

Rotary Club
of
BRIDGEPORT
New Member Brochure

April 2009

INTRODUCTION TO ROTARY

1. **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.
2. **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 then turned to planned service to the community.
3. **Today** - Rotary is still business and professional people, meeting on a regular basis at different locations, to provide worldwide community service. There are more than 32,000 clubs in 168 countries and territories with a membership of approximately 1,200,000.
4. **Object of Rotary** - To encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise, and in particular, to encourage and foster:
 - (a) The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
 - (b) 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;
 - (c) The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life;
 - (d) The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service

5. **Mottos -**

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

HE PROFITS MOST WHO SERVES BEST

ACT WITH INTEGRITY, SERVE WITH LOVE, WORK FOR PEACE

MAKE DREAMS REAL (2008-09)

6. **Purpose -** To promote fellowship, service, philanthropy and international understanding.

7. **The Four Way Test -** Of the things we think, say or do:

(a) Is it the TRUTH?

(b) Is it FAIR to all concerned?

(c) Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

(d) Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

*8. FOR MORE ROTARY INFO VISIT

- www.rotary.org

Rotary International site

- www.rotary7980.org

District 7980 site

- www.bridgeportrotary.org

Bridgeport Club site

THE ROTARY CLUB OF BRIDGEPORT, CT

1. Rotary is divided into geographical districts. We are in District 7980, which is comprised of 62 clubs with approximately 2800 members and is administered by a District Governor.
2. The Bridgeport Club was founded in March 3, 1919 and chartered by Rotary International on May 1, 1919. This club meets Tuesday's at 12:15 p.m. at The Holiday Inn on Main Street in Bridgeport, CT.
3. **Club Organization consists of a** President, President-elect, Vice President-Programs, Vice President at Large, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Sergeant-at-Arms, Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Past President and Twelve Directors

A nominating committee consisting of the Past Presidents, meet in December to prepare a slate of officers. They are then voted upon by the general membership in December. Each year, four new directors are nominated and replace those retiring from the board in the spring. Terms run from July 1 through June 30. The directors' terms run for three years.

4. There are Four Avenues of Service:

CLUB SERVICE

Attendance	Inductions
Birthdays	Installations
Bylaws	Membership & Classification
Club Directory	Nutmeg weekly newsletter
District Awards	Paul Harris Award
Fellowship	Programs
Fund Raising	Public Relations
Greeter	Rotarian of the Year
Historian	Song
Holiday Party	

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Community Service Grants	Salvation Army Kettle
Habitat for Humanity	Scholarships
Housing Rehabilitation	Senior Housing
Interact	Youth Activities, RYLA
Literacy – Read-a-loud and Weekly Reader	Environmental Program

INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

Group Study Exchange	Matching Grants
International Youth	Polio Plus
International Rotary Foundation	World Community Service
Costa Rica project	India project
Gift of Life	

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

Career Information
Dictionary project
Four Way Test
Junior Achievement
Student of the Month

Rotaract
Scholarships for High School seniors
Scholarships for 8th graders
Teacher of the Year

5. **Eligibility**

a) Eligibility for membership in Rotary is for professional and businessmen and women who live and/or work in the greater Bridgeport area.

b) The classification system is designed to ensure a broad representation of the community professional and business interests.

c) Types of Classifications:

1. Active - Member who holds a specific classification

2. Honorary - A person who has distinguished themselves by meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals.

6. **Attendance** - Members are expected to give Rotary high priority and strive for 100% attendance. Rotary requires at least 50% attendance at weekly meetings, 50% of the attended meetings must be at the home club.. Members can make up a missed meeting at any Rotary Club worldwide and make up is allowed either two weeks before or after the missed home club meeting.

7. **Social Events** - Spouses participate in all social functions including the installation of officers in June, the Gold Raffle, the Annual Picnic, and other socials.

8. **Fund Raising** - The annual Gold(Green) Raffle and at the weekly meetings through Bill's Basket, the 50/50 Raffle, the annual picnic auction, fines and Happy Bucks. **All** monies raised go to charity.

9. **District Meetings** - The District Conference is held in May/June at a location selected by the District Governor. The District Assembly (an education forum) is held in the spring. Registration is announced by the Club President.

10. **Committees** - You will be asked to serve on one or more club committees. You will be asked to participate on all fund raising events.
11. **Meeting Rotarians - Be sure to attend** the weekly meetings. Make it a habit to sit **at** different table in order to meet new members. Use the Roster to learn and meet all members.
12. **Other Memberships** - In order to comply with the obligations of membership in a Rotary club, no Rotarian should be a member of another service club.
13. **SOUND-OFF** – This is your one opportunity (3-5 minute max.) to speak to the total Club about who you are and what is your classification and occupation.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

1. The Initiation Fee is \$100.
2. Annual dues are \$180 for July 1 through June 30. Dues are pro-rated by quarter for new members.
3. The weekly noon meals are currently \$15 as set by the restaurant and may be adjusted with adequate notice. Non-eaters are charged \$8.

PARTICIPATION

1. Participation in every fundraiser is expected through your manual and/or financial support. Our main fundraisers are the annual Gold(Green) Raffle and the weekly 50/50.
2. You will be asked to assist at the Sergeant of Arms table for two weeks. This will allow you to meet the members of the club.
3. You will be asked to give a brief autobiographical talk to the club during your first year as a member.
4. You are expected to be active on committees and at Rotary events.