



## A CANDIDATE'S INTRODUCTION TO *SOUTH RICHMOND ROTARY CLUB*

If you have a serious interest in joining a service club, we invite you to consider Rotary and this Club. Our members will tell you that the time spent at our weekly meetings and other activities are well worth the effort. Most are very busy people but they find time for this Rotary Club. Once you fall in with this wacky crowd, you are hooked!

**HOWEVER, AT THE START WE WANT YOU TO KNOW WHAT TO EXPECT FROM US AND WHAT WE EXPECT OF YOU.**

ROTARY is the largest and the fastest growing civic club in the world. It is dedicated to a very high standard of ethics in business and professional practice. It is also fully committed to world-wide philanthropy.

Every Rotary club has its own personality. All Rotary Clubs require good conduct and follow the guidelines of Rotary International. At times this club pushes those limits. We never go over the line. You will understand what this means as this outline continues.

### What we would expect of you:

You should strive for 100% attendance. If one of our meetings must be missed you have two weeks before or after that date to "make up" at another Rotary Club. With seventeen clubs in the greater Richmond area and thousands around the world, there is always one to fit your schedule.

You are expected to give generously of your time to the work of our Club. In addition to our weekly meetings, we have one major and several smaller fund-raising events each year. To be successful, each one requires many hours of work by a large segment of our membership. That includes you!

In addition to your time, there is a dollar cost to membership that must be considered. The \$12 weekly lunch, yearly dues, a foundation donation, fund raising events and our two annual social events (Founders Day & Holiday party) will cost you in the vicinity of two thousand dollars per year.

### Membership qualifications:

Those considered for membership are in upper levels of management in business or are leaders in their profession, of good character, and recommended by three Club members. (The first part of this qualification is sometimes waived for outstanding young people on their way up.) The primary sponsor should be fully confident of his submission from a long association with the candidate or with thorough investigation. Additionally there is a classification system required by RI that limits the number of members in a Rotary Club who are in any one occupation or profession.

### What you can expect from membership in this club:

First, there is the pride in being a part of the finest Rotary Club in the world.

Second, you have the great satisfaction of participating in the good work which we do around our city, the District and in far parts of the world.

**Third, there is the pure pleasure of associating with this crazy bunch of Rotarians. If you come to several of our meetings without enjoying yourself, perhaps you need psychotherapy. Be assured, the problem is not ours.**

## A GUIDE TO OUR UNIQUE CULTURE AND TRADITIONS NOT FOUND IN OFFICIAL DOCUMENTS

As a guest invited to one of our meetings, you may wonder about some of the peculiarities of our conduct. Read on to be enlightened.

### **THE CLUB:**

**We have a deep reverence for GOD, a great love for family and country, a close bond with each other, and a dedication to the principals of ROTARY. Beyond that, all else is fair game. We are rowdy, irrepressible, and irreverent. We find great humor in almost everything and everyone. Beyond the exceptions stated, little else is held sacred. We suffer fools and boors poorly. Our treatment of each other, after a hearty hand shake, is to hassle. We give no quarter to political correctness or empty pretence. Our unwritten goal is to do as much good for others as possible while having as much fun as the law allows.**

**The glue that holds us together is the work which we do and money we raise for others. Be it the International Hospital for Children, the Guyana and Honduras projects, or many small charities, this club makes a difference. In short, we are a damn fine club!**

**THE PRESIDENT:** In addition to the many administrative and ceremonial duties, a president must conduct the meetings. He is ever alert to ferret out the slightest opportunity to call up a member for notice and a fine. Any publicity, mistake, mix-up, promotion or such is enough. All such penalties are pronounced with an air of condescension, arrogance and self righteousness.

**FINES:** When it comes to finable offenses, forget your moral principals. It is perfectly acceptable to snitch on your buddy (or any one else), nay, it's expected. Once a member is called out, we all bear false witness with glee. If you are the one called out, give no information beyond that required by direct question from the president. Any reply is usually made with an air of wounded innocence. Shift the blame to another, claim laps of memory, or concoct a wild story. It almost never works, but what the heck.

**COMMERCIALS:** Promoting your commercial interest (other than at the classification talk) by speech or sign to those assembled is improper and a finable offense. An invited speaker who pushes his product or service is frowned upon. This in no way applies to private business activities between members before or after the meetings.

**CLASSIFICATION TALK:** This gives a new member one opportunity to brag, lie and inform the Club about his family, himself and his work without fear of a fine. For this once in a lifetime opportunity, keep the performance light, humorous, and short. A few family facts are nice, but hold down the trivia. **REMEMBER, YOU ARE NOT REMINISCING WITH YOUR MOTHER.**

**THE BOARD:** All serious business and most important decisions are made by the board. To attend a meeting for the first time is a requirement and a revelation. Most of those in attendance try to conduct business while others sometimes carry on like idiots. And yes, the work always gets done.

**SPEAKER:** When a guest is speaking we are expected to give him/her our full attention. If a member is speaking the rules are a bit loose. Throwing napkins is "sort of" discouraged and never allowed is the silverware is still inside and never at the guest speaker. Scooting is also discouraged.

**SINGING:** The song books are put out each week as a make work project. You may note that only the guests pick the up. If we don't know the words, it's la la la all the way. It's not that we don't want to sing, rater we are too darn stubborn to use them. A point of honor, you know. The one time when everyone comes to full attention is for the singing of the patriotic song, pledge of allegiance and prayer.

**HARASSMENT:** Frequently members are called ridiculous names or are accused of outrageous activity. We are a tough audience for guest speakers but more so with our own people. We have perfected the snide remark to an art form. From time to time you will be harassed over something. Count on it.

How is it that we take such abuse with hardly a second thought? First, no offence is taken because we all know that no real offense is ever intended. Second, sooner or later you get your chance at payback. Obviously, if you have a thin skin and take offense easily, this is no place for your membership.

**TRADITION:** The antics of this Club might at times seem akin to chaos. But we hang together well through the years, doing good work along the way. Few ever drop out. By working together we forge strong bonds of friendship that last forever. All Rotary Clubs should have this much fun. It is a true privilege to be a part of it all.

Once again, if you do not have a good time...we are not the problem!

F.L.H. 4-02, J.H.L. Edit 10-04  
Lin Hendricks, You will always be loved by South Richmond Rotary!

