



INFORMATION FOR POTENTIAL MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF SPRINGFIELD

CLUB INFORMATION

Club No. 2387 **District No.** 6080

Web Site Address

www.downtownrotaryspringfieldmo.org

Rotary International Web Site

www.rotary.org

District 6080 Web Site

www.rotary6080.org

Introduction

We are pleased you are interested in joining our Rotary club. The information contained within this handout is designed to introduce you to our Rotary club and our expectations of our members. Should you choose to move forward with your commitment to our Rotary club, the Membership Committee will work with you as you become a member, helping you integrate into our club, and feel welcome.

Rotary is a global organization of community volunteers. We have approximately 1.2 million Rotarians organized into over 35,000 clubs throughout more than 200 countries and geographical areas. Our club was chartered on June 1, 1919.

We are a mid-size club with approximately 150 members. We recognize it can be intimidating for new members. But we want you to know that all of us are truly glad you are interested in joining us and we want to get to know you. This information will help acquaint you with some of our activities and customs.

You have been introduced and will be sponsored by a current member of our club. Your sponsor will help you for your first several months.

All Rotarians throughout the world are joined together in a common belief in service to others. This belief is set out in several statements that are quoted on the following page.



Rotary Definition

“Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.”

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; and
- FOURTH** The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotary Motto

“Service Above Self”

Rotary Four-Way Test

We have encapsulated our belief and support of ethical behavior in the Rotary 4-Way Test:

“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?”

Rotary Organization

Rotary is organized through three tiers: clubs, districts, and international. Our club is the Rotary Club of Springfield, the original and one of five Rotary Clubs in Springfield, MO. The south-central section of Missouri makes up Rotary District 6080, one of 529 Districts throughout the world.

The primary work of Rotary occurs at the club level. The district and international levels exist to support the clubs, to give us consistency throughout the world, and to help the clubs work together to support the Object of Rotary.



Other Information about Rotary

To find out more information about Rotary International (“RI”) and The Rotary Foundation please visit www.rotary.org. Additional information about the district can be found at www.rotary6080.org.

Meetings

Meetings are held each Tuesday from noon to 1:00 p.m. at the Kentwood Hall, 700 E. St. Louis St., Springfield, MO. Meetings start with the opening invocation, the pledge, and the 4-Way Test, followed by club announcements, a time period to tell stories, celebrate successes, recognize each other, and raise money for the Rotary Club of Springfield’s scholarship fund and the Rotary Foundation (more on the Foundation later). Following this introduction portion of our meeting, we normally enjoy a speaker and/or a program. We end promptly at 1:00 p.m.

Members are welcome to sit at any table and encouraged to sit at different tables each week. For the first few weeks a new member’s sponsor likely will sit with his/her new member and introduce him/her to fellow Rotarians at the table.

From time to time it may be necessary to leave a meeting early. If that is required, it is courteous to apologize directly to the speaker before the meeting begins.

Meetings are for developing fellowship, camaraderie, and friends. While we recognize that one of the reasons for joining the Rotary Club of Springfield is to get to know people, we ask that members do not use their associations in Rotary for business networking or for personal business gain. We are joined together through our commitment to service, not by our interest in selling our product or service to our fellow members.

Programs

We are proud of our programs. The Program Committee arranges the programs. The committee is always looking for ideas for informative programs presented by skilled speakers. We do not allow commercial programs designed to promote a particular service or product. While we do not shy from controversial topics, we do strive to present balanced viewpoints.

Attendance

Regular attendance by membership is one of the factors that make our club successful. We realize that our membership is very busy with work and other civic and personal activities and understand that most members cannot attend every meeting. Regular attendance adds to the effectiveness of our club as an organization and allows for the camaraderie and public service for which we are known.

Rotarians are welcome at any meeting of any Rotary club any place in the world. Meetings can be “made up” by attending meetings of any other Rotary club before or after the meeting missed or anytime you wish to attend another club’s meeting. “Make-ups” can also be achieved by your attendance at various committee or board meetings or other Rotary events or activities. Many of our members have had 100% attendance for many years.

The Rotary International web site contains a locator to find clubs throughout the world if you are traveling out of the area. We encourage all members to visit other clubs from time to time for the purpose of developing more collegiality.



Once a member, your attendance will be recorded each week. If you make up at another club, they will note your attendance, or you can simply notify the Club Executive Secretary.

Committees of the Rotary Club of Springfield

Our work is carried out through about a dozen committees. We say about as we are continually creating new committees to support the work of our club. Each committee has a chair and is typically supervised by a board member. We ask that all members participate in at least one committee. Membership is by volunteering.

A new member will work with his/her sponsor to become acquainted with the committees and to assist you in joining a committee that interests you.

Social Functions

Our club has many social functions each year. The two most significant ones are:

- Holiday Party for Rotarians and their families (December – typically an evening)
- Fifth Tuesday Service and/or Social Events (four times each year – may be during a meeting or after work on the 5th Tuesday of a month)

All members are welcome to attend these functions. We especially encourage our new members to attend these events as they provide another way to get to know each other.



Guests

Members are welcome to invite guests to join them at weekly meetings. Each guest should be signed in at the check-in table and their lunch fee of \$14 paid to the Executive Secretary. Members will be asked to make a brief introduction of his/her guest(s).

Proposing New Members

We are always seeking new members who share our value of service. To sponsor a member, have the proposed member complete an application and return it to the Executive Secretary for review.

Proposed new members names are published in our weekly newsletter and must be approved by the Board of Directors before an invitation to join will be extended. This process takes four to six weeks from the time the documentation is submitted.

Foundation

Rotary International Foundation (often referred to as the “RI Foundation,” the “Rotary Foundation,” or the “Foundation”). The Rotary Foundation raises about \$75 million each year from members throughout the world. The funds are spent three years after they are raised on humanitarian projects. Over time you will grow to be familiar with the many good works of the Rotary Foundation. At this time it is sufficient for you to know that whenever we talk about an international project, it is usually Rotary Foundation money which supports the project.

Our most ambitious project has been a nearly 25 year effort to eradicate polio. Rotarians throughout the world have raised in excess of one-half billion dollars to purchase vaccine and have facilitated vaccinations such that the disease is nearly eliminated. The Wall Street Journal said in 2005 in an editorial that the Rotary Foundation is one of the most effective humanitarian foundations in the world and should receive a Nobel Peace Prize for its efforts.

Every Rotarian Every Year: While your contributions are personal and voluntary, we encourage all Rotarians who are able to do so to contribute at least \$50 per year to the Foundation or Club Service Fund. The Foundation is a US 501(c)(3) organization so contributions are tax deductible.

We recognize those who have contributed \$1,000 as Paul Harris Fellows. Paul Harris was the founder of Rotary. If you give \$100 per year, you will join the ranks of Paul Harris Fellows after ten years. Naturally, we hope you will be able to complete your fellowship sooner. If you are giving at the rate of \$100 per year you will be designated a “Sustaining Member” of the Foundation until you complete your fellowship.

From time to time there are matching funds available to help you reach this goal. Such matching funds will be announced from the podium and/or in our newsletter.

We also encourage bequests. Those who have informed us of a bequest in their will are designated as “Benefactors.”



Fines and Scholarship Dollars

At nearly every meeting our sergeant-at-arms will take time to raise some money for the club's scholarship fund. He/she may fine members for egregious behavior and/or may ask for funds for the scholarships that our club provides to local college students (typically one student each semester at Missouri State University, Drury University, and Evangel University, and two students at Ozarks Technical College).

Rotarians are fined in good nature for having done something that is newsworthy such as having a picture in the newspaper or something else that is high profile. Members may be fined if they fail to wear their Rotary pin to meetings. Fines are generally a few dollars. Occasionally, there will be large fines. Rest assured that large amounts are discussed and determined in advance or volunteered, with no surprises to our members.

Often members will be invited to share good news with the club and to offer a donation to celebrate the good news. All such donations are voluntary. Remember all fines and donations are contributions to help the club fund annual college scholarships.

The Rotarian

The Rotarian is the official publication of Rotary International. Members will receive it monthly. It contains news and articles of Rotary and RI activities around the world.

District Conference

Our district holds a conference each October. All District 6080 Rotarians are invited to attend the conference. We strongly encourage members to attend a District Conference, especially during the first few years of membership. At District Conference members will learn what all of our clubs are doing together to make the world a better place. It has been said that you will not begin to appreciate the power and good work of our movement until you have attended a District Conference. Details on the conference are available on the District 6080 website.

Annual Convention

Each year in June, the entire Rotary family gathers for the International Convention. Usually around 30,000 members from all over the world attend. In 2018 the International Convention was held in Hamburg, Germany, bringing together leading experts on water, polio, and social media. The 2020 convention was held in Hawaii.

Orientation Activities

All Rotarians wear badges at the meetings as a means of introduction. New members will have a red badge, which identifies him/her to our members as a new Rotarian.

We have a defined process consisting of several activities for each new member to accomplish prior to exchanging his/her red badge for a blue badge. These activities are intended to give a broad exposure to our club and to Rotary International and also give the club exposure to each new member. A member's sponsor will work with him/her to help complete these activities.

