directors (see below), all Active members are expected to:
  - (a) attend or make up at least **50%** of club regular meetings in each half of the year.
  - (b) attend at least 30% of this club's regular meetings in each half of the year.
  - (c) if a member fails to attend as required in (a) and (b) above, the member's membership shall be subject to termination unless the Board consents to such non-attendance for good cause.
  - (d) unless excused by the Board for good and sufficient reason, each member who fails to attend or make up four consecutive regular meetings shall be informed by the Board that the member's non-attendance may be considered a request to terminate membership in this club. Thereafter, the Board, by a majority vote, may terminate the member's membership.
- 3. What happens if I miss a weekly meeting?** As you can see from the above, Rotary rules strongly encourage you to

make up for missed meetings of this club by attending another club's weekly meeting. You will be given credit for a makeup if, within 14 days before or after the missed meeting, you:

- (a) attend a regular meeting of another Rotary club, including their debunking; or
  - (b) attend a Novato Rotary Club event held in lieu of a regular meeting; or
  - (c) attend a regular meeting of a Rotaract or Interact club; or
  - (d) attend a Board meeting of Novato Rotary Club, Novato Rotary Club Endowment, Nova-Ro Corporation; or
  - (e) attend a convention, meeting or fellowship activity of R.I. and certain other international events, a Rotary district conference, a Rotary district assembly, a Rotary district training/workshop, any district committee meeting held by direction of the District Governor; or
  - (f) participate for at least 3 hours monthly in a club work project announced by the President as eligible for a makeup; or
  - (g) log on to [www.rotaryclubone.org](http://www.rotaryclubone.org) to view a makeup program for 30 minutes once a month.
- 4. Where can I make up a meeting?** The times and locations of neighboring clubs in Marin and Sonoma are listed on the back of the club's weekly bulletin, the Big Wheel. Meetings for clubs in a somewhat larger area are shown on the club's website, [www.novatorotary.org](http://www.novatorotary.org). On the home page, click on Other Clubs. For a listing of possible club makeup meetings throughout the world, go to the Rotary International website, [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), and on the home page, click on Club Locator. If all else fails, give the Club Secretary a call. He or she will have a hard copy of the R.I. Official Directory. Remember, when visiting other clubs, obtain a makeup card when you check in, fill it out, and return it to the Club Secretary.

***PLEASE NOTE: Credit for makeups is not automatic. In all cases, to receive credit, you must inform the Club Secretary by submitting a makeup card, or email message, or some form of written notification, stating the club or event attended and the date, and the date of the***

*missed meeting for which you want the makeup to apply.*

**to make up?** Yes. There is no provision for granting attendance credit to a member who is absent from a club meeting because of jury duty.

5. **Are there provisions in the rules for excused absences or attendance exemptions?** Yes. A member's absence may be excused if:
  - a) the absence complies with the conditions and under circumstances approved by the Board. The Board may excuse a member's absence for reasons which it considers to be good and sufficient; or
  - b) the member is eligible for an attendance exemption under the so-called **Rule of 85**. For this to apply, the aggregate of the member's years of age and years of membership in one or more Rotary clubs is 85 years or more, the member is at least 65 years old, the member has submitted a written request to the Board, and the Board has approved the request.
  
6. **Can I get credit for attending a meeting or a makeup if I have to leave the meeting early?** Yes. A member can be counted as attending either a regular or makeup meeting if he or she is present for at least 50% of the meeting, or is present and is called away unexpectedly and subsequently produces evidence to the satisfaction of the Board that such action was reasonable.
  
7. **Can I be excused for missing a meeting if I am ill?** Yes, but only for a protracted illness. Remember, you have two weeks after a missed meeting to attend another club's meeting to make up. So, to be excused due to illness, the illness must extend for at least a week or 10 days. If you are ill for a longer period of time, it is possible for the Board to grant an excused absence. See 5(a) above.
  
8. **If I am traveling out of the country, are there special attendance rules that apply?** Yes, in certain circumstances, although they are not too common. If you are planning an extended trip abroad, and think you may have problems making up, you may want to see the Club Secretary for any special attendance rules that may apply.
  
9. **If I am on jury duty and am unable to attend a regular club meeting, do I have**