

## **Rotary E-Club of One World FAQs**

### **What is the purpose of a Rotary e-club?**

The purpose of a Rotary e-club is to extend Rotary to business, professional and community leaders in any Rotary District who are unable to meet traditional attendance requirements. Inability to attend a traditional Rotary club could be the result of demanding business or professional commitments, extensive travel, confinement due to ill health or disability, or residence beyond reasonable distance from an existing Rotary club.

As a member of an e-club, you can participate fully online - and enjoy the camaraderie and fellowship with the other members of the e-club through our frequent get-togethers online. And, don't forget that the members of your e-club come from all over our One World - so you will have an excellent global network of excellent friends and true fellow Rotarians!

You must be a contributor to society in your profession, occupation, or community role and you are committed to the personal ethic of [Service Above Self](#), [The Four-Way Test](#), and you support the [Object of Rotary](#).

### **Is a Rotary e-club just a "virtual" club that lacks Rotary service?**

Rotary e-clubs are not "virtual" Rotary clubs. We are real Rotary clubs comprised of real living, breathing, working Rotarians doing real Rotary projects. We simply use the Internet as a tool to manage the club and manage projects. Use of the word "virtual" in the Rotary context is deemed to be inappropriate, because Rotary works in the real world, not in the virtual world. A Rotary e-club is part of the real world of Rotary International.

The community of our Rotary E-Club of One World, extends to all persons or organizations interested in Humanitarian Service - learning about it, getting involved in it, and supporting it by means of financial or other resources. We focus on humanitarian service wherever we can.

Our community includes the world where we can share our common interest in the good works of Rotary within [Rotary District 5240](#) and around the world. The vehicle through which we engage this community is the Internet. Our social group is without bounds, including a [group of associated E-Clubs](#) sharing common interests online.

## **What is the financial commitment of membership In the Rotary E-Club of One World?**

You are required to pay quarterly dues (presently \$66 USD per quarter) towards the operating costs of the club and both RI and District 5240 dues. There are also opportunities for voluntary contributions to The Rotary Foundation, the Rotary E-Club of One World and other Rotary charitable projects. Payments can be made using PayPal or a credit or debit card.

## **How do I get involved in the e-club?**

Each member is expected to select and to join one of the Club committees. Each Committee focuses on participation in one of the Rotary Avenues of Service. The committees are Youth Service, International Service, Community Service, and Club Service.

Also, every member is asked to prepare at least one program per year and technical support is provided. Only word processing and photographs or video links are needed by the member. This program may be about a service activity, a hobby, or just anything of interest to you.

## **How can I get involved in Rotary locally?**

You can "adopt" any "traditional" Rotary Club of your choice as your "buddy" club. Buddy clubs provide the best way of sharing fellowship and participate with other Rotarians. That participation will be at your discretion.

You will have the best of all possible worlds - as a member of the e-club, you will be able to attend at any time it's convenient for you and also participate with your "buddy" club locally when you can with local Rotarians - wherever "local" may be.

Please note that the two (the e-club and local clubs) are NOT mutually exclusive. After all, the benefit of being a Rotarian is that, as long as you are a Rotarian, you are welcome to attend a meeting at any Rotary club in the world.

## **For how long must a visiting Rotarian log-in to a web-based Rotary e-club to qualify for a make-up credit?**

You must visit the website of the Rotary e-club for a minimum of 30 minutes. Please note that this is 30+ continuous minutes. You cannot claim a make-up credit if you have 6 x 5 minute visits in a week. Many visiting Rotarians stay longer than the minimum 30 minutes because website content is very interesting and informative.

## **What is a pure Rotary e-club?**

A pure Rotary e-club conducts 100% of its Rotary business on the Internet.

Typically, members have one face-to-face dinner meeting per year, usually at the RI Convention. Members are likely to come from a wide geographic area which may be global. Rotary service is undertaken in the community where a member lives, or groups of members collaborate and work together as teams on service projects in needy communities where no member resides. Rotary E-Club of One World is a good example of a pure Rotary e-club.

## **What are the attendance requirements for e-club membership?**

Members must attend or make up at least 50 percent of club regular meetings or satellite club meetings, or engage in club projects, other events and activities for at least 12 hours in each half of the year, or a proportionate combination of both; or

Attend at least 30 percent of this club's regular meetings or satellite club meetings, or engage in club projects, other events and activities in each half of the year.

If a member fails to attend as required, the member's membership may be subject to termination unless the board consents to such non-attendance for good cause. *(From the Standard Rotary Club Constitution)*

New club meetings are posted on our website on Fridays and members have until the next Friday to attend. Meetings should take approximately 30 minutes to complete and can be done at your convenience. Also, a visit to another Rotary club or to a Board of Directors meeting counts toward attendance. Working on any Rotary community project or attending any Rotary activity counts. You must notify the Club secretary to get make-up credit for participation in activities other than meetings.

## **What is the Rotary International naming policy for Rotary e-clubs?**

The Board of Directors of RI has **mandated** that the generic name is Rotary e-clubs. This requires "e-club" to be in lower case letters with a hyphen included as shown. The word "Rotary" must always precede the word "e-club." When referring to the name of a specific Rotary e-club, as named upon its charter document, the letter e must become upper case, for example Rotary E-Club of One World. There has been some confusion about this RI naming protocol because it is inconsistent with the international standard which is eTrade, eHealth, eBanking, eSecurity, eCommerce, eClub etc with no hyphen separating the e.

## **If a Rotary e-club has members located in different countries, in what language does it conduct its business?**

At the time of its formation a Rotary e-club commits to the single language in which it will operate. Currently there are Rotary e-clubs operating in the following languages: English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Finnish, Portuguese, and Spanish. English is the operating language of the Rotary E-Club of One World.

## **What are the attributes of successful Rotary e-clubs?**

Successful Rotary e-clubs have a number of common attributes including:

1. clarity of purpose
2. commitment to excellence
3. intelligent leadership
4. sound organizational planning
5. meaningful projects and activities
6. continuous contact with members
7. harmonious member interactions and fellowship
8. careful membership development
9. close engagement with the Rotary District
10. effective use of appropriate technologies

Many Rotarians are surprised to see "technologies" as item 10 at the bottom of the list, rather than at the top. The most successful Rotary e-clubs knew from the beginning that technology is purely an enabler, nothing more.

## **Can a Rotary e-club admit a new member from a country where Rotary does not exist?**

No it cannot. Rotary International expressly forbids membership of any person domiciled in any country where Rotary does not exist.

## **What etiquette is expected during Rotary meetings online?**

- Check that the computer you are using has collaboration software installed
- Ensure you have the correct dial-in number and meeting access code
- Log on before the start of the meeting (late arrivals break the flow of discussions)
- Be aware of background noise at your location that could intrude
- State your name whenever you speak
- Concentrate on meeting content and avoid distractions around you
- Take notes to help you summarize your thoughts and make succinct comments
- Speak clearly at a measured pace
- Avoid speaking over the top of other participants
- Follow the guidance of the meeting moderator and be respectful of others

### **In what currency does a Rotary e-club conduct its business?**

Each Rotary e-club operates in the currency of its Rotary District. e.g. Rotary E-Club of 3310 - Singapore Dollars (SGD), Rotary E-Club of London Centenary - British Pounds (GBP), Rotary E-Club of One World- US Dollars (USD). For a number of practical and legal reasons, the Treasurer of Rotary E-Club of One World must always be a US citizen.

### **How does a Rotarian transfer membership from a traditional Rotary club to a Rotary e-club?**

Because each Rotary e-club is self-governing, just as each traditional Rotary club is self-governing, membership is not transferable. Once an existing Rotarian has satisfied the membership criteria of a particular Rotary e-club, and has been accepted for membership, he or she should resign membership in the former Rotary club as of the admittance date to the Rotary e-club. The Secretary of the Rotary e-club will advise RI of the new membership, using the Rotarian's former Rotary membership number so as to retain membership history and avoid duplicate records at RI.

### **How does a Rotarian confirm his or her membership number?**

Every Rotarian has a unique membership number, held in a central database at RI.

Rotarians have three ways to get their membership identification number:

- Check the address label of your copy of The Rotarian or official Rotary regional magazine. The identification number is located directly over your name.
- E-mail RI's Data Services Department , and ask to have this information faxed or mailed to you.
- Ask your club President or Secretary.

Please note that RI prohibits giving membership identification numbers over the phone or via e-mail.

Club Presidents and Secretaries: You can get your club members' identification numbers online via Member Access. If you're not already registered, be sure to have your district, club, and membership identification numbers ready. Once you have registered, you will be able to view your club's membership records.

### **Do Rotary e-clubs require a special constitution?**

The standard Rotary club constitution now has specific articles for Rotary e-clubs.

## **What are the technical requirements of a typical Rotary e-club?**

There are the seven basic technical requirements:

1. A user-friendly website that makes members and visitors feel welcome
2. A secure online members-only clubhouse to protect members' privacy
3. A secure online forum for members to share thoughts, ideas and plans
4. A secure payment system for membership subscriptions and donations
5. Collaboration software for meetings (eg GoToMeeting or Glance)
6. Free voice communications (eg Skype or Freshtel Firefly)
7. An online make-up registration system for visiting Rotarians.

## **What is the attendance rule for members of a Rotary e-club?**

Rotary International has very strict rules about attendance. A Rotary e-club is required to "hold a regular meeting once each week by posting an interactive activity on the club's web site." At the Rotary E-Club of One World, these meetings are posted weekly on Friday's on our website at <http://oneworldrotary.org>. Each club member receives an email reminder when each meeting is posted.