



Rotary Overview for New Members

Rotary International

Rotary, the world's first service club was founded in 1905 in Chicago. "Service Above Self" is the Rotary motto and is the guiding force that leads this International organization of business and professional leaders, uniting them in a common effort to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards, advance world understanding, goodwill and peace. Rotary International includes more than 1.4 million service minded men and women in over 46,000 clubs covering more than 200 countries and geographical areas throughout the world. The Rotary International Foundation is one of the world's largest, contributing more than \$3.2 billion since 1947 to advance health, education, world understanding, goodwill, and peace, and to alleviate poverty. Due to the commitment of Rotarians worldwide Polio is almost eradicated.

Rotary Club of Grand Rapids

The Rotary Club of Grand Rapids is the second oldest club in Michigan, and founded as the 77th International club on March 29, 1913. Membership is made up of more than 200 prominent men and women leaders from our community representing various businesses, non-profit organizations and professions. Our club exemplifies the "Service Above Self" motto as our members undertake projects to feed the hungry, provide clean safe water to those in third world countries, fight disease, assist the handicapped and elderly, work with young people, combat illiteracy, fund scholarships, provide disaster relief and recognize community leadership. We strive to make a positive impact in our community, country and internationally.

Our club and the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation supports programs for youth by enriching their lives through education, work experiences, arts and culture and outdoor activities. Through our member's efforts and financial donations, we support Indian Trails Camp, the STRIVE Mentoring/Scholarship program (serving at-risk high school juniors and seniors), INTERACT (a leadership program for high school junior and seniors) and many other service projects and programs.

Through a shared commitment of service, we nurture fellowship with one another at our weekly Thursday luncheons, by attending our Club 77 social events and by participating in various volunteer service opportunities.

Expectations of our Members

Once you have joined the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids, you should plan on attending at least 50% our Thursday luncheons and Club 77 events, along with joining a committee to become acquainted with our club. As a Rotarian you will be expected to participate one of our major fundraising activities; currently the Service Above Self Award Dinner, through the purchase of tickets, sponsorship opportunities, and donations (cash/and or prizes).

Missed luncheons can be made-up through committee meeting attendance or by attending meetings at other Rotary clubs throughout the world. You can find local Club listings on our website grrotary.org, and our District 6290 website rotarydistrict6290.org, and all Rotary Clubs on Rotary International's club locator at rotary.org.

The minimum expected annual financial commitment of Individual memberships in the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids is approximately \$1,400 (\$1,200 covers the following: weekly luncheons, Club 77 events, membership dues to our district, and Rotary International, the club's website and database, the Rotarian (the monthly magazine published by Rotary International), and a \$100 donation to each of the following: the Rotary Club of Grand Rapids Charities Foundation and the Rotary International Foundation. Other requests to provide financial support and/or the donation of time through volunteerism may be made.

Additionally, you are asked to secure one new member within the first year of your membership to help our club grow!

Recommended Activities

To get the most out of your membership, you are encouraged to attend as many luncheons as possible, attend the Club 77 events, participate in one of our major fundraising events and join at least one of our numerous committees.

The Rotarian's 4-Way Test

Is it the **TRUTH**?

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and better **FRIENDSHIPS**?

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?