**PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY**

A Guide for District Leaders

**The Paul Harris Society**

The Paul Harris Society recognizes Rotarians and friends of The Rotary Foundation who personally contribute US$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus or an approved Foundation grant each year.

**History**

The Paul Harris Society was originally created in 1999 by Past District Governor Wayne Cusick from District 5340. PDG Cusick realized that giving US$1,000 annually to the Foundation was not possible for every Rotarian, but many could be encouraged to contribute at this level or above. PDG Wayne introduced the Paul Harris Society program to encourage and recognize these individuals. This idea gained momentum and quickly spread to other districts throughout the world. While this recognition was originally designed as a district administered program, the Trustees adopted the Paul Harris Society as an official recognition program of The Rotary Foundation effective 1 July 2013.

**Benefits to Joining**

Paul Harris Society members bring positive change to communities around the world. In any given year, less than 3 percent of Rotary Foundation donors contribute at the Paul Harris Society level or above, yet their contributions represent approximately 35 percent of all annual giving. As Rotary Foundation grants and activities are largely funded by Annual Fund contributions, Paul Harris Society members help determine how many individuals, families and communities Rotary can impact each year.

**Recognition**

The Paul Harris Society has been, and will continue to be, one of The Rotary Foundation’s most important ways to thank and recognize continued generosity. Each Rotary district is encouraged to honor and recognize Paul Harris Society members in accordance to the individual donor’s wishes and as culturally appropriate. All members of the Paul Harris Society are eligible to receive a wearable recognition insignia in appreciation for their support. Displaying the PHS insignia with a Paul Harris Fellow or Major Donor pin can help build awareness and enthusiasm for the work that Rotary does locally and around the world. The Rotary Foundation also provides an optional Paul Harris Society certificate template as well as suggestions for organizing and inviting Paul Harris Society members to recognition events.

**Joining the Paul Harris Society**

Rotarians and friends of Rotary can join the Paul Harris Society through several options:

* Contribute online at [www.rotary.org/contribute](http://www.rotary.org/contribute). Contributions can be made securely online, in multiple currencies while preserving local tax benefits in many cases. Consider automating your Paul Harris Society gifts through Rotary’s recurring giving program, Rotary Direct. Monthly gifts of US$85 or quarterly contributions of $250 automatically make an individual a member of the Paul Harris Society.
* Complete and send in the PHS enrollment and contribution form found in the Paul Harris Society Brochure (publication number 099);
* Notify your District Rotary Foundation Chair, Paul Harris Society coordinator or other district leader of your interest in joining the Paul Harris Society.
* Receive your wearable PHS recognition pin by district leadership who will be able to order the insignias from The Rotary Foundation.

**Paul Harris Society Coordinator**

* A Paul Harris Society coordinator is a district-level volunteer appointed by the district governor to help promote the Paul Harris Society and oversee appropriate recognition of its members. Paul Harris Society coordinators can be appointed by the district governor via Member Access or by emailing data@rotary.org. Once appointed, the district Paul Harris Society coordinator will be able to access contribution and recognition reports from Member Access and will receive periodic communications from The Rotary Foundation.
* Successful Paul Harris Society coordinators have a passion for Rotary, are well respected and inspire others.
* In collaboration with zone and district leaders, the Paul Harris Society coordinator works to identify Rotarians and friends of Rotary who have the commitment and financial capacity to support The Rotary Foundation with contributions of US$1,000 or more every year. The Paul Harris Society coordinator also facilitates meaningful and culturally appropriate recognition opportunities for new and existing Paul Harris Society members.

**Paul Harris Society Best Practices**

Rotarians from around the world have identified the following strategies as best practices for a vibrant and growing Paul Harris Society:

* Explain how Foundation contributions to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund or an approved Foundation grant are transformed into high impact, sustainable solutions to pressing needs around the world.
* Share the importance of the Paul Harris Society through club and district presentations and invite possible members to join during one-on-one meetings; be sure to have contribution forms with you to share with interested donors.
* Promote Rotary’s recurring giving program, Rotary Direct, as a simple and secure way to join the Paul Harris Society.
* Use Foundation reports to thank members who have fulfilled their PHS commitment this year, to remind those who have not and to identify prospective members based on their past giving.
* Plan recognition events or expand existing events to incorporate Paul Harris Society members.

**Paul Harris Society Resources**

* Paul Harris Society Brochure (099)
* Paul Harris Society PowerPoint
* Paul Harris Society Certificate Template
* Paul Harris Society Report (provides membership and historical information)
* Paul Harris Society insignias (available for order from The Rotary Foundation by PHS Coordinators and other district leaders; gratis)