

**Medford Rogue Rotary FAQ**

**Introduction to the World of Rotary International**

On February 23, 1905, Paul P. Harris, a Chicago attorney, founded the world’s first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois. His vision was to recapture the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth and incorporate it into a professional club. In fact, the name “Rotary” was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members.

Harris’ goal of bringing people together for service and fellowship was well received and widely successful. Rotary’s popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed; clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. By 1921, clubs had been formed on six continents and a year later; 1921 formally adopted Rotary International as the organization’s new name.

Rotary worked to meet the changing needs of society, with the dawn of the 21st century. Its service efforts address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk. The organization admitted women in 1989 and claims more than 90,000 women in its ranks today. Currently, 1.2 million Rotarians belong to over 30,000 Rotary clubs in 167 countries.

**Introduction to the Medford Rogue Rotary Club**

Chartered on April 1, 1977, our Rotary Club has been upholding the tenets of our founders. Our membership is comprised of a diverse group of men and women from business, industry, education, and other professional fields. We meet each week at the Inn at the Commons at noon on Wednesdays.

# Becoming a Member, Becoming a Rotarian

The former is a procedure, the latter is a way of life. Rotary is very forthright in its desire to have a strong, committed, participating membership.

To join Rogue Rotary Club, a current member must sponsor an aspiring new member. During the period of review by the Membership Committee, the Club membership shall be advised of the names of all prospective members and given the opportunity to provide informal comment on the prospective members. The proposed member attends an informational meeting with a member or the Membership Committee. At this meeting we make sure that we are a good fit for each other by introducing you to the concepts of Rotary and learning more about you. The board of directors approves/disapproves the proposal after receiving a recommendation from the Membership Committee.

By accepting the club’s doctrine, a Rotarian will:

* Participate in Rotary functions and give freely of his/her time and skills
* Embrace Rotary’s call for humanitarian service; and • Attempt to live by Rotary’s 4-Way Test

# The 4-Way Test

Rotary International has embraced a code of ethics called the 4-Way Test, which all Rotarians are expected to uphold.

When considering a course of action, a Rotarian should ask:

* Is I the truth?
* Is it fair to all concerned?
* Will it build goodwill and friendship?
* Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

# Financial Obligation

Member Dues:

When a new member is accepted into Medford Rogue Rotary, they must pay annual dues of $350.   If a new member joins mid-year their dues for the remainder of year ending June 30 will be prorated.

New Member Fee:

New members also pay a new member fee of $75 in addition to their first-year prorated dues.

Meeting Fees:

In addition, all members pay meeting fees.  Meeting fees are paid annually in the amount of $375.  Members may choose to pay their meeting fees in quarterly payments of $100 for each quarter.  New members joining during year pay for 50% of the remaining meetings of the year at $15 per meeting, or at $16 per meeting should they choose the quarterly payment plan.

In addition to the annual dues listed above, it is suggested that members contribute $100 per year to the Rotary International Foundation. After $1,000 has been donated, the member becomes a Paul Harris Fellow.

Members are recognized at club meetings by the Sergeants at Arms for notable achievements or events, or sometimes to provide some club levity, and are expected to contribute a voluntary “fine” to one of the many Rotary causes (such as World Community Service, Polio Plus, Kids Unlimited, Scholarships, etc.) through our local foundation. Annually, you make pick a comfort level for yourself which is provided to the Sergeants at Arms, but usually these contributions range from $100 per year to $1,000.

# Engagement Obligations

Attendance at weekly Rotary meetings and club activities is important to the organization’s success.

 A membership may be terminated if a member is not **engaged** in meetings or activities of the club.

Missed meetings can be easily made up. Make ups can be earned by attending any other Rotary club’s weekly meeting, participating in community service project or club activity, committee meetings or a fellowship event anywhere in the world. In the Medford area, members may make up missed meetings almost any day of the week at one of the 12 local clubs? Additionally, Rotary International has established a web-based Rotary clubs that allow club members to attend meetings online. Make-ups can be “banked” for up to three months to be used against any missed weekly meeting. The club goal is for our members to be active and engaged in the club and its activities; however, we realize that activity and engagement can be measured in many ways.

***Participating Obligations***

Becoming a Rotarian means participating. New members are expected to participate in the following ways:

# Special Projects Committee

New members are automatically placed on the Community Projects Committee. This committee is responsible for conducting a number of community projects during the year. The projects must have a zero budget and must be accomplished by signing up and utilizing Rotary club members.

# Social obligations

Rotarians like to have fun and numerous social events are offered throughout the year. Members may pick and choose which events they want to attend. Of course, because everyone’s schedules are full; it is impossible to make all the events; however, you will be expected to participate in those if you can.

# Red Badge Obligations

All new members start their Rotary members as a red-badge member. To earn a blue-badge, the new member must complete a number of activities, including having their roster signed by 10 Rogue Rotarians at their place of business, and submit he completed check-off-list to the club Secretary. New members usually earn their blue-badge in approximately six months after joining.