



## Member Guide

(Updated 07/01/2024)

### Welcome!

Congratulations! You are now one of 1.4 million Rotarians in over 46,000 clubs in nearly 220 countries around the world! Membership in the Rotary Club of Farmville is a membership in Rotary International. You have full rights and privileges within Rotary wherever you go.

### Our Club's Contact and Meeting Information

Founded	1938
Mailing address	P.O. Box 659, Farmville, VA 23901
Club number	5802
Website	<a href="http://www.farmvillevarotary.org">www.farmvillevarotary.org</a>
Facebook page	Rotary Club of Farmville
Meeting sites	The Woodland Community Center 103 Varner Drive, Farmville, VA 23901 Thursdays 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. (noon Luncheon Meeting) The noon Luncheon Meeting is available with Zoom.

~ and/or ~

Board meeting	Third Street Brewing Company 312 W 3 <sup>rd</sup> Street, Farmville, VA 23901 Thursdays 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. (Happy Hour Meeting) The Woodland Community Center Third Thursday of each month 11:15 a.m.
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### Other Important Contact Information

Our District	District 7600 (extends from the Eastern Shore to South Boston, from Richmond south to the North Carolina line).
District website	<a href="http://www.rotary7600.org">www.rotary7600.org</a>
International site	<a href="http://www.rotary.org">www.rotary.org</a>

## **The History of Rotary**

You can be proud of Rotary's history. Not only are we the oldest civic group in the world (founded 1905 in Chicago), we are also the largest!

An interesting note - our club is only three clubs removed from the original club: Chicago sponsored the Washington DC club which sponsored the Richmond club which sponsored the Farmville club!

Our founder, Paul Harris, was raised in a small town. When he opened his practice as an attorney, he found the big city of Chicago impersonal. He began Rotary as a way to make friends. The name "Rotary" comes from the fact that the original four members would alternate, or "rotate," the location of their meetings at their respective offices.

Rotary is still a great way to make friends. The social component continues to be very important – that is why you will notice our club has several social events per year. Depending on the event, your entire family may be invited. All are welcome!

As the years passed, Rotary also became an outlet for civic responsibility. Paul Harris thought, "Who better to be the civic leaders of a community than the business leaders?" This important concept remains to this day.

Consequently, not only was Rotary the first civic organization, it also performed the first civic project. The first Rotary club raised the funds to construct a much needed public restroom in downtown Chicago.

Rotary is also for business networking. In fact, please consult your tax professional as your Rotary expenses may be a qualified business deduction. Yes, growing your business through Rotary is a wonderful by-product for most members; however, it should be a secondary reason for joining Rotary. We hope you believe in our ideals of living by the "Four Way Test," "Service Above Self," and "Making the World a Better Place One Person at a Time."

## **The Four Way Test**

Mentioned more than once in this Member Guide is something called the Four Way Test. It is the bedrock of what we believe and a guiding light for our conduct as Rotarians. As Rotarians, before we make any decision, before we act, and in fact, before we even say anything, we should ask ourselves if our decisions, actions, or words pass this 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?

If the answer to any of these is “no,” then we should not proceed with our decisions, actions, or words. We need to rethink our decision so that it meets the Four Way Test. We recite this at the end of every meeting so we can take it with us out into the world.

## **How to Be a Great Rotarian**

Just remember the “3 Ps”

- P#1 Presence: Attendance is a requirement!
- P#2 Participation: Attendance at the weekly meeting isn’t enough. We need you to work at our community events and service projects!
- P#3 Payment: Please remember to pay your dues – and on time!

### Let’s Look at Each of the 3 Ps

**P#1 Presence** – Our club is actually graded on our attendance! So please make every effort to attend every meeting. We know, of course, no one can make every meeting, but please make the effort to make up any meeting you miss. (Make-ups are explained later in more detail under Missed Meetings and Make-Ups).

A “Rotary Year” (kind of like a fiscal year) runs from July 1 – June 30. However, we divide the year into two halves: July 1 – December 31 and also January 1 – June 30. For each half-year, the minimum requirements are:

- A 60% overall attendance rate (including any make-ups)
- A 30% actual physical attendance at your regular Thursday meetings  
(Zoom attendance counts for this)
- You may not miss four consecutive meetings without a make-up

Of course, these are the *minimums*. Our expectation is for every member to have a 100% attendance rate. There are tens of thousands of Rotarians world-wide with many decades of perfect attendance. This can be you, too!

Each year our Club’s members with perfect attendance will have their names permanently affixed to the Jim Parker Perfect Attendance Award (JPPAA) plaque. We display this plaque with the name tags. Jim was a Farmville Rotarian for decades. Even in his 90’s, despite failing hearing, vision, and mobility, he maintained nearly perfect attendance. If Jim could do it, so can we! (In order to be eligible for the JPPAA, you must have joined Rotary by December 31 of that Rotary year).

Please note: If we do not have a regular meeting because of another official Rotary event, such as a fund raiser or our annual awards dinner, then that event is considered a meeting that must be made up if you miss it.

Poor attendance is grounds for mandatory termination of membership.

Leave of Absence: If you foresee a temporary yet extended period of time when you cannot perform your duties as a Rotarian, including maintaining the acceptable attendance rate, an option you may wish to consider is to request a Leave of Absence (LOA). An LOA is only granted under unique, specific conditions, such as for an illness or a professor being assigned a Thursday class to teach for a semester that will conflict with their meeting. In order to be granted an LOA, the member must be in good standing in attendance, in participation, and in financial obligations to the club (the 3 Ps). The request for an LOA must be in writing to the Board. If granted, you will only pay for your dues during a leave of absence.

**P#2 Participation** – Our meetings are great! We have fun and fellowship! We also have great food and speakers who keep us up to date on events and institutions affecting our community. But we are a civic group first and foremost. We want to make the world a better place. This means rolling up our sleeves and doing (a) hands-on service projects such as blood drives or cleanups, and (b) fundraisers, the proceeds of which we give to other worthwhile organizations that are making the world a better place. Some of our fundraisers are a Taste of Farmville, a Fishing Frenzy, and a Pancake Breakfast. We can't do these without you!!!

Poor participation is grounds for termination of membership.

Joining Rotary means that you are willing to work!

**P#3 Payment** – You will be billed quarterly in advance for your meals (if a noon Luncheon member) and dues. You may also pay an extra \$25 (or more) on each invoice to go towards the Rotary Foundation (explained later in more detail).

Please pay your invoice immediately! Payment is due within 30 days from receiving a quarterly invoice. If your employer is paying your dues, please follow up with the appropriate office to ensure your invoice is being paid on time. Our club operates on an extremely limited budget and prompt payment is imperative in keeping our club running! Paying your dues late is grounds for termination of membership.

A note especially for noon Luncheon Meeting attendees: If you miss a meeting, what you pre-paid for your meal is donated to our club's coffers to help cover the expenses of our club. By charging in advance, it is an incentive for everyone to attend every meeting! Also, we can honestly tell the community that none of our fundraising efforts go to supporting our club's operational expenses.

Finally, please remember we are pre-paying your dues to District 7600 and to Rotary International. If you ever need to end your Rotary membership with us, please honor that last invoice that we will mail to you so that we are not left with your debt.

**The 3 Ps are important** – Let's face it, we've all been members of clubs or organizations where folks who don't pull their weight remain on the roster forever, enjoying privileges but not doing the work. In Rotary that cannot happen. You cannot call yourself a Rotarian if you're not actually being a Rotarian!

### **Induction**

As a new member, you will be inducted into the club by the President. Your sponsor will place the coveted Rotary pin upon your lapel. Feel free to invite family, colleagues, etc., to attend this important milestone event.

### **Rotary Pin**

Speaking of the Rotary pin, wear it with pride! You must wear it at the meetings, but why not wear it all day, every day? Show your pride in Rotary! Also, it could be a great conversation starter if someone should ask about it. With 1.4 million Rotarians in the world, you will be amazed at how quickly you will run into fellow Rotarians everywhere you go!

### **Look the Part!**

Please purchase the following items from Ellet's Embroidery located at  
119 N. Main Street, Farmville, VA 23901 (434-392-2290)

A blue Rotary Club of Farmville polo shirt. For a few extra dollars, you can also get your name embroidered on your shirt.

A blue Rotary Club of Farmville baseball cap. Hair restraints are required for our food fundraisers so why not look like a part of the Rotary team?

Just give them your size! Ellet's Embroidery will do the rest!

### **How We Address Each Other**

One of the bedrocks of Rotary is that we are all equal. Therefore, it is prohibited to address anyone by other than his or her first name. We never use titles such as Mr., Mrs., Professor, Doctor, Your Honor, etc.

### **New Member Classification Talk**

One of the huge perks of joining Rotary is that you get to be our program at one of our meetings to share with your fellow Rotary members all about yourself and your occupation. Please give your talk the preparation it deserves, and please use your full twenty minutes.

### **Committees**

Our club has committees! Every club does! You will be asked to be on one or more. Why not be proactive and request to be on a committee that is of interest to you? It is through our committee work that we are able to accomplish our goals.

Rotary Foundation: educating and encouraging members to give to the Foundation  
Membership: recruiting to and retention of our club membership  
Projects: deciding on worthwhile service projects or fundraising activities to support our local community  
Public Image: getting the word out about who we are and what we do using various forms of media  
Service Projects: developing and implementing educational, humanitarian, and vocational projects to benefit the local and worldwide communities  
Social: planning our fall and spring socials, our holiday social, and our end-of-the-year social  
Future Visions: grooming the next generation of civic leaders, primarily through our Interact [high school] and Rotaract [college] clubs  
Fundraising: We have a separate committee for each of our major fundraisers. We are always open to ideas for new fundraisers!

### **Missed Meetings and Make-Ups**

If you miss your regular Thursday Rotary meeting, you are expected to make it up. There are LOTS of ways to do this! All of the following count as a make-up:

Attend any Rotary meeting anywhere in the world  
Attend a District or International Rotary meeting, conference, or training  
Attend a Rotary Board meeting  
Attend the noon Luncheon Meeting (if you are a Happy Hour member)  
Attend the Happy Hour Meeting (if you are a noon Luncheon Meeting member)  
Attend a New and/or Prospective Member Orientation (a.k.a. "Fireside Chat")  
Attend a Rotaract meeting at Hampden-Sydney College  
Attend an Interact meeting at Fuqua School  
Attend any Rotary committee meeting  
Work a service project such as ringing the Salvation Army bell in December  
Work a fundraiser such as Taste of Farmville  
Spend 30 minutes or more doing Rotary work, such as running errands to prepare for a Rotary event  
Spend 30 minutes or more reading the Rotary magazine

It is your responsibility to email the club's secretary of your makeups. Makeups have a "shelf life" of plus or minus one year. In other words, if you know you will be absent from a meeting, you may do a "pre-make-up" up to one year in advance or a "post-make-up" up to one year afterwards.

We have a favor to ask. In order for the club to update the JPPAA plaque in a timely manner, please have all of your make-ups completed and reported to the Secretary by August 1 each year.

## **Fines at Meetings**

It is all in good fun, and the money collected goes to good causes, but be warned!

You will be fined for the following offenses:

\$1.00 for not wearing your pin

\$1.00 for not wearing your name tag

\$1.00 if your phone rings (another \$5.00 if you answer it!) Please remember to silence your phone!

\$1.00 for talking when you don't have the floor

\$1.00 for checking texts, emails, etc.

AND...other offenses deemed proper and appropriate by our Sergeant-at-arms.

## **Happy Dollars**

At every meeting, please share the good news in your life! Things like a promotion, a birth, a vacation, your favorite team won, your child got accepted at college, your medical tests came back clear, the list is endless! We call these announcements "Happy Dollars" but please feel free to give as much as you like. For example, a ten-year wedding anniversary might justify ten dollars. All the money goes towards helping run our club and other good causes.

## **The Queen's Prize**

Just like our Happy Dollars, another example of an "internal fundraiser" is our weekly Queen's Prize raffle reserved for members only. Half of the ticket sales go to the club to support its operations, and half goes into a pot that carries over from week to week.

Please consider buying Queen's Prize raffle tickets. The cost is \$1.00 for one ticket or \$2.00 for three tickets. A ticket is drawn from a hat each week. The winning ticket holder gets to draw from a deck of playing cards. If any card other than the Queen of Hearts is drawn, the card is destroyed, and there is one less card from which to choose the following week. This continues until the Queen of Hearts is drawn, and the winner gets the pot! It's gotten as high as \$1300 plus!

## **The Rotary Foundation**

You are not required to do so, but it is strongly hoped that you will contribute every year to the Rotary Foundation, the charitable arm of Rotary. It is supported entirely by contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation. Do your own research, and you will not find a better organized, more efficient, impact-making foundation in the world.

Through Foundation grants, Rotarians are able to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, education, the environment, and the alleviation of poverty.

How does this work? Whatever is donated to the Rotary Foundation is invested for three years. After the third year, 100% of what you donated will be put to work. The interest is kept to grow the Foundation. This money is then used towards eradicating polio, providing clean water, providing disaster response, etc., all around the world.

Is it tax deductible? Most certainly!

So many ways to give...

1. Add it to your quarterly club invoice.
2. Write a check.
3. Go to the Rotary International website ("My Rotary") to set up an automatic draft and/or a one-time lump sum donation

Our Club is graded not only on how much is given to the Foundation, but also on our participation rate. So, even if you cannot give \$100 per year, please give something, even if it is just one dollar. Thank you!

#### Foundation Designations

1. If you are giving at least \$100 per year to the Foundation, it is known as EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year). It is our hope every Rotarian will at least do this. This makes you a Sustaining Member.
2. Once you have given a total of \$1000, you will become a Paul Harris Fellow (named after the Founder of Rotary). By the way, you are allowed to name someone beside yourself as a Paul Harris Fellow.
3. If you pledge to give \$1000 every year, you become a member of the Paul Harris Society.
4. If you give \$10,000 or more, you become a Major Donor.
5. If you name the Foundation in your estate-planning documents, you become a Paul Harris Benefactor.

### **Bringing in a New Member**

It is the duty of every Rotarian to bring in new members. Sadly, 70% of Rotarians never share their gift with others. Don't let this be you!

Some **Do's and Don'ts** of bringing in prospective members:

**Do** bring guests! Guests are always welcome at all meetings except on a fifth Thursday when we have our Club Forums. At a Club Forum, we discuss internal business that is not appropriate for non-members to hear.

For noon Luncheon Meeting members: **Don't** pay for your prospective member's lunch. The Club will pay for lunch for the first visit of a prospective member. (Subsequent lunches must be paid for by you or your guest. We are a non-profit after all!). It must be noted that if you bring a guest with no intention of joining, you always pay for the meal. Simply pay \$10.00 to the Treasurer at the meeting.



**Do** meet your guest early (better yet, bring him or her yourself), show them around, introduce them to members, make them feel welcome, and tell the club about your guest when the president gives you the opportunity during the meeting.

**Don't** say anything along the lines of "My guest wants to join" or "I'm going to propose my guest for membership." It is possible that your prospective member may not get approved due to classification or other reasons. No need to cause embarrassment to anyone. Discretely talk to your guest about the benefits of joining Rotary, but please also explain that membership is not open to everyone.

Our club's president sends a "Weekly Wire" email telling us, among other things, who will be the speakers at our next meetings and the topics to be presented. Please use this information to invite guests you feel would be interested in hearing the program. We have amazing speakers at Rotary!

### **Who Qualifies to Be a Rotarian?**

First of all, we are looking for people who are already Rotarians, but just don't know it. Said another way, they are community-spirited and already are living by the Four Way Test. We want leaders in their chosen fields who have decision-making authority, innovative ideas, and want to help make the world a better place.

### **Sponsor**

If you propose a new member (and we hope you do), you become their sponsor for life. You are vouching for the new member that they will satisfactorily perform the "3 Ps" mentioned earlier. Should the new member falter in any way, the Board will rely on you, the Sponsor, to speak to the member to correct the problem.

### **Flag Exchange**

Rotary Club meetings are all around the world. You will find them in unexpected places: in airports, hotels, on cruise ships, you name it. If you know you will be visiting another club, please take one of our club flags with you. It is a time-honored tradition to exchange club flags. Just ask the Sergeant-at-arms to get you as many flags as you need.

### **Final Thoughts**

Any club is only as good as its members. You are now a full-fledged member of the Rotary Club of Farmville. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas! The opinion of a member of 40 days is just as valid as a member of 40 years. Please speak up! We guarantee your ideas will be thoughtfully and respectfully discussed and considered by the Board and the Club. We look forward to working side-by-side with you to make our local community and the world a better place. We look forward to having fun and fellowship with you. We look forward to counting you as a lifelong friend. We are thankful that you have joined our club and all of us in Rotary service.

**Congratulations and Welcome Aboard!**

