

For more information about the Meriden Rotary club, visit us at our website at www.meridenrotary.org

For membership information, contact:

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Getting Started in Rotary.... A word to sponsors

Thank you for extending the privilege of Rotary membership!

You can help new members get involved in Rotary in a number of ways, according to what is appropriate for our club. Following is a checklist of suggestions for ways you can help new members.

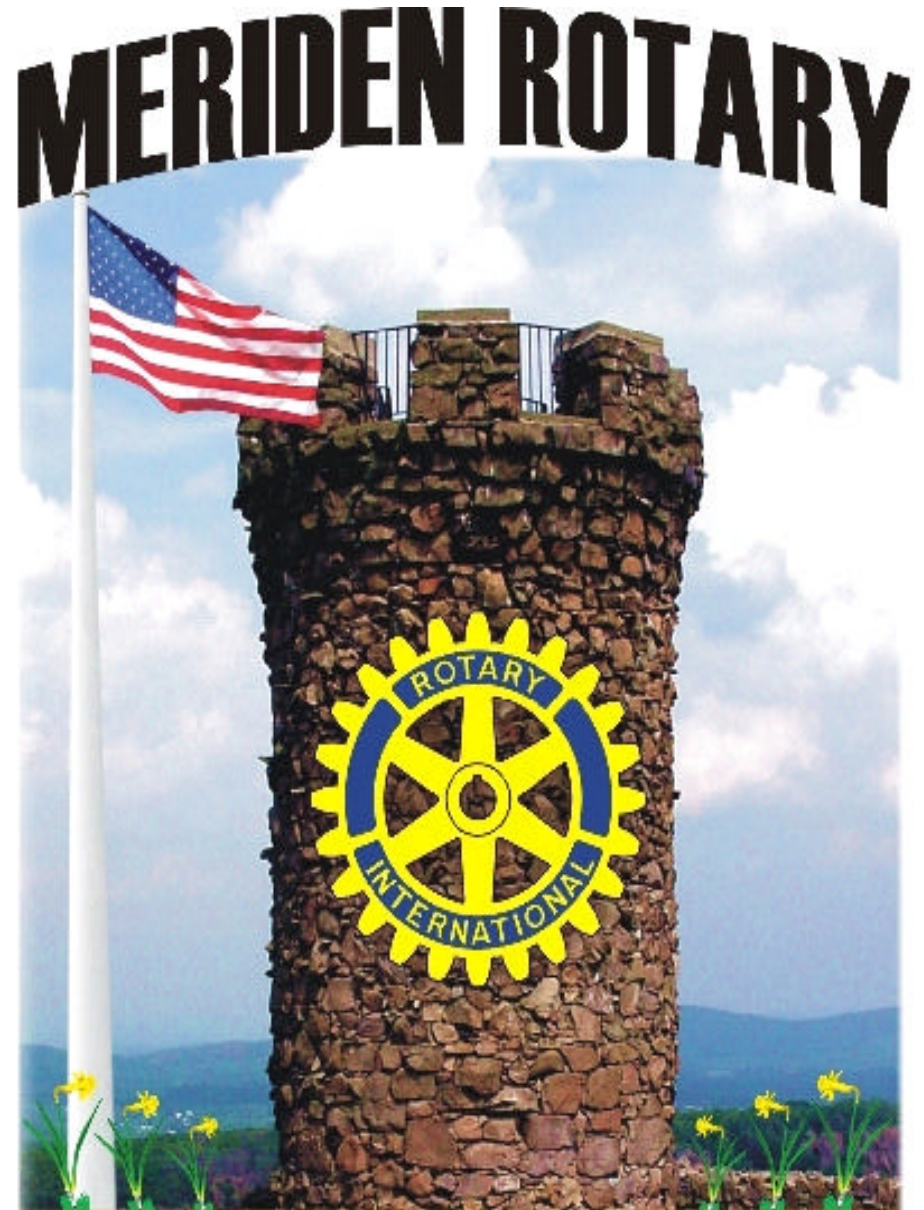
- Introduce the new member to the club officers.
- Explain the committee structure.
- Offer to accompany the new member to his or her first board meeting.
- Provide a good knowledge of Rotary both at international and club levels.
- Explain attendance requirements.
- Provide assistance with the new member's first "classification" talk.
- Explain the programs of the Rotary Foundation.
- Make a plan to keep the new member interested and active in the club and maintain contact with him or her.

I have completed these suggestions regarding

New member: _____

Sponsor: _____

Please complete this portion, sign and return it to our Club President or members of our Membership Committee.



**Enhancing the positive aspects
of our community.**

Rotary District 7980

So, what's Rotary?

Rotary is an organization of both active and retired businessmen and women throughout the world who come together to serve their community and enjoy great fun and fellowship. Rotarians are a diverse, energetic, successful and friendly group of leaders who provide their time, expertise and resources to help their local and world communities.

A Rotarian is an adult of good character and reputation who is a proprietor, partner, corporate/executive officer or manager of a recognized business or who is a member of a profession.

Rotary clubs represent a cross-section of occupations and professions. A vocational "classification" system of membership ensures that a Club cannot be dominated by any one profession or occupation.

The Rotary motto, "*Service above Self*," guides the actions of individual Clubs as they plan to feed the hungry, fight disease, assist the handicapped and elderly, combat illiteracy and fund scholarships. Membership is by invitation and is open to all business persons, irrespective of color, creed or race. This is born out by the fact that they are currently some 1.2 million men and women belonging to over 29,500 Clubs in virtually every nation in the world.

Although membership is by invitation, it is impossible for existing Rotarians to know of every qualifying person who is interested in becoming a member of the worldwide fellowship of Rotary. Therefore, you are invited to contact us so that we can tell you all about the Meriden Rotary Club. We will invite you to attend a few of our meetings, projects, and fellowship functions. At that stage, a mentor/sponsor will be assigned to you, to assist you through the membership process. We look forward to hearing from you soon and to welcome you into the world of Rotary.

Fellowship and Fun!

Families are included in a number of the Club's projects, functions and fellowship events. Rotary is an international organization of business and professional persons united in the idea of community service. However, the participation of Rotarians' families in many aspects of Club activities is encouraged.

Many of the community service projects are organized in such a way as to include a fun aspect—skiing in Vermont in the winter or body surfing at the beach after a golf tournament in the summer. Going to breakfast after marshalling at a road race in the spring or having lunch together after volunteering at Make A Difference Day in the fall.

The weekly meetings present a regular opportunity for Rotarians to get together. There are many clubs in Connecticut, some of which meet in the mornings before work, others at lunchtime, and others in the early evenings. Meeting usually revolve around a meal: breakfast, lunch or dinner and giving members an opportunity to network with like-minded people in a friendly and relaxed environment. If there was another word for *fun*—it would be *Rotary*—and, if there was another word for *fellowship*—that also would be *Rotary*.

Four Way Test

Rotarians prescribe to a 24-word code of ethics in relation to all aspects of their lives...

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?

Opportunities for all Rotarians

Rotary Clubs follow *Four Avenues of Service*, in which there is ample scope for anyone wanting to serve their community and make new friends.

Community Service includes those activities in which Rotarians make substantial and lasting improvements in the quality of life of their community. Examples of work being done under this banner by Rotary Clubs include the feeding of homeless, collecting food for people who cannot afford to purchase food, and many others.

Vocational Service concerns the work done by members in relation to their own vocation or profession, and may include talking to school leaders about their career prospects and coaching youngsters on interview techniques or judging a local school's Math competition.

International Service is a dynamic opportunity for members to become involved with world community service, the youth exchange and scholarship programs, and friendship exchanges; all of which are aimed at promoting international understanding, goodwill and peace.

Club Service encompasses those activities necessary for the successful running of a Club, and includes membership growth and retention, fellowship, administration and public relations.

Just because a member is, say, a Banker, that doesn't necessarily mean he/she will have to handle the financial affairs of the Club. Members soon find themselves tearing down the interior of a local Boys and Girls Club where the Club will be sponsoring a Library, ringing the Bell for the Salvation Army or assisting with polio immunizations in a third world country. There are also many other District activities which offer exciting opportunities for Rotarians locally. A few of these include...

- The Haitians Health Foundation is dedicated to working towards a Peaceful World.
- Lyme Disease Awareness providing public awareness to help identify the deadly disease.

What it means to be a Rotarian

Some people may wonder why it is that business professionals give up their valuable time to be members of Rotary. The reasons are many and varied. Being a Rotarian means making a strong commitment of time and energy. Each Rotary Club meets weekly and members are expected to maintain good attendance records. Rotarians may "make-up" a missed meeting by attending the meeting of any other Rotary Club in any country of the world. In addition to attending meetings, Rotarians are expected to participate actively in their Club's projects. Further commitments of time and energy are made when a Rotarian agrees to serve a Club President, on the Board of the Club, on a District Committee or as District Governor of your District or with Rotary International on a worldwide level. The rewards generally equal or surpass the level of commitment. To become a Rotarian is to join an organization whose members make a significant difference to the quality of life in their community—and worldwide. It is a doorway to a unique network, linked by fellowship and spanning the globe. Being a Rotarian means being able to enrich the lives of others while discovering a world of personal growth and enrichment through service.

Such personal enrichment can include: Members learn, benefit and have contact with a diverse international pool of business and professional leaders. Rotarians gain a sense of accomplishment from working with their peers on a variety of valuable community and international service projects.

Through Club activities, members develop and use skills that can be applied in the workplace while leading meetings, developing budgets, spear heading fund raising projects, public speaking and organizing service projects.

Rotary is a great stress reliever. Working for others helps to give one a better perspective on our own lives, and seeing a smiling child whom you have helped is enough to brighten anyone's day!

Membership of Rotary continued one's growth and education in human relations and personal development.

Rotary Projects Soar with Success in Meriden

Rotary Clubs in Connecticut coordinate and run numerous projects, many of which are specifically directed to meet the needs of people living within the same community as the Rotarians, while others are more widespread in nature, such as the worldwide Polio Plus campaign and the disaster-relief emergency boxes.

It would be impossible to list all of the projects undertaken by the Meriden Rotary Club so here are just a few...

Feed & Clothing the Homeless

Meriden Rotarians are involved with feeding the homeless. Food and clothing drives are held. We also hold food drives for our animal friends and provide volunteers to pack holiday baskets for the Clergy Association and the YMCA Thanksgiving Day Dinner. The local Interact Club works together with the Club collecting hats and mittens on a tree of warmth and then donates the items to the needy families.

Youth Development

Rotary facilitates youth exchange programs enabling youngsters to travel abroad. The RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is a leadership-training weekend sponsored by the District. In an effort to stimulate young people to develop a sense of social responsibility, Rotary facilitates a 'junior' Rotary Club in the form of Interact for high school students in Platt. Every fifth grader in Meriden goes through the D.A.R.E. Program which Rotary is a major sponsor. The Meriden Rotary Foundation offers a citizenship awards (scholarships) for students who are continuing their education. The awards are based upon what the students did to make Meriden a better community. Summer Camper ships are provided to many children who would not have the chance to go to camp without the help of the Meriden Rotary Foundation. The Club also purchased a soap box derby car, which was built and driven by a local Girl Scout.

Environmental Projects

The Meriden Rotary is concerned with our environment. These include clean up programs, awareness campaigns and the preservation

and development of neighborhood parks. The Club plants trees at local non-profits in memory of past Rotarians who have passed away.

Fighting Disease & Helping the Disabled

Worldwide, Rotary has taken on the fight against Polio. Rotary, across the globe, has raised in excess of \$450 million for the purchase of the Polio vaccine and has provided logistical support and manpower for over 2 million children in more than 40 developing countries to receive the vaccine with the aim of eradicating Polio from the surface of the planet. Many Rotary Clubs are also involved with the anti-AIDS and drug awareness campaigns, distributing educational health related materials, while the distribution of wheel chairs to disable persons has become a major project for a number of Clubs. The Meriden Rotary works closely and supports many of the projects of the Lyme Disease Foundation, American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Salvation Army, Kuhn Employment and High Hopes.

Education and Literary

Education received much attention from Meriden Rotary with the distribution of thousands of dollars for educational awards, reading books and other materials.

Rotary is working to improve literary and numeracy skills through Citizenship Awards and Literacy programs.

Club members moderate at the Mathletix matches between the elementary schools. Club members volunteer at Wilcox, Platt and Maloney high schools along with the middle and elementary schools doing student mentoring.

The Meriden Rotary Foundation has supported for many years a Career and Reference Center at the Meriden Public Library. Rotary members not only helped remodel the space but also volunteered their time reading books to younger children and worked on adult literary projects with the Boys and Girls Club and Meriden Library staff.

Rotary Achievements, Local Projects and Initiatives

Rotary is proud to coordinate and participate in many worthwhile projects with many of them specifically directed to meet the needs of the people living in Meriden while others are international. Listed below are a few of them.

Local Projects:

- Noah's Ark of Hope, Inc. Foundation –largest civic club donation in the City of Meriden's history—\$50,000
- Project Dictionary: all 3rd graders in the City of Meriden schools
- D.A.R.E. Programs for all local 5th graders
- Mathletix for Meriden public schools.
- Meriden Rotary Scholarships
- “Hoopin’It Up” Basketball Program
- Augusta Curtis Cultural Center: renovations
- Campership Fund
- Brian David Ash Memorial Fire Prevention Fund
- Library Career Center
- Meriden Children First Initiative
- Boys & Girls Club “Meriden Rotary Pavilion”
- Boys & Girls Club “Meriden Rotary Library”
- Girls, Inc. “Meriden Rotary Computer Center”
- Meriden YMCA “Meriden Rotary Computer Center”
- Soap Box Derby
- Beat the Street Center: “ Beat The Street Computer Center”
- Spirit of Giving
- Jack Barry Little League
- Meriden Rotary Road Race

International Projects:

- Costa Rican Farming Project
- Hurricane Relief for Katrina
- Haitian Health Foundation
- Polio Plus Campaign

Over \$80,000 will be given to these local and international projects.

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Rotary Club of Meriden

Rotarians are a diverse, energetic, successful and friendly group of leaders who provide their time, expertise and resources to help our local and world communities.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE:

(complete listing)

For membership information, please contact:

John McKechnie, Membership Committee Chairperson
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