

Chico Rotary Invocation Policy

Background

According to Rotary International, *“Rotary clubs are nonreligious, nonpolitical and open to every race, culture, and creed.”* Rotary International also affirms that *“each Rotary club is autonomous and that the practice of presenting a prayer or invocation at club meetings is left entirely to the traditions and customs of the individual club, with the understanding that these meeting rituals always be conducted in a manner which will respect the religious convictions and faiths of all Rotarians”*.

Recognizing the long-standing tradition of the Chico Noon Rotary to include an invocation and reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of its weekly luncheon meeting, the following policy has been adopted.

Invocations

Regular meetings of the Chico Noon Rotary Club consist of members and guests comprising different faiths and religious beliefs. With that in mind, it is the Club’s intention to be welcoming to everyone in attendance. As it is the tradition of the Chico Noon Rotary club to include an invocation and reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance as part of the weekly meeting, those offering the invocation are asked to exercise care in using language specific to a particular faith or religious belief. Accordingly, a person volunteering to offer an invocation is asked to follow these general guidelines:

- a) Invocations should be planned in advance.
- b) Invocations may include a prayer, a thought for the day or a time of reflection and should be respectful of the composition of the audience and easily shared by listeners from different faiths and traditions;
- c) Invocations should not be used to preach or give testimony.

This policy should be provided to the Rotary team captains with the intention that these guidelines be shared with those volunteering to perform the weekly invocation. If a member cannot adhere to these guidelines, he/she is welcome to pass the opportunity to someone else.