**The Benefits of Membership**

- You have many service opportunities both locally and internationally.
- You can become a leader in the community.
- You gain recognition for yourself and your business or profession by participating in projects that benefit the community.
- You will have good fellowship with your Rotarian friends.
- You have the opportunity to further develop your talents and capacity of leadership.
- You keep in touch with the mainstream of community life.
- You obtain knowledge about businesses and professions other than your own, and a more sympathetic understanding of the problems of others.
- You have the opportunity to seek counsel from others.
- You have a friendly contact and a warm welcome in the Rotary Club of every city in the world you visit.

**Rotary International**

Rotary functions as an association of local clubs, gathered into a larger organization called “Rotary International”.

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united in a worldwide effort to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and promote peace in the world.

The individual Rotarian is a member of his or her local club. The club is a member of Rotary International.

Rotary International is the world’s oldest service club organization. It is truly international in scope with over 32,000 Rotary clubs in 168 countries and more than 1.2 million members, both men and women.

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**The Four Way Test of the things we think, say or do:**

*First...........*Is it the TRUTH?  
*Second......*Is it FAIR to all concerned?  
*Third.........*Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?  
*Fourth........*Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?  

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"SERVICE ABOVE SELF" is a long standing Rotary motto. Members of the Rotary Club of Lafayette volunteer locally, regionally and internationally to combat hunger, enrich education, support clean water projects, improve living conditions, promote peace and eradicate polio throughout the world.
**How Did Rotary Start?**
The first Rotary club was organized in Chicago, Illinois by Paul Harris, an attorney. The first meeting was held on February 23, 1905.

The name Rotary was chosen because the club met in rotation at each member’s place of business.

The Rotary idea of friendship, fellowship, and service to others quickly spread to six continents.

**What is a Rotarian?**
Rotarians are people who look beyond themselves to serve their community, country and the world.

They seek the truth, let fairness govern their actions and relationships; they endeavor to build goodwill and peace.

**When Was The Rotary Club of Lafayette Founded?**
We were chartered on April 22, 1946, by the Rotary clubs of Berkeley and Walnut Creek. Our club number is 445 and we are part of District 5160.

**How Does One Become a Member?**
1. Attend (3) Rotary meetings.
2. Attend an orientation to Rotary.
3. Communicate your interest in membership with your sponsor and complete an application.
4. Application reviewed by membership and classification committee and submitted to Board of Directors.
5. Board of Directors approves.
6. Club membership receives a “7 day notice” and approves or submits, in writing, reasons you should not be a member.
7. Inducted into the Club, pay dues and be assigned to a committee.

**What is Expected of a Member?**

**Participation:** To be a Lafayette Rotarian you are expected to give your time and talents to the following:

1. Service projects
2. Club fundraisers
3. Club social functions
4. District activities

**Attendance:** Members are expected to attend at least 60% of the regular meetings each year unless exempted, for good reason, by the club’s Board of Directors. Meetings can also be made-up at other clubs anywhere in the world.

**The Rotarian and “Service”**
The emphasis in Rotary is the desire to be of service. Rotarians participate in one of the following areas of service: **Club Service, Community Service, Vocational Service and International Service.**

The Rotary Club of Lafayette conducts a wide variety of service activities which include or have included the following:

- Scholarships for school youths
- Concert at the Reservoir with proceeds provided for purchase of musical instruments by participating school bands
- Youth leadership programs
- Funds and members’ time for polio prevention and eradication programs
- High School age youth exchange to and from foreign countries
- Town Hall and Lafayette Library financial support
- Lafayette Art and Wine Festival participation
- Meals on Wheels
- Fire truck provided to a rural village in Baja, Mexico
- Water pumping system, Mulege, Mexico
- Water and sanitation for a home on the Navajo Nation Reservation in Arizona
- Jaws of Life for Santa Catarina, Nuevo Leon, Mexico
- “Avoidable Blindness Program” in India
- Shelter boxes to Indonesia and Haiti following earthquakes
- LN-4 Artificial Hand

**The Rotary International Foundation**
The Rotary Foundation is a trust voluntarily supported by Rotary clubs and Rotarians throughout the world. The objective of the Foundation is to further international understanding and friendly relations among people of different nations through projects of an educational or charitable nature. One such Foundation project has been to eliminate Infantile Paralysis (Polio) along with five major vaccine preventable diseases from the entire world.