

WELCOME TO ROTARY

AN INTRODUCTION: Rotary International is a global network of *service volunteers*. It is the world's largest service organisation for business and professional people.

A founding principle of Rotary was to meet periodically to enjoy camaraderie and enlarge one's circle of business and professional acquaintances. **Rotary club members represent a cross-section of the community's owners, executives, managers, political leaders, and professionals.**

In the beginning...: The world's first service club was the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA. The club was formed 23rd Feb 1905 by lawyer Paul P. Harris and three friends: a merchant, a coal dealer, and a mining engineer. Harris wished to recapture the friendly spirit he had felt in the small town where he had grown up.

Room 711 of the Unity Building at 127 North Dearborn Street in downtown Chicago, Illinois, was the site of Rotary's first meeting on Feb 23, 1905. By 1921 the club was represented on every continent, and the name Rotary International was adopted in 1922.

The name "Rotary" was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

The Emblem: In 1922, the organization decided to create and preserve an emblem for the exclusive use of all Rotarians, and the following year, the present emblem, a gearwheel with 24 cogs and six spokes, was adopted. A keyway was added to signify the usefulness of the gearwheel.

The emblem, worn as a lapel pin, now identifies Rotarians around the world.

The emblem also serves as the official logo of the Club.

The Rotary emblem is a trademark and is protected throughout the world by the international association. The emblem is a registered trademark in more than 35 countries to date.



The emblem

THE 4-WAY TEST: "Of the things we think, say or do:

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?"

The 4-way test one of the most widely printed and quoted statements of busi-

ness ethics in the world. Created in 1932, it is a 24-word code of ethics for all employees to follow in their business and professional lives.

The Four-Way Test was formally adopted by Rotary in 1943 and has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways.

(For more info, download APPLYING THE 4-WAY TEST AT [HTTP://WWW.ROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARY.ORG))

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RI Mission Statement: The main objective of Rotary is service, in the community and throughout the world. Rotarians build goodwill and peace, provide humanitarian service, and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations. The Rotary motto is "**Service Above Self**" (formerly "he profits most who serves best").

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary by:

- Fostering unity among member clubs;
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world;
- Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary; and
- Providing a system of international administration.

(For the full statement on the "Object of Rotary" see elsewhere in this publication)

Membership worldwide is about 1,2m. Rotary clubs worldwide are 30,000 approximately, in 166 Rotary countries, grouped into 530 Rotary districts.

Administration: Rotary is organized at club, district, and international levels to carry out its program of service. Rotarians are members of their clubs, and the clubs are members of the global association known as Rotary International.

Each club elects its own officers and enjoys considerable autonomy within the framework of the constitution and bylaws of Rotary International.

Clubs are grouped into Rotary **districts**, each led by a district governor who is an officer of Rotary International and represents the RI board of directors in the field. Though selected by the clubs of the district, a governor is elected by all of the clubs worldwide meeting in the RI Convention.

A 19-member board of directors, which includes the international president and president-elect, administers Rotary International. These officers are also elected at the convention; the selection process for choosing directors and the nominating committee for president are based on zones, each of which comprises approximately 15 districts. The board meets quarterly to establish policies.

While the Rotary International president is the highest officer of RI, the chief administrative officer of RI is the General Secretary, who heads a staff of about 600 persons working at the international headquarters in the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois,

The Rotary Foundation: The Rotary Foundation is the charitable trust fund of Rotary International. In simple terms it is OUR charity and it belongs to every one of us who holds membership of any Rotary club world-wide.

The Rotary Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation that supports the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international humanitarian, educational, and cultural exchange programs. It is supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

Why Join your local Rotary club?

Each Rotary club strives for a membership that is an up-to-date and progressive representation of its community's business, vocational, and professional interests. Membership in Rotary offers a number of benefits, including:

- Effecting change within the community
- Developing leadership skills
- Gaining an understanding of, and having an impact on, international humanitarian issues.
- Developing relationships with community and business leaders

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, VISIT
[HTTP://WWW.ROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.ROTARY.ORG)
[HTTP://ROTARYLIMBECAMEROON.ORG/](http://ROTARYLIMBECAMEROON.ORG/)