MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

2006-2007

Rotary Club of Yellowknife

THIS IS ROTARY

What is Rotary?

Rotary is an organization of business and professional men and women united world wide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

Rotary Objectives

Rotary fosters the "ideal of service" through:

- Fellowship - developing acquaintances as an opportunity for service.
- High Ethical Standards - in our occupations with each occupation providing an opportunity to serve society.
- The Ideal of Service - in each Rotarian's personal, business and community life.
- The Advancement of International understanding, goodwill & peace.

A Brief History Of Rotary

Rotary's first day and the years that followed...

February 23, 1905. The airplane had yet to stay aloft more than a few minutes. The first motion picture theater had not yet opened. Norway and Sweden were peacefully terminating their union. On this particular day, a Chicago lawyer, Paul P. Harris, called three friends to a meeting. What he had in mind was a club that would kindle fellowship among members of the business community. It was an idea that grew from his desire to find within the large city the kind of friendly spirit that he knew in the villages where he had grown up.

The four businessmen didn't decide then and there to call themselves a Rotary club, but their get-together was, in fact, the first meeting of the world's first Rotary club. As they continued to meet, adding others to the group, they rotated their meetings among the members' places of business, hence the name. Soon after the club name was agreed upon, one of the new members suggested a wagon wheel design as the club emblem. It was the precursor of the familiar cogwheel emblem now worn by Rotarians around the world. By the end of 1905, the club had 30 members.

The second Rotary club was formed in 1908 half a continent away from Chicago in San Francisco, California. It was a much shorter leap across San Francisco Bay to Oakland, California, where the third club was formed. Others followed in Seattle, Washington, Los Angeles, California, and New York City, New York. Rotary became international in 1910 when a club was formed in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. By 1921 the organization was represented on every continent, and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

Membership & The Classification Principle

Rotarians are expected to be adults of good character and good business reputation who have sufficient discretionary authority to allow for time and financial commitment to the club.

The Classification Principle is a necessary concept to ensure each club represents a cross section of the professional and business community.

Membership is normally limited to one active member in each business or professional classification. This principle obliges each member to fulfill their Rotarian responsibilities, since while they occupy the position they limit others from this service opportunity.

Admittance to membership in the Yellowknife Rotary Club is limited to prospective members who have attended an introductory "Fireside" meeting. This meeting provides a detailed look at Rotary.

20 Answers to the Question: Why Join Rotary?

Friendship: In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: the need for friendship and fellowship. It is one of two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.

Business Development: Rotary's beginning is business development. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross section of every business community. Its members come from all walks of life

Personal Growth and Development: Membership in Rotary continues one's growth and education in human relations and personal development.

Leadership Development: Rotary is an organization of leaders and successful people. Serving in Rotary positions is like a college education. Leadership: - learning how to motivate, influence, and lead leaders.

Citizenship in the Community: Membership in a Rotary club makes one a better community citizen. The average Rotary club consists of the most active citizens of any community.

Continuing Education: Each week at Rotary there is a program designed to keep one informed about what is going on in the community, nation, and world. Each meeting provides an opportunity to listen to different speakers and a variety of timely topics.

Fun: Rotary is fun, a lot of fun. Each meeting is fun. The club projects are fun. Social activities are fun. The service is fun.

Public Speaking Skills: Many individuals who joined Rotary were afraid to speak in public. Rotary develops confidence and skill in public communication and the opportunity to practice and perfect these skills.

Citizenship in the World: Every Rotarian wears a pin that says "Rotary International." There are few places on the globe that do not have a Rotary club. Every Rotarian is welcome – even encouraged – to attend any of the 29,000 clubs in 194 nations and geographical regions. This means instant friends in both one's own community and in the world community.

Assistance when Traveling: Because there are Rotary clubs everywhere, many a Rotarian in need of a doctor, lawyer, hotel, dentist, advice, etc., while traveling has found assistance through Rotary.

Entertainment: Every Rotary club and district has parties and activities that provide diversion in one's business life. Rotary holds conferences, conventions, assemblies, and institutes that provide entertainment in addition to Rotary information, education, and service.

The Development of Social Skills: Every week and at various events and functions, Rotary develops one's personality, social skills and people skills. Rotary is for people who like people.

Family Programs: Rotary provides one of the world's largest youth exchange programs; high school and college clubs for future Rotarians; opportunities for spouse involvement; and a host of activities designed to help family members in growth and the development of family values.

Vocational Skills: Every Rotarian is expected to take part in the growth and development of his or her own profession or vocation; to serve on committees and to teach youth about one's job or vocation. Rotary helps to make one a better doctor, lawyer, teacher, etc.

The Development of Ethics: Rotarians practice a 4-Way Test that governs one's ethical standards. Rotarians are expected to be ethical in business and personal relationships.

Cultural Awareness: Around the world, practically every religion, country, culture, race, creed, political persuasion, language, color, and ethnic identity is found in Rotary. It is a cross section of the world's most prominent citizens from every background. Rotarians become aware of their cultures and learn to love and work with people everywhere. They become better citizens of their countries in the process.

Prestige: Rotary members are prominent people: leaders of business, the professions, art, government, sports, military, religion, and all disciplines. Rotary is the oldest and most prestigious service club in the world. Its ranks include executives, managers, professionals – people who make decisions and influence policy.

Nice People: Rotarians above all are nice people - the nicest people on the face of the earth. They are important people who follow the policy of it is nice to be important but it is important to be nice.

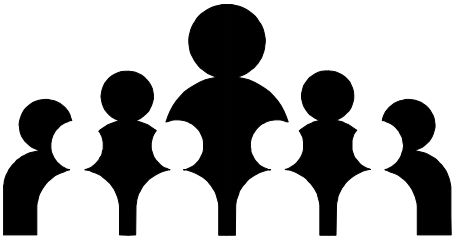
The Absence of an "Official Creed": Rotary has no secret handshake, no secret policy, no official creed, no secret meeting or rituals. It is an open society of men and women who simply believe in helping others.

1. **The Opportunity to Serve:** Rotary is a service club. Its business is mankind. Its product is service. Rotarians provide community service to both local and international communities. This is perhaps the best reason for becoming a Rotarian: the chance to do something for somebody else and to sense the self-fulfillment that comes in the process and return of that satisfaction to one's own life. It is richly rewarding.

Rotarian Obligations

The opportunities that come with being a Rotarian, also come with Obligations.

The Rotary "ideal of service" provides an opportunity for all members to



benefit from the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service and the attitude of being thoughtful and helpful in our club, vocation and personal endeavors.

Club Activities:

For the club to function successfully, all members must contribute. Each Rotarian should make the commitment to participate "fully" in club activities and programs and to volunteer to lead club projects as the opportunities arise.

With continued membership, Rotarians should be willing to assume the chair of committees and to head up projects.

Executive Committee:

The Yellowknife Rotary Club is governed by a Board of Directors of 12 members elected by the membership in December to serve in the following year from July 1 to June 30. The Sergeant-at-Arms is appointed by the Board on the recommendation of the President.

As in any business, the business of the club needs good leaders. Rotarians are encouraged to seek out positions on the executive committee.

Attendance

Regular attendance at club meetings is one of the basic obligations a member accepts upon joining a Rotary Club.

Weekly luncheon meetings are held each **Thursday** at **12:00** noon, and all members are expected to arrive on time.

The Constitution of the Yellowknife Rotary Club requires that members be present at lease 60% of the time allotted for each meeting. Each member is required to attend at least 60% of club meetings.

A member has the opportunity to "make up" a meeting while traveling outside Yellowknife, by attending another Rotary Club's meeting. Or by attending a Yellowknife Club Executive Meeting. A "make up" counts towards the 60% attendance.

Travel to northern communities over a weekly meeting will count as an attendance due to northern travel.

Weekly meetings are held to conduct Rotary business. Members who do not attend theses meetings will not be aware of club activities and related member responsibilities.

Financial Commitment

The financial commitment to the club is as follows:

There is an admission fee at the time of induction of $20.

Annual Dues are $190 .

The weekly luncheon fee is paid in $200 each quarter by cheque or credit card.

You may recover the cost of your meal if you were away on Northern Travel or had a makeup at another club.

You can also expect a weekly $2 fine in humor.

You can reasonably expect to pay $1,200/year as a Rotary member.

Funds raised from outside contributions cannot be used for club activities. Membership fees and weekly fines provide the funds for fellowship, participation in district activities and club administration.

From time to time club members may be asked to contribute to community fund raising projects, and any contributions to these are voluntary.

The Principal Motto of Rotary is

"Service Above Self"

ROTARY FOUR WAY TEST

"of the things we think say or do:"

1. **Is it the Truth?**
2. **Is if Fair to all concerned?**
3. **Will it build Goodwill and better Friendships?**
4. **Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?**

"He profits most who serves best."

The Membership Process

All members have a responsibility to ensure the club thrives and expands by sponsoring new members in vacant classifications.

Members are encouraged to seek out qualified men and women, who they believe would make a quality Rotarian.

The prospective member is introduced to the club by the Rotarian, by bringing them as a guest to our lunch meetings.

After a few meetings, if the prospective member continues to be interested in becoming a member, they should attend an orientation "Fireside" where they will learn more about Rotary and our club. Participation at a "Fireside" is a requirement of membership.

Sponsoring members propose the person by completing a membership application and by submitting it to the Board of Directors.

The Board ensures classification and membership requirements are met and informs the membership of the proposal. If no written objection of membership is received by the Board in seven days, the prospect is inducted as a member.

New members will be asked to join a project committee for an upcoming project.

Yellowknife Rotary Club Projects

Some Club projects include:

- Canada Day Parade
- Kids Ahead Snack & Mentoring Program
- Back Bay Cemetery Clean-up
- Seniors Bingo
- Bristol Monument
- Literacy Projects
- Beautification projects
- Assisting local groups in projects

We are involved in many youth programs and exchanges, such as:

- Four Way Speech Contest
- Adventures in Citizenship
- Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
- Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment
- Vocational Achievement Award
- Northern Experience
- International Exchanges

Our participation and sponsorship in projects is due to money raised in various fundraising activities. These Include:

- Rotary Radio Days
- Rotary Roses
- Bike Auction

We also participate in many Rotary International project in partnership with other clubs around the world.

Rotary Club of Yellowknife

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Founded in 1970

Service Above Self

Rotarians serve in four **"Avenues of Service"**:

1. **CLUB SERVICE** - all the activities necessary to make the club function successfully.
2. **VOCATIONAL SERVICE** - The activities related to member vocations and youth programs.
3. **COMMUNITY SERVICE** - The activities Rotarians undertake to improve the quality of life in the community.
4. **INTERNATIONAL SERVICE** - The programs, which advance international understanding, goodwill and peace.