

NEW MEMBER GUIDE

<https://kamloopswestrotary.club>

Welcome! We're glad you've joined us.

Rotary is an amazing organization, and our club is a fantastic place to be a Rotarian. In the following pages, we provide information that will help you learn more about Rotary and our club. Read them at your leisure or turn to this information when you have a question: lots of answers are provided.

Founded in 1980 by local community leaders, our club size is 40-60 members. We are known as a fun club, which can be seen and felt at weekly meetings and at our fellowship events.

About club meetings

Our regular meeting time is from 12:00pm to 1:30pm on Thursdays, at the Sandman Hotel. Generally, we follow this program:

- Social time to mingle, find a table and grab lunch before things get started.
- Meeting agenda, when we go over up-coming club events, fundraisers, announcements or activities.
- Program/speaker - our Program Committee does a great job at finding a wide variety of speakers, and we always learn something new.
- Happy Bucks, where we share in some fellowship.

You should REGISTER for each meeting. See the club calendar or the IGNITE app. If you have not paid in advance, you can pay with a card at the door.

Getting involved

Our club is proud to work locally and internationally. The money we raise is used to support both local and international projects. We also donate our time and talent for hands-on projects. Go to our website at kamloopswestrotary.club to learn about the projects and initiatives that we support.

Local projects

There are many opportunities for local hands-on projects. Some of ours include:

- Semi-annual, citywide Food Drives
- PIT Stop
- Seniors' Tea
- Community park projects

International projects

- The Rotary Youth Exchange program
- Polio Eradication
- Literacy, building and supplying schools
- Clean Water

Fellowship

Our club loves to have fun! Some of our fellowship activities include:

- Christmas Party
- 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner?'
- 'Foxhunts' (amazing race-like group challenges)
- Pub socials
- Attending other clubs' events as a group

Family

Your family members are always welcome to join us at a meeting. We also love to have spouses/significant others attend our socials and projects. Some meetings and activities are great for kids, too.

Fundraising

As a member of our club, there is an expectation that you will help our fundraising efforts. There are many ways to contribute your time, talent and treasure:

- Recruit people and/or sponsors to participate in events
- Serve on a fundraising project committee
- Assist with marketing, getting the word out
- Write a cheque or participate in an event

Rotary International

This is the governing body of Rotary. All clubs are members of Rotary International (RI). It is a highly respected global organization with one of the highest ratings among charitable organizations around the world.

www.rotary.org

Zones

Because Rotary is so large, it is broken into Zones for purposes like training. There are 34 Zones around the world. We are in Zone 28 which includes all of Canada, Alaska and small parts of northern USA.

<https://portal.clubrunner.ca/50077>

Districts

Districts are made up of clubs within a geographical area. We are in District 5060. There are 2200 Rotarians and 58 clubs in our district; half of them are in the USA.

<https://rotary5060.org>

The primary thread within the culture of Rotary can be seen in the very important guiding light adopted by Rotarians everywhere; called the Four Way Test, it is applied in all of the things we think, say and do:

The Four Way Test

1. **Is it the truth?**
2. **Is it fair to all concerned?**
3. **Will it build goodwill and better friendships?**
4. **Will it be beneficial to all concerned?**

Clubs

Kamloops West: <https://kamloopswestrotary.club>

This is where the real work of Rotary gets done. Clubs vary widely in size, from 12 to 300 in our District, for example.

Rotary International has six Areas of Focus, or categories of service, that the good work we do falls into:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child health
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development

Where to begin

Jump in!

The sooner you get involved, the more you will love Rotary. When you join, you will be assigned a **Mentor**. This person will help you learn more about Rotary and is available if you have questions. They will take you for coffee and sometimes to another club to visit.

Generally, they are people who have been in Rotary for quite a few years and can share their experience and knowledge.

The Rotary pin tells the world that you a Rotarian. Wear your pin with pride! it symbolizes good business ethics and commitment to service. Anywhere you travel, if you see a Rotary pin, you have found a friend. it unlocks many doors.

Attendance

We want you to regularly attend meetings and hope that you want to, but sometimes you can't and that's okay. Feel free to visit other clubs and committees to stay connected with Rotary when you are away home.

Annual dues

Annual dues are currently \$325. This includes club, district and Rotary International dues, plus your annual subscription to *The Rotarian*, Rotary's monthly magazine. In addition, we hope all our members will contribute to the Rotary Foundation.

A brief history of Rotary

Here is a bit about Rotary's beginnings, which help to give insight into what Rotary is about, and the mindset of Rotarians:

- Paul Harris founded Rotary on February 23, 1905
- Chicago was home to the first club, created for men who had good business ethics (not common in Chicago at the time)
- Meeting locations 'rotated' among member businesses
- The club was a networking group that emphasized fellowship
- Members were called by their first names
- It was a men's club at the time; that changed, but not until 1987!

The Rotary Foundation, or TRF, is the charitable arm of our organization. It is a 501(c) corporation and is supported by Rotarians around the world to fund educational and humanitarian projects. Our #1 worldwide program priority is the eradication of polio.

We contribute and it is invested for three years so that the interest can cover administrative expenses; then it becomes available for projects, both local and international.

You will hear the term EREY (ee-ray) - it stands for Every Rotarian, Every Year, giving to the Foundation. It is something we encourage all members to gladly do as an investment in the future of the good work we do.

When you give \$1000 to TRF, you become a Paul Harris Fellow. It may take you years to achieve your first (and subsequent) Paul Harris Fellow recognition, and that's okay. You will see people receiving sapphire or ruby pins; it means they are multiple Paul Harris Fellows, and their cumulative giving is several thousand dollars over their Rotary lifetime.

Wrapping up...

- This is by no means a complete look at Rotary or our Rotary Club, but at least you are on your way.
- Never hesitate to ask questions.
- Remember, the more you put in, the more you get out.
- Rotary comes down to two things: Relationships and Experiences.
- Get involved, make friends and have fun!