



Westport Sunrise Rotary

Having A Terrific Time Making A Small Difference



Student of the Month

WHO?

The first Rotary Club was started by Paul Harris and a few colleagues in Chicago in 1905. Their goal: give back to their community by providing “hands-on” services and charitable contributions. Today there are more than thirty thousand Rotary Clubs in over 160 countries. Membership includes a cross-section of the world’s leaders. While a percentage of our local membership chooses to concentrate on worldwide service projects, the majority find their Rotarian spark locally and regionally. We recently received a matching grant from Rotary International that enabled us to donate \$14,000 for a project that will supply water to a small, impoverished Guatemalan village. And in the past two years, our fundraisers have raised more than \$50,000 to help build a playground for disabled students in Norwalk, help raise security deposits to put single mothers into new homes and to buttress the charitable efforts of more than twenty five regional not-for-profit organizations. In addition, we supply much needed “hands-on” support to regional organizations; recent projects have included administration of the MS Bikeathon, clean up of Westport’s Exit 17 and Americaire’s home projects. We have more than sixty active members. Balanced and diverse. With leaders from the business and professional communities, governmental and non-profit institutions. Most of us live or work in Westport/Weston.



Annual Events

WHAT?

We meet for breakfast every Friday at 7:30 am. Our current “home” is Bobby Q’s, 42 Main Street in Westport. Many of us show up as early as seven just to share coffee and schmooze. The meeting begins with opening remarks (serious or humorous). The openers are rotated among all our members. So are front desk duties where we check in our members and greet our guests. We generally take about a half hour for breakfast—a terrific time to see old friends and connect with new ones. That’s followed by a short business meeting including “happy dollars”— a time when our members can put a dollar in The Charity Pot and take a moment to talk about something that’s important to them. Like a new child, a win for their team, a promotion or a trip. It’s a way for us to keep up with the bright side of each other. The program begins at 8:15 am. In the past year, we were pleased to welcome a Congressman, a CBS Sports Anchor, the President of a major airline as well as experts on subjects as varied as college life, and land mines. Once a month we have a Club Assembly. It’s a time for our committee chairs to fill us in and for our members to speak up.

HOW?

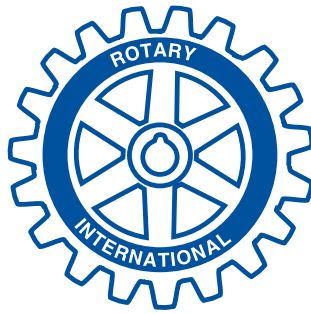
Committee work is where we make Rotary come alive. And because each committee requires a different skill set, it will be relatively easy to choose something you really enjoy and/or the kind of thing you've always wanted to do. If you're a "hands-on" person, we have a number of Community projects that require your talents. For braniacs and performers—we pride ourselves in producing the most visible fundraisers around from the Annual Community Wine Tasting, to The Great Race (lots of on the water stuff), and Forbidden Westport, an every other year musical satire. Internationalists will relish their personal involvement in worldwide projects—including a worldwide Rotarian effort to eradicate Polio and smaller projects that have involved us with Rotary Clubs from Guatemala to St. Petersburg, Russia. Our Charitable Giving Committee requires an "our eyes only" survey of virtually every human services agency in the region. Those who work with young people will enjoy working with our Youth Services Committee. This is the group that administers our "Student Of The Month" program honoring Westport/Weston High Schoolers. Other areas include Membership (that creates brochures like this and makes sure that once you're a member you feel "included"). And who doesn't want to have fun? Our Fellowship Committee comes up with the ways and means to do it creatively.

HOW MUCH?

Breakfast every Friday is \$500 a year, dues are \$220. We are happy to make special arrangements for those who need to spread that out a little more. Members are expected to participate in our fundraisers by selling tickets. Other important opportunities are offered to participate financially in meaningful projects for Rotary International. Most members choose to do this but it is not required. Rotary membership is offered to very special people; those who have demonstrated leadership in their profession and/or their community or those who clearly have the potential to do so. The Rotary opportunity: priceless!



Weekly Speaker



What we have most in common: Our Rotary motto
“SERVICE ABOVE SELF”

How we measure what we do and how we act:
our **FOUR WAY TEST**

*Is it the **TRUTH**?

*Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

*Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER UNDERSTANDING**?

*Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

