



The Rotary Club of Barrie MEMBERS INFORMATION HANDBOOK



Welcome to the Rotary Club of Barrie

As a new member you are a welcome addition to our club – you bring new ideas and enthusiasm to this group. As well, you expand our membership into new areas of the business, professional and retirement communities.

No one becomes a member of a Rotary Club by simply applying for membership. If you exhibited an interest in membership by an email to the Club or through a Member, this leads to you being “proposed” by one of our members or your Sponsor. The Board of Directors review the proposal to determine if you would be an active, interested and honourable member of our Club. Also, all the Club members are asked to consider the acceptance of your proposal as a new member. After this process is completed, you are invited to be the newest member of our Club.

Why such a complicated application format? We want to attract individuals who have high ethical standards and understand that Rotary requires you put “service above self”. Others will judge Rotary by your actions so it is important for this worldwide organization that care is taken when inviting new people to join.

There are several people you can rely on to introduce you to specific aspects of Rotary and to the uniqueness of the Rotary Club of Barrie. The Club member who sponsored you, a Club member who is assigned to you as a mentor or any member of the Club you feel comfortable asking a question of. A Rotary Club is not a country club or lodge – there is more required of a Rotarian than simply belonging or attending weekly meetings with a congenial group of people. There are privileges, as well as responsibilities, in belonging to any Rotary Club. This handbook is intended to explain these responsibilities and answer some of your questions.

Rotary in Barrie

There are two other Rotary Clubs in Barrie:

- The Barrie-Huron Rotary Club has approximately 100 members. They meet at the Southshore Centre for lunch on Tuesdays at 12:15 pm.
- The Rotary Club of Kempenfelt has approximately 50 members. They meet for breakfast on Wednesday at the Barrie Country Club.

History of Rotary International

Paul Harris formed the world’s first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, February 23rd, 1905. Paul was an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name “Rotary” derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members’ offices.

Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed: clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. Rotary expanded beyond the United States with a club forming in 1911 in Winnipeg. By 1921, Rotary Clubs had been formed on six continents, and the organization adopted the name Rotary International a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its principal motto: **Service Above Self**. Rotary also later embraced a code of ethics, called the 4 – Way Test that has been translated into hundreds of languages.

An endowment fund, set up by Rotarians in 1917 "for doing good in the world" became a not-for-profit corporation known as The Rotary Foundation in 1928. Upon the death of Paul Harris in 1947, an outpouring of Rotarian donations made in his honour, totaling US\$2 million launched the Foundation's first program – graduate fellowships, now called Ambassadorial Scholarships. Today, contributions to the Rotary Foundation total more than US\$80 million annually and support a wide range of humanitarian grants and 3 educational programs that enable Rotarians to bring hope and promote international understanding throughout the world.

In 1985, Rotary made a historic commitment to immunize all of the world's children against polio. Working in partnership with nongovernmental organizations and national governments through its PolioPlus program, Rotary is the largest private sector contributor to the global polio eradication campaign. Rotarians have mobilized hundreds of thousands of PolioPlus volunteers and have immunized more than one billion children worldwide. Rotary is the largest nongovernmental financial contributor to the global polio eradication effort. By the time the world is certified polio-free, Rotary's contributions to the global polio eradication effort will exceed US\$700 million. Rotary has attracted both the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Google as partners who wish to work on the final steps in polio eradication. These organizations trusted Rotary to be responsible stewards of their funds.

As it approached the dawn of the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet the changing needs of society, expanding its service effort to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk. The organization admitted women for the first time (worldwide) in 1989 and claims more than 90,000 women in the ranks today. Following the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Rotary clubs were formed or re-established throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Today more than 1.2 million Rotarians belong to some 31,000 Rotary clubs in 166 countries.

These numbers change daily so to be current the best resource is the internet. For more information on Rotary International visit the website at www.rotary.org.

The Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- FIRST** The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- SECOND** High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD** The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life;
- FOURTH** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

What Does Rotary Do?

Rotary is a worldwide organization of business and professional leaders that provides humanitarian service, encourages high ethical standards in all vocations, and helps build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary club membership represents a cross-section of the community's business and professional men and women. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are nonpolitical, non-religious, and open to all cultures, races, and creeds. The main objective of Rotary is service – in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotary also supports programs for youth, educational opportunities and international exchanges for students, teachers and other professionals, and vocation and career development. The Rotary motto is **Service Above Self**.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is a not-for-profit corporation that promotes world understanding through international humanitarian service programs and educational and cultural exchanges. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and others who share its vision of a better world. Since 1947, the Foundation has awarded more than US\$1.1 billion in humanitarian and educational grants, which are initiated and administered by local Rotary clubs and districts. Rotary has been recognized as being in the top five foundations in the world for good stewardship of the use of funds.

Our Club is committed to service in our community and to assisting with international Rotary activities. In Barrie we have contributed to many projects, a complete list is available by visiting our Club Website at www.barrierotary.com *and* also support many local organizations, who themselves serve our community in

various ways. Internationally, our Club sponsors outbound and inbound youth exchange students, have sponsored several Group Study Exchange participants , establishes and cooperatively assists developing countries, and contributes to the Rotary Foundation. We regularly fund projects in third world countries to provide wells, books, etc.

Responsibilities of Membership

- Members are expected to attend weekly meetings of the Club. We meet each Thursday at 12:15 for lunch at the Southshore Centre (doors open at 11:45 for fellowship prior to lunch). Opportunities to make up attendance include attending the regular meeting of another Rotary club, including the 2 other Barrie clubs, attending a service project authorized by the Board of Directors and logging onto the eClub on the internet.
- Members are required to pay annual dues and charges to the Club promptly. The Club in turn pays annual dues to Rotary International (RI) and to District 7010 on behalf of our members.
- Members are expected to participate in local or international activities or projects of our Rotary club.
- Members are encouraged to aspire to leadership or committee roles within our club.

The Four Way Test

From the earliest days of the organization, Rotarians were concerned with promoting high ethical standards in their professional lives. One of the world's most widely printed and quoted statements of business ethics is the 4-Way Test, which was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor (who later served as RI president) when he was asked to take charge of a company that was facing bankruptcy.

This 24-word test for employees to follow in their business and professional lives became the guide for sales, production, advertising, and all relations with dealers and customers, and the survival of the company is credited to this simple philosophy. Adopted by Rotary in 1943, the 4-Way Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

Of the things we think, say or do:

FIRST Is it the TRUTH?

SECOND Is it FAIR to all concerned?

THIRD Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

FOURTH Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

The Four Avenues of Service

The activities of a Rotary Club have traditionally come under four committees. These avenues of service are:

Club Service – focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club.

Vocational Service – promotion of the 4-Way Test, encouragement for Rotarians to serve others through their vocations, coordination of community student activities and extending practices of high standards of conduct in personal business and vocations.

Community Service – researching, planning (including fundraising) and organizing community projects.

International Service – Youth Exchange, Rotary Foundation and international projects encompassing actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.

In 2005 Rotary International formed a new Club Leadership Plan. Under the Club Leadership Plan the Avenues of Service remain central to the work of Rotary, ensuring that the club's service efforts are balanced and working to achieve all aspects of the Object of Rotary. Under this new Club Leadership Plan the operational needs of the clubs are addressed by five standing committees: club administration, club public relations, membership, service projects, and the Rotary Foundation.

History and Traditions of Our Club

To form a new Rotary Club, it must be sponsored by an existing club – the Rotary Club of Barrie was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Orillia. Our Club sponsored the Rotary Club of Barrie-Huronía and co-sponsored the Rotary Club of Barrie-Kempfenfelt.

Over the years our Club has contributed significantly to the community, some of which are:

- Royal Victoria Hospital
- Rotary House
- Community Service Recipients
- Student Scholarship Awards

- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)
- Head Boy / Head Girl
- Seasons Centre for Grieving Children
- McLaren Art Centre
- YMCA
- Barrie Library
- Hospice Simcoe
- Gilda's Club
- Georgian College

There is a long history with the club to work on International projects. Some have been through funds and other through funds and hands on time. Some of our recent projects include:

- Shelter boxes for disaster relief
- Wheelchairs to Ecuador
- Physicians Travel Packs for Georgian College nursing students in Dominican Republic
- Micro-credit spice factory for people living with AIDS in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia
- Books to new Ethiopia Reads library in slums of Addis Ababa
- Global Perspectives/Youth Ambassador program at Innisdale High School
- Intensive Care Unit at public hospital in Bahir Dar, Ethiopia
- Supporting an orphanage in Eldoret, Kenya
- Brandy Hussey, Ambassadorial Scholar, to Aberdeen, Scotland
- Incoming and outbound exchange students
- Brick Plant in Haiti
- Laying water pipes in Ecuador
- Sleeping Children Around the World
- Salvation Army in Haiti
- Group Study Exchange
- Collected used eyeglasses for the developing world

These projects were all initiated by Rotary Club of Barrie.

During the year you will be asked to assist with Fundraising events. They include:

- Kempenfest
- Rotary Auction
- Festival of Trees
- Holiday Hams and Baskets
- Our House Gala for Rotary House at RVH
- Dragon Boat Race
- Fun Run
- Trip of the Month
- Spring Tonic

These events require many hands to make light work, it is important that all members contribute to the work involved in these events.

Youth Exchange has been an important part of the Rotary Club of Barrie. For many years the Club has interviewed students from local high schools to select an outbound student. This panel looks for a young ambassador to represent the community in another country for a full school year and to give that student the international exposure that Rotary is known for. The Club also hosts one inbound student each year. One of the Club members takes on the responsibility of being the counsellor for this student, helping him/her settle into the community, set up bank accounts and to give him/her a chance to learn how a Canadian family usually functions before they move into the home of their first host family. Generally three members of the Club open their home to host the inbound student for a period of about three months. All other club members are encouraged to invite the student to their homes for dinner, take them skiing or boating or any other activity that will be a fond memory of their time in Barrie.

To learn more about our Club visit our Club's website www.barrierotary.com.

Club Organization

Let's start at the top. Rotary International is an association of Rotary Clubs throughout the world. It is administered by a Board of Directors consisting of the President, President-Elect and 15 Directors from around the world.

Each Rotary Club is an independent organization, which meets weekly and maintains the standards of Rotary International. At the local level our Club is independent and conforms to the traditions and conducts business through the operating channels of Rotary International.

Each Rotary District is headed by a District Governor, an officer of Rotary International, whose job it is to assist Clubs in his/her district. District Governors are nominated by their district and elected for a one-year term. Our District Governor officially visits every Club in his/her District.

Your Club Officers are much the same as other clubs: President, Past-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and ten Directors. The Rotary year begins July 1st and ends June 30th.

The membership elects the Officers and the Directors at a regular meeting in December each year and those elected take office six months later, on July 1. We celebrate the installation of new officers in June.

Each year a Nominating Committee consists of the Past President, the immediate Past Past President, the current President and 2 other Past Presidents of the Club appointed by the Past President. If you are interested in being a Director, approach the Past President.

The names of the members standing for election as Directors and Officers will be announced to the Club by the Past President 4 weeks prior to the Club's Annual Meeting on the 2nd Thursday in December. Nominations for Directors and Officers are also received from the floor. If an election is necessary it is held by secret ballot.

Club Directors and Officers conduct the business of the Club, making all decisions at monthly executive meetings and any special meetings that may be required.

Choose your Directors wisely each year as they will run the Club. You are encouraged to discuss issues with them if you wish to influence decisions. All Club Officers are your mentors and are willing to answer questions to help you learn more about the Club and Rotary.

There are 10 Committees:

- Community Service
- International Service
- Vocational Service
- Club Service
- Programs and Information
- Special Projects
- Environmental
- Public Relations
- Membership
- Sergeant-At-Arms

Each Committee meets monthly, usually at a member's home. Your attendance at these meetings is expected.

Our Club By-Laws and Customs are posted on our Club's Website along with our Club's Constitution. Collectively these documents constitute our Club's governance and you are encouraged to read them, especially our Club's Customs.

Club Meetings

Our membership meeting is held every Thursday at the Southshore Community Centre starting at 12:15. Members are encouraged to arrive at 11:45 to allow time for fellowship before the meeting begins. Attendance usually consists of Club members, guest speakers, member's guests and Rotarians from other Clubs. Club business is rarely discussed at these weekly meetings as, it is a time to relax and enjoy the company of like-minded individuals.

Club Assemblies are called a few times a year. Traditionally, at a Club Assembly the President and the Board of Directors give a presentation on the plan for the next Rotary year. This may fall after the District Leadership Training Assembly or

the President Elect Training Seminar. Assemblies held during the year allow the Board to present how the plan is proceeding and proposed changes.

Open discussion is welcomed among all members. It also gives the members the opportunity to air and discuss major Club decisions. This is your opportunity to influence the direction of the Club and to express any concerns you have as to the organization and operation of the Club. This is the time and the place to discuss issues outside the scrutiny of the public and guests who attend our regular membership meetings. Constructive feedback by the members to specific Directors is encouraged.

Each week there is a roster of duties to be performed. To find out if you are scheduled for one of these rotating duties read the Club's weekly bulletin "The Beacon".

Welcome Greeter/Host: The Greeters arrives before 11:45 and welcomes members and guests. It is the friendly handshake with the Club. These Rotarians make a special effort to make visiting Rotarians and other guests feel welcome. If the guest speaker arrives before the Rotarian who will be introducing him/her then the host will ensure they are made welcome on an individual basis.

District Meetings

Each spring a President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) is held to offer training and workshops for the incoming Club officers and information sessions for Rotarians in general. Officers and Directors have a responsibility to attend the PETS. Club members and their partners are encouraged to attend as well. This is an opportunity to focus attention on being educated in the leadership roles of the club as well as enjoying one another's company while discovering more about Rotary, the world's oldest service organization. For current information visit the District Website at www.rotary7010.org.

The District Conference is held annually in a location selected by the District Governor. This is a celebration and a business meeting of the District. It is an excellent opportunity to socialize with other Rotarians and their partners. There are sessions where you can meet recipients of Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships and discover the Rotary Group Study Exchange to name but a couple. One of the highlights of Conference is "home hospitality night" where the hosting Club(s) invites Rotarians into their homes for an evening of fellowship. For current information on the District Assembly visit the District Website.

There are seminars offered each year for Club Membership, World Community Service and Club Foundation. The Directors and/or Club Chairs and committees for these areas should plan to attend these workshops. These seminars will be announced in the District Newsletter or by checking n the District Website.

Cost

New members pay an initiation fee in addition to the prorated portion of their annual dues for the part of the Rotary year that remains. The initiation fee is \$100.00.

You will receive an invoice quarterly from the Treasurer. Items on the invoice will include:

- Weekly meals
- Rotary International and District dues
- Any discretionary purchases

At the weekly meetings the Sergeant-At-Arms issues nominal “fines” for “Good News” stories etc.

Additional voluntary contributions to the RI Foundation are worthwhile and tax-deductible.

Foundation month is November but you can learn more about this by talking to the Club Foundation Chair or by going to the RI Website. The contributions you make to the Rotary International Foundation accumulate and when you reach a total of US\$1000 you will be awarded a Paul Harris Fellowship. This is a true Rotary achievement and is a recognized honour amongst Rotarians everywhere. All Rotarians are encouraged to make an annual donation of at least US\$100 to the Rotary International Foundation. This program is referred to “Every Rotarian, Every Year” (EREY)

Types of Membership and Classification

You are either an Active or Honourary Member. An Active Member describes the majority of Club members. Whether you are actively working in your profession or are retired you are considered an active member of the Club. An Honourary Member is a person who has been distinguished in service to Rotary or who exemplifies the Object of Rotary in his or her personal and public life. It is a distinction the Club can bestow and should be conferred only in exceptional cases. Honourary members are exempt from payment of dues and from attendance requirements.

An “Active” member whose years of service plus their age is greater than 85 may apply for “excused” status. “Excused” members retain all privileges of membership however their attendance at meetings is optional and they pay only for the lunches at meetings they attend.

Rotary uses a classification system to establish and maintain a vibrant cross-section or representation of the community business, vocational and professional

interests among members and to develop a pool of resources and expertise to successfully implement service projects.

This system is based on the founder's paradigm of choosing cross representation. Rotary International does not have a standard list of classifications so each club needs to tailor its list to its own community. Clubs are urged to do a classification survey every year. Incidentally, classifications describe Rotarians' principal business or professional activity or that of their firm, company, or institution (for example, architecture) -- not themselves (architect) nor their position in the company (vice-president).

Attendance

One of the responsibilities of every Rotarian is attendance. Attendance at your home Club is important to you and to our Club. Regular attendance is a direct measurement of your interest and support of our Club, and it keeps you informed of upcoming projects, events and business. To maintain membership fifty (50) % of your total attendance must be attained through home Club meetings. Members are encouraged to achieve 90% attendance or better. Several of our members have 100% attendance.

The Program & Information Committee is responsible for arranging interesting speakers. It is encouraging for them to present to a full room of Rotarians rather than a small number. Learning is a lifelong experience and this is another plus to being in a Rotary Club.

If you do find yourself uninterested in attending regularly, speak to your sponsor, mentor or the President.

You will hear a great deal about make-ups. This term is applied to your attendance at other Rotary Clubs when you have been absent from a regular meeting of our Club. You must attend a make-up within two weeks (either side) of a missed meeting. It is your privilege and duty to do a make-up by visiting a regular meeting of another Rotary Club anywhere in the world. To locate area Club meeting times and locations visit the District Website. We all have such busy lives that Rotary has recognized this and now offers make-ups via Internet by visiting www.rotaryclubone.org.

New members are often pleasantly surprised when they travel to other places in the world and do a make up. Membership in Rotary is a worldwide passport to fellowship.

Rotary stresses attendance purposely and deliberately. Rotary International has a regulation providing for the automatic suspension of any member after four consecutive meetings missed and not made up, unless specifically excused by the Board of Directors. Also any member dropping below 50% for any six-month period must be automatically suspended. A member may request a hearing before the Board of Directors for reinstatement.

Proposing New Members

Do you know a friend, family member, or colleague from your business or profession who has all the qualities of a good Rotarian? Rotarians are adults of good character and good business or professional reputation, who hold or have held an executive position with discretionary authority in any worthy and recognized business or profession. If there is someone you know, who is suited to Rotary, consider referring him or her for membership.

You are encouraged to invite a prospective member to a few meetings before proposing them. This allows them to become aware of Rotary and allows the Club members to meet the person. Having potential members attend meetings, as a guest, for at least three months gives both the individuals and the club time to determine if Rotary is the best choice. There are many commitments required to be a Rotary member so it is good to have potential members enjoy the fellowship of the club and make a good sound decision. We are confident that anyone who took the time to attend the Rotary Club of Barrie meetings for three months would "want to join".

Standard Procedure

The prospective member's name is submitted confidentially to the Membership Committee. The Membership Committee ensures that the person is fully qualified.

The proposed member's name is then given to the Club Secretary to bring to the next meeting of the Board of Directors. The Board refers the proposed member's name to the Classification and Membership Committee and if approved, to the Fireside Committee (Pre-Induction Committee).

The proposed member is then announced at the next club meeting to allow the members an opportunity to accept the individual as a new member.

If no objections to the proposal are received, within 10 days following, the proposed member, upon payment of an admission fee, will be installed as a new Rotarian.

The proposed member is fully informed of privileges, expectations and responsibilities of Club membership by the Fireside Committee.

He or she is then asked to complete the proposal form and to give written permission to publish his or her name and classification to the Club membership.

There will be a special induction ceremony held to celebrate the world's newest Rotarian!

Mentor or Sponsor's Role

A sponsor is a person who proposes a new member to the Club. The Club appoints mentors to the new members. Although a specific mentor may be assigned to a

new member, everyone in the club is responsible for helping a new member develop and feel welcome.

The mentor will participate in a special orientation event with the new member. The orientation meeting should acquaint new members with the committee structures, provide knowledge of Rotary both at the international and club levels, explain the programs of the Rotary Foundation and help you determine the areas you would most like to participate in with your new Club.

As the sponsor or assigned mentor for a new club member you are the “handshake” for the entire club. Your assistance and time will help the new member feel orientated and more comfortable in the club and Rotary.

Your willingness and interest in helping this new member will make you both better Rotarians. The average time commitment as a mentor is a minimum of six months and, for the best retention results, an entire year. If you find you do not have the time required for this task, please let the Membership Committee know, so a new mentor can be assigned.

Responsibilities of a mentor are explained in the “Mentoring Handbook and Checklist”

Common Courtesies

- Rotarians address one another using first names.
- When addressing the President, stand and use his or her first name, for example “President Greg”.
- During the meeting it is undesirable for Rotarians to carry on their own conversations when someone else has the floor.
- It is understood the members stay for the entire meeting. However, if there are unusual circumstances and you must leave early, please advise the President of your planned departure prior to the start of the program. It is also appreciated if you explain to the guest speaker that you must leave and will unfortunately miss the program.
- If you are asked to introduce or thank a guest speaker, the President or Program Committee will advise you accordingly.

Questions and Answers

Q: What geographical area does our District cover?

A: District 7010's boundaries range from Kapuskasing to the westerly portion of Quebec on the north and Barrie/Innisfil on the south.

Q: How do I find out who's in the Club and if they'd do business with me or me with them?

A: A Members roster is available on the Club Website and in the Club "Bluebook". It lists the members and their contact numbers, classifications, and partners' names. Direct business solicitation is discouraged at meetings; however, regular networking is considered appropriate for making business connections.

Q: How do members keep up-to-date with Rotary International and our own Club activities and events?

A: As part of your annual dues, you receive a copy of "The Rotarian", the official publication of Rotary. Locally our Club posts coming events on the Club Website and as our weekly newsletter "The Beacon" which is emailed to each member weekly. Through regular attendance and contact with Club members, you are assured of keeping well informed.

Q: I am interested in contributing to a Paul Harris Fellowship through the Rotary Foundation. What is the procedure?

A: Contact the Club Foundation Chair. You can donate the sum at one time or donate over a period of years.

Q: What kind of jobs am I likely to be asked to do in the Club?

A: There are many ways you can contribute to Club activities, such as being a greeter, saying the invocation, thanking or introducing guests or guest speakers, joining work parties, helping to organize Club social events and participating in fundraising activities. You may be asked to do these things but you can also pick activities you would like to take part in. Please let the President know of your particular interests. The President will assign every new member to one of the Club Committees and during the **Passport Programme**, each new member will rotate to another Committee each month. This will help the new member learn about most of the work each Committee does and afford him/her the opportunity to meet many of the Club members.

Q: How much time am I expected to give to fundraising and on committee projects?

A: As much time as you can reasonably. MAKE YOURSELF AVAILABLE.

Q: Who and what is a "Sergeant-At-Arms" and where do the fines go?

A: The Sergeant-At-Arms "collects the scoop" on member's weekly activities and humorous situations and "fines" them. The money goes into the "Sunshine Cup" for general Club expenses to pay for things such as meals for guest speakers, flowers for sick members etc. Our Club custom is that your sponsor pays your "fines" for the 1st 6 months of your membership.

Q: If I have a concern about a club activity, process or issue, how do I bring up the matter?

A: Members can discuss any issue with the President in confidence. If you wish to be on the agenda at an upcoming Board meeting advise the President of your wishes. Club issues can also be discussed at Club Assembly meetings when the entire membership is present.

Q: On what grounds are proposed members denied membership in the Club?

A: Any present member of the Club can object to the proposal if that member is aware of unethical or immoral business or personal behavior of the proposed member.

Q: Is there a limit to the number of members that can join the Club?

A: No, only classification criteria can limit membership (maximum of 10% of the members of the same classification).

Q: Is seating prearranged at our meetings?

A: Members are encouraged to circulate and get to know other members of the Club. Cliques make it difficult for new members to feel welcome so moving around is a good habit to acquire.

Q: Can I invite a guest to our meetings without intending to propose them as a member?

A: Yes, Members can use the meeting as an opportunity to socialize with and introduce visitors, business associates, clients and friends to other club members.

Q: How can I buy Rotary/Club t-shirts, hats and other items?

A: The Secretary has catalogues of all Rotary-oriented materials and access to any club supplies. Attending District events such as Conference will give you access to vendors of Rotary items.

Q: When can I propose a new member?

A: Our Club custom is that you can propose a new member after you have been a member for one year.