**This Is Rotary Script For \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (generic)**

**Slide 1**

Welcome to This Is Rotary. It is an honor to be with you and talk about how Rotary makes a difference in people’s lives around the world and right here at home. Let’s begin by having everyone do a brief 30 second introduction to include your name, vocation and for club members tell us what attracted you to Rotary and what’s kept you coming back and for our guests, please tell us what sparked your interest in Rotary. I am \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of the Rotary Club of [*Insert*]. (Brief intro of yourself)

**Slide 2**

Rotary is a membership organization. We are a global network of business and professional leaders who provide humanitarian service. Along with Rotaractors, there are 1.4 million of us in 35,000 clubs in over 200 countries and territories around the world.

A Rotarian is a person who:

Digs wells from which he or she will never drink.

Vaccinates children he or she may never meet.

Restores eyesight for those he or she will never see.

Builds housing he or she will never live in.

Educates children he or she will never know.

Plants trees he or she may never sit under.

A Rotarian finds real happiness by helping others. That is why our motto is Service Above Self.

**Slide 3**

Put simply, Rotary is where neighbors, friends, and problem solvers share ideas and take action to create lasting change. It can be a life-changing experience because of the extraordinary people you will meet. Rotarians are willing to be a mentor and role model for you and will help you build your business network.

**Slide 4**

Rotarians are people of action guided by a strong vision. Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities and in ourselves.

**Slide 5**

To answer the question what is Rotary? We are the most financially sound, largest, most powerful membership organization whose logo is recognized in more countries than any other logo in the world. Every minute of every day, we feed, we house, we vaccinate, educate, advocate, comfort and provide a variety of services. This is Rotary!

**Slide 6**

There is a great history in how Rotary got started. Paul Harris, an attorney in Chicago, gathered some friends in 1905 for fellowship and it grew from there. Meetings rotated from office to office which is how “Rotary” got its name. It is important to remember their first reason for being was fellowship…and frankly that is still a very important part of Rotary today.

**Slide 7**

A little bit more on Rotary’s history…The first national Rotary convention was held in Chicago in 1910. And, you can see how the Rotary logo has evolved over the years.

**Slide 8**

The Four Way Test is used by Rotarians world-wide as a moral code for personal and business relationships. It was developed by Herbert J. Taylor to save the Aluminum Products Distribution Company from bankruptcy and later adopted by Rotary. Rotarians (always known for their sense of humor) added a fifth question: is it fun? because it is important to us to have fun together no matter what we are doing. Turns out there is a song about the Four Way Test. I’d be happy to give it a try, but I think it best for all of us if we just skip that part.

**Slide 9**

Gordon R. McInally is our RI President for 2023-24. He is a member of the Rotary Club of South Queensferry, West Lothian, Scotland. Gordon has chosen *Create Hope in the World* as the RI theme for this year. “The goal is to restore hope - to help the world heal from destructive conflicts and, in turn, to help us achieve lasting change for ourselves. “

In addition, McInally said, Rotary members should offer hope to those affected by mental health challenges – a crisis exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Gordon believes that Rotary should be known as an organization that takes care of its members as well as the people it serves.

**Slide 10**

The Object of Rotary is four principles developed over the years to provide Rotarians with a strong, common purpose and direction. They serve as a foundation for our relationships with each other and the action we take in the world. The Object of Rotary comes to life through Five Avenues which are the branches of a deeply rooted membership organization, and they are: Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, International Service and Youth Service.

**Slide 11**

Here are the five avenues of service in action:

Club Service: A vibrant Rotary Club is characterized by strong leadership, fellowship and membership growth

Vocational Service: Putting our skills and expertise to work for Rotary

Community Service: Responding to the needs of our local communities

International Service: Improving the lives of people around the world.

Youth Service: Developing future Rotarians through leadership development programs

**Slide 12**

Our 7 Areas of Focus build international relationships, improve lives, create a better world, support peace and end polio forever. All critical humanitarian causes Rotarians have been working on for many years. They include peacebuilding and conflict prevention, disease prevention and treatment, water, sanitation and hygiene, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, community & economic development and the newest focus, supporting the environment.

**Slide 13 (Peace and Conflict Resolution)**

Today over 70 million people are displaced as a result of conflict, violence, persecution, and human rights violations. Half of them are children. Rotarians refuse to accept conflict as a way of life. Rotary encourages conversations to foster understanding within and across cultures. We train adults and young leaders to prevent and mediate conflict and help refugees who have fled dangerous areas.

**Slide 14 (Fighting Disease)**

Rotarians educate and equip communities to stop the spread of life-threatening diseases like polio, malaria, HIV/AIDS, Alzheimer’s, multiple sclerosis, diabetes, Ebola, and Covid 19. We improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in developing areas.

**Slide 15 (Water & Sanitation)**

Clean water, sanitation, and hygiene education are basic necessities for a healthy environment and a productive life. Rotary has been involved in water and sanitation projects from the Philippines to Tanzania, India and Guatemala. We don’t just build wells and walk away. We share our expertise with community leaders and educators to make sure our projects succeed long-term.

**Slide 16 (Mothers & Children)**

We expand access to quality care so mothers and children everywhere can have the same opportunities for a healthy future. An estimated 6 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate health care and poor sanitation – all of which can be prevented.

**Slide 17 (Education)**

More than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

**Slide 18 (Local Economies)**

Rotarians carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and create opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. Entrepreneurs use microloans to become street venders, rickshaw drivers, weavers and tailors.

**Slide 19 (Environment)**

Rotary has long supported activities that sustain the environment. Last year we added the environment as a 7th area of focus formalizing our long-time community efforts and giving Rotary members more ways to increase global impact and extend our reach. Additionally, Rotary made a formal pledge of $97 million to fund grants for sustainable, club-led projects in 2022.

**Slide 20**

Rotary is easy to understand. Just remember four, five, seven. The Four-Way Test (what we live by), The Five Avenues of Service (how we serve) and The Seven Areas of Focus (issues we address) all intended to improve the lives of people around the world and right here at home.

**Slide 21**

At the 1917 convention, outgoing RI President Arch Klumph proposed setting up an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world.” That one idea, and an initial contribution of $26.50 set in motion a powerful force that has transformed millions of lives around the globe. Arch Klumph planted a seed and thanks to his vision, staunch advocacy and the extraordinary generosity of Rotarians worldwide, the Rotary Foundation has become one of the world’s leading humanitarian foundations. And, The Rotary Foundation is so well run it has been awarded a 4-star rating (the highest possible) from Charity Navigator for 15 consecutive years.

**Slide 22**

The Rotary Foundation is best known for its work to end polio in the world. Polio Plus was launched in 1985 and has reached a 99.9% reduction in the number of polio cases world-wide. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation joined Rotary in 2000 in our commitment to end polio. Rotary has committed to raise $50 million per year, a figure that the Gates Foundation matches with $100 million each year. Other members of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative are WHO, UNICEF, the CDC and Gavi.

**Slide 23**

The Rotary Club of [*insert*] is one of 63 clubs in District 7360 that includes Central Pennsylvania as well as Western Maryland and the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Our 2023-24 District Governor is Herb Smith. Herb is a member of the Hagerstown Sunrise Rotary Club and is known as one of the members of the club that puts fun in everything he does. He lives by the moto “You can have a lot of fun while still helping the world.”

**Slide 24**  [*Insert your own pictures in slides 24-31 that shows you clubs Activities, events, fundraisers and non-profits that you work with*]