



## Rotary Club of Traverse City 2011 – 2012

Hello,

Thank you for your interest in Rotary and your consideration of membership in our club. I put this packet of information together for you. It will explain some of the Rotary principles and give you an overview of our club as well as Rotary International.

In this package you will find a copy of this year's **Rotary Basics**, published by Rotary International. This publication will answer the questions you may have about Rotary: who we are, what we do, and what we stand for. I have also included an application for membership in our club.

Rotarians take their commitment to Rotary seriously. It is neither a business networking organization nor merely a luncheon club. We are part of an international service organization. In fact, we are the original service club, with over 1.2 million Rotarians in over 30,000 clubs, in 168 countries, around the world. The original emphasis on fellowship is still very strong within Rotary and within our club. As a group, we have fun serving.

Our club is the oldest and largest of the three Rotary clubs in Traverse City. We were chartered in 1920 as club #754, and we are part of Rotary District 6290, representing 63 clubs in western Michigan and Ontario.

While maintaining our membership is important to us, it will not be at the expense of admitting members who are not committed to service, contribution, and upholding the principles of Rotary. If you have questions, you can contact any local Rotarian.

Thanks again for your interest. I look forward to serving with you.

Yours in Rotary Service,

*Lee Olewinski*

Lee Olewinski  
President 2011-2012

## ROTARY IN TRAVERSE CITY

In addition to our club, there are four other local Rotary organizations in Traverse City. There are two other independent Rotary clubs: Traverse Bay Sunrise Rotary Club and Traverse Bay Twilight Rotary Club.

## ROTARY CHARITIES and ROTARY CAMPS & SERVICES

In 1955, the Rotary Club of Traverse City incorporated **Rotary Camps & Services**, a supporting charitable foundation, to hold in trust two parcels of land used for youth camps. The Scenic Trails Boy Scout Council uses 467 acres with frontage on Rennie Lake for Camp Greilick. The Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore operates Camp Sakakawea on 564 acres at the southern end of Bass Lake near Grawn.

When oil was discovered on the Camp Greilick property in 1976, a second supporting foundation, **Rotary Charities of Traverse City**, was created to receive royalties from the gas and oil revenues. The mission of Rotary Charities is to improve the well-being of the five-county Grand Traverse region (Antrim, Benzie, Grand Traverse, Kalkaska and Leelanau) using the income from the endowment created by mineral royalties. Since 1978, over \$40 million in grants have been awarded to projects of non-profit organizations and units of government.

## SERVICE PROJECTS

Some of our club's major service projects include:

**The Rotary Show** – This is our largest club fundraising activity. Every member of the club is expected to participate in this annual event held at the end of April each year.

**Tag Day** - This annual fundraiser is to support the Committee for the Handicapped, serving the physically disadvantaged in our community.

**Salvation Army Bells** – During the holidays each year many of our members volunteer to ring bells as part of the local Salvation Army annual campaign.

**Annual NMC BBQ** – It is a long-standing tradition for our members to assist at the local NMC Barbecue. Rotarians have the privilege of grilling the main course: buffalo burgers.

**Christmas Baskets Program** – Each year our club works with local social services agencies to “adopt” needy families and provide them with a Christmas basket. This is a special opportunity for new Rotarians.

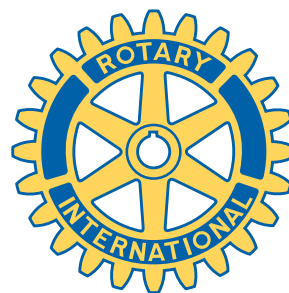
**Youth Exchange Program** – We are very active in Rotary International's Youth Exchange Program and usually host more than one student from another country.

**World Community Service** – Every Rotary Club has a World Community Service committee and ours is no exception, participating in significant annual projects.

**Water Studies** - This committee works in association with the NMC Freshwater Program and local water advocacy groups to raise awareness and protect the Grand Traverse Bay Watershed.

**STRIVE** – This mentoring program pairs Rotarians with at-risk high school students in the area, to improve their chances for educational success. Each year, we present college scholarships to high performance participants.

**Wild Game Dinner** – Each autumn, this committee works with a local chef to present a gourmet wild game dinner to raise funds the protection and improvement of the Boardman River.



## SOME ROTARY OBLIGATIONS

### *100% ATTENDANCE*

Regular meeting attendance is a mandatory part of being a Rotarian. If you are unable to attend a meeting, you are encouraged to make up that meeting at another Rotary Club.

Not only is this a way to meet your attendance obligation, it is an excellent opportunity to learn more about what other clubs are doing. It offers a way to meet like-minded Rotarians all around the world.

### *FINANCIAL*

Upon entering the club, you will be assessed an initiation fee. Member dues are billed quarterly and they include a subscription to the *Rotarian* magazine, district dues, and club dues. Luncheon fees are also billed quarterly, in advance.

Additionally, throughout the year, you will be encouraged to contribute financially to a number of different local and international Rotary projects. While none of these is mandatory, it may be prudent to set a personal “Rotary budget” for yourself in anticipation of these solicitations.

Through The Rotary Foundation, every Rotarian is encouraged to donate \$100 each year in the “Every Rotarian Every Year” program. This amounts to about two dollars a week – less than the cost of a large cup of coffee.



## *SERVICE*

The hallmark of Rotary is service and volunteerism. Our club has a wide variety of activities and projects, and everyone is expected to participate. It is also expected that a member will never turn down an opportunity to serve or volunteer. It is through this commitment to participation that you will enjoy the wonderful opportunities to experience Rotary fellowship and community service.

### *THE FIRST YEAR*

During your first year of membership, there will be a specified course of Rotary development and a mentoring program to help you learn more about all aspects of Rotary and to engage you in service projects. Current Rotarians will mentor you in this program, which consists of monthly meetings and orientation activities to better integrate you into the world of Rotary, our club’s mission, traditions, committees, and projects.

## THE ROTARY FOUR-WAY TEST

The test, which has been translated into more than 100 languages, asks the following questions:

Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Reach Within to Embrace Humanity

## ***CONTACT INFORMATION***

### ***Rotary Club of Traverse City***

**Rob Hentchel, Club Secretary**  
**Jackie Anderson, Club Administrator**  
202 E. Grandview Parkway, Suite 200  
Traverse City, MI 49684  
Phone: (231) 941-5421  
Fax: (231) 941-4066  
[www.traversecityrotary.org](http://www.traversecityrotary.org)

### ***Rotary International District 6290 Office***

For more information on District 6290, visit:  
[www.ridistrict6290.org](http://www.ridistrict6290.org)

### ***Rotary International***

For more information on Rotary International, visit:  
[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)