

INDUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Although there is no prescribed ceremony for inducting new members, it is very important that becoming a Rotarian be marked with some formality. It is suggested that the family attends, as it is important for a Rotarian to have family support.

The following ceremonies have come to our attention. Please feel free to use or adapt them accordingly.

I

You have been chosen to membership in the Rotary Club of _____ because your fellow members believe you to be a leader in your vocation and because you manifest those qualities of head and of heart which fit you to interpret and impart the message of Rotary to those with whom you come in contact.

You are the representative of your vocation in this club and any contribution of an educational value pertaining to that vocation must naturally come to us through you. On the other hand, you become the ambassador from us to your classification, and it becomes your duty to carry the ideals and principles of service to your work.

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular, to encourage and foster:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third: The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life.

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

I charge you to judge yourself by the Rotary Four-Way Test of the things you think, say or do:

First Is it the Truth?

Second Is it fair to all concerned?

Third Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Fourth Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

The community will know and judge Rotary through your embodiment of it in character and service, and we accept you as a member because we believe our principles and organization to be safe in your keeping.

We also expect much from you in help and inspiration, which will enable us to be better Rotarians, and with this hope we most heartily offer you Rotary fellowship.

II

Fellow Rotarians, it is the duty of our Rotary club to add new members from time to time, so that we may not only increase our usefulness and influence as a club, but also to extend the spirit of Rotary throughout the community. Today, I welcome to our ranks and admit to membership _____.

Rotarian _____, you have been elected to membership in this club because your fellow members believe you to be a worthy representative of your calling and also to possess qualities that will permit you to exemplify the true spirit of Rotary in your public, business, social and private life.

I wish to impress upon you that you have been admitted not only to the Rotary Club of _____, but to a worldwide association; and by virtue of your membership in this club, you will be welcomed into the fellowship of any Rotary club in the world.

The honor and privilege of Rotary membership carries with it duties and obligations. You will be expected to attend the club's meetings regularly, to perform your share of club service, and to place your knowledge and talents at the disposal of the club in its task of carrying the principles of Rotary into the daily life of the community.

I ask all members to rise.

Rotarian _____, in the name of the Rotary Club of _____ I now formally admit you to membership in this club and affix to your lapel our emblem.

Fellow Rotarians, I commend to you our newest member, Rotarian _____ who has been loaned the classification of _____, and charge all of you to welcome him/her.

III

Rotary is an international organization of business and professional people with Rotary clubs in ___ countries. When one joins Rotary, he/she becomes a part of a worldwide fraternity. You can travel throughout most of the world and find a Rotary club within easy distance. Rotarians will welcome you warmly, even though the language may be different, the food unusual, and the location far from home.

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular, to encourage and foster:

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Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third: The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life.

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

I charge you to judge yourself by the Rotary Four-Way Test of the things you think, say or do:

First Is it the Truth?

Second Is it fair to all concerned?

Third Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Fourth Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

You have a lot to learn about Rotary - it's not just another club. It's a way of life. But, you were elected to membership because we felt you would fit into this way of life.

You will be expected to attend the weekly meetings. In fact, you **MUST** attend, if you are to remain a Rotarian.

Always remember Rotary's motto: "Service Above Self."

Rotary is like everything else - you get out of it what you put into it.

Congratulations, Rotarian _____, you are at this moment the newest Rotarian in the world.

IV

Rotarian _____ will you please bring forward your nominee for membership in our club. _____, you have been selected by the members this club to hold active membership and are hereby loaned the classification of _____ (modify depending on type of membership held). The principles, responsibilities and obligations of Rotary have been explained to you, and you have expressed your willingness to become a Rotarian. No one is eligible to become a Rotarian unless, in his business or professional life, he/she endeavors to practice the principles of goodwill and service.

The members of this club have invited you to join them because they believe you are already actuated by these motives. In electing you to membership, we are doing more than taking you into our fellowship. We are making you a trustee with us of Rotary's ideals. Knowing you to be a Rotarian, the world will henceforth judge Rotary by your conduct.

Membership in Rotary is an honor and privilege, and every privilege has its corresponding obligations. One of the special obligations of membership is regular attendance at the weekly meetings; it is the basic method of fulfilling the principle of fellowship and also a way by which you represent your vocation.

Every member is expected to perform his share of club and community service, and the committees of the club will afford you opportunities to give service. For the rest of this Rotary year, I would be pleased if you would serve on the _____ committee.

Lastly, but by no means least, is our ideal of friendship. As you expect to receive, so give. May you be stimulated by the friendship you find here, and may we in return know you to be an added source of strength to our club.

Will the members please stand.

It is my privilege and honor to induct you as a member of the Rotary Club of _____. I also have pleasure in pinning on the emblem of our worldwide association. Wear it always and with pride.

Fellow Rotarians, I present to you Rotarian _____ and I charge you not to fail in your duty by giving him/her your friendship and helping to make his/her membership useful and happy.

V

_____, you have been proposed for membership in the Rotary Club of _____ by Rotarian _____ and duly elected. Therefore, it is my pleasure to formally induct you into this club.

I understand that you are aware of Rotary requirements and that you have indicated your willingness to follow them, as well as your willingness to offer your services to assist your fellow Rotarians in their community and international projects. As you know, Rotary is a service club, each member performing what Rotary terms as "Service Above Self." In addition to service, you will have the benefit of strong bonds of friendship with fellow Rotarians, locally and worldwide. Now, I present you with a packet of Rotary literature. I especially commend to your attention the Object of Rotary and the Four-Way Test, which form the criteria for Rotarians in their daily lives. I suggest also that as you travel, you avail yourself of the special opportunity you will have to attend Rotary meetings and meet Rotarians throughout the world. This is another very rewarding benefit of your membership.

And now, by the power vested in me as president of the Rotary Club of _____, I pin this Rotary emblem on you and declare you to be an active member of this Rotary club.

Welcome to Rotary! We all look forward to the enrichment of our lives as well as that of your own, by your association in this, the world's oldest, largest and finest service organization.

VI

President: Who has the honor of sponsoring this person for membership in the Rotary Club of _____?

Sponsor: I do.

President: Please introduce this person to the club.

Sponsor: (Gives name and other pertinent information on the proposed member.)

President: Have you explained the Object of Rotary to him/her? (If time permits, the Object can be recited.)

Sponsor: I have.

President: Is he/she aware that he/she will be a part of an association with over 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide in over 31,000 clubs located in over 160 lands.

All of them devoted to the same principle of "Service Above Self."

Sponsor: He/she is.

President: _____, do you know The Four-Way Test?

New Member: Yes, it is: First - Is it the Truth?; Second - Is it fair to all concerned?; Third - Will it build goodwill and better friendships?; and Fourth - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

President: Will you apply the Test to the things that you think, say and do?

New Member: Yes.

President: It gives me great pleasure to welcome you as the newest member of the Rotary Club of _____. Congratulations!

VII

_____, you have been selected by the members of the Rotary Club of _____ to become one of us.

Membership in Rotary is an honor and a privilege with corresponding duties and obligations, including service on club committees. You will be expected to participate in all four avenues of service and to attend this club's meetings regularly and when absent to make up.

Because you represent a classification, it is your duty to tell us about your vocation and to bring the ideals of Rotary to your business/profession.

The community will know and judge Rotary by your actions. Therefore, membership in our organization must be limited to those who possess the qualities that will further the goals and ideals of Rotary.

You have been chosen for membership because we are confident that the image and ideals of Rotary are safe in your keeping.

(sponsor puts on pin)

It is with great pleasure that we welcome you as a fellow member of the Rotary Club of _____. Congratulations!

VIII

Fellow Rotarians, it is my privilege and pleasure today to welcome into membership in our club _____, whose name was proposed by _____. The proposal has been reviewed in accordance with the constitution and bylaws of the club. I now ask __(sponsor)__ to come up here with __(proposed new member).

_____, we now proceed to admit you into membership in the Rotary Club of _____ and so to the fellowship of Rotary throughout the world. It has already been explained to you that the ideal of Rotary is service. Our principal motto is "Service Above Self" and the object of this club and all Rotary clubs is to encourage and foster this ideal as a basis of worthy enterprise. You are to share in this effort.

You have been approved for membership in this club because we believe you to be a worthy representative of your vocation, interested in the ideals of Rotary, and willing to do your share in translating these ideals into tangible realities. You have agreed to accept the obligations attached to your membership in this club, and to obey this club's constitution and bylaws.

Now I have the pleasure of asking your proposer to pin on the Rotary emblem, which we expect you to wear daily and with pride.

Welcome to the Rotary Club of _____.

Fellow Rotarians, I am happy to present to you Rotarian _____, our newest member.