

Inducting new members

One of the things that RI suggests to improve new member retention is to have a meaningful induction ceremony. The generic ceremony included in the membership page is one that my club has used for a number of years, and it has worked well for us. One goal that we have for the ceremony is to involve the entire club membership. As each of the scripts is read, more and more members come forward to the front of the room to stand near the new member and speakers. By the time the last script is finished and the sponsor pins the new member, the entire club is there as part of the ceremony.

One thing to remember is that these scripts were designed for inducting a member that is new to Rotary. If the inductee is a former Rotarian or a transferring Rotarian, the scripts should be adjusted to reflect the new member's knowledge of Rotary principles. I hope to have a modified script for former or transferring Rotarians sometime in the near future.

Bruce Bortner
District 5520 Membership Chair
Revised September, 2009

FIRST SPEAKER (THE PRESIDENT OF THE CLUB)

[ASK INDUCTEE TO COME FORWARD AND FACE THE MEMBERS]

[*NAME*], you are about to become the newest member of the Rotary Club of [*name of club*].

The Rotarian who proposed you for membership paid you a great complement. They saw in you those characteristics which would make a fine Rotarian.

You have been approved by the responsible committees of the club, by the board, and by the members.

And now, four of our members will formally induct you into our club.

SECOND SPEAKER (A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, OR PAST PRESIDENT-STAND IN FRONT, FACING INDUCTEE)

Welcome to Rotary, [*NAME*], where you will be called by your first name. I stand before you, to lead you into a new, great adventure in friendship and in service to your vocation, to your community, and to your fellow man. You are joining [*number of members in club*] Rotarians in our club, over [*number of rotations in the community*] Rotarians in the [*location of club*] area, and over 1.2 million Rotarians in over 200 countries. All are business and professional people united by the common “Ideal of Service”.

**THIRD SPEAKER (A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, OR
PAST PRESIDENT-STAND TO ONE SIDE OF
INDUCTEE)**

[NAME], In 1905, Paul Harris, a young lawyer in Chicago, experiencing the loneliness of a newcomer to a big city, wanted to become acquainted with individuals in other businesses and professions.

On the evening of February 23, 1905, he met with three friends to discuss his ideas. From this beginning, they invited others to meet with them, and began to rotate the meetings among each others' offices. From this "rotation" came the name Rotary. Their number soon became too great to meet in each others' offices and a luncheon club was formed.

FOURTH SPEAKER (A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, OR PAST PRESIDENT-STAND BEHIND INDUCTEE)

[NAME], I speak from behind you to urge you forward in a new and great adventure- to become a Rotarian. First, there are things you must learn. Most important is the object of Rotary International, which is to “encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise.” Related to the ideal of service is our commitment to “service above self”, and our belief that “he profits most who serves best”. And, of course, the famous Four Way test of the things we think, say, and do,

- First Is it the truth?
- Second Is it fair to all concerned?
- Third Will it build good will and better friendships?
- Fourth Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Then there are many books you can read. “My Road To Rotary” by our founder Paul Harris is one of the best. Here, in his own words, you can learn the basic philosophy of the fellowship. Most important is participation, which begins with regular attendance. Make Rotary an important part of your week. Learn how to make up attendance by visiting other clubs. To appreciate the broad scope of Rotary, attend the district assemblies and conferences and, if possible, an International Convention.

[NAME], Soon you will hear the words “Rotary Fellowship”. Fellowship begins with acquaintance, so your first assignment in the club will to be on the fellowship committee, greeting members and visitors as they come to our meetings.

FIFTH SPEAKER (A DIRECTOR, OFFICER, OR PAST PRESIDENT-STAND BESIDE INDUCTEE)

I stand beside you, [NAME], representing the members of our club, to walk with you in this new and great adventure.

Here is your lapel pin- wear it proudly. (**Speaker or Rotarian who proposed inductee for membership should pin on the pin now**). With this pin you can attend meetings of any Rotary Club in the world.

[NAME], you have been accepted as our newest member. Each member is an experimental venture in service and the other high ideals of Rotary. The experiment starts now. You can become our greatest Rotarian. If you will take this step in Rotary, please step forward with me and let our members welcome you to the Club.