

INFORMATION FOR PROSPECTIVE ROTARY MEMBERS

INTRODUCTION:

We are glad that you may be interested in becoming a member of our club, part of a worldwide network dating back more than a century. You will find this a very friendly and civically engaged club. To ensure that you will have the time to devote to Rotary we ask that you not also hold membership in any other service organizations.

Any active member may propose for membership an adult person of good character and good professional reputation who will, in his or her estimation, make a good Rotarian. The Membership Orientation Committee has the primary responsibility to familiarize and assist you in making an **informed decision** whether Rotary is for you. As a first step, we suggest that you attend several club meetings and get an idea of what our club is all about (the club will cover the cost for the first two meals). You can always pick relevant information, such as “The Lafayette Rotary Club and You” and “This is Rotary” brochures from the club Secretary. If you are comfortable with this overview and are interested in joining Rotary, you and your Sponsor initiate this process by contacting the Secretary. The Secretary will provide you and your sponsor with a “Prospective Member Packet” which will include a “Guide To Committee Activities”, a summary sheet of Rotary Committees for current year, a copy of “Information For Prospective Rotary Members”, a “Prospective Member Profile” form, and a “Sponsorship Checklist” which is retained by the Sponsor. Also in this packet is a “Membership Proposal” form which the Sponsor will return to the Secretary.

Upon receipt of the Membership Proposal, the Secretary will inform the four Senior Directors of a Prospective Member’s interest in Rotary. After their review and approval the Secretary will alert the Orientation Committee which is their “cue” to start the orientation/information process. You and your sponsor will both be invited to attend an orientation meeting, which is held at least once a month. The Sponsor is the primary point of contact between the Secretary and committee relative to completion of paperwork and any scheduling. Prospective members are strongly requested to access the Rotary website at: www.lafayetterotary.org which includes much pertinent information, especially the sections on “About Rotary”, “Rotary International”, “How To Become a Rotarian”, “Guide to Committee Activities” and a very relevant section entitled “Committees” with names various club committee members and a what they do.

PURPOSE OF INFORMATION SESSION: (Approximately 45 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;
- Question and answer period; and
- Filling out the “New Member Information” and committee selection sheets.

ROTARY HISTORY

(Excellent information is available at www.lafayetterotary.org and www.rotary.org)

- Founded in 1905 in Chicago (Paul Harris and three members).
- RI currently (June 2010) 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 2010): 205
- Women admitted in 1988: currently there are about 53 females, 26%.
- 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.
- Incorporated and received 501©4 status in 2010.

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 67% and Gown 33%).

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 School Backpacks; fundraising; 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, and vocational moment.
- **Administration:** Program; communication and marketing; operations and club bulletin; invocation; house; music; greeters.

- **New Generations:** Youth Programs.
- **Board of Directors:** Budget, nominations, governance, funds request, finance.

*A summary of committee activities are on the web at
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 three committees.

Financial: In addition to dues, currently \$252 a year, Rotarians are expected to contribute \$100 a year to the Rotary 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), of which \$10 constitutes a contribution to the Lafayette Rotary Club Foundation, Inc. and \$10 constitutes a contribution to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International.
- **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 currently cost \$10 .

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. (This is a local exception to the RI standard of 50% attendance.) 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 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 Lafayette Rotary 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. These are referred to as “restricted funds”, whereas contributions made to the Lafayette Rotary Foundation for disposition by its Board of Directors are “unrestricted funds”.
- The Lafayette Rotary Foundation has developed four levels of recognition:
 - **Level I – Participant Contributors**
Participants are members who have donated over \$100.
 - **Level II – Golden Service Contributors**
This recognition is for members who have donated over \$1,000.
Participation at this level is encouraged of each Rotary member, just as the Paul Harris Fellow donation is encouraged for The Rotary Foundation.
 - **Level III – Golden Plus Contributors**
This recognition is for members who have donated over \$2,500 but less than \$5,000.

- **Level IV – Diamond Participant**

This recognition is for members who have donated over \$5,000 to the Lafayette Rotary Foundation.

- **Level V – Double Diamond Participants**

This recognition is for members who have donated over \$10,000 to the Lafayette Rotary Foundation.

- 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. To become a Paul Harris Fellow, a Rotarian must make an initial contribution of at least \$100 (and then designated a Paul Harris Sustaining Member), and complete the \$1,000 within the next ten years. After the initial \$1,000 contribution, any amount contributed to The Rotary Foundation counts toward the Paul Harris Fellow amount. Over 100 current Rotarians are Paul Harris Fellows, approximately 50 are Paul Harris sustaining members, and 2 Major Donors(1 Level 1-\$10,000 and 1 Level 2-\$20,000).
- Contributions directed to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International throughout the year make possible large-scale humanitarian operations throughout the world, such as Polio Plus, a multi-million dollar program to wipe out Polio world-wide.
- Many Rotarians support a host of charitable and educational programs throughout the year. Funds pledged at the monthly Birthday Table are one innovative way some members utilize as the date to make their annual contribution.

MEETINGS

The Club meets at 12:00 noon every Tuesday at the University Inn Conference Center and Suites. It provides fellowship, buffet luncheon, informative and worthwhile programs on timely, diverse, and interesting subjects. Buffet line opens at approximately 11:20 a.m.; meeting starts at 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:

- Backpack program to feed 80 Miami School children on weekends.
- Camp sponsorships.
- Every One Reads.
- Salvation Army Christmas Campaign.
- Scholarships for graduating seniors from Lafayette-area high schools.
- Two-year College Scholarships.
- Host visitors here through international exchange programs .
- Supported 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; a sense of working with your peers on a variety of valuable community and international service projects; and, hopefully, having a pleasant experience enjoying an interesting and informative Tuesday luncheon program with fellow Rotarians.

CLOSURE FOR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS

- Near the end of the informational presentation each individual will make a decision as to whether he/she wishes to become a Rotarian. **If they do wish to become a Rotarian, each will do the following:**
 - Complete the “New Member Information Sheet” to be sure information is correct:
 - Review “Committee Activities”, a brief description of Rotary committees, and select three committee choices you would be willing to serve on from the “Committees for the Current Year” selection sheet. If additional time is required to determine selections, submit the sheet to the Secretary at a later date.
 - Submit the completed and signed New Member Information sheet.
- The Secretary will publish the new membership proposal in the club newsletter “Ripples” and, if no objections are received after a waiting period of one week, the Secretary will proceed with the admission of the new membership.
- The Secretary will then contact the 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.

This Membership Education and Information Committee document has been reviewed and endorsed by the Lafayette Rotary Board of Directors on June 26, 2006. This edition has been updated and promulgated in December 2010.