

Rotary from the Point of View of the Franklin Breakfast Club 2019-2020

What is Rotary?

We are 1.2 million neighbors, friends, and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world.

Participation and Networking:

Fellowship is an important part of our Rotary club. Each member is encouraged to attend at least 50% of our weekly meetings and / or engage in an equivalent number of activities with the club or on behalf of Rotary. If you cannot attend the regular meetings, there are many opportunities to be engaged in service by attending another club, participating in club projects, participating in club social events, and attending online meetings. Rotarians find that they have become a member of a global family who will welcome them in any city or country in the world.

Service:

Our club has numerous opportunities for service each year. To list just a few, this year our members participated in Habitat for Humanity Builds, Distributing Dictionaries to 3rd Graders (one child at a time at 25 schools), 4H Speech contest judges, food distributions with One Generation Away, Food basket delivery (to Graceworks and Franklin PD-selected families), Wounded Warriors ride support, and Dickens of a Christmas bell-ringing for the Salvation Army. There are many, many more projects that we support every year by our presence, effort, and charity contributions, including our permanent local "Starfish" committee that assists residents in Williamson County with water delivery issues (wells and pumps), sewer needs (details available if you really want them), and home repairs. Our international "Starfish" group installs and supports clean water systems in schools, orphanages, and hospitals in Guatemala. Some Rotarians are involved in almost any and everything our club does, and others pick one or two select service opportunities to focus on. There is no mandate for participation in any particular project – you can select the ones that best fit your priorities, interests, and available time -- as long as you are engaged and helping.

Membership Application Process:

After we receive an application it is reviewed by the membership committee and then by the board. If it is approved at both levels your name will be read at two meetings asking the membership to see a board member if they would like to offer input on your application. If all goes well, we will notify you of acceptance after the second reading and schedule your induction.

Initiation:

There is a \$100 new member fee. The fee covers a \$25 gift to the Rotary Foundation ("Paul Harris Foundation") on your behalf, \$25 to Polio Plus (the Rotary project to eliminate Polio world-wide), a Rotary tee-shirt, and membership processing fees.

Dues:

Our dues are paid on a quarterly basis and are \$225 per quarter (\$230 if paid by credit card). The dues cover all club operating expenses, including our weekly breakfasts. That allows 100% of the funds we raise from our annual golf tournament to go to our charity projects. The dues for the first quarter will be prorated.

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Rotary Foundation:

The Rotary Foundation (also called “Paul Harris”) is the charitable funding arm of Rotary International. It is highly rated with a “4 Star” rating from Charity Navigator. We encourage our members who are financially able to contribute to our foundation. There is a special recognition and achievement in Rotary when a member contributes to the Foundation at various levels. The donors are recognized as “Paul Harris Fellows”. The contributions go toward the eradication of polio and many other U.S. and international needs. The funds contributed are tax deductible.

More about Service and our Foundation

Rotary is dedicated to six areas of focus to build international relationships, improve lives, and create a better world to support our peace efforts and end polio FOREVER.

See <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-causes> [rotary.org] for an overview of “promoting peace”, “fighting disease”, “providing clean water, sanitation, and hygiene”, “saving mothers and children”, “supporting education”, and growing local economies”.

See <https://www.endpolio.org/> [endpolio.org] for more about our mission to end polio. It is an amazing story.

Fund raising:

To support our projects, we have a fundraiser each year which is a golf tournament on Columbus Day. Each member is asked to participate by fundraising and volunteering at the tournament. Volunteering at the tournament is a great way to help the club and get to know the members. To reach our goals last year, we raised over \$1,300 per member.

We are available to answer any questions you might have and to provide additional information on any of the above if desired. Welcome to Rotary!

Kind regards,

Sharon Stewart Franklin Breakfast Rotary Membership & Retention Chair

Membership & Retention Committee:

Jonathan Langley, Co-Chair

Kelly Baker-Hefley

Brant Bosquet

David Butler

Lisa Carson

Paul Crombie

John Czirr

Deb Faulkner

Bryant Hall

Jonathan Langley

Dottie Northam

Casey Stephens