**Los Banos Rotary Club**

**New Member Orientation/Expectations**

Thank you for your interest in joining the Los Banos Rotary Club. We Los Banos Rotarians would like to share our vision of the club and our expectations for members.

**Who We Are**

1. We are a service club, and we believe in and follow the International Rotary Motto: **Service above Self.**
2. Our primary goal is to serve our community and try to make it better for all residents.
3. Another goal is to contribute to District and International service projects
4. A third goal is to provide opportunities for all members interconnect with each other and create a sense of fellowship.

**What We Do in Service**

Among the many local projects and activities we’ve funded over the years are these:

* Provide scholarships for Los Banos and Pacheco High graduating seniors
* Support
  + Local food banks and a weekly project of distributing bags of food for students in need at Henry Miller School (Feed the Need)
  + Los Banos Boy Scout Troup 85
  + The American Cancer Society
  + The Christmas Angel Tree (providing Christmas gifts for children in need)
  + The local library, helping with literacy, children’s projects, etc.

The club also helps in Rotary District and International Projects including

* Purchasing solar water purification systems for people in Africa
* Building playgrounds in Mexico
* Supporting Rotary International’s goal of eradicating polio worldwide.

**Four-Way Test**

Rotary members agree to act in accordance with Rotary International’s Four-Way Test:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

**What We Expect of Our Members**

1. Attendance at meetings: We expect members to attend all meetings and hope that they do, but we realize there are many obligations that members have (to work, to family, etc.) that prevent attending all meetings.
2. **Required Volunteer Time**: During the year, the club sponsors several key fundraisings events, which we **require all members to work**. Some examples of past events over the years include our Crab Feed, Pancake Breakfasts, Empty Bowls Dinner, and Fireworks Booths. Any active member who is not able to work at these events is required to pay a substitute, either someone the member finds or the club finds.
3. Participation in one or more of traditional Rotary avenues of service, including club, community, international, vocational, and youth.
4. Ideas and Suggestions: The club is always looking for new ways to help the community and encourages all members to provide suggestions.

**How a Person Becomes a Member of the Los Banos Rotary Club**

1. A current member invites a prospective member to come to three Rotary meetings as a guest. If the guest has a meal, the current member pays the cost of the prospective member’s meal.
2. The current member becomes the sponsor of the prospective member by submitting a written form the club’s executive board.\* Upon the board’s approval, the club’s membership chair and the sponsor meet with the prospective member to explain the purpose of Rotary and the expectations of a club member.

\*The current executive board consists of the president, immediate past president, treasurer, secretary, sergeant at arms, membership committee chair, and communications committee chair.

1. The club secretary sends an email to all members of the club notifying them that the prospective member has been proposed and approved by the board.
2. Approximately seven days later, the club installs the prospective member as an active member.

**Financial Commitment**

1. All members of the club are obligated to pay annual dues of $150, in two $75 semiannual payments, billed on January 1 and July 1 of each year. The club is required to pay Rotary International and the Rotary District dues for each member, and the dues paid to the club covers those costs.
2. New members are required to pay a one-time administration fee of $40, that covers the cost of purchasing a member badge and other initial fees. That fee will be billed with the first semi-annual invoice.

*Note: We are also trying to arrange invoices more frequent then semi-annual if member requests this.*

1. During the year as part of the Rotary tradition, it’s customary to “fine” a member (for example, for a birthday) or to ask a member to provide a “roast, toast, or boast” and then say how much she/he is willing to pay for that opportunity (like a self-imposed fine). These fines usually total for the year from $50 to $150. Often at the beginning of a year (in July or thereabouts) a member is asked how much they’d be willing to pay in fines for the year and the club president agrees not to exceed that. Note: Fines are not compulsory for our club.
2. When invoices are sent, they include dues and fines. The club expects members to pay their invoices in full within a month or so after receiving their invoice. Checks are made out to the Los Banos Rotary Club and are mailed to the club at P.O. Box 19, Los Banos, CA 93635.

**What Is Your Passion?**

What are some ways you and the club can utilize your passion to energize a Rotary project that helps others in the community and/or in the world? (It may be a new idea/project that no one else has thought of but could be wonderfully effective.)