



Rotary
Club of Fair Oaks



Member Handbook

2020-2021

Diana Cralle, President



2020-21 Club Theme: "T.E.A.M"
Together Everyone Achieves More



2020-21
District 5180 Theme



2020-21
Rotary International Theme



Rotary International's #1 Priority

Table of Contents

<u>TOPIC</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
<u>What is Rotary and why do people join it?</u>	1
<u>A Quick Look at Rotary History</u>	2
<u>Rotary in the Sacramento Valley - District 5180</u>	2
<u>Rotary in Fair Oaks - Our Club</u>	3
<u>Our Current Projects (and a few from the past)</u>	4
<u>How We Pay for All Those Projects</u>	6
<u>Staying in Touch</u>	6
<u>Our Two Foundations</u>	7
<u>Running the Club</u>	9
<u>Rotary's Guiding Principles</u>	10
<u>The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks and YOU</u>	11
<u>For New Members Only</u>	13

What is Rotary and why do people join it?

Various Rotarians might answer that question differently:

- a service organization... "I want to make a difference"
- a leadership organization... "I want to get better at managing"
- a friendship organization... "I want to meet people"
- a business organization... "I want to learn about other vocations"

Rotary clubs are groups of people with diverse backgrounds who take an active role in their communities while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives. Rotarians meet frequently, get to know each other, and plan and complete service projects that make a significant difference in improving the lives of members of both their local communities and communities around the world.

Club members generally live or work in the community that the club serves.

A Quick Look at Rotary History

On 23 February 1905 in Chicago, Paul Harris and three other men with diverse business backgrounds met in Harris's law office for friendship and business relations, and they decided to continue meeting weekly. Since they chose to "rotate" the meetings between their respective offices, they chose the name "Rotary" for their new club.

The original purpose of the club was to broaden their contacts outside their own particular business, but it soon became evident that service to others was a more important focus, and Rotary quickly developed a theme and orientation to help others. The first Rotary project was a public restroom in downtown Chicago.

The West Coast played an important part in the development and growth of Rotary. The next four clubs were San Francisco, Oakland, Seattle and Los Angeles. Rotary then moved east to New York and Boston and expanded into Canada by establishing a club in Winnipeg. In 1911, London, Dublin and Belfast were chartered. "Rotary International" (RI) was formally adopted as the official name in 1912. There are currently over 35,000 Rotary clubs with 1.2 million members in over 150 countries.

More information about Rotary International is available by clicking [here](#).

Rotary in the Sacramento Valley - District 5180

Rotary clubs are organized into Districts, each administered by a District Governor (DG), and Districts are further subdivided into Areas, each monitored by an Assistant Governor (AG). District 5180 has 37 clubs and extends from Oroville in the north to Walnut Grove in the south, and from West Sacramento in the west to El Dorado Hills in the east; it is divided into eight Areas.

The District Governor for 2020-21 is Brent Hastey from the South Yuba County Sunrise Club. Our club is in Area 4; our Assistant Governor is Joe Scheimer, who happens to be from our club.

As a Rotarian, you are a member of the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks; the club in turn is a member of Rotary International.

Rotary in Fair Oaks - Our Club

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks was organized in December 1945 with 29 charter members; Charles Motter was selected as the first president. On January 28, 1946, the Rotary Club of Roseville became our sponsoring club, and we were officially chartered on March 7, 1946. In May 1946 the club filed for incorporation as a non-profit California corporation.

Like many other Rotary clubs formed after the end of World War II, the Fair Oaks club grew rapidly to more than 60 members. Our membership soon included many prominent businessmen and male leaders of the community. (Rotary membership was limited to men until 1987, though it took us five more years to add our first female.)

Initially, weekly meetings were held on Monday evening in the dining room of the Fair Oaks Federated Church at the corner of Fair Oaks Boulevard and Howard Street. By the early 1960's, meetings had moved to the Fair Oaks Community Clubhouse, where we met in the basement meeting room until 2015, when our membership growth found us approaching the fire marshal's limits and we moved to the upstairs meeting room. In March 2020, the coronavirus and clubhouse renovations pushed us online, with plans to meet at the Fair Oaks VFW once conditions allow.

Over the years the Fair Oaks club has helped initiate, and has participated in, community events like the Fair Oaks Fiesta, the Fair Oaks Chicken Festival, the American Cancer Society Relay For Life, a local golf tournament and the summer Concerts in the Park.

We have partnered with the Park District on projects to improve and maintain the community clubhouse and local parks, and with the Fair Oaks-Orangevale Little League on field and dugout improvements, and by sponsoring a team.

Besides local projects, the Fair Oaks Rotary is a major contributor to The Rotary Foundation (TRF - see [section on foundations](#)), which supports Rotary International's global polio eradication program, international disaster relief, community development efforts, and Rotary's centers for graduate studies in peace and conflict resolution.

We have long been affiliated with the Fair Oaks Inner Wheel Club, initially formed as a Rotary affiliate for women, but now a freestanding organization.

As the Rotary Club of Fair Oaks approaches its 75th year, it is a rewarding part of the lives of the 80+ men and women who strive to exemplify Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self", in Fair Oaks and around the world. None of the charter members are still around, but there are a handful of members who have been in the club for 30-40 years... and more!

We are consistently recognized as one of the top clubs in District 5180. For the three years 2011-13 and again in 2015, our club was recognized as the best club in our size category, and in 2013 and 2015, we were awarded the Governor's Bell as the best club in the district.

Our Current Projects (and a few from the past)

Rotary International recognizes five **Avenues of Service** (club, community, international, vocational and youth), so let's look at what we do in each. A thousand pardons for this organized "laundry list"... but here goes:

- Community Service
 - In the COVID era, we are donating food and money, and helping staff food distribution at the Fair Oaks-Orangevale Food Bank.
 - We have worked closely with the Food Bank to provide meals and snacks for students at Northridge Elementary School, as well as a "Before School Program" with extra clothes and snacks.
 - Along with several other local organizations, we have helped sponsor the Concerts in the Park series each summer.
 - We have co-sponsored an annual "Senior Luau" with the Fair Oaks Recreation and Park District.
 - We participate in the county's Adopt-A-Street program by picking up trash along Madison Avenue quarterly.
 - We have provided Holiday Baskets in December for needy families at Northridge Elementary School.
 - We sponsor the "Battle for the Oak", the annual football game between Bella Vista and Del Campo High Schools, awarding a \$1,000 graduation award for a senior at the winning school, and paying for the admission of all military veterans.

- International Service
 - We have participated in international programs such as polio eradication, provision of clean water, wheelchair distribution and providing equipment for health care facilities, both financially and by providing volunteers for these programs.
 - For the last few years, we have sent a team to work with a Rotary club in Baja California refurbishing schools and medical facilities.
 - We have sponsored candidates for postgraduate study at one of Rotary's Peace Centers at five international universities.

- Vocational Service
 - We have organized a biannual Career Day at Bella Vista High School.
 - We have publicly recognized community members for high ethical standards in their vocations and for exemplifying Rotary's motto "Service Above Self".
 - We encourage members to share various aspects of their vocations in brief talks at meetings.

- Youth Service
 - We sponsor the Interact Club at Bella Vista High School; Interact is a service-oriented high school affiliate of Rotary International.
 - We sponsor the Meristem Rotaract Club; Rotaract is an affiliate of Rotary International for young adults.
 - We fund eight graduation awards totaling \$9,000 for seniors at Bella Vista and Del Campo High Schools.
 - We have given monetary awards to top students at Northridge Elementary School.
 - We have sponsored high school students who want to live in a foreign country for a year under the Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program, and we have hosted foreign students.
 - We sponsor an annual High School Speech Contest.
 - We sponsor high school juniors to attend the "Rotary Youth Leadership Awakening" (RYLA), a week-long leadership camp in the Sierras, and we have members who serve as counselors at the camp.

- Club Service (increasing fellowship and the "fun" factor)
 - We have interesting, informative, fun weekly meetings.
 - We have a club Holiday Party each December.
 - We have an annual Demotion dinner-party in June to roast the outgoing president and celebrate our accomplishments for the year.

- We have organized trips to sports events (River Cats, Kings, Stockton Heat hockey).
- We have organized “mystery trips” to things like dinners, shows, museums, and the like.

How We Pay for All Those Projects

Club Service events, like meetings and parties, are supported by our dues and meeting fees, and by per person fees for parties and other events.

All our other service projects are supported by fundraisers and grants from The Rotary Foundation (see [section on foundations](#), below). Our recent fundraisers have included:

- A Crab Feed and Auction each February - our major annual fundraiser
- Microbrew Tasting area at the Fair Oaks Chicken Festival in September
- “Fair Oaks Uncorked”, a wine and food tasting event in October

Staying in Touch

Rotary International (RI) publishes a monthly magazine called “The Rotarian”, and a subscription is included in your annual dues. RI also has a website at rotary.org. You should log on to the RI website and set up your own “My Rotary” account; this will give you access to more information than the general public. Click [here](#) for instructions in creating a My Rotary account.

The District 5180 website is rotary5180.org. A district newsletter is available online, along with other information about district activities.

Our club website (rotaryfairoaks.org) is hosted by ClubRunner, which also helps us with other club administrative tasks. The website has a calendar listing upcoming events, meeting speakers, social activities, and the like. A password-protected area has pages with sensitive information, such as a member list and an archive of club documents and past board meeting minutes.

You have your own account on the club website and should establish a password for your account, upload your photo and fill in pertinent information. To do this, click [Member Area](#) at the top right of the home page; you will be taken to a login box. Click [New User?](#) and you will be walked through the process. Your initial user ID is your first name, then last name, then 9045 (9045 is our club ID on ClubRunner); e.g., JohnDoe9045. Your initial password is 9045.

Our weekly newsletter, The ACORN, has been published continuously since April 1946 and is sent by email. The club has a Facebook page ([fairoaksrotary](#)); you should “like” our Facebook page.

Contacting other members: A club roster with contact information is available on the club website once you have logged in. ClubRunner also has a mobile app so that member information is available on your phone or tablet if desired. Finally, a spreadsheet-type roster is available from the Membership Chair. These rosters are intended for club use only; they should not be used as a contact or mailing list for business purposes.

Our Two Foundations

Our club supports, and is in turn supported by, two foundations. They are both 501(c)(3) charitable organizations.

- The Rotary Foundation (TRF)
 - o The charitable arm of Rotary International.
 - o Supported by all Rotarians worldwide.
 - o Benefits Rotarian projects and programs around the world.

- Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation (FORF)
 - o Also called the “club foundation”, FORF is the charitable arm of our club.
 - o Supported by our fundraisers, members and other donors.
 - o Supports our club’s service projects, as well as international projects we participate in.

Being able to donate to both of these foundations is one of the benefits of being a Rotarian as well as an expectation of each member when they are able. Friends, family members and others are also welcome and encouraged to contribute.

The Rotary Foundation (TRF) of Rotary International

[The Rotary Foundation](#) transforms our gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world. The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill and peace through the improvement of health and the environment, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.

Since the beginning of The Rotary Foundation in 1917, contributions to the fund have provided almost \$5 billion for Rotary programs throughout the world. The programs funded by TRF include:

- Polio Plus – Rotary launched the Polio Plus program to protect children worldwide from the cruel and fatal consequences of polio by eliminating the disease. The World Health organization, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control joined Rotary’s efforts from the outset, followed by the Gates Foundation more recently. We hope polio will be eradicated in the next few years.
- Rotary Peace Fellowships – Each year, TRF awards up to 50 fellowships for master’s degrees and 80 for certificate studies in peace and conflict resolution at six premier universities around the world. Over 1,300 alumni are now working in 115 countries.
- Grants to clubs for local and international projects – TRF provides matching funds for local projects (District Grants) and international projects (Global Grants). Clubs initiate the projects, and they must be managed following TRF guidelines for effectiveness and sustainability.

You can donate directly to The Rotary Foundation on the RI [website](#) or you can mail a check with the appropriate form. For your convenience, you may sign up for automatic monthly or quarterly donations. Please see our club’s Director for The Rotary Foundation for more information.

TRF honors a cumulative donation of \$1,000 by recognizing the donor as a **Paul Harris Fellow** (PHF). Subsequent cumulative \$1,000 contributions are recognized as a PHF+1, +2 and so on. We also give PHF recognition to our members, as well as members of the community, for exceptional service.

The Rotary Foundation uses 92% of funds contributed for programs and projects, and is recognized by Charity Navigator as a 4-star charitable organization with a score of 100, the highest rating possible.

We encourage all members to contribute to TRF annually, and we hope that all members can contribute at least \$100.

The Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation (FORF)

Our club foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization designed to allow businesses and individuals to contribute tax-deductible money and goods to our fundraisers. The club foundation is independent of the club, but the two of them work closely on various fund-raising events. Their relationship is spelled out by a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

FORF is governed by a board of trustees from our club who serve two year terms. The FORF board is responsible for approving the recipients of the annual graduation awards to deserving Bella Vista and Del Campo high school students, and for annually reviewing and approving the service project budget of the club.

We encourage our members to donate \$50 annually, and to pay happy fines for birthdays and anniversaries to the club foundation.

Running the Club

The basic governing unit in Rotary is the club. All of the other divisions in Rotary... areas, districts, zones and RI itself... exist to encourage and support the clubs.

The governing documents of our club are its constitution and bylaws. RI mandates that all clubs adhere to a constitution that they provide in order to be called a Rotary Club. RI provides clubs a set of recommended bylaws which clubs may amend to reflect their operating practices. These documents are available to members on a password-protected area of our website.

The club is governed by a 14-member Board of Directors, chaired by the president. The president is nominated for a one-year term in December, approximately 18 months before their term will begin, by a committee consisting of past club presidents, and elected at the club's Annual Meeting in late December. The board is appointed by the president and approved by the club; although

directors' terms are also one year, many are re-appointed by several successive presidents. The board generally meets once a month, except in December, and all club members are welcome to RSVP and attend board meetings.

Rotary's Guiding Principles

The Object of Rotary (Rotary's Mission Statement):

The Object 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.

The Four-Way Test (Rotary's Ethical Guide):

The Four-Way Test is a nonpartisan and nonsectarian ethical guide for Rotarians to use for their personal and professional relationships.

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Rotary's Motto: Service Above Self

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks and YOU

What we do for you

Echoing the theme of 2020-21 RI President Holger Knaack (Rotary Club of Herzogtum-Mölln, Germany), "Rotary Opens Opportunities", we will do our best to provide you the opportunities to make the reasons you joined our club realities. If you joined to make friends, you will do that here; if you joined for service, we will provide you plenty of chances for that; if you joined for leadership, you will find ample opportunities to discover the satisfaction of leading volunteers, along with the training to make your leadership more effective. And we hope that eventually you will discover even more reasons you never thought of to make your membership in the club meaningful and satisfying.

In addition, you will find that your Rotary pin identifies you as a person with high ethical standards and a propensity for service, and you will be welcomed in any Rotary club in our district, and indeed the world, as a "visiting Rotarian".

What we ask of you

- **Attendance**

The first item in the Object of Rotary (see [Rotary's Guiding Principles](#), above) promotes "the development of acquaintance", and our club meetings, with their preceding social hour, provide a great way to do this. We would love to see every member at every meeting, but we recognize that this goal can sometimes be difficult to attain. That's why we, with RI's blessing, will give you credit for attending a meeting if you tell the club secretary that you did any of the following:

- attend the meeting of another club, anywhere in the world;
- attend the meeting of an Interact or Rotaract club;
- participate in a club project;
- attend a club board or committee meeting;
- attend a District event or committee meeting;
- attend a club social function.

These "make-ups", as they are called, will expand your view of the Rotary world and may spark your interest in an area of Rotary you didn't know about. Locations and meeting times for every Rotary club in the world are available on the

RI [website](#). If you do plan to attend a meeting outside our district, ask the club secretary for a club banner and take it to exchange with the club you visit; you can then add to our collection of banners from all over the world that you may have noticed at our meetings.

Members sometimes ask, "Are there attendance requirements?" We don't like the word "requirements", and our attendance police are often distracted when consuming "Rotary fuel" (coffee and donuts), but yes, our constitution says that all members are supposed to attend or make up half of all our meetings.

Members also ask about the "rule of 85", so here it is: If your age and years in Rotary add up to 85, you are exempt from attending meetings, though you'll often see plenty of our members who meet that rule at our meetings

● **Participation**

We ask all our members to give willingly of their time, talent and/or treasure to help keep the club a vibrant and meaningful part of the Fair Oaks community. As with meeting attendance, we recognize that other things occasionally interfere with Rotary, but service projects and social functions are great ways to improve that "acquaintance" factor and improve your own satisfaction as a part of the club.

Participation in District activities can show you what "Rotary beyond our club" looks like and provides the opportunity to see how others "do Rotary".

● **Finances**

It costs money to belong to our club, but maybe not as much as you might expect. Here's the rundown:

- Required Expenses:
 - Annual Dues \$200 (may be paid semi-annually)
 - Meeting Fees
 - with dinner \$17
 - without dinner \$10
 - children \$5

- Discretionary Expenses:
 - "Happy Fines": During a meeting, members often "fine" themselves a small amount (\$1-5) for a happy event in their lives.

- Birthday/Anniversary Fines: a special category of happy fine; some members pay up to \$1 per year as a donation to the [club foundation](#) (see "[Our Two Foundations](#)", above)
- Other Fines: In the tradition of many Rotary clubs, our club has a finemaster called "Little Genius" who, in a spirit of fun, fines members for "offenses" (real and imagined), usually in the \$1-2 range.
- Bellringer: If the idea of being fined by Little Genius is anathema to you, you can pay \$100 at the start of the year and avoid any fines for the year.
- Social Events: We have 2-3 per year and usually charge about \$40-50 per person to cover expenses.
- Donations: As mentioned in the section "[Our Two Foundations](#)" (above), we hope that members will see value in contributing \$100 or more per year to [The Rotary Foundation](#) and \$50 to the [Fair Oaks Rotary Foundation](#).

The Rotary Club of Fair Oaks is a 501(c)(4) organization.

For New Members Only

(Older members allowed)

To help with getting new members assimilated into the club as quickly as possible, we have designed two programs for them.

- **Honeymooner's Club**

This is a "club within a club" for members with less than two years in our Rotary Club. They meet about every other month to socialize, learn more about Rotary, and possibly plan projects. They are sometimes given the opportunity to run one of the Rotary club's weekly meetings. There are no dues or other requirements.

- **New Member (Red) Ribbon**

At your induction ceremony, you may notice a red ribbon dangling from your name badge. This identifies you as a new member and will hopefully encourage other members to help you get acquainted with club members and traditions. To get your red ribbon removed, you must accomplish certain activities. Once these are done, your ribbon will be removed in a ceremony at a club meeting.

A mentor will be assigned to you to help with these activities, which are:

- Meet with your mentor
- During COVID, attend four online meetings and report the names of three individuals you heard speak during the meeting.
- Be a door greeter for two meetings
- Be a bartender helper for two meetings
- Attend a board meeting (third Wed of each month)
- Participate in a club service project
- Join the Honeymooner's Club (see above)
- Read about the Rotary Foundation and the projects it funds at [this link](#).
- Complete the 5 online New Member Modules

Optional (Can be used to substitute one or two of the above):

- Complete a Red Ribbon Fun Fact Sheet (autographs).
- Attend the meeting of another Rotary club.