

# WELCOME



FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL TO NEW ROTARY CLUB MEMBERS

## GET INVOLVED IN ROTARY

Like most Rotarians, you probably joined your Rotary club to help improve the quality of life in your community and make a difference in the world. For more than a century, Rotary clubs have been providing vital service within their local communities throughout the world. Their achievements are the result of dedicated member action and participation.

Research shows that the more Rotarians involve themselves in Rotary activities, the more committed and connected they become to their club and the association. Act now and volunteer your time and talents in those areas that are important to you and where you can make a significant impact.

Here are a few ways to become more active in your club — and in Rotary activities beyond the club level:

- Volunteer to serve on one or more club committees.
- Sit with different people at each meeting so you get a chance to connect with everyone in your club.
- Participate in your club's service projects and, whenever possible, get your family involved, too.
- Recommend a colleague or friend for membership in your club; bringing in new members is a key responsibility of all Rotarians.
- Make up a missed meeting at another club and bring some ideas back to your members.
- Attend your district conference and get to know Rotarians from other clubs.
- Work with one of the youth service programs — Rotaract and Interact — sponsored by your club.
- Join one of the many Global Networking Groups — Rotarians with common recreational interests, hobbies, vocations, or service interests — and expand your Rotary acquaintance to other countries.
- Volunteer to host a Youth Exchange student or Group Study Exchange team visiting your district.
- Attend the RI Convention and learn just how international and interconnected Rotary service is.
- Click the New Members section link in the Members area at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), RI's Web site.

## LEARN MORE ABOUT ROTARY

Here are some ways to learn more about RI:

- Click the Training section link in the Members area at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) to find several learning modules designed specifically for new members.
- Visit other parts of the RI Web site to get the latest news and information.
  - Sign up for the RI News RSS feed to get the latest updates.
  - Subscribe to *Rotary International Interactive*, RI's monthly e-magazine.
- View video segments and public service announcements on Rotary International's channel at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com).
- Read every issue of your Rotary magazine and your club and district newsletters.
- Visit your district Web site to learn more about activities throughout the district.
- Order these materials from the RI print or online catalog:
  - *Rotary Basics* (595-EN)\*
  - *The ABCs of Rotary* (363-EN)
  - *The Rotary Foundation Quick Reference Guide* (219-EN)\*
  - *Membership Video Set* (427-MU)
    - Includes 2 DVDs: New Members & Prospective Members, and a compilation of Rotary videos
  - *RVM: The Rotarian Video Magazine* (510-DVD)
  - *Rotary International Annual Report, 2007-08* (187A-EN)\*
  - *The Rotary Foundation Annual Report, 2007-08* (187B-EN)\*
    - \*Also available for free download at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

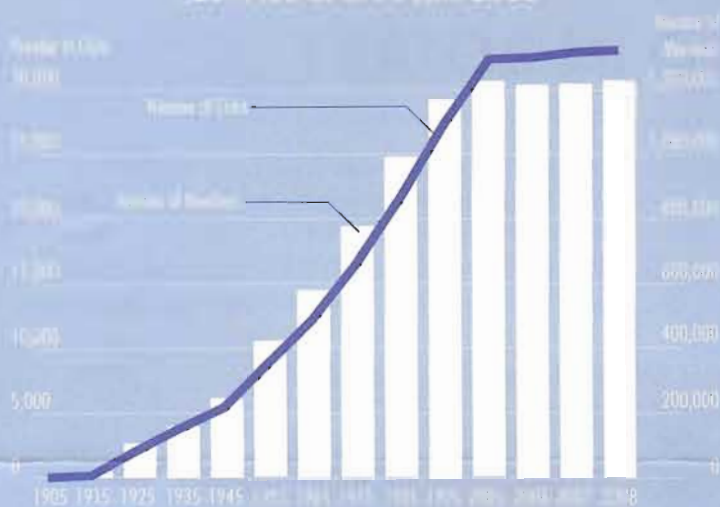
In addition to reporting the latest Rotary news, [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) provides Rotary-related Web site links and information about RI and Rotary Foundation programs. You can also use the site to conduct much Rotary business online, including registering for the annual convention and making contributions to the Foundation.

RI offers a wide range of resources for Rotarians, including publications covering all aspects of Rotary and its Foundation. Check the online catalog at [shop.rotary.org](http://shop.rotary.org) or ask your club secretary to see a copy of the print catalog.

# ROTARY FACTS

## TOTAL MEMBERSHIP

1,231,483 as of 30 June 2008



## AVERAGE CLUB SIZE

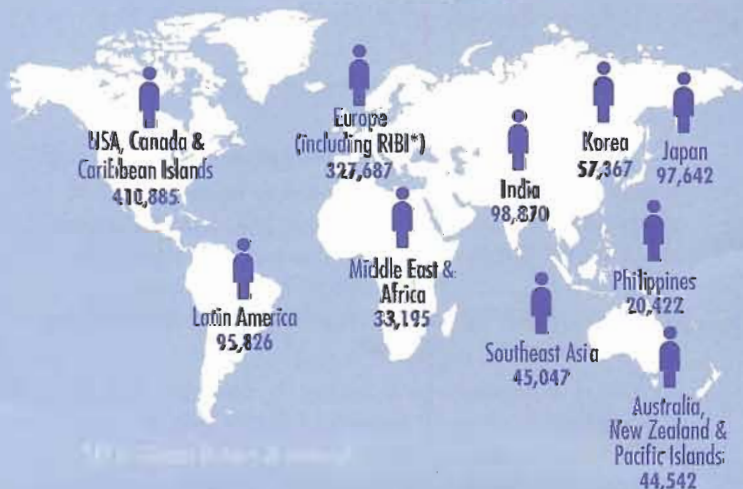
Based on the RI database in July 2008, the average Rotary club has 37 members (90.5% of clubs reporting).



\* RI in Great Britain & Ireland

## NUMBER OF MEMBERS BY REGION

As of 30 June 2008



\* RI in Great Britain & Ireland

# QUESTIONS TO ASK YOUR CLUB

Getting answers to these questions can help you become more active in your club and better informed about Rotary:

- What club committee could use my skills?
- What community service projects is my club sponsoring, and how do I get involved?
- What programs — e.g., World Community Service, Youth Exchange, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards — does my club participate in?
- How can I assist my club officers?
- Who in my club can serve as my mentor?
- What opportunities are there for getting involved in international service?
- How do I find out where to make up missed meetings?
- Can I invite prospective members such as colleagues and business acquaintances to attend a club meeting as my guest?
- When is the next club assembly?
- When and where is the district conference?

1. Rotary clubs may sponsor three different types of community-based organizations as partners in service:
  - Interact: Service clubs for youth ages 14-18 or of secondary school age fostering leadership and responsible citizenship
  - Rotaract: Service clubs for young adults ages 18-30 promoting professional development and leadership
  - Rotary Community Corps: Groups of non-Rotarians who work to improve the conditions of their communities with Rotary club support

At the end of 2006-07, there were

  - 11,141 Interact clubs, sponsored by 8,771 Rotary clubs in 470 districts
  - 7,038 Rotaract clubs, sponsored by 9,809 Rotary clubs in 522 districts
  - 6,546 Rotary Community Corps, sponsored by 2,582 Rotary clubs in 203 districts
2. Through Rotary's PolioPlus program, Rotarians have committed more than US\$700 million to global polio eradication efforts, helping to reduce the incidence of polio by more than 99%.
3. The Ambassadorial Scholarships program is one of the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program for university-level studies.
  - Total scholarships awarded in 2007-08: 863
  - Total scholarship funds awarded in 2007-08: approximately US\$20 million

# BEYOND YOUR CLUB: ROTARY INTERNATIONAL AND THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The more than 32,000 Rotary clubs in over 200 countries and geographical areas worldwide are members of Rotary International, an association that supports the clubs' service efforts in their communities and around the world. Through RI, all Rotarians have access to an international network of clubs working both autonomously and in concert to address a variety of concerns throughout the world community.

RI is governed by a 19-member Board of Directors, made up of Rotarians from all over the world, which sets policy for the association. RI's day-to-day operations are overseen by the Secretariat, headed by a general secretary, with headquarters in the Chicago suburb of Evanston, Illinois, USA, and international offices in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, India, Japan, Korea, and Switzerland. The Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) office serves clubs in those countries. The approximately 600 staff members who work at the Secretariat assist and support Rotary districts, clubs, and members. Staff contact information is available at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

The Rotary Foundation of RI, the philanthropic arm of the association, provides funding for clubs' humanitarian service efforts and supports exchange programs designed to enhance international understanding and goodwill. Supported almost entirely by the generosity of Rotarians, the Foundation awards millions of dollars each year to worthy projects carried out by clubs and districts working locally and in international partnerships. The Rotary Foundation also sponsors the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program.

PolioPlus is the volunteer arm of the global partnership dedicated to eradicating polio. For more than 20 years, Rotary has led the private sector in the global effort to rid the world of this crippling disease. Rotary's US\$100 Million Challenge is the Rotary Foundation's response to the \$100 million grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to help fight polio eradication. This grant, which Rotary will match dollar-for-dollar over three years, is the largest grant ever given to a volunteer service organization. It represents a tremendous validation of the approach and success of Rotary's PolioPlus program.

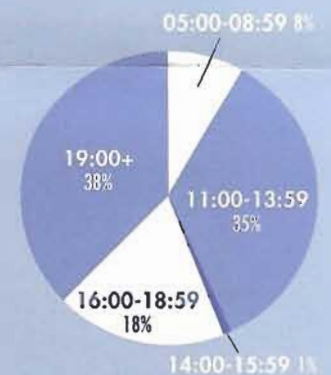
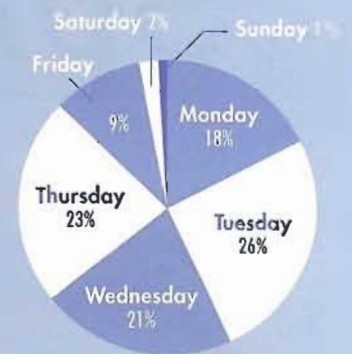
## SPECIAL EVENTS TO KEEP YOU INVOLVED

Club, district, and international events held throughout the year can help you learn more about Rotary. In addition to weekly club meetings, consider attending one or more of these events.

- Club assembly: Meeting of all club members, held four to six times a year, that focuses on strategic planning, membership education, and other club-related topics
- District conference: Annual two- to three-day motivational and fellowship meeting open to all Rotarians in the district and their families
- District membership seminar: One-day meeting designed to assist club efforts to recruit and retain members; open to all interested Rotarians
- Regional Rotary Foundation seminar: One-day meeting designed to educate all interested Rotarians about The Rotary Foundation and encourage participation in its programs
- RI Convention: Annual four-day meeting held in May or June in a different part of the world offering unparalleled opportunities for international fellowship

### ROTARY CLUB MEETING DAYS AND TIMES

Based on data submitted by Rotary clubs for publication in the 2007-08 Official Directory

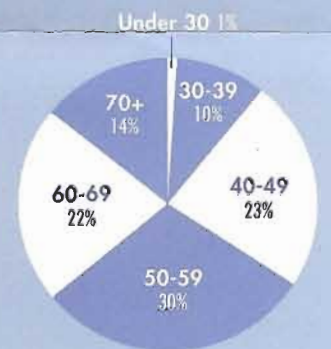


### AVERAGE AGE RANGE OF MEMBERS

As reported by clubs in response to the 2006 RI Demographic Survey

Worldwide, the largest age group of members is ages 50-59.

Members 49 or younger make up 34% of membership worldwide.



Rotary needs your help. One of the keys to Rotary's continued success — and to your success as a Rotarian — is member participation. So take action now — get involved and stay involved. You are essential to Rotary.

# Spread the word!



Invite someone to become a  
**Rotarian**  
today.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL