

Rotary

Rotary District 5610



Companion Club Framework

Companion Club

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!



- A Companion Club is simply an extension 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.

Companion Club Overview

- Companion Clubs (a.k.a., a satellite or club extension) are a proven way to help clubs grow by providing an alternate meeting time that allows more people to join. Members are full Rotarians in the host club and many companion clubs have no future plan to charter.
 - Striving for greater membership parity among men and women is key to our future. Growth among adults 25 to 49 is especially important.
 - Clubs offering more than one meeting time are more likely to grow these key demographics because it helps them accommodate differing work schedules and family responsibilities.
 - Companion club members can attend just their meetings or can also attend host club meetings. Their choice!

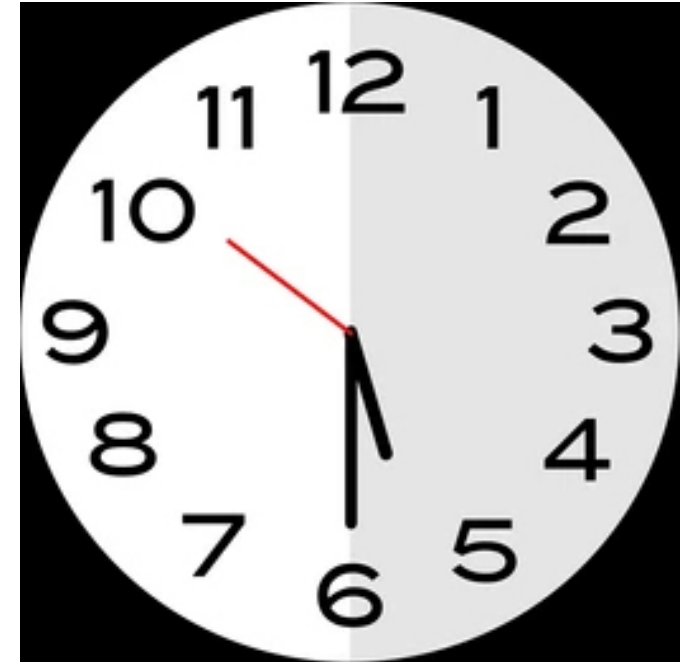


One club that meets at two different times.

Experience Shows

5:30 to 6:30 is the Golden Hour for Companion Clubs

- Members come to Rotary after work and are still home for dinner & evening activities.
- It's preferred meeting time for parents of school-aged children, working moms, teachers, retailers and younger professionals.
- No meal is served so membership costs less.



Driving Factors

- Because it's a companion of the Rotary club, members are included in host club membership numbers.
- Having two meeting time options is a big advantage for prospective members and existing members.
- Snacks are usually provided, and beer & wine are often available for purchase.
- Younger professional couples often attend together.
- Spouses of current members are among first to join.
- Most companion clubs meet twice a month (1st & 3rd Thursday, 2nd & 4th Tuesday, etc.)
- It is common for members to attend both meetings.
- Companion club members are eligible to be on host club committees.
- RI recognizes one President per club. The leader of Companion Club is often referred to as The Chair.
- Most clubs maintain one board that includes Companion Club representation.
- Decision to start a Companion Club does not require approval by RI, however a Companion Club Application should be submitted to RI to document its existence and to allow RI to track future success of companion clubs.

Companion Club Role

Who decides what service projects a Companion Club can do?

- The 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.

The founding members of the companion club can design it from the ground up (when they meet, where, how often, structure of non-service meetings, etc.) and the host club is there to support them.



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

Rotary Dues

- Do members of the Service Companion Club pay Rotary dues?
 - Yes, members of the Companion Club are also members of the Rotary Club and Rotary International.
 - The Service Companion Club offers a cost-effective option for members with a suggested annual fee generally less than the host Rotary Club, which includes Rotary International and District dues, as well as basic club expenses.
 - Any additional fees for facilities or restaurants are excluded from the Companion Club dues.
 - An optional annual giving of \$25 per year supports the RI Foundation and applies towards a Paul Harris Fellow and club EREY goals.
 - **Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)** initiative asks every Rotarian to support The Rotary Foundation every year.

Roles: Champion vs Chair

- To start a companion club, typically a host club member is needed to advocate for forming a companion club.
 - Gets board approval and works with the board.
 - Educates the host club members and solicits charter members for the companion club.
 - Typically selects and provides guidance to the Chair.
- The chair is the person that facilitates the companion club meetings and helps find members for the club.
 - Is the liaison between the host club and companion club.
 - Leads the discussion about the purpose of the Companion club and how members want to serve their community.



Primary Steps

- Get Board approval by Host Rotary Club
- Assign chair for Companion Club
- Define the dues structure
- Recruit core set of members
 - Look for groups in the community where the current Rotary meeting time is a barrier
 - Past members, teachers, young professionals, small business owners, work colleagues, etc.
 - Communities in the area that are underserved by Rotary or other service clubs. A companion club could be formed in that community partnering with the nearby host club.
 - Encourage 3-4 people from a similar group to join together.
- Host a kickoff meeting (set start date)
 - Welcome new members, describe Rotary and the club structure, sign up new members, etc.



Contacts, References & Contributors



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