

## 20 ANSWERS TO THE QUESTION:

### ***WHY JOIN ROTARY?***

1. **Friendship**- In an increasingly complex world, Rotary provides one of the most basic human needs: the need for friends and fellowship. It is one of the two reasons why Rotary began in 1905.
2. **Business Development**- The second original reason for Rotary's beginning. Everyone needs to network. Rotary consists of a cross section of every business community. Its members come from all walks of life. Rotarians help one another, and collectively help others.
3. **Personal Growth and Development**- Membership in Rotary continues one's growth and education in human relations and personal development.
4. **Leadership Development/Executive Skills**- Rotary is an organization of leaders and successful people. Serving in Rotary positions is like a college education in Leadership: Learning how to motivate, influence and lead leaders, the opportunity to serve on committees or be on the Board of Directors.
5. **Citizenship in the Community**- Membership in a Rotary club makes one a better community citizen. The average Rotary club consists of the most active citizens of any community.
6. **Continuing Education**- Each week at Rotary there is a program designed to keep one informed as to what is going on in the community, nation and world...different speakers, different topics.
7. **Fun**- Rotary is fun....a lot of fun. Each meeting is fun. The club projects are fun. Social activities are fun, and the service is fun.
8. **Public Speaking Skills**- Many individuals who joined Rotary were afraid to speak in public. Rotary develops confidence, skills in public communication and opportunity.
9. **Citizenship in the World**- Every Rotarian wears a pin that says "Rotary International" and, every Rotarian is welcome...even encouraged to attend any of more than 34,000 clubs in 196 nations and geographical regions. There are few places on the globe which do not have a Rotary club. Instant friends in both one's own community and in the world community.
10. **Assistance When Traveling**- Because there are Rotary clubs everywhere, many a Rotarian who has needed a doctor, lawyer, hotel, advice, etc. while traveling has found one quickly through Rotary.

11. **Entertainment**- Every Rotary club and District has parties and activities which provides diversion in one's business life. Rotary has conferences, conventions, assemblies and institutes which provide entertainment in addition to Rotary information, education and service.
12. **The Development of Social Skills**- Every week and at various events Rotary develops one's personality, social and people skills. Rotary is for people who like people or who want to.
13. **Family Programs**- Rotary provides one of the world's largest youth exchange programs. High school and college clubs for future Rotarians; spouse clubs and programs and a host of activities designed to assist family members in growth and the development of family values.
14. **Vocational Skills**- Every Rotarian is expected to take a part in the growth and development of his or her own profession or vocation; to serve on committees and to teach youth about one's job or vocation.
15. **The Development of Ethics**- Rotarians practice a 4-Way Test which governs one's ethical standards. Rotarians are expected to be ethical in business and personal relationships.
16. **Appreciation of Cultural Diversity**- Around the world, practically every religion, country, culture, race, creed, political persuasion, language, color and ethnic identity is found in Rotary. It is a cross section of the world's most prominent citizens from every background. Rotarians become aware of other cultures and learn to love and work with people everywhere. They become better citizens of their countries in the process.
17. **Prestige**- Rotary members are prominent people. Leaders in business, the professions, art, government, sports, military, religion and all disciplines. Rotary is the oldest and most prestigious service club in the world. Its ranks are executives, managers, professionals ... people who make decisions and influence policy. Not everyone is invited to join Rotary.
18. **Nice People**- Rotarians above all are nice people...the nicest people on the face of the earth. They are important people who adhere to the policy that while it is nice to be important, it is more important to be nice.
19. **The Absence of "Official Creed"**- Rotary has no secret handshake, no secret policy, no official creed, no secret meeting or rituals. It is an open society of men and women who simply believe in helping others.
20. **The Opportunity to Serve**- Rotary is a service club. Its business is mankind. Its product is service. Rotarians provide community service to both the local and international communities. This is the best reason perhaps for becoming a Rotarian. The chance to do something for somebody else, to sense the self-fulfillment which comes in the process and, the return to one's own life. Rotarians believe in service above self...it is richly rewarding.

*"He profits most who serves best."*

*Richard D. King*

*Rotary International President 2001-02*