



Integrating the New Rotarian

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The information Meeting

The location of the meeting between the proposed new member and the Information sub-committee should be carefully chosen to provide an informal, friendly and relaxed setting. The home of the sponsor may be a suitable choice. The content is another important feature. You are trying to inform and, at the same time, interest the prospective member. Give a broad outline of Rotary, its main aims and objectives, and such information as is immediately relevant to any new member (and which he will remember), without going into too much detail. The membership of the sub-committee is important. The sponsor should always be present at the meeting. Include members of a similar age group, and not too many people (3 or 4 should be quite sufficient). Make sure the proposed member knows the requirements, both financial and in terms of attendance, and answer questions arising in a clear and helpful way.

Indicate, also, what else is expected of members i.e. active participation and/or support, in club events and activities, service committee meetings, etc. Also, that, to get the most benefit from membership, all members are encouraged to take an active interest in the wider world of Rotary beyond the Club, e.g. District meetings and RIBI National Conference etc.

Also, explain that after an application to join is submitted, there are still some steps to go through before the application has gained the acceptance of members.

At the information meeting, it helps if the prospective member can be loaned a copy of the "Welcome to Rotary" booklet to read. It will expand on the information given to them. That booklet can be returned when a new copy is presented to them at their induction.

After a new members application is accepted, arrangements for their induction into the Club should proceed without delay.

President's role

- Induct new members in a confident competent but friendly way. This is a special occasion for the new member and also for the Club. Invite partner and possibly other members of the family to the induction meeting. The new member may be a leading professional or business person joining an organisation of business and professional people. The induction should reflect this.

Commence any induction ceremony by inviting the Sponsor to introduce the new member to the Club, by telling fellow members a little about the new members background, family and other interests.

Photographs should be taken to record the event. If possible, get the local paper to publish the details.

- Remind the sponsor that they are responsible for both the new member's integration into the club and education in Rotary matters. If the sponsor is inexperienced, and is agreeable, ask the Membership Services Committee to appoint a mentor to assist.

After joining

Arrangements should be made for the new member to give a **My Job** talk to the Club at an early opportunity. A synopsis in the club bulletin, then makes it a permanent part of the club's records.

Encourage new members to attend the club's social events, along with their spouse/partner as appropriate. This has the advantage of meeting the other members in a more convivial setting and allows partners, also, to get to know the other members and their partners.

It is a good practice for club's to arrange for the President and some senior officers of the Club to meet with all new members at, say 12 monthly intervals, to talk over the new members integration into the Club and to discuss and answer questions on any particular aspects arising. Also, the continued education of members in Rotary matters is important in all Rotary clubs, and the opportunity to extend the new members knowledge of Rotary should not be missed on these occasions.

Involvement

As soon as possible, new members should be involved in club activities. Give new members a meaningful job to do on a committee at an early date and encourage them to realise their full potential.

Invite all new members to attend a meeting of the club council, so that they can see what happens at that level.

Sponsor's role

It is normal practice for the sponsor to be responsible for the integration of the new member into the club and to assist in their education about Rotary. If the sponsor is a relatively new Rotarian, or feels unable to take on the role, the club's Membership Services Committee should consider appointing a more experienced Rotarian to act as the new member's mentor.-

See RIBI Information Sheet on Club Mentors for Newly Inducted Rotarians. This provides more details of roles and responsibilities of mentors, be they the new member's sponsor or a more experienced Rotarian.

General

Rotary is proud of its caring role and attitude to its all members.

The attendance of all new members should be carefully monitored during their first year, or so, in the Club, to see whether any difficulties arise. Should attendance fall below an acceptable level, the new member's sponsor, or the appointed mentor, should be invited to enquire into possible problems. It may be something with which the Club can assist. or remedy.

Useful contacts

District Membership Services Chairman – details in District Handbook/Directory.

RIBI Membership Services Committee – details in RIBI Directory.