

INTRODUCTION TO ROTARY

What is Rotary? 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.

History of Rotary - Founded by Paul Harris in Chicago in 1905, four business associates met for lunch at their respective business (rotating) locations (thus Rotary), to assist each other in their businesses. They subsequently engaged in planned service to their community.

Today - Rotary is still comprised of business and professional people, meeting on a regular basis at different locations, to provide worldwide community service. There are more than 35,000 clubs in 200+ countries and territories, with more than 1.2 million members!

The Rotary Motto:

“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

The Four 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?



The Bridgeport Club was founded on March 3, 1919 and chartered by Rotary International on May 1, 1919. Our club meets Tuesday's at 12:15 p.m. at The Holiday Inn on Main Street in Bridgeport, CT.

We are proud to have a membership that reflects ethnic, racial and gender diversity and is comprised of representatives from business, government and the nonprofit community.

Rotary is divided into geographical districts. We are in District 7980, which is comprised of 62 clubs from Greenwich to Stonington with approximately 2200 members and is administered by a District Governor.

Club Organization consists of a President, President-Elect, Vice President-Programs, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, Past President and Six Directors and Service Chairs.

THE FIVE AVENUES OF SERVICE

Club Service includes all of the functions that provide for a well run organization. Membership development, retention and classifications, fun and fellowship activities, attendance, public relations and recordkeeping all fall under this category. We also hold several fundraising activities throughout the year to provide us with the resources to complete our service projects.

Community Service includes any activity or project that benefits our local community. Rotarians read and serve as mentors in public schools, and assist area organizations including the Salvation Army, Connecticut Food Bank, The Mercy Learning Center and many community organizations.

International Service consists of projects throughout the world. We support water, health, education and agricultural projects in Costa Rica, India and other countries. Rotary has been a world leader in the effort to eradicate polio through the Polio Plus efforts of the Rotary Foundation.

Vocational Service enables us to promote career and business education to area students. We assist with Career Days, provide scholarships to local students and recognize teachers and students annually.

Youth Service is service directed to our community's young people. It includes several education initiatives, Read Aloud Days and our partnership with Wilbur Cross School.

ELIGIBILITY

If you are a business, government or nonprofit professional or retiree who lives or works in Bridgeport, or care about the City and its residents, you are eligible to apply for membership.

We invite you to join us for a meeting any Tuesday at 12:15 p.m. at the Holiday Inn at 1070 Main Street, Bridgeport. Meetings adjourn promptly at 1:30 p.m.

PARTICIPATION

Members are encouraged to average 50% attendance and/or engagement in club activities. This includes club, Board and committee meetings and various service projects. You may also complete “make-up” meetings by visiting other clubs in our area or during your travels, or even complete on-line make-ups. Rotarians are always welcome as guests at Rotary meetings throughout the world!

FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

Our one-time initiation fee is \$100.

Annual dues are \$220 (July through June) and are pro-rated for new members.

Weekly lunch meetings currently are \$19; \$8 is charged to “non-eaters” (subject to change).

All members are asked to support the Rotary Foundation and to participate in our various fundraising activities.

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

To encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions;
- the recognition of worthiness of all useful occupations;
- and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service

For more information please visit:

www.bridgeportrotary.com

www.rotary.org

www.rotary7980.org



“Service Above Self”

The Rotary Club of
Bridgeport

Established in 1919

An Introduction to a Life-
Changing Service Opportunity!