

Introduction to the Rotary e-Club of Houston, TX, USA



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Acknowledgments

We like to express our gratitude towards the Rotary E-Club of Greater Sydney and to PP Evan Burrell to allowing us to leverage the structure as well as some text from their Club Member Manual.



About the E-Club of Houston, TX, USA

Welcome to the Rotary e-Club of Houston! Our club chartered on February 20, 2014 which coincided with the Rotary International President 2014-2015 Ron Burton's visit to District 5890 and presentation at the All-Club Meeting. Past District Governor Bob Gebhard requested that Past District Governor Ed Charlesworth initiate this new format for club extension, and after reviewing the possibilities and visiting other e-Clubs in the Rotary world, became excited to take on this challenge. The club chartered with 27 active members and within the first month added five more active members. The flexibility for those engaged in frequent business travel or those who simply had difficulties attending a traditional club on a weekly basis has brought many ex-members back to Rotary. This club also proudly states that three of the members are past Group Study Exchange team members or Rotary Alumni. One is a ROTEX, or past Rotary exchange student who stayed with three host families in the greater Houston area when in high school. We also have some who participated in Rotaract and Interact when younger. We also have a past Group Study Exchange team member and team leader. Our club is international with members currently located in USA, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Bulgaria and The Netherlands.

Our club is diverse. The club provides a great network for our members to share knowledge and resources to assist in their own humanitarian projects as well as the projects sponsored and/or executed by the club. Due to our online nature it is easier for our members to stay engaged and involved in projects all around the world, 24/7, 365 days year around.

The e-Club allows members to engage in club activities anywhere and anytime. We have a number of different methods of communicating with each other, including our Website, Facebook, Twitter, WhatsApp, email, Skype, Zoom and by posting information on our club website.

Mission Statement – Why we exist?

To be an online 24/7, 365 days Rotary club for people who could not join a regular Rotary Club due to their time and travel commitments or other factors.

To focus on international projects supporting development, education, and health in developing countries, including those projects where our own members are involved and supporting local projects where benefits can be brought to the local community.

To support and engage in local projects where our own members are involved to bring benefits to the local community.

To support the ideals and objects of Rotary International.

Club Board of Directors and Officers

In each club there are a number of mandatory positions that must be filled. The club also must have a board, which oversees administrative issues relating to the club, the district, and Rotary International. Club roles are voted on each year.

The current members in the board are provided on the Club Website at <https://rotaryclubhouston.org/>.

Club Administration

Membership Costs (Dues):

Initial Joining Fee

- An initial joining fee is paid with the application
- This provides for badges (Dinner badge and Membership Certificate) and initial administrative costs

Membership Fee

- A membership fee is paid annually
- The membership fee provides for: Membership of Rotary International, Membership District 5890 Insurance for Members, and Miscellaneous Expense of e-Club of Houston, TX, USA

The fees (dues) can be paid cash or via check or through the PayPal provided on the club Website.

Bylaws of the Rotary e-Club of Houston, Texas, U.S.A

Each Rotary Club is required to adopt a set of Bylaws consistent with the standard Club Constitution promulgated by Rotary International and various policies of Rotary International. Some local flexibility is allowed, however. The current bylaws of the Rotary e-Club of Houston, TX can are published and can be accessed on our Website.

Rotary International (RI)

About Rotary <https://www.rotary.org/en>

Rotary is an amazing organization! Made up of 1.2 million members from over 34,000 clubs, the main focus of Rotary is to serve others. The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders. This includes people in the local community and around the world. This is done through five 'Avenues of Service', which are the foundation of club activity.

1. **Club Service** focuses on making clubs strong. A thriving club is anchored by strong relationships and an active membership development plan.
2. **Vocational Service** calls on every Rotarian to work with integrity and contribute their expertise to the problems and needs of society. Learn more in [An Introduction to Vocational Service](#) and the [Code of Conduct](#).
3. **Community Service** encourages every Rotarian to find ways to improve the quality of life for people in their communities and to serve the public interest. Learn more in [Communities in Action: A Guide to Effective Projects](#) and this [Community Service presentation \(PPT\)](#).
4. **International Service** exemplifies our global reach in promoting peace and understanding. We support this service avenue by sponsoring or volunteering on international projects, seeking partners abroad, and more.
5. **Youth Service** recognizes the importance of empowering youth and young professionals through leadership development programs such as EarlyAct (https://map.rotary.org/en/project/pages/project_detail.aspx?guid=19545a8d-9c24-4e0b-be04-303ffb1c68de), [Rotaract](#), [Interact](#), [Rotary Youth Leadership Awards](#), and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#).

Rotary clubs are open to people of all business classifications, genders, ages, religions, and ethnicities.

The Structure of Rotary

There are many different aspects of Rotary, but here is a quick summary of its major aspects:

- **Rotary International** – This is the governing body of Rotary. It has a President, who is voted on and changes every 12 months.
- **The Rotary Foundation** - The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a not for profit corporation that promotes world understanding through humanitarian service and educational and cultural exchanges. All major international Rotary projects are funded through The Rotary Foundation.

There are 1.2 million Rotarians in 34,000 clubs doing good all over the world. This network of clubs makes up Rotary International.

As a club member you help elect your own leaders each year, and the club president works with the president-elect, officers, board members, and committee chairs to manage the club. The club pays dues to RI, and in return RI provides resources, training, and programs to help our club run effectively.

Rotary clubs in a given geographic area are part of a district, led by a district governor. Districts help clubs connect to each other and access Rotary resources. There are around 530 districts, and these are organized into 34 zones. Each zone has about the same number of Rotarians.

Rotary clubs sponsor other service clubs and groups that broaden our reach:

- [EarlyAct](#) for young people ages 5-13
- [Interact](#), for young people ages 12-18
- [Rotaract](#), for young people ages 18-30
- [Rotary Community Corps](#), for non-Rotarians

The Rotary year runs from July to June and each year elections are held for various Rotary positions from a club level all the way through to Rotary International. Each year there is a 'Changeover' and most clubs and Districts hold a function to celebrate the achievements for the year and welcome in the new President and position holders.

District 5890

The Rotary e-Club of Houston, TX, USA is part of the District 5890 (WebSite <http://www.clubrunner.ca/Portal/Home.aspx?did=5890>)



Rotary District 5890 Greater Houston Area

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Rotary International News

- Tips to help your club find and nurture a Youth Exchange host family
- Free vegetable gardens sprouting up around France
- Anti-vaccine movement may have global repercussions
- Rotary's Response to Ebola Outbreak
- Since Boys' Week, Rotary has been empowering young leaders

District Info

- Organization Chart
- Photo Organization Chart

Stories

District Governor Lisa Faith Massey's "Welcome to District Website"
Posted by Jon R. McKinnie on Jul 07, 2014

Welcome to Rotary District 5890, composed of sixty-five vibrant clubs across the greater Houston metropolitan area. The Rotarians in our area truly exemplify Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" with projects in local communities as well as international projects around the world. Rotary International is working diligently to cross the finish line of eradicating Polio worldwide and District 5890 is working hard to aid in that effort. So whether your passion is in water projects, literacy, hunger, health, or peace, Rotary has something to offer you.

I encourage you to explore our website for local events and service opportunities as well as information about District 5890. There are a variety of clubs that meet for breakfast, lunch, and happy hour; and we even have an e-Club for those people who travel for work or have limited time for weekly meetings. There is a place for you in our Rotary family.

More...

District Foundation Seminar - Sep 20
Posted by Jon R. McKinnie on Jul 24, 2014

District 5890's Rotary Foundation Seminar will be held Saturday, September 20, 2014, 8:30 AM - 12:30 PM at HCC West Loop, Houston, TX, I-610 Service Road, Houston, with an All Star Speakers Line-up. All Rotarians Are Invited! Cost - only \$10 per person! Registration & Snacks 8:00 AM - 8:30 AM. In addition to the great speakers - 1) Attend and personally donate At the Seminar to Double your Paul Harris Credit, 2) Hear How They Did It - from some of our District's Top Rotary Foundation Clubs, 3) Learn about the World's Greatest Meal, 4) Hear about the new

Mini Calendar

Sep 2014

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
31	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	01	02	03	04

District Events

DG Official Visit - Houston Skyline
Sep 16, 2014

DG Official Visit - La Porte
Sep 16, 2014

Memorial Spring Branch Golf Tournament
Clear Creek Golf Course
Sep 17, 2014 08:00 AM

Rotary: Orientation and Retention

Orientation and Retention sound like two separate issues, but they are linked together in keeping Rotary a viable and active Worldwide Organization. Rotary can only grow if we orient new and current Rotarians on how Rotary works and if we retain our members.

As Past RI President Frank Devlyn, 2000-2001 said, “have you considered that if persons coming into Rotary stayed in Rotary, we would solve all of our membership problems and be ever-growing?”

Learning The Object of Rotary will provide the roadmap for a successful Rotary career, and is the “key” to successfully orienting new members. Each Rotary club independently operates in its own way, within the framework of Rotary. This overview is designed to broadly outline the Object of Rotary and to support the learning process within each club.

The birthday of Rotary, February 23rd, is celebrated throughout the length and breadth of the movement.

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:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.
- 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.
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business and community life.
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Let’s look at each of these Objectives

1. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Paul Harris, the Founder of Rotary, and his 3 friends did not get together to talk only business. They met as friends to establish a relationship to discuss service opportunities to the community in Chicago.

The first service project was in Chicago. It consisted of initiating and promulgating the establishment of public comfort stations in Chicago. The greater significance however, was the fact that it was the precursor of thousands of similar services rendered by Rotarians throughout the world.

2. 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.

When a person is inducted into Rotary, they are assigned a Classification based on their work being performed. Ethical standards for every job are critical. There is a standard that Rotarians live by each day, not only in our business lives but also in our private lives. This standard is known as The Four Way Test and it is repeated during every club meeting.

The Four Way Test

- 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**

This standard sets the bar high for Rotarians and it validates the worthiness of each and every job of Rotarians. With high ethical standards, the services Rotarians perform in our communities are recognized quickly.

3. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life. "If Rotary says we'll do it, it will get done."

Sharing fellowship while doing community service projects builds the bond of friendship. The ideal of service to the community in our personal, business and community life is the heart of Rotary.

“Giving back” is what makes Rotary one of the most significant organizations in the world. Rotary Clubs do an enormous amount of good locally and around the world. Rotary projects have been prioritized within six areas that receive additional focus.

4. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professionals united in the ideal of service.

Worldwide service through fellowship in all clubs is the key to advancing international understanding, goodwill and peace. Rotary demonstrates Fellowship not only at club meetings, but through Fellowship Groups worldwide.

The Council on Legislation is an important part of Rotary’s governance process. The Council comprises more than 500 representatives from every part of the Rotary world. Voting members include one elected representative of the clubs of each Rotary district. While the Board of Directors sets policies for Rotary International, the Council is where Rotary clubs have their say in the governance of the association.

Every three years, each district sends a representative to the Council, which reviews proposed legislation. The introduction of women into Rotary and the flagship program of Rotary, Polio Plus occurred with approval from the Council on Legislation.

Rotarians do not necessarily have to get into a Worldwide Group to join in the activity; they can do it at club level. The number of fellowships is considerable. By becoming active in a Fellowship Group, one can develop friendships from all over the world. Fellowship is the key to enhance retention.

Rotary’s program of promoting better understanding between different racial groups and religious faiths begun in the year 1905. Rotary meetings are not

designed to create discussions among diplomats, but instead to focus upon matters in which members are in agreement.

Members may select their activities according to their special tastes and aptitudes. An all-round Rotarian is interested in Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, New Generations, Youth Service and International Service. Rotarians need to get familiar with the activities within their clubs and volunteer to help. There are few Rotarians who do all of the recognized activities initially, but grow into greater responsibilities as their Rotary experiences develop.

Rotary funds local and international projects through its Foundation. Although a voluntary contribution, the Foundation suggests that every Rotarian donate \$100 to the EREY program. It is also suggests that members share the concept of Rotary with friends, family, business and church leaders. It is important to remember that each Rotary Club must approve every application for membership. To accomplish this, the best approach is simply to invite a guest to a club meal/meeting or activity to meet the club members.

Note: With gratitude and acknowledgement, much of the material content of this article was provided by the Rotary Global History Fellowship (RGHF). Tony Touchan from the Rotary Club of Bouerne, Texas helped compile this article and the Rotary e-Club of Houston, Texas is grateful for his contributions. Go to www.rghf.org and also to www.rotary.org to expand your knowledge about Rotary.

What is expected from an e-Club member?

Below are key points that we encourage e-Club members to do in order to get the most out of their experience as Rotarians.

1. **Reading the Weekly Program on the e-Club Website** – the Website is the major method of providing information in place of regular meetings. It is where the club posts all information such as weekly program, updates, messages, upcoming events and general discussion.
2. **Being a Greeter** – The e-Club is trying to feature all of its members on the club's website. It is an opportunity for club members to introduce themselves, share a photo and greet fellow Rotarians and guests. Club members may send this information to the club secretary to be added to the weekly program.
3. **Participation in a Board of Directors and General Meeting** – An online option for participation will be soon available. Additional details will be provided on the club's website in the near future.
4. **Contribution to Project Fundraising Through Donations** – Fundraising helps clubs to fund many projects through the years. Since the club chartering in February 2014, our e-Club has been able to obtain over \$3,000 and \$10,000 worth of bicycle materials to fund and execute various projects. This was possible with the help of club members, businesses, and other Rotary Clubs. This year, our e-Club has applied for two grants through The Rotary Foundation Matching Grants program.
 - Grant for Nicaragua Scholarship: One Year College Sponsorship for 3 to 4 former children of the Dump in Nicaragua; The Grant Request is for \$6000 (Club Funds: \$3000, District Funds: \$3000);
 - Malaria Global Grant: Our twin e-Club in Paris invited us to participate in this global grant to fight malaria. Our club will contribute with \$1,000,

which will yield \$3,500 in total for a project through various matching programs.

We are aware not everyone has available funds to donate, but we all have networks to approach in regards to fundraising for projects.

5. Attending e-Club Events Whenever Possible – Each year our e-Club will attempt to hold 3 to 4 major events such as fellowships, fundraisings, end of year party and others, where members can meet face-to-face. These are great opportunities to meet fellow club members, share experiences and plan future club activities.

6. Attending District Events – District events such as the All Clubs Dinner or District Conference are a chance to meet with Rotarians from other clubs and learn more about Rotary. Participating in district events is very beneficial for members, especially for those who are new to Rotary.

7. Attending Club Service Projects or Service Projects Locally - Rotary clubs engage in service projects in thousands of communities all over the world. Rotary club members form a diverse, global network of volunteers united through a common commitment to the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through service. e-Club members may enter their service hours on our Website using the “Service Above Self” feature.

8. Visiting other Rotary Clubs in the Community – It is a great opportunity to learn about what is happening in the community and a great chance for fellowship.

9. Reaching Out and Learning about other e-Club Rotarians and Social Media

Rotarians on Social Networks Fellowship (ROSNF) <http://rosnf.net/home/>
Rotarian e-Club Fellowship <http://rotarianseclubfellowship.org/>

Rotary Service

Consider the following Rotary service options:

- **Community Service:** Projects that respond to the needs of local communities
- **Interact:** Service clubs for young people ages 12-18
- **International Service:** Projects that involve efforts from Rotarians in more than one Country.
- **New Generations Service:** Programs and activities that engage young people up to age 30 in their community and in service projects and foster their interest in Rotary.
- **PolioPlus:** Rotary International and Rotary Foundation corporate program supporting global polio eradication efforts.
- **Rotaract:** Service clubs for young men and women ages 18-30 sponsored by their local Rotary club.
- **Rotarian Action Groups:** International groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who join together to conduct international service projects related to a specific topic.
- **Rotary Fellowships:** International groups of Rotarians, Rotarian spouses, and Rotaractors who share a common recreational or vocational interest.
- **Rotary Foundation Grants:** Support for clubs and districts as they undertake humanitarian and educational activities both locally and abroad.
- **Rotary Friendship Exchange:** International exchange program for Rotarians and their families that promotes building relationships that can evolve into international partnerships for service projects.

- **Rotary Youth Exchange:** Program that promotes international understanding and peace among students ages 15-19 and young adults ages 18-25
- **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA):** Training program for young people that emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth.
- **Vocational Service:** Activity that encourages Rotarians to model high ethical standards and apply their business knowledge and skills to benefit others.

The Rotary e-Club WebSite

<https://rotaryclubhouston.org/>

This is our Website, where members and visitors can get informed about the club's activities. Through this Website, members are able to enter their weekly attendance and record service hours. This is also a way for visiting Rotarians to obtain a replacement (make-up) when missing regular meetings. To obtain a make-up, a visiting Rotarian must spend at least 30 minutes on the e-Club's Website, and then fill out the attendance report. Rotarians who wish to make a donation are encouraged to do so through our Website using PayPal.



Recording service hours is a requirement of Rotary International. e-Club Members must commit at least 12 hours per quarter to Rotary programs, meetings and events. Recording hours online is a simple method that is easily transferred onto RI to ensure that our club is engaging members.

This record is based on the honor system and the Four-Way Test. It uses an approximate calculation of how much time is spent in each area, rounded off to the nearest 30 minutes. It is a duty that e-Club members log their hours at least once per month.

Facebook Club Page and Twitter

(https://www.facebook.com/RotaryEClubHouston/timeline?ref=page_internal)

Our Facebook page is updated frequently, and it is a way to interact with people, share our stories, photos, news and club events. We encourage club members to 'Like' the page and our posts in order to share them with as many people as possible, and also to invite their friends to do the same.

Our club has also a Twitter account. This Twitter account is directly synchronized with our Facebook page. Any post on Facebook is posted on Twitter as well.

The screenshot displays the Facebook profile of the Rotary E-Club of Houston. At the top, there is a login section with fields for 'Email or Phone' and 'Password', and a 'Log In' button. Below this is a large graphic featuring a word cloud of 'Welcome' in various languages and a globe logo with the text 'Rotary e-Club Houston, TX USA' and the website 'www.rotaryclubhouston.org'. The page name is 'Rotary E-Club of Houston' with the tagline '@RotaryEClubHouston · Nonprofit Organization'. The 'About' section includes a map showing the location at 11407 Hylander Houston, TX 77070, and text stating: 'Rotary E-Club of Houston is a non profit organization composed by professional and community leaders who serve humanity and follow high ethical standards.' and 'Rotary e-Club of Houston has a very flexible meeting format. Instead going to weekly face-to-face meetings, members can read the online weekly newsletter... See More'. It also shows 1,738 likes, 2,000 followers, and 70 people checked in. A recent post shows three people in blue shirts and masks standing behind a table with supplies, with a banner in the background that reads 'OS CAMINANTES'.

Introduction to Rotary e-Club of Houston, TX, USA” Document

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