



History of Rotary International

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread, and within a decade, clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York to Winnipeg, Canada. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents. The organization adopted the Rotary International name a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving club members' professional and social interests. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its motto: Service Above Self.

By July 1925, Rotary had grown to more than 2,000 clubs and an estimated 108,000 members. The organization's distinguished reputation attracted presidents, prime ministers, and a host of other luminaries to its ranks — among them author Thomas Mann, diplomat Carlos P. Romulo, humanitarian Albert Schweitzer, and composer Jean Sibelius.

The Four-Way Test

In 1932, Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor created The Four-Way Test, a code of ethics adopted by Rotary 11 years later. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

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?

Rotary and World War II

During World War II, many clubs were forced to disband, while others stepped up their service efforts to provide emergency relief to victims of the war. In 1942, looking ahead to the postwar era, Rotarians called for a conference to promote international educational and cultural exchanges. This event inspired the founding of UNESCO.

In 1945, 49 Rotary club members served in 29 delegations to the UN Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and covering the United Nations in its publications.

"Few there are who do not recognize the good work which is done by Rotary clubs throughout the free world," former Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain once declared.

Dawn of a new century

As it approached the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet society's changing needs, expanding its service efforts to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk.

In 1989, the organization voted to admit women into clubs worldwide. Today, women are an integral part of Rotary's membership.

After the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Rotary clubs were formed or re-established throughout Central and Eastern Europe. The first Russian Rotary club was chartered in 1990, and the organization underwent a growth spurt for the next several years.

More than a century after Paul Harris and his colleagues chartered the club that eventually led to Rotary International, Rotarians continue to take pride in their history. In honor of that first club, Rotarians have preserved its original meeting place, Room 711 in Chicago's Unity Building, by re-creating the office as it existed in 1905. For several years, the Paul Harris 711 Club maintained the room as a shrine for visiting Rotarians. In 1989, when the building was scheduled to be demolished, the club carefully dismantled the office and salvaged the interior, including doors and radiators. In 1993, the RI Board of Directors set aside a permanent home for the restored Room 711 on the 16th floor of RI World Headquarters in nearby Evanston.

Today, 1.2 million Rotarians belong to over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Guiding principles

The Object of Rotary

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 of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Avenues of Service -For years, Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self has been channeled through the Avenues of Service, which form the foundation of club activity.

- Club Service** focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club. Learn about effective club service in membership and training.
- Vocational Service** encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards. Observed each October, Vocational Service Month spotlights Rotary club projects related to this avenue, offering opportunity for clubs and districts to use their professional skills in service projects.
- Community Service** covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in its community.
- International Service** encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary's humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace. Rotarians can support International Service by sponsoring a project in another country, seeking international project partners to support projects in their own communities, or by personally volunteering at an international project site.
- New Generations Service** recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through leadership development activities as RYLA Rotaract and Interact, service projects, and creating international understanding with Rotary Youth Exchange.
- Mission** -The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.
- Diversity and Rotary** -Rotary International recognizes the value of diversity within individual clubs. Rotary encourages clubs to assess those in their communities who are eligible for membership, under existing membership guidelines, and to endeavor to include the appropriate range of individuals in their clubs. A club that reflects its community with regard to professional and business classification, gender, age, religion, and ethnicity is a club with the key to its future.

Rotary Club of Picayune

Locally, the Rotary Club of Picayune was founded February 25, 1925. Currently it has approximately 50 members consisting of representatives from local businesses. These members meet weekly every Tuesday from 12:00noon to 1:00pm at Southern Char Steak house. The membership is dedicated to community service in avenues such as education ,literacy, economic development, business development, and other community services as needed.

These annual services and customers include, scholarships based on certain criteria for local high school students, Fishing rodeo for the special education students at local elementary schools, dictionary distribution to nearly 600 3rd graders at 6 local elementary schools, distribution of approximately 100 Christmas food baskets to families identified for need by the local food banks and etiquette classes for students selected by their teachers. The Rotary Club of Picayune's current annual budget also includes recurring items such as donations to support Toys for Tots, Boy Scouts of America, Picayune Police Department Youth Camp, Picayune Fire Department Youth Camp. In addition to the above, special non recurring donations are approved and awarded by the membership. The club compiles and shares all donations and community service project info with the members.

Membership in the Rotary Club of Picayune is only by recommendation from a local Rotarian. The proposed member must first be approved by the board of directors and then by the full membership. The current quarterly assessments are \$180.00 and are requested by invoice mailed to the member. These funds are used to pay for district and international dues and also meals for the member at weekly Rotary luncheon meetings. "The Rotarian" magazine is also provided on a monthly basis by mailing.

Community Services are funded by any remaining assessment funds, fundraisers, donations by Rotarians ,donations by individuals ,and grants from Rotary International and local businesses. Two additional contributions will be requested from members annually. A \$10 dollar contribution to buy 2 tickets for the district conference Rotary foundation raffle. And each member is asked to purchase a minimum of one, \$100.00 ticket for the local club scholarship fundraiser used for Picayune and PRC graduate scholarships.

Please visit the Rotary Club of Picayune's website at <http://www.picayunerotary.com/> where you can view presentations from community service events and find links to the district and international organization web sites containing a vast array of facts about our organization. A writeable pdf format new member application form is also located on the member page. This form should be filled out and returned to the club's email: info@picayunerotary.com . If preferable, a copy can be printed and returned to the sponsoring Rotarian for submittal.