

# INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE ROTARY MEMBERS

2008-2009

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Any active member may propose for membership an adult person of good character and good business or professional reputation who will, in his or her estimation, make a good Rotarian. The candidate may not be a member of any other service club.

The sponsors will first fill out a “membership proposal” card, which are kept by the club secretary, and give the candidate a short summary of information for new members as well as a summary of committee activities to review. Both can be found on the club Web site at [www.lafayetterotary.org](http://www.lafayetterotary.org). Next, the sponsor and candidate will be invited to meet with Member Orientation Committee to learn more.

Before being accepted for membership, candidates must attend the orientation and at least two lunch meetings to get a “feel” about the local club, and then be approved by the board of directors, which meets on the second Monday of the month.

## **PURPOSE OF INFORMATION SESSION:** (Approximately 60 minutes)

Provide introductory information about the purpose, activities and responsibilities of membership in the Lafayette Rotary Club. Current or former Rotarians are extended a courtesy/welcoming invitation to attend the orientation session.

### ○ **AGENDA**

- Brief History of Rotary, Rotary International and the Lafayette Rotary Club;
- Presentation/discussion of pertinent sections and policies in this document;
- A video about Rotary International.
- Question and answer period; and
- Filling out application and committee selection sheet.

## **ROTARY HISTORY**

(Excellent information is available at [www.lafayetterotary.org](http://www.lafayetterotary.org) and [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org))

- Founded in 1905 in Chicago (Paul Harris and three members).
- RI currently (June 2008) in 200 countries (including China and Russia); membership of 1.2 million; 33,000 clubs.
- Lafayette Rotary founded in 1916. Met at the Lahr House with 14 charter members.
- Current membership (June 2008): 220
- Women admitted in 1988: currently there are about 53 females, 24%.
- Second Club in Greater Lafayette, Daybreak Rotary, which meets at 7:00 a.m. Thursday at the Holiday Inn Select in downtown Lafayette, was recognized in 1992 and has about 75 members.

## **MISSION OF LAFAYETTE ROTARY:**

The Lafayette Rotary Club is a fellowship of men and women dedicated to high ethical standards, serving others, and advancing community and international goodwill.

### **Rotary stresses**

- Service Above Self (**Motto**)
- Fellowship
- Understanding
- Value and dignity of all vocations

### **Approaches**

Global  
Non-political  
Humanitarian

## **VISION OF LAFAYETTE ROTARY:**

Our vision is to become a fellowship that is fully engaged in achieving our mission.

## **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?

## **CLASSIFICATION SYSTEM:**

The classification principle of membership is unique to Rotary and limits active membership to not more than 10% of the membership in any one classification representing a business or profession. There are two main reasons for this: (1) It enables the Club to be a true cross-section of the business and professional life of the community, and (2) It develops fellowship based on diversity of interest instead of similarity of interest (Town 60% and Gown 40%).

## **CLUB ORGANIZATION:**

The Club has three levels of organization: (1) Directors, (2) Officers, and (3) Committees .

- **Directors** - The Board of Directors is the governing body of the Club. The Board consists of 12 regularly elected members, six Town and six Gown members. One third of the members shall be elected each year for three year terms.
- **Officers** – President (Alternates each year between Town and Gown), President-elect, Vice President, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer.

**Committees** : Almost all activities are planned and arranged by committees charged with that area of interest. The committees are:

- **Service:** Community projects, especially Miami Backpacks; fundraising, especially Gus Macker; youth; education; Rotaract, birthday table.
- **International:** Projects; programs and fundraising; group study exchange; ambassadorial scholars.
- **Membership:** Recruitment, orientation, involvement, brochures and Web, family of rotary, vocational moment.
- **Administration:** Program; communication and marketing; operations and club bulletin; invocation; house; music; greeters.
- **Board of Directors:** Budget, nominations, governance, funds request, finance.

*A summary of committee activities are on the web at  
[www.lafayetterotary.org](http://www.lafayetterotary.org).*

## **EXPECTATIONS of MEMBERS**

**Service:** All Rotarians are expected to help in one or more service projects a year as well as serve on at least one committee.

**Financial:** In addition to dues, currently \$252 a year, Rotarians are expected to contribute \$100 a year to the Rotary International Foundation to support international projects. A similar donation is requested for Lafayette Rotary Club Foundation, which funds local projects. Members also support special projects. While donations to these are not mandatory, your support is important.

- **Entrance:** \$60.00 enrollment fee for **new** members (\$20.00 for former Rotarians).
- **Membership Dues:** \$126.00 semi-annually due May 1 and November 1. For new members, dues are prorated depending upon when introduced (From member's dues: about \$67.00 per year to Rotary International; \$27.50 per year to District). New members do not pay any money until they receive a statement from the club treasurer some time after they have been introduced as a new member.
- **Lunch:** All Rotarians are expected to take part in the lunch meeting at least once a month. Lunches cost \$10.
- **Birthday Table:** Many members choose their birth month to make \$100 donations to the Rotary International Foundation or Lafayette Rotary Club Foundation.

**Attendance Requirements.** Because an important aspect of membership in Rotary International is fellowship, members are encouraged to attend regular meetings. Active members are required to attend an average of at least one regular meeting each month during each three-month period; it is hoped that weekly attendance will be regular habit.

Make-up attendance is based on: attendance at other Rotary clubs or participation in related meetings or project such as Rotary conferences, Rotaract/Interact meetings, board or committee meetings, service projects. Make-up attendance is granted for up to 2 of the required 3 meetings each quarter. Make-ups must occur in the same six-month period as the missed meeting(s). A member is counted as attending if he/she is present for at least 50% of the meeting. Members who are absent for good and

sufficient reasons may apply in writing to the secretary to request board action for an exception.

The board may approve a leave of absence for up to six months at a time for dues-paying members who cannot meet the 25% attendance requirement.

### **LAFAYETTE ROTARY CLUB FOUNDATION (1973)**

- The Lafayette Rotary Club Foundation, as an independent corporation, is a tax-exempt 501C (3) organization, classified as a public charity to receive contributions from Rotarians and the general public for disbursement locally and elsewhere exclusively for charitable, religious, educational and scientific purposes.
- The foundation is currently the repository for contributions from the Lafayette Rotary Club. These funds are to be expended for charitable purposes beneficial to the public interest but with restrictions imposed by the Board of Directors.
- The Lafayette Rotary Club Foundation has developed five levels of donors:
  - Participant: donated over \$100.
  - Golden Service: donated over \$1,000
  - Golden Plus: more than \$2,500.
  - Diamond: more than \$5,000
  - Double Diamond: more than \$10,000.
- In a period of approximately 30 years, over \$750,000 has been disbursed (scholarships, weekend meals for low-income students at Miami School, Lafayette Adult Resource Academy, Salvation Army, Boys & Girls State, Leadership Lafayette) and the reserve has grown to over \$350,000.

### **THE ROTARY FOUNDATION of ROTARY INTERNATIONAL(1917)**

- Not-for-profit corporation: Since 1947, has disbursed over \$399 million to charitable and educational programs such as Polio Plus, Ambassadorial Scholarship Program, Group Study Exchange Program, Youth Exchange Program, Medical programs abroad, and many others.
- Major funding of these programs is primarily by Rotarians contributing individually \$1,000 or more over one to ten years; each such contributor then is designated a **Paul**

**Harris Fellow.** More than **100** current Rotarians are Paul Harris Fellows and approximately **50** are Paul Harris sustaining members giving at least \$100 a year.

## **MEETINGS**

The club meets at 12:00 noon every Tuesday at the University Plaza. No reservation is needed for the buffet lunch. Besides an opportunity for fellowship, the meeting offers worthwhile programs on timely, diverse, and interesting subjects. Buffet line opens at approximately 11:20 a.m.; meeting starts about 12:10 p.m. and the featured speaker starts at 12:30 -1 p.m., when the meeting is adjourned.

## **SERVICE ABOVE SELF: A living and working MOTTO**

Rotarians, through their commitment of time, talents, resources, and concern for other people, do make a significant and positive difference. Some ways to serve:

- Gus Macker Basketball Tournament fundraising effort to assist in funding our Miami Backpack signature.
- Backpack program to feed 80 Miami School children on weekends.
- Camp sponsorships.
- Every One Reads.
- Salvation Army Christmas Campaign.
- Shots Not Spots
- Women's Shelter Holiday Baskets.
- Scholarships for graduating seniors from Lafayette-area high schools.
- Scholarships to Ivy Tech and IBC students.
- Host visitors here through international exchange programs .
- Support incoming Purdue students enrolled in the Ambassadorial Scholars program.
- Support club projects in Haiti an El Salvador.

## **WHY SHOULD YOU BECOME A ROTARIAN?**

Professionals today juggle career, family, and personal interests and too frequently have little time left over for community involvement and the satisfaction of volunteerism.

Rotary is an excellent way for individuals to achieve together what individuals cannot

accomplish alone, and have fun while doing it. While Rotary clubs make a real difference in communities around the world, they also offer unparalleled opportunities for individual growth: leadership experience working with people of diverse backgrounds on a host of issues affecting our local and world-wide communities; the satisfaction of working with peers on a variety of valuable community and international service projects; and, a pleasant experience enjoying an interesting and informative Tuesday luncheon program with fellow Rotarians.

### **FINAL STEPS TO MEMBERSHIP**

- Near the end of the informational presentation each individual will make a decision as to whether he/she wishes to become a Rotarian. If you do wish to become a Rotarian, here are the next steps:
  - Complete the “New Member Information Sheet,” which will be sent to you by e-mail.
  - Review “Committee Activities”, a brief description of Rotary Committees;
  - From the Service- Above -Self committee selection sheet, rank three committee choices on the questionnaire.
- Return the “New Member Information Sheet” to the person from whom you received it. No applicant can move forward until this step has been completed.
- Next, the board of directors or four senior directors will vote on the candidacy. After that, the secretary will publish the new membership proposal in the club newsletter “Ripples” and, if no objection is received after a waiting period of one week, the secretary will tell the club of the new membership.
- Next, the secretary will contact each individual and their sponsor regarding a mutually acceptable date for introduction. At introduction, the sponsor will provide a short introduction and the new member will be expected to spend two to three minutes telling the club about himself/herself and family.