

NEW MEMBER HANDBOOK

The Rotary Club of Perrysburg

Perrysburg Rotarians are business and professional leaders who take an active role in our community while greatly enriching their personal and professional lives. Our Rotary club contains a diverse group of professional leaders from the community.

Welcome

This handbook will give you, a prospective or new member, a view of Rotary International as a world-wide organization of community volunteers who wish to help others, and it will acquaint you with our club, its organization and activities, and your responsibilities as a member.

The Rotary Club of Perrysburg
was chartered on June 13, 1979.

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A Brief History of Rotary

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA, was formed on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris, 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" was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among the members' offices.

In the decade that followed, Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States; clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. 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*.

In 1917, an endowment fund was established by Rotarians "for doing good in the world." It 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 honor, totaling \$2 million, launched the Foundation's first program - graduate fellowships, now called Ambassadorial Scholarships. Today, annual contributions to the Rotary Foundation total more than US\$70 million and support a wide range of humanitarian grants and educational programs that enable Rotarians to bring hope and promote international understanding throughout the world.

In 1985, Rotary made its 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. By the 2005 target date for certification of a polio-free world, Rotary will have contributed one half billion dollars to the cause.

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 its 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, 1.2 million Rotarians belong to some 29,000 Rotary clubs in more than 160 countries.

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.

Why join the Perrysburg Rotary Club

First, it's fun! If you'd like to meet people who want you to be a member, then this club is for you. Have the opportunity for lunch once a week, listen to a good program, or work together on a project with folks you can feel at home while you *live* Rotary. Rotary offers opportunities that you do not want to miss.

Of course it's nice to be a member of the most active and fastest growing service club in our area. You will be proud to tell your family, friends and neighbors you are a Perrysburg Rotarian. Most have already heard about the impact this club is making in our community.

Many members consider meeting new members and sharing business and professional information a big advantage. Weekly contacts make it easy to keep up with what's going on around you in the workaday world.

Most of us eat lunch somewhere every day. Why not consider spending your Friday lunch hour in comfortable surroundings with good food and like-minded people who enjoy the camaraderie of a Rotary meeting?

New members with school-age children are surprised to learn about all the wonderful youth programs Rotary offers their children. Especially interesting are the inbound student exchanges where a member family can sign up to host a young person from another land. Alternatively, a family can send their child abroad as an outbound student for a school year or for four weeks in the summer while accepting a child from that overseas home.

Joining an active club involved with several ongoing projects gives you a choice of work to fit your interests. Everyone finds his/her niche. Some members work on all projects while others are more selective.

Becoming part of an active and growing club means it's easier to get things done. There is strength in numbers and Perrysburg Rotary has proven this adage again and again. Work is made much easier with many hands. Also, new members feel more confident in doing new things when many veterans surround them.

Joining a Rotary club increases the confidence of some members who haven't had public speaking experience or background in organizing the committee work needed to stage an event or a project. Leadership experience is gained by serving on the Board of Directors or by becoming a club officer.

Rotarians are encouraged to make up missed meetings at other Rotary Clubs which allows you to meet leaders in other communities. You may find they do things a little differently. You will be able to bring these new ideas back to our club to improve its operation.

Finally, there is the work done by our District and Rotary International. You can easily become a part of helping the Rotary Foundation by donating \$1,000 over a 10 year period to become a Paul Harris Fellow, or by working at the district level on its many projects. You can "dive in" as deep as your time, finances and interests permit.

What you must do as a Perrysburg Rotarian

As in most clubs, you should attend the meetings, but you must pay your dues. This is the same for Rotary; however, in our club we are bound by the International Manual of Procedure that requires a minimum of 60 percent attendance at club meetings. In addition, the Club Board of Directors reviews all members who have missed four consecutive meetings. The Board then has the power to revoke their membership. As for the dues, here is the setup:

New members pay \$45.00 as an initiation fee that goes to Rotary International. Our annual dues are \$725.00 per year that covers weekly meals and dues. You will be credited on your annual statement for \$10.00 for each makeup that you turn in. The annual statement is mailed out in December of each year and payment is due by January 31. After January 31, there is a \$25.00 late payment penalty. Payments not received by the 10th of February subject the member to termination. The Rotary Club of Perrysburg supports the Rotary Foundation and to that end, we ask that you make an initial contribution of \$50.00 or \$100.00 at the time of initiation towards becoming a Paul Harris Fellow. The Perrysburg Rotary Service Foundation will match your contribution.

Included in your dues are Fellowships, Charter Night and the Christmas Party.

Another responsibility of club members is to assist the Program Chairperson to obtain programs for the weekly luncheon. All that is required is that the programs be interesting. Our club has an unwritten policy saying political speeches during campaigns are not encouraged at our meetings.

Members are encouraged to volunteer for committee work. As a club we do many things, from holding the annual Auction and Harrison Rally Days to collecting bicycles and Strive. For all of our events we need volunteer members. This is the best way to get to know our fellow Rotarians up close and personal.

Members are also needed to chair these committees. What better way to learn leadership skills than to head up the Auction, Harrison Rally Days or Strive. You quickly learn the various interests of fellow Rotarians when you pass around a sign up sheet hoping for enough volunteers to do the project.

Finally, members are asked to consider giving to the Rotary Foundation. This is called "becoming a Paul Harris Fellow." To achieve a PHF you need to contribute \$1,000 in a lump sum, or \$100 or more per year over a 10-year period (a Sustaining Membership). After three years of investing your PHF contribution, Rotary International then divides it up and sends 50 per cent back to our District (this amount is called "District Designated Funds" and is used for district projects) and 50 per cent is used by RI for its humanitarian projects worldwide. Considering that your PHF money has been dispersed after three years, you are asked to give at least \$100 a year, every year, to the Foundation to continually replenish your original PHF.

Then, for every \$1,000 you give over time, you will receive another Paul Harris Fellowship. (Please note: as you earn PHFs, you may "pass them on" by designating spouses, children, other relatives, or friends, as Paul Harris Fellows).

After you fund your second PHF, and from then on, you will be recognized by the term, "multiple PHF", and that is quite an honor in Rotary.

What Perrysburg Rotary Does

To relate what our club does takes three pages in this Handbook. When one sits down and compiles a list, it is surprising how much we accomplish.

Perrysburg Rotary operates on three levels: the International, the District and the Club level.

We support Rotary International by giving to its Foundation. Our club has its own Foundation so one must not confuse these. We give to The Rotary Foundation through our Paul Harris Fellowship contributions. Currently we have 165 Fellows. Our goal is to have every member donate \$100.00 per year to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.

Also, by our club's gift of \$20,000, we are supporting Rotary International's current Polio Eradication Campaign (PEC) to completely rid the world of polio by 2005.

Some members have supported Rotary International by attending its International Conventions over the years.

We support our District 6600 by attending its Conferences and Assemblies each year. These meetings mirror what the International Organization does. It has a Convention, we have a Conference; it has an Assembly each year in Anaheim, California, to train district governors, we have an Assembly to train our club officers.

We support the district's Youth Exchange Program by hosting foreign students here and sending ours overseas.

Our district has a unique project in Central America called "Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad" (M.E.S.A.). M.E.S.A. is a 501 (c) 3 corporation with a mission to provide assistance in the form of medical equipment, food, clothing, and other types of equipment to developing third world countries. Many Rotarians from our district attend an international forum in Central America (Uniendo America) in January of each year to bring back projects for our clubs and District.

Our Local Involvement:

1. Participates in Harrison Rally Days
2. Conducts an annual Auction
3. Publishes an annual Club Directory with photos of all members
4. Publishes a weekly newsletter called the ROTATOR
5. Maintains a club Website, www.perrysburgrotary.org, with many interesting links
6. Awards four \$1,000.00 scholarships to Perrysburg High School graduates each year
7. Hosts an annual Golf Outing
8. Donated 350 bicycles for Central America in a joint project with the City of Perrysburg
9. Donated a new van to Perrysburg High School
10. Organizes projects such as the landscaping the entrance to W.W. Knight Park, donated \$10,000 to Ft. Imagination and assisted in assembly of the playground
11. Sponsors a STRIVE program at Perrysburg High School. This new in-school club supports students who face more significant academic challenges than their college-bound peers.
12. Plans social events for our members such as trips to ball games, theatre performances , a Christmas Party and Charter Night.
13. Sponsors the annual Perrysburg High School Rotary Cup speech contest
14. Participates in the annual American Cancer Society's "Relay for Life"
15. Purchases bat bags for soccer and baseball and purchased bleachers for the fields
16. Participates in a blood drive challenge with the Rotary Club of Maumee
17. Currently raising funds for Rotary Park, a 13 acre complex of baseball, soccer and softball fields

Obtaining Programs for Weekly Meetings

Our club meets Fridays at the
Carranor Club from 11:30 a.m.-1:00p.m.

Whenever Rotarians go to district or international conventions they always seem to sign up for some type of seminar about club meetings and what it takes to achieve good attendance week after week.

One idea that is always mentioned as the key way to get Rotarians to attend meetings is to have INTERESTING PROGRAMS. As an extreme example, some lucky clubs have astronauts, congress people, a governor, or even a US President for a program. When these speakers show up, it's standing room only!

As a new member one of your first tasks may be assisting the program chairperson in securing programs. For some members this duty is frightening; others simply search out a speaker within their own profession, and voila', an interesting talk is given on their behalf.

You may be asked to be a program yourself by telling the club who you are, what you do, where you come from, your education, family, hobbies, etc.

Rotarians want to learn something at a meeting. The more they can learn, the better. Some topics are stronger than others for promoting learning. The most important point is to try to get the best program you can.

It's always a nice surprise when a program chairperson takes the club to his or her workplace for a tour, a short meeting, and perhaps even lunch. This hasn't happened often in our club, but this is how Rotary International started!

Club Service as an Officer or Director

As a prospective or new member, one of the rewards after joining is to be deeply involved in a club that is known for doing good. You can just be a member of Perrysburg Rotary and attend its meetings for an hour a week, or you can get involved by volunteering more of your time to learn about Rotary and in doing so, take on added responsibility.

Working on a committee is one way, being its chairperson is a better way to be responsibly involved in Rotary. The Rotary Club of Perrysburg has a Secretary/Treasurer and a Sergeant at Arms that are both five-year terms. Serving as a Director on the Board is an important job because you will be able to vote on the future of our club.

It should be noted here, however, that a Director's job leads to being President of the club in eight years. Our directors "go through the chairs," a system that is common to many organizations.

When you are elected to the Board, you begin as an International Service Director. The following year you move up to Vocational Service Director; a year later you will be the Community Service Director and then Club Service Director. Finally you begin earning the top four titles in our club. You will be the 2nd Vice President with program responsibilities. The next year, you are 1st vice president in charge of the auction. After a year you will become our President-Elect. In March, you prepare for "your year" by attending the President-Elect's Training Seminar (P.E.T.S.) in Columbus. You are ready for the Presidency on July 1st. You then serve one more year on the Board as immediate past president.

This club has been fortunate to have had great presidents. Some of our members do not aspire to this office; others do, but they know to be elected president they must first serve on the Board for eight years. After these many years of leadership, these members will be qualified for the highest job.

Service at the District Level

Presently, there are 530 Rotary Districts in the world and we are part of Zone 28, District 6600. District 6600 is comprised of 66 clubs with 4,300 members throughout northwest Ohio. In fact, this district is one of the largest in Rotary International in the number of members. The district's top official is the governor. There are 530 governors in all of Rotary. "How are they chosen?". Individuals are proposed by any of the 66 clubs. The district selection committee is made up of 5 immediate past presidents and 3 Past District Governors from the 66 clubs. Candidates are chosen four years before a governor takes over on July 1st. They are called DGND (District Governor Nominee Designate), DGN (District Governor Nominee), DGE (District Governor Elect), and then just plain old DG (District Governor). To serve as a district governor, you must be nominated by your club, selected by the selection committee, and attend the district governor training Assembly in Anaheim, California. That's all! We are proud to have had John Kurfess (1995-1996) and Steve Day (2004-2005) serve as District Governor.

Of course it helps to be known at the district level, and the way you do this is to be active there. You will have abundant opportunities to work in the district. Every job you do will add to your experience with district Rotary issues, and this experience will add to your Rotary resume when it comes time for you to apply to be district governor.

The DG can't do everything himself or herself, so Rotarians volunteer for the position of Area Governor. There are 13 of these, and they coordinate all of the district business pertaining to their area of four, five, or six clubs.

Also there are many district committees you can volunteer to be on, such as Strive, Youth Exchange, M.E.S.A., Hunger, 4-Way Speech and Essay, GSE, etc.

In summary, a new member has a choice: to join Perrysburg Rotary and become a loyal active member like most fellow Rotarians, or, for the more ambitious members who want to work on larger issues, they may participate at the district level of Rotary. One area Rotarian, Dr. Gary Romp of the Sandusky club, has distinguished himself by working his way up to the International Board of Directors. The President of Rotary International is selected by this Board.

Welcome to the Rotary world. It is huge and full of opportunities.

Proposing a New Member

The strength of every club is membership. It is a fact that every club will lose 10% of its membership each year through attrition. This means that our club must bring in 10 new members each year to remain the same size. The goal of our club is to realize a net growth of 8% per year, or a plus 8 members.

How do I propose a new member?

Determine individuals that you feel would be a good Rotarian

Bring them to a meeting (the club pays for the 1st time)

Obtain a Proposal Card from the Sergeant at Arms

Complete the Proposal Card and give it to the Club Secretary

The Club Secretary notifies the Classification Committee for approval

The person is accepted by the Board at its regular meeting (2nd Wednesday of each month)

The proposed member meets with the Information Committee and is invited to join.

If the new member accepts the invitation, she/he is inducted at a regular meeting

Please do not notify a prospective member of your proposal as Rotary is by invitation only!

4 Avenues of Service

Rotary has developed four basic approaches for the expression of the *Object of Rotary*. These are known as “Avenues of Service” and they are:

Club Service,

meaning service to and within Perrysburg Rotary; promoting and strengthening the club through attendance and fellowship; building and retaining membership; providing interesting programs; maintaining an active public relations presence in the community.

Vocational Service,

meaning service in and through one’s business or profession; helping people find useful work by sponsoring career development programs; increasing employment opportunities in the community; acknowledging those who achieve excellence and uphold high ethical standards in their business and professional life.

Community Service,

meaning service to the Perrysburg community; encouraging members to undertake projects, individually and collectively, that will improve the quality of life for those who live within the Perrysburg community.

International Service,

meaning service in the development and maintenance of friendly and harmonious international relations in our troubled world; promoting understanding of international relations and intelligent goodwill toward all nations as an essential ingredient for world peace.

These avenues are exemplified in the activities of all Rotary clubs and all involved Rotarians.

Foundation

You will often hear the term “Foundation”. This is very confusing since there are two totally separate entities, The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International and The Perrysburg Rotary Service Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International (TRF) is the charitable arm of Rotary providing funding for humanity and peace throughout the world. The TRF sponsors grants for hunger and humanity, group study exchanges, polio eradication, studies for peace and understanding, and scholarships. All Rotarians are encouraged to donate \$100.00 per year to the annual fund.

The Perrysburg Rotary Service Foundation (PRSF) is the charitable arm of the Rotary Club of Perrysburg. There are nine trustees of the PRSF, seven of whom are elected to 3 year terms by the club membership plus the immediate two past presidents. The PRSF provides grants for both local and international projects. The PRSF receives its funding from weekly fines and raffles along with proceeds from the auction and other fundraisers. The PRSF has a long term project in conjunction with the City of Perrysburg to construct a park. This is a 10 year commitment until completion.

The 4-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 100 languages and published in thousands of ways. It asks the following four questions:

Of the things we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

“We can make you a member of the Rotary Club of Perrysburg, but only you can become a Rotarian.”

ROTARY MILESTONES

- 1905 First Rotary club organized in Chicago, Illinois, USA
- 1908 Second club formed in San Francisco, California, USA
- 1910 First Rotary convention held in Chicago
- 1912 The Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, becomes the first club outside the United States to be officially chartered. (The club was formed in 1910.)
- 1917 Endowment fund, forerunner of The Rotary Foundation
- 1932 Established 4-Way Test formulated by Chicago Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor
- 1945 Forty-nine Rotarians help draft United Nations Charter in San Francisco
- 1947 Rotary founder Paul Harris dies; first 18 Rotary Foundation scholarships granted
- 1962 First Interact club formed in Melbourne, Florida, USA
- 1965 Rotary Foundation launches Matching Grants and Group Study Exchange programs
- 1978 RI's largest convention, with 39,834 registrants, held in Tokyo
- 1985 Rotary announces PolioPlus program to immunize all the children of the world against polio
- 1989 Council on Legislation opens Rotary membership to women worldwide; Rotary clubs chartered in Budapest, Hungary, and Warsaw, Poland, for the first time in almost 50 years.
- 1990 Rotary Club of Moscow chartered first club in former Soviet Union
- 1990-91 Preserve Planet Earth program inspires some 2,000 Rotary-sponsored environmental projects
- 1994 Western Hemisphere declared polio-free
- 1999 Rotary Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution established
- 2000 Western Pacific declared polio-free
- 2001 30,000th Rotary club chartered
- 2002 Europe declared polio-free; first class of 70 Rotary Peace Scholars begin study