**Manchester-Essex Rotary Club**

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

**Who belongs to the Manchester-Essex Rotary Club?**

There are nearly 50 members of our local Club and most of us live or work in one of the two towns.

**When and where do you meet?**

We meet Wednesday mornings from 7:30 to 8:30 at the Chowder House, Tuck’s Point in Manchester except for the third Wednesday of the month, when we have an evening meeting at various locations.

**Are members required to attend every meeting?**

Absolutely not. That would be unrealistic with other business and family commitments. We do ask that members try to attend as many meetings as they are comfortably able. We are a club of active members who have a lot of fun together giving back to our communities.

**What is expected of members outside of the weekly meetings?**

We ask that members participate in one project per quarter. We may be preparing a meal at Open Door or organizing and running a fundraising event. Attending all events is unrealistic for even the most dedicated members. We all do the best we can while at the same time balancing our other commitments.

**What are membership costs?**

Our annual dues are $215. At breakfast meetings, members bring their own coffee/food and with evening meetings, there may be a charge for a buffet meal. At all meetings, members may purchase 50/50 raffle tickets for $2 and/or donate “happy dollars” when sharing their good news for the week, all of which is voluntary. Everyone is expected to “kick in” an auction item or two and buy tickets for the annual Kentucky Derby Party & Auction and help out with other events like the Red, White & Blue Pancake Breakfast celebrating July 4th. Rotary International has a Foundation to which “Every Rotarian, Every Year” is asked to contribute.

**What types of service projects does the club do?**

Our club gets together several times a year to plan, cook and serve dinner at the Open Door food pantry in Gloucester and the First Baptist Church in Beverly. Every summer, we host a Music in Masconomo Park event with free hotdogs and lemonade, we help with the Manchester-Essex Little League by purchasing their year-end trophies, and support Rotary International events.

**How many Rotary members and clubs are there?**

There are over 1.2 million Rotarians making up thousands of local Rotary clubs just like ours all over the globe! Rotarians are welcome to attend a meeting anywhere in the world.

**What about fundraising events?**

Our annual Auction and the Red, White & Blue Pancake Breakfast are our two biggest fundraisers of the year. Members are strongly encouraged to participate in these events by getting the word out, donating items, selling tickets, and bringing a few friends to some very fun events. We also host an annual golf tournament every October.

**How does the club decide where to donate money?**

Our Board of Directors meets monthly and invites all members to attend to help evaluate requests as we receive them.

**How many scholarships does the club provide to graduating high school seniors?**

Our scholarship program has grown significantly and we have contributed $10,000 a year for the last several years. We are proud to have donated more than $175,000 in scholarships over our 18-year history!

**Does the club provide service outside the Manchester and Essex** **communities?**

Yes, absolutely. We support initiatives all over Cape Ann and Club members actively support the worldwide service projects of Rotary International with emphasis on clean water initiatives and eradicating polio.

**Is there any interaction between our local Club and others?**

Yes, we have partnered with neighboring clubs and occasionally host visitors from around the world. Our Rotary District holds events throughout the year that members are encouraged to attend.

**Can I come to a weekly meeting to visit and see what this is all about?**

Yes, please do. Visitors are always welcome and there is no obligation to join. We’d love to meet you, share a bite together, and most meetings we have an interesting speaker.

**Where can I get a membership application?**

All Rotary members have applications or you can print one from online at manchesteressexrotary.org.

**I have other questions. Who can I ask?**

Ask any Rotarian that you may know, or contact our Membership Chair, Chris Shea, cknsshea@aol.com, 508-843-4979.