**What is the difference between Active and Honorary and how do they impact our roster and dues to the District and RI?**

Someone classified as an **"Honorary" as their member type is not a Rotarian**-they pay no dues, have no voice and no vote, and can't hold an office in the club. Honorary members have no rights or privileges in any club, except to visit without being a Rotarian’s guest. Many clubs have been incorrectly assigning emeritus members as Honorary instead of R-85. Each club's board determines what it means to be R-85 for their club. The recommendation is that they have no attendance requirement, pay the minimal dues (to cover RI dues, District dues, and any annual club assessments), and "pay as you go" for meals and activities. Some club boards assess the same dues for R-85, Leave of Absence (LOA) and Associate membership (Young Professionals).

"Rotarians" are "Active" and pay dues, have voice and vote, and are the officers and committee chairs in the club.

**This is the info from the "Club Flexibility FAQ" on the rotary.org website:**

[What’s the difference between active and honorary members?](https://my.rotary.org/en/club-flexibility-faq)

Rotary International defines **active**members as those who meet the requirements for membership, pay RI dues, are eligible to vote on club and district matters, are eligible to hold a club officer position and count in the club’s membership numbers in Rotary’s database.

**Honorary**membership is used to recognize people who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service and embody Rotary ideals, or those considered friends of Rotary for their support of Rotary's causes. They are exempt from paying RI dues, have no vote in Rotary matters, are not eligible to hold any club office, and are not included in a club's membership numbers in Rotary’s database. Active members are called Rotarians, while honorary members are called honorary members.

Honorary membership should not be confused with Rotarians whose excused absence is approved by a club’s board. In order to count in a club’s membership numbers in Rotary’s database, one must be reported as an active, RI-dues paying member.

**This is from DACDB:**

**What is Rule of 85?**

Rule of 85 is one of two types of excused absences that exempts a member from having to meet the attendance requirements.  The other is Leave of Absence (LOA), and these are explained below from an excerpt from the 2022 RI Manual of procedure (MOP).  This is taken from Article 10 – Attendance.

Section 5 — Excused Absences. A member’s absence shall be excused if:

1. The board approves it for reasons, conditions, and circumstances it considers good and sufficient. Such excused absences shall not last longer than 12 months. However, if a leave is taken for medical reasons, follows the birth or adoption of a child, or takes place during foster care of a child, the board may extend it beyond the original 12 months. (LOA)
2. The sum of the member’s age and years of membership in one or more clubs is 85 years or more, the member has been a Rotarian for at least 20 years, the member has notified the club secretary in writing of a desire to be excused from attendance, and only these requirements are taken into consideration. (R-85).