

Associate Member Policy



Early Bird Rotary Associate Member Program Adopted July 26, 2013

Purpose

Feedback from numerous Rotary surveys and focus groups has repeatedly shown that prospective members and current younger Rotarians require flexibility in their Rotary Club membership. This program is structured to provide alternatives and options for Rotary membership and the resulting impact on membership trends and the Club's overall effectiveness.

The Associate Membership Program will allow an individual to become associated and acquainted with a Rotary Club, its members, its programs, and projects, and the expectations of Club membership with the intent of becoming an Active Member within a designated period of time.

Premise

An Associate Membership category will increase the Club's ability to attract and retain a qualified and diverse professional base within the community. It will also allow an individual to become familiar with the Club, its members, programs, and projects, and the expectations of membership, thereby positively influencing recruitment and retention trends and improving the Club's overall impact in the community.

Potential Results and Evaluation Measures

Increase in

- Club membership recruitment and retention
- Support to the Rotary Foundation (program participation and fundraising)
- Successful service projects (community and international)
- Participation in Club activities

Improvement in

- Leadership and engagement opportunities for members
- Gender balance in the club membership
- Overall diversity within the club membership

Decrease in the average age of the club membership

To evaluate the effectiveness of this program, our Club will review the following data:

- Number of Associate Members that have expressed interest and have been accepted into the Club
- Number of conversions from "Associate" to "Active" membership
- Lengths of time individuals have remained associate members before converting or terminating their association with the Club.
- Number of conversions that have terminated their membership and why they have terminated their membership.

Program Considerations

The Club will implement the following measures with the "Associate Member" category :

- 1. Approval** Prospective members interested in an Associate Member category will be approved by the Early Bird Rotary Club through a process identified by the Club. The process shall be the same as for regular membership.
- 2. Term.** An individual can hold the position of Associate Member for a period of 2 years with an option for renewal. The number of associate members shall not exceed 25% of the regular membership (current membership of 46, 11 Associate members are allowed).
- 3. Attendance.** The attendance requirement for an Associate Member is ½ the minimum requirement of regular members(a minimum of 25% or 13 weeks annually; all make up opportunities apply)
- 4. Classification.** The Associate Member is assigned a specific classification as set forth in the RI Constitution Article 5 Section 2(b), i.e. classify as we classify members currently.
- 5. RI registration.** The Associate Member will be listed as an active member of RI to facilitate record keeping.
- 6. Badges.** Badge references will be determined by the club. The Associate Member will have a green badge to go along with the other two badges (red and blue).
- 7. Votes and quorum.** For the purpose of general meeting, the Associate Member does not have voting rights. They are not Regular Members of the Club.
- 8. Holding Office.** Associate Members are not entitled to hold any Club officer positions but are encouraged to work with Club committees.
- 9. Financial obligations.** Associate Members will have the following financial obligations:
 - (a) Initiation fee: The amount is \$50 (same as Regular Member).
 - (b) Dues will be ½ Regular Membership dues or \$75 per quarter.
 - (c) Meal/beverage costs: Paid at each meeting attended (Current cost is \$8.00 per meal). When visiting another club, payment of their meal expense is expected.
 - (d) For a change of membership status from Associate to Regular Membership no fee is charged. Dues will be pro-rated.
 - (e) Optional contribution to the Rotary Foundation is encouraged.
- 10. The dues provide the Associate Member:**
 - (a) The weekly bulletin and regular Club communications
 - (b) Listed on Early Bird Rotary website as Associate Member.
 - (c) The Rotarian magazine.
 - (d) Public liability cover. The Associate Member will be included under the Club liability insurance while participating in any approved Club activities or projects.
- 11. Youth Activities.** The Associate Member is expected to abide by all restrictions policies and procedures with respect to Club activities involving youth.
- 12. Termination.** Termination of Associate membership status usually occurs at the end of two years, at the request of the Associate Member, or according to the process for terminating Regular Members in the Club.
- 13. Full Member to Associate.** Any Full member wishing to transition from Active membership to Associate membership must submit a formal request to the Membership Committee Chair clearly stating the

reason for the request. The Membership Committee Chair will bring the request for a vote by the Full Board at the next Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting. If approved by the Board, the change will take effect at the start of the next billing cycle.

Membership Committee

Adopted July 26, 2013