

A Guide To

The Rotary Club of Carrollton, Georgia



www.carrolltonrotary.com

Revised by the Rotary Executive Officers, 2021

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I. What is Rotary?

Rotary unites people from all continents and cultures who take action to deliver real, long-term solutions to our world's most persistent issues. Through volunteering, our 1.2 million members make lifelong friendships that transcend political and cultural boundaries and foster global understanding and respect. In addition to our 35,000 clubs, Rotary also offers expanded service opportunities including:

Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. There are more than 20,300 Interact clubs in 159 countries.

Rotaract clubs provide opportunities for young adults, starting at age 18, to exchange ideas with leaders in the community, develop leadership and professional skills, and have fun through service.

Solving real problems takes real commitment and vision. Each year, Rotary members invest hundreds of millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours to promote health, peace and prosperity in communities across the globe. Rotary members take action by providing access to clean water and sanitation, supporting education, preventing and treating disease, saving mothers and children and growing local economies.

Ending polio

For more than 30 years, Rotary has been the driving force in the effort to end polio worldwide. Alongside our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, we have achieved a 99.9 percent reduction in polio cases, with less than 200 cases of wild polio reported in 2019 compared with 350,000 a year in the late 1980s. Our members have contributed \$2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Today, just two countries continue to report cases of wild poliovirus, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary remains committed to ending polio, and will raise \$50 million per year, with every dollar to be matched with two additional dollars through a matching agreement with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

History

For 115 years, Rotary members have been addressing challenges around the world. It started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on February 23, 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships, and give back to their communities. Rotary's name came from the group's early practice of rotating meetings among the offices of its members.

Philosophy

The **Object of Rotary** is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his or her occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

Third: The application of the ideal of service by all Rotarians to their personal, business, and community lives.

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men and women united in the ideal of service.

The object of Rotary is implemented through **Four Avenues of Service:**

Club Service: Club service focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club.

Vocational Service: Vocational Service encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards.

Community Service: Community Service covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in the community.

International Service: International Service encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace.

The **Cornerstone of Rotary** is **The Four Way Test** of the things we think, say, or do. This ethical guide was created in 1932 by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor and adopted by Rotary in 1943:

1. **Is it the Truth?**
2. **Is it Fair to all concerned?**
3. **Will it build Good Will and Better Friendships?**
4. **Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?**

The **Emblem of Rotary** is a wheel with six spokes, 24 cogs, and a key hole in the middle. Dating back to the founding of Rotary in 1905, the original was a buggy wheel – indicative of "rotation." In 1923 the cogs and slotted center hole were added, depicting a gear wheel, which rotates and makes the machinery work.

The **Flag of Rotary** was adopted in 1929 and consists of a white field with the official wheel emblem emblazoned in gold in the center.

The **Motto of Rotary** is "**Service Above Self,**" adopted by the Council on Legislation in 1989.

Organization

Rotary is organized at the international, regional (or district), and local levels.

International: There are more than 1.2 million Rotarians in over 200 countries and geographical territories. Rotary International is governed by a president and a board of directors elected from all over the world at meetings held each year. The Rotary Club of Carrollton is a part of Rotary International and supports the many projects of the worldwide organization.

District 6900: Rotary is divided into geographical regions, each comprised of a group of clubs. These regions are known as Rotary districts. The Rotary Club of Carrollton is a member of District 6900, which has 71 clubs with a total membership of more than 4,000 Rotarians. The district extends from the Florida line north past Atlanta and from Atlanta west to the Alabama line. Each district has a governor, elected annually. All clubs and districts throughout the world are listed in an official directory which may be accessed through the Rotary International website. This directory is updated annually and is indispensable when making up meetings in faraway places.

Local clubs: Each Rotary club is similar in purpose and function yet is clearly distinctive because of the emphasis on the local community.

Membership Classification

Membership in Rotary is by classification according to vocation or profession, which is the same world wide. According to the 2019 Council on Legislation, "This club's membership should represent a cross section of the businesses, professions, occupations, and civic organizations in its community, including age, gender and ethnic diversity."

There are two types of membership-active and honorary. Active members are expected to observe attendance requirements established by R.I. However, an active member may be excused from attendance requirements if he/she has an aggregate age and years of Rotary service totaling 85. In order to be excused, the Rotarian must submit a request in writing to the Board.

The intention of the classification principle is to produce an inclusive, not exclusive, membership; to recognize all useful local occupations; and to make the club a cross-section of the local community. The classification principle is intended also to provide a fellowship for service, based on diversity of interest, and to prevent the predominance in the club of any one group.

Each Rotary club is founded upon fellowship and commitment to service. Thus, regular attendance at weekly meetings is strongly encouraged. Local clubs are governed by a Board of Directors and set of officers elected annually by and from the membership. Committees are established in each area of service.

Rotary Foundation and Paul Harris Fellows

In 1917 at the Rotary convention in Atlanta, it was decided that Rotary should do good works around the world. Arch Klumph, the sixth international president of Rotary, convinced the convention of the need for an endowment for charitable, educational, or other avenues of service. In response, the Rotary Foundation was created. In 1928 the Rotary Foundation was strengthened by the appointment of the first Trustees, and in 1931 a declaration of trust was adopted. The Foundation was incorporated in 1983.

At the death of Rotary's founder Paul Harris, in 1947, Rotarians from around the world made gifts to the Foundation in his memory. The Foundation began the following year to provide scholarships for study abroad for 18 scholars from seven countries. The Foundation later decided to honor Rotary's founder Paul Harris by recognizing donors' gifts of \$1,000 or greater as "Paul Harris Fellows."

The Carrollton club occasionally honors someone by naming that person a Paul Harris Fellow. Members are encouraged to become Fellows by donating \$1,000 to the Foundation. Smaller contributions may be committed over time. Gifts of \$100 a year may be made in the name of a "Paul Harris Sustaining Member," who becomes a Paul Harris Fellow, once the \$1,000 total is reached.

The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty. The Rotary Club of Carrollton is proud to be a regular contributor to the Foundation.

II. What about the Rotary Club of Carrollton?

History

Like all local clubs, the Rotary Club of Carrollton is autonomous while remaining part of the District and Rotary International. The Rotary Club of Carrollton was formed in May 1939, with the Newnan club acting as sponsor. The first officers were I.S. Ingram, president; Radar S. Stewart, secretary-treasurer; and P.L. Shaefer, sergeant-at-arms. Membership totaled 35. The club became official on Tuesday evening, July 11, at a banquet held at West Georgia College (now the University of West Georgia). The club now has over 90 members, representing a wide range of occupations, professions, and enterprises.

Notable Achievements

1987	1 st female member – Dr. Brenda Fitzgerald
1999-2000	1 st female president – Ms. Brenda Dangle
1945-1946	District Governor – Dr. Irvine Ingram
1982-1983	District Governor – Mr. A.J. (Steve) André

Organization

Elections by the membership of officers and Board of Directors are held each November, based on a slate of nominees prepared by a nominating committee composed of past presidents. Newly elected officers and directors assume their duties on July 1.

Each director oversees one area of service (Membership, Service Projects, Foundation, Public Relations, Club Administration and Programs). Each area has two or more working committees, whose chairs are appointed by the incoming president. Some committees are fixed; others may be reorganized from time to time depending on the president's view of club needs.

Meetings

Every Tuesday at noon in Carrollton.

Publications & Communications

In addition to *The Rotarian*, a magazine published monthly by Rotary International, local club members receive this *Guide*, as well as on-line access to a list of members and other information on a District Database. Rotary also has an online presence at www.carrolltonrotary.com. A compilation of goals for the coming year is prepared each summer for the District Governor. That document contains the annual budget and membership list, as well as the president's goals and those of each committee.

Club Projects and the GRSP

The club undertakes a number of worthy projects each year. Ongoing and past projects that benefit our community include regular trash pick-up through Keep Carroll Beautiful, annual Share the Warmth event to provide clothing to the needy, and various activities with local students.

One of the most significant projects which continues from year to year is support of the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP).

The GRSP, founded in 1946 by Will Watt of Thomasville, awards scholarships to foreign students for study in Georgia's colleges and universities for one academic year. The scholarship covers the cost of tuition, books, and meals, plus an allowance for incidentals. The GRSP is unique to Georgia, is not funded by Rotary International, and is totally supported and funded by the efforts of the clubs in District 6900, 6910, and 6920.

The Carrollton club regularly sponsors a GRSP student for study at the University of West Georgia. Members are encouraged to get to know our student, and when possible host him or her in their homes. This gives members a unique opportunity for international service by also occasionally hosting and helping these students during their year in Georgia.

Each member of the Carrollton club is encouraged to make contributions to the GRSP endowment fund. A \$1,000 contribution by or in the name of a given person earns that person the title of a "Will Watt Fellow." All club members are encouraged at least to become Will Watt sustaining members by pledging a gift of \$100 per year for 10 years to the GRSP.

III. How are Members Selected?

Selection Process

1. New Members must be sponsored by an existing member – just as new clubs must be sponsored by existing clubs. New member proposal forms are available from the club secretary.
2. The Committee on Classifications assigns an appropriate occupational classification to the prospective member.
3. The Board of Directors approves applications for membership.
4. The club membership must then approve new members.

5. Representatives of the club visit with new or newly proposed members to explain the responsibilities and expectations of membership.

Initiation

There are no rituals to go through, speeches to make, secrets to learn, or rules and rites to master. At their first meeting, new members are simply asked to come forward with their sponsor. The Four-Way Test is read, with no responses required, and the new members are given two Rotary plaques for their walls and a Rotary pin.

What are the Obligations?

Attendance

Regular attendance is the first obligation of a Rotarian. When one must miss a meeting, every effort should be made to make up at another club. Clubs can be found in almost every sizable community in the U.S. and in metropolitan areas around the world. Members may also make up on line through the website www.rotaryclubone.org and other "e-clubs". Rotary encourages 100% attendance, and some members have achieved that for 40 years and more.

Make-up Locations in the Area

- Monday:** Douglas County - Douglasville New Conference Center - 11:45 am
- Tuesday:** Polk County - The Depot in Rockmart - 12 noon.
- Wednesday:** Carrollton Dawnbreakers - Sunset Hills - 7:30 a.m.
LaGrange - Highland Country Club - 12 noon.
- Thursday:** Bremen - Quality Inn of Bremen - 12:30 pm
- Friday:** Newnan - Newnan Country Club - 12 noon

Participation

Each Rotarian is assigned to a club committee and is expected to assist in achieving the committee's goals for the year. Rotarians are also expected to assist, as needed, with community projects, fund raisers, and social functions of the club. The Carrollton club has a tradition of members always saying "yes" when asked to serve their club.

District Assembly

District 6900 annually conducts a district assembly, usually in Columbus on a Saturday morning in March or April. This is the best opportunity for members to learn of the vast opportunities available in Rotary and to see first hand the "nuts and bolts" of the district and Rotary International. Each new member should attend the first available district assembly. The current and incoming leadership are expected to attend.

District Conference

The district's annual conference is normally held the last weekend in April at a resort location. This is a relaxed, fun-filled conference with very good entertainment, awards, and banquets and plenty of free time. This is a very enjoyable opportunity for fellowship for both members and spouses and is considered the highlight of the Rotary year.

All members are welcome and encouraged to attend this conference, with their families if possible. The current and incoming leadership are expected to attend.

Rotary Programs

Every member is encouraged to suggest program topics and speakers of interest to the membership. Programs by politicians who are not currently candidates for office generally are considered acceptable. Programs primarily for commercial promotion are not.

V. What Are the Benefits?

The benefits of membership in Rotary, like those in any other worthy organization, depend largely upon what members are willing to contribute of themselves. However, the following potential benefits are available to each member:

1. A major benefit is simply the gratification that comes of participation in efforts to make our community and our world better places in which to live and work—by getting to know people of different occupations and different cultures, by promoting mutual understanding and good will, and by supporting valuable community and international projects.
2. Another benefit is the repeated occasion to make new friends and to share in fellowship with others who are also committed to ideal of service that Rotary espouses.
3. Yet another benefit is the useful information gained from publications, weekly programs, and conversation with fellow Rotarians.
4. Finally, there is also the important benefit of developing a useful network of involved and influential persons.

Service, fellowship, knowledge, and understanding: these are the benefits of Rotary, in Carrollton and around the world. These benefits will continue to exist as long as individual members are committed to their realization.