

# Service Companion Clubs

## Fact Sheet

### Ask Yourself...

*Does your Rotary Club need more members?*

*Would your club like to have more service projects?*

*Does your club want younger members?*

*Would your club want more women?*

*Does your club want to look more like your community?*



**If you answer YES to any of these questions, you should consider a Service Companion Club!**



### What is it?

A Service Companion Club is simply an extension or satellite club of an existing Rotary Club!

This club has no plans to separate from its host club, and is organized around community service, without the parameters of a traditional Rotary setting.



# Service Companion Clubs

## **What is the purpose of a Service Companion Club?**

- The Service Companion Club is committed to engaging in community service.
- This club offers an alternative membership option for people who are unable to attend regular meetings.
- By eliminating the need for typical club meetings, the Service Companion Club provides an inclusive approach that allows more individuals to have a positive impact on their communities!

## **When do the members of the Service Companion Club meet?**

- The Service Companion Club members meet to plan and complete service projects.
- Meetings are held either in person or via technology, including Zoom, Microsoft Teams, What's App, etc.
- The Service Companion Club members can optionally attend their Host Club meetings.

## **Do members of the Service Companion Club pay Rotary dues?**

- Yes, the Service Companion Club offers a cost-effective option for members with a suggested annual fee of \$200, which includes Rotary International and District dues, as well as basic club expenses.
- No additional fees for facilities or restaurants.

## **Who makes the decisions for the Service Companion Club?**

- The Service Companion Club is the Rotary International Satellite Club of the Host Club.
- The club can have its own bylaws and Board of Directors.
- The Board of Directors are responsible for making decisions within the club.
- The club has the option to have its own bylaws, or it can operate under the Host Club's bylaws with modifications to suit its needs. The choice is up to the Service Companion Club.

## **Who decides what service projects a Service Companion Club can do?**

- The Service Companion Club engages its members by creating and executing its own projects.
- Members of the community and Host Club are invited to join in on the fun.
- They also provide invaluable support to projects hosted by their Host Club and other Rotary Clubs.

# Service Companion Clubs

## Are Service Companion Club members Rotarians?

- Yes, The Service Companion Club members are member of the Host Club and boosts it membership numbers.
- MyRotary.org provides Service Companion Clubs with an "Active" status as Satellite Club members of the Host Club.
- Through 3rd party club management systems like ClubRunner, DACdb, etc., the Service Companion Club has equal access to the same functions as a Host Club.
- Subscribing to an individual club management system is an optional choice for the Service Companion Club.

## How are Service Companion Clubs organized?

- **Board of Directors:** The Service Companion Club operates independently with its own Board of Directors. Led by a Chairperson who is typically a member of the Host Club Board of Directors, the club is self-governed. Additionally, the club democratically elects its other key leaders to ensure effective leadership.
- **Committees:** The Service Companion Club will have important committee chairs including Service Projects, Membership, Club Administration, Public Image, and The Rotary Foundation. The clubs are encouraged to establish a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion committee, or appoint a chairperson.
- **Secretary:** The Service Companion Club's Secretary is the manager of club administrative tasks. From adding new members to handling terminations, they ensure smooth operations and seamless communication with the Host Club Secretary.
- **Treasurer:** The Treasurer of the Service Companion Club oversees all financial aspects of the club. This includes managing dues billing, collecting payments, and maintaining accurate accounting records. They work closely with the Treasurer of the Host Club to ensure smooth coordination and financial transparency.

# Common Questions & Tips

Although a Service Companion Club meets at a different time, all members are Rotarians who belong to your club. You are one club that meets at two different times.

For prospective new members, having two meeting options is a big advantage.

Most after work Service Companions Clubs meet from 5:30 to 6:30pm. This allows those who get off work at 5:00 to come to Rotary and still be home for dinner and evening activities.

Clubs that meet at 5:30pm do not usually serve a meal. Often, beer & wine are available for purchase.

Some Service Companion Clubs meet weekly; however, many meet twice a month; for example, 1st & 3rd Thursday at 5:30pm.

Spouses of current members often join a satellite club to get more involved in Rotary....they are frequently among the first to join.

For parents of school-aged children, after work clubs are quickly becoming a preferred Rotary meeting time. This is especially true of working mothers because it fits their busy lifestyle.

After work clubs are also popular among young professional couples who frequently attend together. For teachers and those in healthcare, this is a meeting time that often works best.

Service Companion Club members pay the same dues as other members; however total membership cost is usually less if no meal is served.

Fears of members switching from host club to the satellite because of lower cost are unfounded. Members select their preferred meeting time based on establish friendships, work schedule and current family demands.

It's not unusual for some members to attend both meetings. Having a satellite option can also help current members stay in your club if they experience a change in their work or family responsibilities.

# Common Questions & Tips

Finding a few members from the host club to attend Service Companion Club meetings during the first year is critical. Often, these members are motivated to help because their own work or family responsibilities have changed.

Originally, satellites had the same name as the sponsor club plus a "satellite" qualifier like Rotary Satellite Club of Ashland. This caused confusion. Now, most extensions adopt club names that help prospective members know when and where they meet, like Ashland After Work Rotary, Ashland PM Rotary, Ashland After Hours Rotary, Ashland Sunset Rotary or Ashland Evening Rotary.

Many clubs amend their current bylaws to incorporate the Service Companion Club once it is fully established; some allow satellites to develop their own bylaws that then must be approved by the host club.

Once a club extension is fully established, many host clubs continue to maintain one board with satellite representation guaranteed.

Rotary International recognizes one president per club. The leader of the extension is often referred to as the chair.

The decision to start a Service Companion Club does not require RI approval because no new charter is involved.

***Every Rotary club is different. Don't try to create a carbon-copy of your club. Let Service Companion Club members decide what kind of club they want to be!***

## Want to learn more?



1. Contact your Club President.
2. Contact your District Membership Chair.
3. Contact your Zone Innovative Club Advocate.
4. Contact your Zone Assistant Rotary Coordinator.
5. Contact your Region Rotary Coordinator – Alex Johnson