**Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club Orientation**

Wednesday, January 25th, 2023

**– Jim Ballard (Sponsor)**

**– Anita Dunbar (Sponsor)**

**Welcome Prospective Members**

* Introductions

**Brief Overview of the Club**

* Our Club is one of three clubs in town - every club is different and has its own personality
* Our Club began in 1983, approx. 90 members, meets every Wed. at 7:15 for one hour at Farmington C.C., great weekly speakers

**Guiding Principles of Rotary**

* Rotary is a service organization whose motto is “Service Above Self”
* **Four-Way Test** - ethical guide for Rotarians to use for personal and professional relationships
  + Is it the TRUTH?
  + Is it FAIR to all concerned?
  + Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
  + Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

**Service Opportunities**

**Emphasis is on areas of focus identified by Rotary International:**

1. Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
2. Disease prevention and treatment
3. Water and sanitation
4. Maternal and child health
5. Basic education and literacy
6. Economic and community development

**Local Service Projects**

**Hands-on volunteer projects:**

* Salvation Army (soup kitchen twice a monthly, bell ringing in Nov. & Dec.)
* Rotary Ramblin Rabbit 5K Run – Memorial Day weekend
  + 2019 – raised $32,000 – beneficiary was Abundant Life Ministries
  + 2022 – raised $17,000- beneficiary was All Blessing Flow
  + 2023 - New format! Stay tuned!
* Turkey Trot benefiting the UVA Children’s Medical Center
* Building Goodness Foundation- build day
* McIntire Park cleanup and picnic – Tri Club event in May
* Blue Ridge Area Food Bank- Roughly 4 volunteer days a year
* Day of Caring: Camp Albemarle Clean up Day in 2022
* Grace Church Farm Tour Grill Team – June
* New for 2023: High school debate scholarship, SPCA donations drive, coat drive

**International Service Projects**

* Student exchange program w/ an engineering school in Argentina and PVCC – mainly a cultural exchange
* Projects funded during past couple of years:
* Help fund a school library & lab in Haiti
* Provided famine relief for village in Tanzania
* Distributed anti-malarial mosquito nets in Venezuela
* Water & sanitation projects in Africa
* Fund Shelter Boxes – emergency supplies for disaster areas
* Trip to Guatemala in May ’09 to build a Habitat house
* Trip to Tibet in Aug. ’17 – cultural & service project
* Trip to Argentina in Oct. ’18 – cultural & service project

**Club Events**

* Social events held quarterly

**Public Relations**

* Oversee website and social media
* Various opportunities based on needs

**Foundations**

The Club supports two foundations:

* **Rotary Foundation** – endowment fund supporting the advancement of international understand, goodwill and peace by funding int’l humanitarian projects and Rotary scholarships (largest privately funded scholarship program). Last year, 1,200 scholars from 67 countries studied abroad. Discuss Polio Plus.
* **Blue Ridge Rotary Foundation** – started in 2002. Endowment fund used for needs identified by the Board. It also provides the opportunity to make a tax-deductible donation to the Club. Fund balance - $158,000. Goal is to give back 4% annually for identified needs.

**Membership Requirements**

* **Expectations for the first six months**:
* Maintain good attendance
* Volunteer for at least two activities during your first three months
* Attend at least one social event during your first three months
* Volunteer to help at a social function during first six months
* **Attendance requirements** - need to attend regularly to feel a part of the organization. Make perfect attendance your goal. Chance to make-up - there are over 33,000 clubs in more than 200 countries. Attending club social and volunteer events count as make-ups for missed meetings.

**Cost to belong to Blue Ridge Mountains Rotary Club**

* $50 fee to be paid with membership application
* Annual cost is approximately $1,300 to $1,500 (billed quarterly), which consists of Rotary dues, charitable assessment, Rotary Foundation contribution, Farmington meals, and an estimate of cost for any social events attended.
* In addition, members have the opportunity to contribute above-and-beyond to our annual fundraiser, the Ramblin Rabbit 5k, and, perhaps more importantly, contribute time and labor to the many service events we offer such as Salvation Army soup kitchens, bell ringing, park cleanups, etc.

**Explain Application Process**

* Once you decide to join the Club, complete the application form.
* Your name will be presented to the membership for two consecutive meetings. As a courtesy, we ask that you not attend those two meetings. An initiation date will be determined after this two-week period.

**Time for Questions**