Membership

Overview

Section 1: Individual Membership

Section 2: Corporate Membership

Section 3: Young Rotary Leaders (YRL) Membership

Please first read Section 1 for the definition of many terms and concepts used in the summary of other types of Membership.

In addition to being a more cost-effective approach for a group, the primary benefit of Corporate Membership is to significantly increase flexibility in meeting attendance requirements established by Rotary International.
A service organization of business and professional men and women united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

WHAT IS ROTARY?

The Rotary Club of Bellevue is part of Rotary International, the world’s first service club organization. Its members form a global network of business, professional, and community leaders who volunteer their time and talents to serve their communities and the world. Rotary’s motto – Service Above Self – exemplifies the humanitarian spirit of the organization’s more than 1.2 million members.

Strong fellowship among Rotarians and meaningful community and international service projects characterize Rotary worldwide.

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.

WHY JOIN ROTARY CLUB OF BELLEVUE?

Rotary membership provides opportunities for you to:

- Become connected to your community on a grassroots, meaningful level.  
- Develop life-long friendships with other professionals with whom you might not otherwise come in contact.  
- Learn about a variety of subjects through speakers at the weekly meetings.  
- Work with others in addressing community needs.  
- Interact with other professionals in your community and assist with Rotary International’s worldwide humanitarian efforts.  
- Establish contacts with an international network of 1.2 million professionals: we are members of one club and welcomed at clubs in cities and countries around the world.

THE ROTARY MOTTO  
Service Above Self  

OUR LINEAGE

- Rotary was formed in Chicago in 1905 – today we are over 34,000 clubs and 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries.  
- Seattle Rotary #4 began in 1909, created Kirkland Rotary Club in 1937, which in turn created Bellevue Rotary Club in 1961.  
- Today the club has grown to approximately 200 business and community leaders committed to service.  
- We are a part of District 5030 covering King County and a small part of Snohomish County.  
- There are 55 Clubs in our District with approximately 3,300 members.
**When does the Club Meet?**

We meet between 12 noon and 1:30PM every Tuesday in Downtown Bellevue at Maggiano’s Little Italy restaurant inside Lincoln Square, 10455 NE 8th St.

**What are the Responsibilities of Membership?**

What Rotarians get out of Rotary depends largely on what they put into it. That’s why many of our membership requirements are designed to help Club members more fully participate in and enjoy their Rotary experience. These are the basics:

**Attendance**

Attending weekly club meetings allows members to enjoy fellowship, enrich their professional and personal knowledge, and meet other business leaders in their community. During the probationary period, new Rotarians must obtain 100% attendance. After the probationary period a member:

- Must not miss more than 4 consecutive home club meetings;
- Must attend or make up 50% of meetings in each 6-month period;
- Must attend at least 30% of one’s own club’s meetings in each 6-month period.

If members miss a meeting of their own Club, they are encouraged to expand their Rotary horizons by attending a meeting of any other Rotary Club in the world. Other Clubs’ meeting times and locations can be found at rotary.org and those within our own district can be found at www.rotary5030.org. Leaves of Absence can be approved by the Board for extended unavoidable causes of attendance interruption.

**Service**

By participating in local and international service projects, club members can volunteer their time and talents where they’re most needed. The Avenues of Service are Rotary’s philosophical cornerstone and the foundation on which club activity is based:

- **Club Service** focuses on strengthening fellowship and ensuring the effective functioning of the club. This involves all activities necessary for the club to function, such as weekly meeting venue, dues collection, membership roster and attendance records.
- **Vocational Service** encourages Rotarians to serve others through their vocations and to practice high ethical standards.
- **Community Service** covers the projects and activities the club undertakes to improve life in our community.
- **International Service** encompasses actions taken to expand Rotary’s humanitarian reach around the globe and to promote world understanding and peace. Bellevue Rotary members have been involved in project across the globe, including Ethiopia, Nepal, Belize and many more.
- **New Generations Service** recognizes the positive change implemented by youth and young adults through

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**The Four-Way Test**

*Of the things we think, say or do:*

Followed by Rotarians worldwide in their business, personal and professional lives, *The Four-Way Test* was created by Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor in 1932. The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

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?
General Policies

Please respect the fact that one of the reasons Rotary is successful around the United States and the world is that it is specifically non-sectarian, non-denominational, and non-religious. We are inclusive when it comes to religious, cultural, ethnic and political (to state only some) differences. We do not allow any religious preaching, or proselytizing, within our Rotary environment.

When you become a member of Rotary, you are “loaned” a classification based on the “principal or recognized business or professional activity of the firm, company or institution” with which you are connected. By having only the top practitioners of each profession in the club, members will benefit from knowing people from outside their own areas and the club will benefit from a broad range of services and expertise.

Red Badge Activity.

During the initial probationary period, new members wear a “Red Badge” prior to “graduating” to full membership or “Blue Badge” status. The red badge helps existing members to look out for you and get to know you. During this period you must accomplish the following: (Note: you will be contacted by the Rotarian responsible for each area to schedule your participation in each activity.)

- Serve as a greeter and lead the Pledge of Allegiance at two noon meetings.
- Work at the back table twice selling raffle tickets processing charges for visiting Rotarians.
- Attend a new member information meeting (called “firesides”)
- Participate in at least one hands-on service activity.
- Schedule a time with our designated photographer, to have your photograph taken at a club meeting for use in our membership directory.
- Give a classification talk – it’s your opportunity to introduce yourself to your fellow members in no more than four minutes. You take the initiative on this one and email Red Badge/Blue Badge Committee Chair to schedule.
- Serve on committees – you will be automatically assigned to the fellowship and fundraising committees in your first year so you’ll begin to know other new members. Members are encouraged to select an additional committee in an area of interest.
- In recognition of the importance of ongoing recruiting, sometime during the first six months spend time with someone on the Membership Committee to learn about the Membership Proposal Process.
- Six months’ of perfect attendance. If you must miss a meeting, you can attend our club or other on the planet two weeks prior to or two weeks after the missed meeting and then submit notice of having made up via the form in the Bellevue Rotary /District 5030 on-line database. Waived for former Rotarians.

DID YOU KNOW?

- Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships is the world’s largest, privately funded scholarship program!
- The Rotary Foundation has contributed more than $2.3 billion in program awards and operations since 1947.
- Rotarians have established a host of organizations dedicated to various humanitarian causes, including ShelterBox, Books for the World and First Harvest.
- Providing vitamin A supplements during polio National Immunization Days has averted an estimated 1.5 million childhood deaths since 1998—testimony to the “plus” in Polio Plus.
- RI representatives work with many major international organizations, including the UN and several of agencies, the Organization of American States, the Council of Europe, and the African Union.
Section 2
Rotary International – Rotary Club of Bellevue
Corporate Membership Program

Purpose
Feedback from numerous International Rotary surveys and focus groups has repeatedly shown that prospective members and current younger Rotarians require flexibility in their Rotary Club membership. This program is structured for the Bellevue Rotary Club (the Club).

The Corporate Membership Program allows a corporation in the Club’s area to become a member of the Rotary Club, through an established membership approval process, and to appoint up to four designees as the individuals attending Club meetings, serving on projects, voting on Club matters, and serving as Club officers and on Club committees, and so on.

A “Corporation” is defined as an organization or other entities commonly found in the Bellevue workplace, including, but not limited to: public sector entities, partnerships, and non-profits.

Premise
A Corporate membership category will increase the Club’s ability to attract and retain a qualified and diverse professional base within the community. It allows for flexibility and recognizes the tremendous mobility that is the norm within the current workplace environment.

Program Considerations
The Club considered implementing the following measures when setting up this membership category:

1. Approval. A Corporate entity can become an eligible Corporate member of the Club through an approval process similar to the same processes and procedures as for a regular individual Membership, with the Senior Member of the Corporation’s group representing the Corporation.
2. Designees. Once an entity becomes an eligible Corporation member through the established approval process, it may appoint up to four persons to be its designees, one of whom must be a member of that entity’s senior executive group (the Senior Member); the others can be managerial individuals employed full time by the eligible Corporation, or Board Members or Trustees formally appointed by the Corporation. Each Designee shall be subject to the same application and approval process as used by the Club for individual members. While it is preferred that they maintain their individual status, existing Bellevue Rotary Club Member may become Designees.
3. **Changing designees.** The approved Corporate member may request a change of any of its Designees from time to time, subject to such restrictions, requirements and approvals as the Club may impose from time to time.

4. **Inductions and Red/Blue Badge Requirements.** Each Designee will be formally inducted into the Club following procedures established by the Club from time to time, and will be subject to all membership induction, progression, rules and procedures applicable to individual members, provided that the member attendance requirement for each Designee will be as described in paragraph five. The Red/Blue Badge process is designed to encourage involvement in Club activities and so each Designee is expected to complete the requirements, excepting that the 100% attendance will be calculated as described in paragraph five.

5. **Attendance.** All Designees will be encouraged to attend as many Club meetings as possible even if more than one Designee is in attendance. The Club goal is to have at least one Designee attend each club meeting. Perfect attendance for the Corporate member will require that at least one Designee attend each Club meeting, or fulfill established make-up requirements. Each Designee will be given attendance credit for attendance by any of the other Designees for purposes of calculating 100% attendance for graduation from Red Badge to Blue Badge and for purposes of calculating a member’s attendance to comply with Rotary International attendance requirements. A make-up by one Designee shall constitute a make-up for all Designees. Attendance by two or more Designees at one Club meeting may be treated as a make-up for the Corporate Member and the Designees if the attendance occurs during the 2 weeks prior to or after any meeting missed by all Designees of a Corporate member.

6. **Classification.** The classification of the eligible Corporation and its Designees will be established by the Club. Because a Corporation member is an official member of the Rotary Club, this classification will be counted as one (including all Designees) toward the classification limits set forth in the Rotary International Constitution, Article 5, Section 2(b). Any Designee converting to an individual membership may continue to retain such Designee’s classification to the extent permitted by Rotary International bylaws or rules.

7. **Designee Membership and Rotary International Registration.** Each Designee will be listed also as an official member of the Club and will be noted in the roster that they are Designees of the Corporate member.

8. **Badges.** Badge references for each Designee will be determined by the Club following its standard procedures.

9. **Votes and Quorum.** For the purpose of general meetings and Club matters, each Designee will have one vote. As the official member of the Rotary Club, each Corporate member will be treated as one vote toward Rotary International election voting.

10. **Holding office.** Each Designee will be eligible to hold any office in the Rotary Club to which the Designee is elected in the normal way and to be a committee chairperson. There is no limit on the number of Designees to hold an office at any one time or to be committee chairpersons.
11. Financial obligations. The financial obligations of a Corporate member will be as follows (and the Corporate member shall be responsible to pay all of the following for each Designee, excepting voluntary contribution commitments made from time to time by Designees of a Corporate member):

a. **Initiation Fee:** For the privilege of establishing a Corporate membership, the Corporate member will pay an initiation fee for each Designee, which will be 25% more than an individual member’s initiation fee. Until changed by Club board action, the individual member’s initiation fee is $100 per person, so the Corporate member will pay $125 per Designee.

b. **Fund Raising Events:** Each Corporate member will be responsible for purchasing the same number of event tickets as is required of an individual Club member, but each Designee will not be required, but will be encouraged, to purchase tickets. Each Designee will also be encouraged to contribute to the Rotary Foundation, contribute to the Club’s permanent endowment fund, and participate in fundraising and other activities as may be requested of individual Club members from time to time.

c. **Annual Club Dues:** The annual Club dues which are required to be paid by individual Club members will also be required to be paid by each Designee or by the Corporate member.

d. **Meal/beverage Costs:** The Corporate member will be charged the periodic meal and beverage costs in the same amount as is charged to an individual Club member, which will entitle one Designee to a meal at each Club meeting. If more than one Designee attends a Club meeting, each additional Designee will be charged per meeting attended at the same rate as our Club’s Active Exempt members.

e. **Change of status from Designee to Active Member:** Because the Club desires to encourage lifetime membership by individuals, there will be no fee charged for any change from a Designee to an individual Club member, whether or not the Designee remains an employee of the Corporate member.

12. Conversion. A Designee may convert to an individual membership of the Club by requesting such transfer in writing.

13. Bulletin and communication. Each Designee will receive the Club’s weekly bulletin/newsletter and regular Club communications.

14. Receipt of *The Rotarian* or Rotary regional magazine. Each Designee will receive the Rotary International magazine, the cost of which is included in the regular dues paid by the Corporation.

15. Participation in youth activities. The Corporate member Designees are expected to abide by all restrictions, policies, and procedures with respect to Club activities involving youth.

16. Termination. The process for terminating the membership of a Designee or the Corporate member will be the same as for individual members.

17. Change. This Program and all benefits granted to any Corporate Member or Designee may be revised, removed or repealed at any time in the sole discretion of the Club, with or without advance notice.
BACKGROUND:

Recruiting younger Members has been identified by the Rotary Club of Bellevue (BRC) Board of Directors as a critical activity for the health of the Club and to enrich the experience of all Rotarians through shared perspectives.

The Membership Committee of BRC has proposed creating a Young Rotary Leaders Program (YRLP) as a focused initiative to address this need.

The summary overview that follows is based largely on a successful program initiated in 2003 by Seattle 4, but modified to reflect differences in dues structure and to take advantage of their experience (i.e. what they would modify about their existing program.)

The key components are the formation of a Committee made up of YRL members and Mentors (veteran members) and a reduced fee structure.

“YOUNG ROTARY LEADERS” CANDIDATE:

The Rotary Club of Bellevue has a great opportunity for new, young, and promising leaders of tomorrow called “Young Rotary Leaders.” The Young Rotary Leaders Program is for those 35 years old and younger who strive to become leaders in our community, business, Rotary, our city, state, or country in the years ahead.

Qualifications are:

- Candidates have to meet all of the qualifications of Rotary International and BRC.
- Candidates have demonstrated leadership in their profession or through community service, in addition to the significance of their role within their firm. They also must demonstrate that they have the time and financial support to be a Rotarian.
- “Young Rotary Leaders” will be 35 or younger when they are proposed by a Sponsor member of BRC, and may remain in the program for a period not to exceed 5 years, at which time membership will
transition to that of “regular” membership status. Young Rotary Leaders pay reduced fees while in the YRLP (see the last page for details.)

YRL COMMITTEE:

This committee is for young Rotarians and Mentor Rotarians. It is focused on the recruitment, retention, and relevancy of young Rotarians who belong to BRC. The goal is to provide an opportunity for young Rotarians to get to know each other and ultimately make the most out of their Rotary experience. Young Rotary Leaders meet the 3rd Tuesday of each month following the luncheon at the YRL tables.

TACTICS:

The Club is a membership-by-invitation organization. As adopted by the 2011-2012 Board of Directors, The Club seeks persons who are, or are likely to be, leaders in the growth, promotion and development of Bellevue and the Greater Eastside Community, and express a genuine interest in service above self. In particular, the Club seeks to attract and retain persons who are or will become recognized leaders in the business community of Bellevue.

Continued publicity in social media and discussion at the podium will build awareness and demonstrate the Club’s commitment to the program.

Ensure involvement by having YRL Tables once a month, with table talk about ideas and activities to recruit more YRLs. Each table will include at least one veteran YRL Mentor.

The Committee will be represented by the New Generations Board Member and will have a representative on the Membership Committee.

In addition to active involvement in the regular Fellowship programs, the YRL group will have a quarterly “social meeting” that will include a guest speaker – a prominent Rotarian who can speak from experience about the benefits of active involvement in the Club.

The YRL Committee will develop a crisp overview of their growth plan for presentation to the Board at the second meeting of the new fiscal year.