

Engagement of Rotarians¹

(What a Rotarian can do for Rotary, and what Rotary means for a Rotarian)

Section 1 - Rotarians are members of a Rotary Club. All Rotary clubs are part of a world-wide community, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL (RI). Each club chooses its own board and possesses an important measure of autonomy, within the boundaries set by the statutes and bylaws of RI.²

Section 2 – Clubs which work efficiently try to achieve:

- Maintenance and strengthening of membership.
- Initiation and carrying out of local and international service projects.
- Supporting the programs of the Rotary Foundation, through gifts and participation in projects and programs.
- Friendship and servitude among members and the outside world.
- Enrichment of members' personal and professional knowledge.

Section 3 – Responsibilities of a Rotarian

Many standards that rotarians have to meet are based on how to experience the full benefits of membership.

- The local club is the corner-stone of Rotary, where guests and those who have the potential to become members are invited to speak.
- It is important, and therefore the task, of every member of a Rotary club to keep his/her fellow members involved in all activities of the club.
- At the weekly meetings friendship, solidarity and mutual respect should be encouraged.
- How rotarians benefit from Rotary depends very much on what they contribute to the working of the club.
- All rotarians are obliged, in principle, to participate in the weekly meetings.
- To carry out this obligation, rotarians can participate in club meetings elsewhere, to compensate for not participating in (a) meeting(s) with their own club.
- The obligation to be present includes participating in projects.
- All members can be asked to share their experience and expertise.
- In principle, all members can be called upon, in turn, to carry out tasks in the board, in committees or otherwise, including the function of president.
- To keep the club at strength and vibrant, it is the duty of all members to actively recruit new members.

- The diversity of occupations and therefore classifications in each club enriches the club-life and contributes to a large source of expertise from which to engage service projects.

Section 4 – Why become a Rotarian

- New friendships, essential ingredients in everyone's life.

¹ See www.rotary.belux.org/nl/download/2006_7/#1 for further information on RI, programs, goals for 2006 -7 etc.

² See www.rotary.belux.org, the official website of Rotary Belgium-Luxemburg.

- Professional development, all professions are represented in Rotary.
- Personal development, from exposure to opinions and experiences of representatives of other professions.
- Foster appreciation and interest for his/her own professional group.
- Absence of “competition and envy” in Rotary, everyone is equal.
- Development of leadership qualities, as everyone can be called upon to carry out board functions.
- Combine business with pleasure, by participating in activities and outings with equal-minded people.
- If applicable, involve partners and family in club activities and meetings.
- International character: rotary friends are present in 167 countries, world-wide.
- When relocating or being temporarily posted abroad, membership of Rotary will facilitate settling in.
- Learn from other cultures—Rotary is open to men and women of all nationalities, races, religions, ideologies, political faiths, languages and ethnical backgrounds.
- Rotary is the oldest and most prestigious service organization of the world.
- Rotary has no “hidden agenda”, has no rites nor secretive meetings.
- Rotary membership is open to all men and women who want to support and help their fellow human being.

Section 5 – The Four Questions of Rotary

These four questions were formulated in 1932 by Herbert J. Taylor and have become the back-bone in rotarians’ personal and professional lives.

- Is it true?
- Is it fair to all participants?
- Does it promote mutual trust and friendship?
- Is it beneficial to all concerned?

“The Rotary pin on your collar is a passport for new friendships and possibilities”.

(Edilberto Uichanco, The Philippines)