



INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE ROTARIANS

Rotary International is one of the world's largest service organizations, with some 29,500 clubs in more than 160 countries. Rotary clubs worldwide invite a limited number of men and women to become members. These prospective members represent various businesses and professional activities in their communities. As a progressive-minded business or professional person, you will see that belonging to a Rotary club, where outstanding representatives of the different vocations in your community come together, has its benefits.

To be invited, you must be:

- A leading representative of your business or professional activity
- Willing to help and participate in projects that enhance your community
- Willing to work on projects that help people in developing countries and promote international understanding and goodwill

Rotary clubs provide:

- Friendships with other managerial and professional leaders in your community
- Prestige of membership in a worldwide organization
- Ongoing practical education
- A networking of people who can help you become more successful

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FACTS

A Brief History

February 23, 1905. On this particular day, a Chicago lawyer, Paul P. Harris, called three friends to a meeting. What he had in mind was a club that would kindle fellowship among members of the business community. It was an idea that grew from his desire to find within the large city the kind of friendly spirit that he knew in the villages where he had grown up.

The four businessmen didn't decide then and there to call themselves a Rotary club, but their get-together was, in fact, the first meeting of the world's first Rotary club. As they continued to meet, adding others to the group, they rotated their meetings among the members' places of business, hence the name. Soon after the club name was agreed upon, one of the new members suggested a wagon wheel design as the club emblem. It was the precursor of the familiar cogwheel emblem now worn by Rotarians around the world. By the end of 1905, the club had 30 members.

The second Rotary club was formed in 1908 half a continent away from Chicago in San Francisco, California. It was a much shorter leap across San Francisco Bay to Oakland, California, where the third club was formed. Others followed in Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California, and New York City, New York. Rotary became international in 1910 when a club was formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. By 1921 the organization was represented on every continent, and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

The Mission of Rotary

The main objective of Rotary is service in the community, in the workplace, and throughout the world. Rotarians build goodwill and peace, provide humanitarian service, and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations. The Rotary has two mottos: "Service Above Self" and "He Profits Most Who Serves Best."

Membership in Rotary

Rotarians are professional men and women who work as volunteers to improve the quality of life in their home and world community. Club membership represents a cross-section of local business and professional leaders. The world's Rotary clubs meet weekly and are non-political, non-religious and open to all cultures, races, and creeds.

- There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians working in some 29,600 Rotary clubs in 163 countries and 35 geographical regions worldwide.
- First admitted in 1987, women are the fastest-growing segment of Rotary's membership. There are nearly 2,000 women club presidents and women are rapidly assuming regional leadership roles.

Service Today

- Rotarians initiate community projects that address many of today's most critical issues, such as violence, drug abuse, youth, AIDS, hunger, the environment, and illiteracy. Rotary clubs are autonomous and determine service projects based on local needs.
- Rotarians work with and for youth to address challenges facing young people today. Through participation in Rotary-sponsored Interact clubs (for secondary school students), Rotaract clubs (for young adults), and Rotary Youth Leadership awards, young people worldwide learn leadership skills and the importance of community service.
- The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International provides an opportunity for Rotarians to work for international understanding and peace. Through their Foundation, Rotarians sponsor international educational and humanitarian programs.
 - PolioPlus is Rotary's commitment to eradicating polio by the year 2005. Through the efforts of Rotary and its partners in the fight against polio, more than two billion children worldwide have been immunized since 1985. In 1996, 154 nations reported no cases of polio, up from 85 when PolioPlus began. By the year 2005 Rotarian contributions will reach a half billion US dollars to eradicate the crippling disease. Of equal significance is the huge volunteer army mobilized by Rotary International for social mobilization, vaccine transport and immunization activities.
 - Rotary's international network helps link people in need with Rotarians in other countries that can provide resources. The Foundation's humanitarian programs provide health care and supplies, clean water, food, job training, and education--particularly in the developing world.
 - The Rotary Foundation's educational programs include Ambassadorial Scholarships, the world's largest privately-funded source of international scholarships. Nearly 1,300 scholarships are awarded annually for study in another land. Grants are also awarded for university teachers to serve in developing countries and for exchanges of professionals.



**THE 4-WAY TEST
OF THE THINGS WE
THINK, SAY OR DO:**

- 1. IS IT THE TRUTH?**
- 2. IS IT FAIR TO ALL CONCERNED?**
- 3. WILL IT BUILD GOODWILL AND BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- 4. WILL IT BE BENEFICIAL TO ALL CONCERNED?**

Expectations of Members of the Oxford Rotary Club

Rotarians in the Rotary Club of Oxford are expected to attend meetings regularly, as are all Rotarians throughout the world. Should a Rotarian be out of the area, the member has the opportunity and responsibility to make up missed meetings within a two-week period. Within the local area, the following is a list clubs, the day and hour, and the location of meetings: [Please check the web for other district and Rotary International locations. See the paragraph below.]

* Amory	Thursday Noon	River Birch Golf Club	Hwy 278 West
* Baldwyn	Thursday Noon	Country Inn	Bethany Road
* Batesville	Tuesday Noon	Panola County Country Club	Westmoreland St.
* Booneville	Tuesday Noon	Northeast Miss. Community College	Cunningham Blvd.
* Bruce	Wednesday Noon	First Baptist Church	223 E. Johnson Avenue
* Calhoun City	Thursday Noon	Fire Station	201 Russell Avenue
* Charleston	Wednesday Noon	Rotary Hut	
* Clarksdale	Tuesday Noon	Western Sizzlin'	707 S. State St.
* Como	Wednesday Noon	Como United Methodist Church	
* Fulton	Monday Noon	Itawamba Community College	602 W. Hill Street
* Grenada	Monday Noon	Holiday Inn	1796 Sunset Drive
* Holly Springs	Wednesday Noon	Christophers Personal Care Home	885 Hwy 178 E
* Memphis	Tuesday Noon	Cook Convention Center	225 N Main Street
* Memphis-Central	Friday 11:45	Chickasaw Country Club	3395 Galloway Ave
* Memphis-East	Wednesday Noon	Racquet Club	5111 Sanderlin Avenue
* New Albany	Friday Noon	Oaks Country Club	Hwy 15 S
* Pontotoc	Tuesday Noon	Fairway Restaurant	217 Highway 15 N
* Sardis	Thursday Noon	United Methodist Church	237 Main Street
* Tupelo	Monday Noon	Ramada Convention Center	854 N. Glouster Street
* Water Valley	Tuesday Noon	Yalobusha Country Club	Hwy 7 South

There are 41 clubs in the Rotary District to which the Rotary Club of Oxford belongs, located in Shelby County and north of Highway 80. To find out where the other clubs are located, check out the District 6800 Web Page <www.watervalley.net/users/rotary6800/> to see when they meet. To find out where clubs in other districts meet, check at the Rotary International Web Page <www.rotary.org> Making up in places throughout the world provides instant fellowship and contacts with local members of Rotary. It is a great way to enhance your vacation and business travels elsewhere. Take your spouse along as well—he or she will certainly enjoy it, too!

To become a member of the Rotary Club of Oxford, the new member must pay an installation fee of \$80.00. Additionally, members pay \$144.00 a quarter, which covers the cost of dues and meals. Part of the dues goes to receiving *The Rotarian*, the monthly journal of Rotary International.

Some clubs operate local funding in other ways, such as “spinning a wheel” for absences or other reasons. A few have special assessments to meet obligations of supporting the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Club of Oxford does not. One of the reasons that this is not utilized is that about half of the membership are associated with the University, and on day trips the member is not reimbursed for meals, which, in addition to the included meal costs, makes such an approach excessive.

Additionally, members of the Rotary Club of Oxford are expected to become Rotary Foundation Sustaining Members. This is an annual tax-deductible contribution of \$100. It can be paid either on a quarterly or annual basis. These funds are essential to providing assistance to accomplish the goals of the Foundation. Opportunities to become a benefactor or major contributor to the Rotary Foundation are also available to all members.

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF OXFORD

The Rotary Club of Oxford has the normal set of officers to conduct the business of the club—President, Vice-President/President Elect, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Vice-President is responsible for the weekly programs. Members of the Rotary Club of Oxford are assigned to a service committee. These committees are classified into four categories, each under a Club Director. These are as follows:



Club Service deals with all club service activities. The committees in this area deal with attendance, the weekly bulletin, fellowship, membership, membership development, public relations, member classification, and Rotary information.



Vocational Service deals with devising and carrying into effect plans to guide and assist members in discharging responsibilities in vocational relationships and improving the general standards of practice in their respective vocations



Community Service deals with devising and carrying into effects plans which will guide and assist members in discharging their responsibilities to the community. These include such areas as human development, community development, and environmental protection.



International Service deals with assisting members in carrying into effect plans that will guide and assist members in carrying out their responsibilities in matters relating to serving people throughout the world.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF OXFORD

[Excerpts and assistance from *Paving the Way: A History of the Oxford Rotary Club, 1924-1984* by PDG Franklin Moak, who became a member of the club in 1960]

The Rotary Club of Oxford was chartered on March 12, 1924. The week prior to the official date the *Oxford Eagle* carried as its front-page headline “Rotarians Start Move to Pave.” [Thus the title of Frank’s book.] It was proposed that the square streets be concreted, with the city, county, and square property owners each pay a third of the costs.

In 1914 Memphis became the first club in what is now our district. Oxford came along ten years later as chartered club #1665. By that time Rotary was found on six of the seven continents. Seventeen Oxonians became Rotarians at charter time. They included a member of the university faculty, the school superintendent, several retailers, a couple of bankers, several medical personnel, a lawyer, a funeral director, a minister, and the newspaper editor.

Over the years the Club has encouraged and sponsored numerous projects. Some of the activities of the first five to ten years was the sponsorship of a “clean-up” committee and the support of a boy’s band. William Faulkner was not only an early speaker but the scoutmaster of the Boy Scout troop sponsored by the club. As time went on, many other activities and projects were accomplished by the development of scholarship funds, helping local farmers to buy Jersey cattle through a loan fund, encouragement of a bridge over the cut for the railroad tracks, health clinics for youth, and many others such projects. These first projects set the stage for the many that followed. The Oxford club has been thoroughly involved with the projects and activities of the District as well. Only three years after its founding, the club provided its first of several District Governor’s, Ray Ramey.

From its chartering, the club has involved faculty members and administrators from Ole Miss, which has sparked a continued closeness and bonding between the university and the community. Sharing of club leadership and membership between town and gown has been common throughout the history of the club.

Over the years the club has been blessed with numerous luncheon presentations by outstanding representatives of government, business, and the arts. Few clubs in communities the size of Oxford have had the opportunity to hear from, and be inspired by, so many present and future leaders; this continues through to the present day.

The Rotary Club of Oxford had provided great leadership within the community during the first seventy-five plus years of its existence. With the fervor of its growth to more than 150 members at present, representing so many areas of our community, there is no doubt that this is just the beginning of what will come in the future. The opportunities for the coming years are limitless!