



THE GREENVILLE ROTARIAN

"Service above self"

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Historic changes made in Rotary's rules

Over the next few months, Rotarians will learn of the most historic changes ever made in Rotary International's Manual of Procedure. The changes were adopted by the RI Board of Directors after the recent Council on Legislation that occurs every three years.

When you hear of the most significant changes made since the creation of Rotary, think this first: All of these changes are good! All of them are designed to make it easier for Rotary International to grow and remain a dynamic organization capable of doing extraordinary humanitarian works.

The most major changes involve: (1) territories, (2) classifications and (3) allowable make-ups. The changes remove some of the overbearing restrictions that prevented clubs from forming or adding members, and they permit clubs to reward members by allowing their hard work to count as a make-up.

First, territories. Our large, and old, club has never jealously guarded its territory, and we have helped form many of the other clubs in Greenville County. Strangely enough, some large clubs have used this regulation to block the formation of other clubs. No more!

Second, as of July 1, all Rotarians were Active Members. Gone are the designations of Active, Additional Active, Senior Active, Senior-Exempt. We are all Active Rotarians! But don't sweat: The rule of 85 still exists. A Rotarian who has achieved 85 years based on age and service in Rotary can request an exemption from the attendance rules.

The classification system remains in place, meaning Rotary International
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Rick King thrills and challenges Rotarians

What a night — about 500 Rotarians, most of them from Greenville County, at the Hyatt Regency Hotel to hear Rotary International President Rick King! The Greenville Downtown Rotary Club took the lead in organizing the dinner that still has Rotarians talking about a night to remember. The last time a Rotary International president visited our county was in 1972.

Rick King helped induct new members into Rotary, and he recognized several new Paul Harris Fellows, a Foundation Benefactor and a new Major Donor, Past District Governor Harriett Skinner and her husband Don. A most touching moment came when our club's Surendra Jain received the 5th Level Multiple Paul Harris Fellow. It was a complete surprise, made possible by his son Manoj, who also is in our club. "You have given your father the best gift a son could possibly give," President Rick told Manoj.

President Rick recited some of the major accomplishments of Rotary International, especially its successful lead role in the fight against polio. "What Rotary has done, no one dreamed a private, non-profit organization could do," he said.

After telling several highly emotional stories about the difference that Rotarians have made in the lives of our society's less advantaged people and in the lives of the Rotarians doing the work, President Rick asked, "Whose life have you touched through Rotary? And who has touched your life because of Rotary?"

Health care changes topic for Neugent

Changes in health care will be the subject of Dick Neugent's speech to Rotary on August 14th. Neugent, a native of Birmingham, Ala., recently celebrated his 20th anniversary as CEO for Bon Secours St. Francis Health System in Greenville.

The Greenville Rotarian

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Rick King, Rotary International President Jim Futrell, District 7750 Governor

Beth Padgett, President
Nell Stewart, President-Elect

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Don Kirkland, Bulletin Editor

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Pay your dues, please

One of the obligations of a Rotarian is "to pay my dues promptly." Our club bills members for dues only once a year — in July. By now, all Greenville Downtown Rotarians should have received their annual dues statements.

Apparently there is a little confusion, because some Rotary Club members are not paying their dues in full. The total on the bill should be paid. Members are required to pay the annual membership fee, the meals assessment and the \$50 assessment for Rotary Charities-Scholarships. A member cannot be required to make an annual contribution to the Paul Harris Fellow fund, but such a contribution is expected by Rotary International.

Only Attendance Exempt (the old classification was Senior Exempt) members can petition the board to be excused from the meals assessment, thus allowing them to pay at the door.

If you have already sent your dues into the office, and forgot to include the payment for your meals or the assessment for Rotary Charities-Scholarships, please send a supplemental check into the office promptly.

Letter to Rotary

Rotary Youth program leaves an impression

Each year, our Rotary Club sponsors students at RYLA — Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. The students learn leadership skills at a week-long session at Erskine College. Buddy Reynolds chairs this committee for our club.

A few weeks ago, Buddy got the sort of handwritten thank-you note that shows the value of this program. It follows:

"Dear Mr. and Mrs. Buddy L. Reynolds,

Let me first say that I'm sorry for not writing you sooner, but after I got back from Erskine I had to leave the next morning for a two-week NJROTC Leadership Academy in Columbia, which did not compare to RYLA. After an experience like RYLA there is no other, and I would love to attend next year as a counselor. I only hope that others got an experience like I did. I want to thank you for sponsoring and providing transportation for me to RYLA. If not for you, I would have never got to meet people like I did at Erskine.

Thank you,
Zachary Sullivan"

President's Corner

Frank Kolb and I took a trip last month to One Rotary Center in Evanston, Ill., for the first-ever Large Club Meeting.

All Rotary Clubs are important to the success of our international service organization. But when it comes to helping Rotary International achieve its essential goals — from growing membership to undertaking a new humanitarian project — the large clubs set the pace and determine the fate.

Rotary International President Rick King told us, "You represent the history of Rotary, its legends, its achievements, its history. You represent the leadership of Rotary."

We learned more about membership development and about new regulations.

But we also learned this: All large clubs have the same challenges, including finding a convenient home and suitable meals for such large gatherings. My only real surprise was that I couldn't find anyone in the crowd with dues or meals fees as low as ours. Asheville Rotarians pay \$13; it's \$15 in Richmond, Va.; and a whopping \$21 in San Francisco (and no parking vouchers either!)

Our large club has a rich history and a long list of accomplishments. And belonging to it is a bargain, too!

— Beth Padgett

The Family of Rotary

Kitty Allen reminds Rotarians to mark October 9th on their calendars. That is the date for the Club's fellowship outing at Furman University. Additional information about the social gathering will be published in a later edition of the bulletin.

And while you're marking your calendars, make a special note for September 11th, when our Club will observe its annual Teacher of the Year recognition, and September 25th, when District Governor Jim Futrell will keynote our meeting.

Don Kirkland and his wife Linda recently returned from a 17-day visit to Taipei, Taiwan, and Beijing and Xi'an, China. The stay in Taiwan was part of the South Carolina Baptist Convention's missions partnership with that island country.

The next **New Member Orientation** is scheduled for August 14th from 7-8:30 p.m. at the home of Fay Towell. For more information, call Kirk Stone at 255-4999.

The Greenville Rotarian is always eager to receive items of interest for the Family of Rotary (e-mail address: don@baptistcourier.com).

Historic changes made in Rotary's rules

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doesn't want a club of all lawyers or all doctors. But the only restriction is that a club should limit membership in any specific classification to 10 percent of its membership. Retired members don't count against the 10 percent limit.

Finally, make-ups. The new rule is easy. Just about anything you do in an official capacity as a Rotarian counts as a make-up, but you must remember to contact the club secretary or Rotary office.

Been to a committee meeting? That's a make-up! Been to a countywide task force meeting? Yep, that's a make-up! Worked on a club community service project? You're right, another make-up!

Whether it's judging Teacher of the Year or working at Holiday Lights or going to a Youth Exchange meeting or going to orientation for new members, you just earned yourself a make-up.

See, all the changes really are good!

President brings message to the South

During a tour of seven Rotary districts in the southern United States in his first month as RI president, Rick King has been mobilizing and motivating Rotarians to do all they can to realize Rotary's Global Quest, an ambitious campaign for every club across the world to bring in a new member every month and to increase net membership by at least five new Rotarians per club in 2001-02.