

What Is Rotary?

Rotary is a world fellowship of business and professional executives who accept the “Ideal of Service” as the basis for success and happiness in business and community life. In Rotary, thoughtfulness of others is regarded as the basis of service, and helpfulness to others as its expression. Together they constitute the Rotary “Ideal of Service.”

Rotary’s universal appeal is that it offers a practical means of enlarging one’s friendships, participating in community - betterment undertakings, promoting high standards in business and professional life, and advancing international understanding, good will and peace.

To attain its “Ideal of Service” to humanity, Rotary seeks to bring all peoples together to work for common goals of peace, education and health..

The first Rotary Club was organized in Chicago, U.S.A., on February 23, 1905. From that beginning, the Rotary ideals of friendship, fellowship and service to others have spread through six continents.

The Kutztown Rotary Club was founded on April 1, 1926. The club has served Kutztown, Topton, Lyons, Bowers and surrounding areas for over 75 years.

The Rotary Club

Rotary’s membership plan is unique. To make the Rotary Club a true cross-section of the community’s interests and activities, its membership is selected on the basis of the election of one active member from each recognized business and profession in the community. In this way, each member of the Club is looked upon not only as a representative of his own business, but also of his vocation; that is, the entire business or professional field of which he is a part.

Members of Rotary Clubs - called “Rotarians” - endeavor to exemplify their mottos of “Service Above Self” and “He Profits Most Who Serves Best” in all of their business, social and civic contacts by placing the obligation to serve others before the desire for profit for themselves.

Rotary differs from other organizations in that the establishment of a Rotary Club links its community to a world-encircling chain of cities and towns where other people have organized Rotary Clubs to give expression to their desire to serve. Their affiliation with other Rotary Clubs in an international organization, their balanced programs and activities, their financial solvency, and their unique basis of membership, give Rotary Clubs permanence and stability.

Rotary Club History

The world’s first service club was founded on February 23, 1905, when lawyer Paul Harris and three friends met in a small office in downtown Chicago. These men wanted to rekindle in the turn-of-the-century city the spirit of friendliness they had known in their hometowns. Word of the club soon spread and others were invited to join.

They named their new club “Rotary” to describe the practice of meeting in rotation at the members’ various places of business.

Originally formed for fellowship, the first Rotary club quickly evolved to use the talents and resources of its members to serve the community. By the end of 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago had 30 members. Three years later a second club was established in San Francisco, California, USA. The next year, three more clubs were established on the west coast of the United States and a fourth in New York City. Within a few years other groups formed service clubs based on the Rotary model.

The first Rotary convention was held in the Congress Hotel in Chicago in August of 1910. The National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized at that time with 16 member clubs. Rotary founder Paul Harris was elected the association’s first president.

Community Service

Each holiday season when you enjoy the decorative trees and lights, think of the Kutztown Rotary Club. This has been a project of Kutztown Rotary since 1984.

The Kutztown Rotary Club, now over 75 years old, dedicates the club's major fundraiser, the Don Boyer Golf Classic Tournament to the memory of Rotarian Donald L. Boyer.

Other major Rotary fundraisers are the annual Berks County Kennel Club Dog Show, held at the Kutztown Fairgrounds in September, the Main Street Minigolf Tournament and the Flatworks Art Exhibit and Sale.

Money raised by these projects and others is used to serve our community through such organizations such as Friend, Inc. Community Services, the Kutztown Area Historical Society, the Don Boyer Scholarship Fund, the Kutztown and Brandywine Public Libraries, the Burn Prevention Foundation and many others.

Each month throughout the school year, Kutztown Rotary recognizes outstanding students from Kutztown and Brandywine Heights High Schools with the "Student-of-the-Month" award. Annually, four area students receive Rotary scholarships to universities of their choice. Each year

several area students are sponsored to attend Camp Neidig, a Rotary leadership camp held in June. Each fall the club prepares and serves a dinner at the Arlen Specter Emergency Shelter for approximately 70 homeless people.

Other community organizations and projects which are supported by Rotary include; Camp Edmar, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Brandywine Heights High School scholarship fund, the Kutztown Youth Athletic Assn., and high school sports awards. Rotary also supports the planting of trees in the Kutztown and Topton Parks for Arbor Day, the YMCA, Special Olympics, Saucony Marsh Wetlands, and Camp Cadet. Rotarians support the Kutztown Day, Flag Day celebrations at the Kutztown Park and provide new picnic tables for Kutztown Park.

Rotarians help fund many International projects worldwide. These International projects include eradicating polio, providing clean water, small business loans, housing development, and school and medical center construction just to name a few.

Individuals who wish to "get involved" in their community may contact any Rotarian or come to Rotary's weekly meeting as a guest. Kutztown Rotary meets every Wednesday at 6:30 PM at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 West Main Street in the center of Kutztown.



ROTARY CLUB of KUTZTOWN



The Rotary Club of Kutztown meets weekly on Wednesday at 6:30 PM in the Club Room at the Kutztown Tavern, 272 West Main Street in the center of Kutztown.

For more information contact Larry Biehl at 610-562-3374 H.

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