



Membership Guidelines

Since the Rotary Club of San Jose was organized in 1914, our membership has always included the most prominent professionals, leading business owners and visible community leaders in the Metropolitan San Jose area. As this area's most active and well known service organization, the Rotary Club of San Jose attracts a wide variety of community leaders from both the private and public sectors. It has always been the goal of Rotary to recruit the very best people in their profession. The official motto of Rotary is "***Service above Self***" and the continuing challenge for the Rotary Club of San Jose is to recruit and retain Members who exemplify this commitment to service.

Membership Criteria

The Rotary Club of San Jose seeks Members of good character with an excellent business or professional reputation who demonstrate a strong record of, or desire and capacity for, contributing to the community in a variety of volunteer leadership positions. In addition, candidates for membership must meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Should be engaged as a proprietor, partner, corporate officer or manager of any worthy and recognized business or profession, or
2. Should hold, or is holding, an important position in an executive capacity with discretionary authority in any worthy and recognized business or profession, or
3. Should act, or is acting, as the local agent or branch representative of any worthy and recognized business or profession having charge of such agency or branch in an executive capacity, or
4. Is retired from one of the executive positions described in 1, 2, or 3 above, or
5. Should have an exemplary professional record and have distinguished themselves in community service activities and personally are actively engaged in a worthy and recognized business or profession. It is intended that the vast majority of members will be required to meet the criteria set forth in 1, 2, 3, or 4 above. This category is to be used sparingly and only under exceptional and compelling circumstances.
6. In order to maintain a balanced membership, no given classification of any business or profession will exceed 10% of our total membership.
7. In order to comply with the obligations of membership in our Rotary Club, applicants should not belong to similar community or service clubs which would substantially reduce the opportunity to comply with the obligations of membership.

Approval Process

Sponsoring a person for membership in the Rotary Club of San Jose is an honor for the applicant and a special responsibility for the sponsoring Rotarian. The approval process takes several weeks and includes the following:

1. The sponsor should bring the applicant to at least two Rotary meetings. Please do not imply that membership in our Rotary Club is guaranteed. This can lead to embarrassment and hurt feelings should the applicant be denied. Never introduce your applicant as a "future Rotarian" at a lunch meeting.
2. The sponsor should discuss both the time commitment (Wednesday meetings plus service on at least one committee) and financial commitments of Rotary with the applicant, signs the completed application (please make sure it is either typed or printed legibly), and submits it to the Rotary office.

FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS AS OF July 1, 2006

A. Due at within 30 days of approval	
1. Initiation Fee (one time)	\$500.00
2. Annual Dues	\$480.00 (prorated)
B. Annually	
1. Annual Dues (July)	\$480.00
2. Missed Meetings (Nov, Mar, July)	\$ 20.00 each
3. Endowment Contribution (Oct)	\$175.00
4. International Foundation Contribution (Oct)	\$100.00

*Weekly lunches are \$20 (\$10 without food) and parking is \$3.
Optional donations to the annual Event/auction and the barbecues are billed separately*

3. When a signed Membership Application is received by the Executive Director, it is forwarded to the chair of the Membership Committee for assignment and review of the listed references. Once a month, the entire Membership Committee meets to discuss all new applicants for membership, assure that the applicants meet the Membership guidelines and determine the appropriate vocational classifications.
4. If the Membership Committee recommends an applicant for membership, his/her name is forwarded to the Board of Directors for approval. Once the applicant has been approved by the Board, he/she is then invited to attend a mandatory orientation at the Gordon House with their sponsor. The new Member will also be asked to provide a bio, picture, and a check to meet the required financial obligations. Once the orientation is complete and the initial financial obligations have been paid, a date will be set for the sponsor to introduce the new Member to the entire Club at a Wednesday lunch meeting.

Membership Development Committee

The Membership Development Committee does the very difficult task of searching for and encouraging prospective new Members to consider becoming part of our Rotary Club. This committee works diligently throughout the year so that our Club can maintain our membership over 400. It is critical for this committee to recruit 40-50 new Members to replace those that leave the Club each year. This committee sustains the Club and assures our future success by recruiting qualified applicants from throughout the community.

Membership Committee

Rotary's Membership Committee has the charge of screening these applicants by verifying the information that appears on the application and presenting its findings to the other Members on the committee. The discussion within the committee assures that the applicant meets our membership criteria. They also take into consideration that our Club membership should be diverse in age, gender, ethnic background and profession. They determine the appropriate classification of the proposed Member and assure that the applicant is ready, willing and able to contribute to the community and International service provided by our Rotary Club committees.

Guidelines for Approving Nonprofit Applicants

Guideline 1 – Is the employing organization a 501c(3) nonprofit corporation or foundation?

- If YES – then applicant is considered in the nonprofit classification.
- If NO - then applicant is considered under a different classification.

Guideline 2 – Is the applicant the CEO, President or Executive Director of the 501c(3) nonprofit organization?

- If YES – then the applicant will be considered for membership as long as the classification does not exceed 10% of the current membership total. If the classification equals or exceeds 10%, then the applicant will not be considered for membership until an opening occurs.
- If NO – then the applicant will not be considered for membership.

Exceptions – If the applicant is employed by a hospital, religious institution or educational institution, then the applicant will be considered for membership in the Hospital, Religion or Education classification unless they spend a majority of their time on fund raising activities, in which case they may then only be considered for membership in the Nonprofit classification.

(Approved by the Board of Directors March, 2007)