

Ask Uncle Ronnie

PAST PRESIDENT RON WOODRUFF'S

FAMOUS

"Everything your sponsor should have told you"

FAQ

Q Who are the people at the short table when I walk in for lunch?

A *Marsha Payne is the Meeting Clerk. She is an employee of the Club who takes care of guest and visiting Rotarian registration, billing transactions, and general inquiries. Handle her with care; she is liable to go off at any time like a unstable hand grenade. The other person is the Sergeant-at-Arms. This person will rotate every month because that is as long as Marsha can stand their company.*

Q How do I get my name on the button board?

A *If all goes well, your name should magically appear. However, it may take a few weeks for it to register with the Board Keeper to update the board. First, a name plate will be added somewhere after Scott Zotti. Eventually, you will be worked into the alphabetical order.*

Q How do I get billed?

A *The information sheet you filled out for Bill Burrows at Orientation begins the wonderful world of monthly billing. A love letter from our billing clerk, Jill Gibbs, will find you.*

Q How much am I billed?

A *How much can you afford? Meals cost \$9.50 per week. Also, you will be billed for dues (\$25 per quarter) and special Rotary social events you attend such as the Service Above Self banquet and the Winter Social. You can expect your annual billing to run about \$600 – not counting "change cup" contributions, gifts to the Rotary Foundation, and "birthday contributions."*

Q Can I pay my bill at the meeting or does it need to be mailed?

A *You can give Marsha Payne a check (slowly, keeping eye contact at all times) or mail your check.*

Q What if I fail to make a monthly payment?

A *Afghanistan comes to mind. Remember the 4-way test. If you don't pay your dues or for the lunches you eat, someone else in the Club has to. If you wish a "payment plan" that is something other than monthly, please alert Jill Gibbs, the billing clerk, and President Laura. Nothing is more difficult for the Board than to address the issue of a Member who hasn't paid.*

Q How are my dues used?

A *Wine and song only, now that women can join Rotary. It is rumored that the dues cover other things such as your subscription the The Rotarian magazine, the District 6110 Medical Supply Network, insurance, District administrative costs, and RI administrative costs.*

Q Am I billed for lunches that I miss?

A *Is Bill Gates rich? You will be billed for any lunch missed unless you make-up at another Rotary club. Some Rotary clubs notify our club as to your make-up, however, as a general rule, you need to alert Marsha Payne (don't let her sense your fear) that you wish to get make-up credit. Meals that you miss, but for which you have paid, help the Club cover the cost of operations.*

Q Do I need to sign in anywhere?

A *Yes, two places. The first is on the sign-in sheets near the front door. If your name doesn't appear on the roster yet, just find a space at the bottom of the page and sign and date there. The second place is on your monthly check to the Club.*

Q Who are the officers and what do they do?

A *Alas, the eternal question! Our 2006-2007 officers are President Laura Wilkins, President-Elect Howard Brill, Vice President Mike Gibbs, Corresponding Secretary Bill Burrows, Treasurer Carol Green, VP for Information Technology Dale Oliver, Sergeant-At-Arms Jerry Patton, and Immediate Past President John Threet. As with most Clubs, the Secretary and the Treasurer run the Club while the others get all the glory. You can find descriptions of the duties for all the officers at <http://www.fayettevillerotary.org/bylaws.html>.*

Q How do I get involved?

A *Nothing causes the loss of new Rotarians faster than not having anything for them to do. Because committee assignments are made at the beginning of the Rotary year, new Members joining afterwards can fall through the cracks. Therefore, the Board, by royal edict, determined that all new Members shall be placed on the Softball Committee (in addition to any other committee they may have chosen). This is for three reasons: (1) new members are better workers, (2) the work is done later in the Rotary year, and (3) nothing allows one the opportunity to meet fellow Rotarians any better than working the Fayro Charity Classic softball tournament. In addition, for 2006-2007, the Club has a new committee - New Member Integration. Be assured that this committee will find you and integrate you!*

Q How are the committees chosen and how do they work?

A *The committees are established by the Club bylaws and are divided into four mission areas (Avenues of Service): club, community, vocational, and international. A Chair and a Co-Chair are selected by the Board. It has become recent policy that the Co-Chair one year becomes the Chair the next so as to maintain continuity. Selection to the various committees has been done in various ways – a draft, by Member self selection, or by Board edict.*

Q What is the Rotary year?

A *July 1 through June 30.*

Q Where do I sit in meetings?

A *If you are like Bucky Jones you will be asked to move from table to table each week. However, it actually is strongly encouraged that you sit at different tables and with different folks each week as a way to meet others in the Club.*

Q Do I use first names for all Club members, even judges and doctors?

A *At Rotary functions all Rotarians are addressed by their first name, regardless of their lofty status in civilian life. Sneak a peek at the button with one eye while maintaining eye contact with the other if you should momentarily forget a Member's first name. If they have forgotten their button, "hey Hoss" is a good substitute.*

Q I know attendance is important. What if I have to miss a meeting?

A *Life is easier if you maintain perfect attendance at your own Club. If you must miss a meeting you can “make-up” either two weeks before or two weeks after a missed meeting. The easiest way to make-up is to attend the regular meeting of another Rotary club. Be sure to let Marsha Payne (don’t splash around, she’ll just think you’re a wounded seal) know about a make-up and present to her your evidence of attendance (stolen restaurant napkins, snapshots from your shoe camera, etc.). Also, if you attend a Club social function, work project, or Board meeting during this time period it counts as make-up.*

Q How do I make-up at another club?

A *You and your money are welcome at any Rotary Club around the world. As a general rule, find the registration desk and sign in as a visiting Rotarian. After paying for your lunch, get the visiting Rotarian card that is offered. Usually, half the card is retained by the clerk with your information and the other half is given to you to stick in your shirt pocket like a goober with your first name visible. Be prepared, especially if you have traveled outside your area code, to have to embarrass yourself as the Rotarian who has traveled the farthest. If you go overseas, take a Club flag to present and try to snatch one of theirs for our flag banner.*

Q What If I come to the Radisson at the time of our regular meeting and no one is here?

A *That is never a good sign. However, it could mean that the Club has gone off-site for a meeting and you didn’t get the memo. If you attempt to attend a regularly scheduled meeting of our Club or another at the posted meeting place, and we/they are not there, you can still get credit for having attended the meeting.*

Q Can I bring a guest? How do they get introduced?

A *By all means. Register your guest with Marsha Payne (keep your hands out in the open at all times) at the entry table. The Sergeant-at-Arms will ask you to introduce your guest during the meeting. You would rather feed Fred Vorsanger stuffed bell peppers than be found to have failed to register your guest.*

Q Can I take a guest to another Club when I myself am a visiting Rotarian?

A *Absolutely. Remember the other universal Rotary motto – “show me the money.”*

Q Can children come to our meetings?

A *Of course; Roy Rom brings his.*

Q What if I want to bring a guest who is running for public office?

A *As Nancy Reagan used to say, "Just Say No." Truthfully, they are welcome and you can introduce them as running for such-and-such office. However, they can't give political speeches and the Club can't endorse candidates or political causes.*

Q How does the Club choose its programs?

A *With extreme malice. In truth, we confront guests registering at the Radisson and nab the slowest one. The other way is to give overall responsibility for programs to the Vice President. The Vice President then chooses 12 monthly Rotarians of the Month to provide speakers using a monthly theme as a guide. If you have a program, please visit with an upcoming Rotarian of the Month as noted on the home page of our website. Please be alerted that programs are usually scheduled weeks, if not months, in advance.*

Q How do I access the Club website?

A *Go to <http://www.fayettevillerotary.org>. Some of the site is password protected. Contact Dale Oliver (or any Club member and half the population of Fayetteville) for access information.*

Q What are the change cup funds used for?

A *Mostly for pedicures and collagen injections when John Threet was President. Rumor is that President Laura will use these funds to support all the Club's special charitable causes.*

Q What's up with the birthday contributions?

A *These funds are used to support the Club's (four to five) annual \$1000 freshmen scholarships for Fayetteville High School graduates attending the U of A. You are asked to give one dollar for every year old you are. You can stop at \$50 under the Roy Rom Exemption. A rendition of "Happy Birthday, Rotarian" is your earthly reward.*

Q What is the Club mailing address? Phone number?

A *Our mailing address is P.O. Box 1683, Fayetteville, AR 72702. The Club doesn't have a phone, but Don Moore will accept calls 24-7 on the Club's behalf.*

Q Can I put information on the bulletin board?

A *Absolutely, although your child's art probably looks better on your refrigerator. Any info about a Club Member (society pages, public recognitions, prison release date, etc.) is welcomed.*

Q Can I share a business opportunity with Club members?

A *One-on-one.*

Q Can I get the Club to endorse my business?

A *No (this is for your protection).*

Q How can I get chosen to give the invocation and what are the requirements?

A *You are always fair game to get tapped by the monthly Sergeant-at-Arms to give the invocation. Under Rotary International policy, prayers must recognize the religious diversity within the Club and RI. Therefore, it is our policy that you state your faith tradition when giving the invocation and invite all those in attendance to invoke Divine presence in theirs.*

Q What if I want to share information with all Club members?

A *Information that is deemed to be important to all Club Members can be shared at a Club meeting, in Fayrotales, on the website, or by special e-mail. President Laura is the designated deemer.*

Q How do I propose someone for membership?

A *Running through the gauntlet of Club Members who each are wielding a large paddle while you're only dressed in your tighty whities and screaming the name of the prospective Member at the top of your lungs may become the new method. For now, however, you can find a membership form on our web site at*

<http://www.fayettevillerotary.org/members/membership/newmemberproposal.html?category=staff> or you can contact Secretary Bill Burrows to get the necessary form to sign and submit. Remember – proposing someone for membership is supposed to be a secret to the proposee (who is completely in the dark as to why you have been inviting her to lunch every Thursday for weeks). This is to protect feelings in case someone proposed doesn't make the cut. Also, please do not introduce a guest as a prospective new member.

Q What should I do if I am going to miss meetings for several months but wish to stay in the club?

A *One option is to quit coming to the meetings, stop paying your monthly bill, and refuse all contact. That is our least favorite option, but one that some Club Members have chosen. The preferred option is to request a Leave of Absence (LOA) for up to six months at a time. You can contact President Laura by phone, e-mail, or snail mail. She will take it to the Board. A LOA relieves you from being billed for lunches although you will be responsible for the quarterly dues payments.*

Q Do all Rotary clubs sing?

A *No, only the good ones.*

Q How do I get my picture in the on-line directory?

A *There are a number of ways you can accomplish this. First, you may email a nice picture of yourself to President Laura (L4Wilkins@sbcglobal.net). If you don't have a digital picture of yourself, you may choose to bring Laura a photograph and she will attempt to scan it in for you (adding funny glasses and moustache is an additional charge). If using your official mug shot, state whether you prefer the full frontal or the side view. Finally, (and the best option) Bedford's Camera and Video will take a picture of you at no charge and provide it to the Club (thanks to Club member and Bedford's manager Doug Cotton).*

Q Whom should I tell if my personal information in the directory changes?

A *Your spouse and your lawyer first. Presumably, your surgeon already knows. Next, please let either Bill Burrows, Dale Oliver, or President Laura know.*

Q I see all the club banners up front. What are they for?

A *As a reflection of some of the fine places worldwide that our Club Members are no longer welcomed. It is customary for visiting Rotarians to exchange flags, especially if you go some distance to attend another club meeting. We like to showcase ours as a way of encouraging making up at clubs wherever you may be.*

Q How do I give to The Rotary Foundation?

A *Bless you. A check to The Rotary Foundation can be given to Marsha Payne (do not feed or tap on the glass) or can be mailed as part of your monthly payment. This will allow the Club to get credit as well. The gift is invested by the Foundation for a period of three years. The earnings from the investments are used to support administration of The Rotary Foundation so that the entire amount of each contribution goes directly to Foundation programs. After three years, 60% of the original contribution is made available to the District as **District Designated Funds** (DDF, also known as **SHARE funds**) that the District, in cooperation with its clubs, can use to support Educational and Humanitarian Program goals. The remaining 40% of the original contribution is placed in the **World Fund**. The World Fund supports specific programs offered by The Rotary Foundation.*

Q If I bring a guest, do I have to pay for them? What is a tactful way to say, "I'll bring you this time, but you have to pay for yourself after the first time?"

A *No need to be tactful; it is now Club policy that you are only to pay for one lunch. This is to relieve Members from the burden of paying for meal after meal as the approval process grinds forward, thus causing many to forego the joy of bringing in new Members. Marsha Payne (she didn't get her last name by accident) will be pleased to ask at each sign-in, "is this freeloader paying for herself, or is this her one freebie?"*

Q How are the Presidents-to-be chosen?

A *By careful process of elimination. We go down the Club roster until somebody says "I guess so." The other way is for the immediate past five presidents of the Club to meet each fall and select a candidate for Vice President to put before the Club. Nominations from the floor are welcomed. The Vice President, by tradition, will stand for election as President Elect. Once chosen by the Club as President Elect you will automatically become President the following year. Club Presidents serve for one year.*

Q What if I get on a committee and then decide that I want to be on another committee?

A *It depends on how many draft choices must be traded. If the new committee wants you as much as you want them, make the switch. Inform both committee chairs. Rotary is a volunteer organization that functions best when all the Members are happy campers who enjoy playing and sharing with all the others in their play group.*

Q What criteria should I look for in a potential member to introduce to the club?

A *The same as in a life time mate – money, power, and influence. The other criteria are people you would enjoy being around, people who readily engage in service activities to benefit others, and people who would project a good image of Rotary in the community. The RI Constitution requires that new members be adult persons of good character and good business and professional reputation.*

Q How do we choose the different international programs that we participate in?

A *Darts and a globe. Actually, international opportunities have come to the Club in various ways. Some are suggested by Club Members who are involved in international projects, others are offered by other clubs in the District or by the District itself, and still others have been suggested by former Club Members. If you are aware of a potentially rewarding international project, please mention such to the Board Members who handle international service.*

Q I visited once when Guy Brown was the monthly Sergeant-at-Arms. Are your Sergeants-at-Arms IQ tested?

A *Yes, but obviously not drug tested.*

Q How are the monthly Sergeants-at-Arms chosen?

A *Clearly, this policy will have to be revisited. As it now stands, the Club Sergeant-at-Arms chooses the monthly Sergeant-at-Arms (say that three times) who is responsible for introducing visiting Rotarians and guests and finding someone to give the invocation. The bad jokes, butchered names, and mindless chatter are bonuses.*

Q If I go to a Rotary fellowship function and it counts as a makeup, how do I get credit for that? Who do I tell? How do I contact them?

A *Once bail has been posted and your keys returned, please try to recall if you signed in on the sheets made available at the time of the event. If those short term memory brain cells have been lost, please let Jill Gibbs, billing clerk, know that you attended the function. Contact information for Jill is on the Club web site.*

Q I hear the Club is known for its Square Dancing?

A *Indeed, there is a segment of our Club that is socially challenged, embarrassingly inept, and unaware of how goofy they can look. The rest Square Dance.*

Q To whom do I complain about the food?

A *To any Club member who appears lucid and ambulatory after having eaten the lunch. Otherwise, please give your suggestions to Members of the Lunch Bunch Committee. No suggestion should include the word "shove."*

Q Why does the mere mention of Fred Vorsanger make people laugh?

A *I'm laughing now just thinking of him. Fred is Past District Governor of District 6110, past Club President, and Past Mayor of Fayetteville. In fact, it seems that everything has passed him by.*

Q What kind of meat was that swimming in the curious-looking gravy?

A *That was actually the bread pudding. If you're looking for meat, look for the tray holding the discolored chunks under the stuff that appears to be carpet fuzz.*

Q What if I lose my button or take it home?

A *After the ninth perfect stranger addresses you by name, you will catch on that you left still wearing your button. Bring it back next week. If you have lost your button, every once in a while the Club declares "button amnesty" and will order new buttons for all those who have lost one. Otherwise, make arrangements with Bill Burrows to order a new one. There may be a slight cost.*

Q Do I have to wear my pin at every meeting?

A *You should wear a Rotary pin everyday as a way to share Rotary with the general public. A permanent tattoo of the Rotary Wheel on your forehead will keep you from having to hunt down your pin daily.*

Q How long have women been in Rotary?

A *As my own little Rotary Anne would say, "not long enough!" Rotary clubs in the U.S. started accepting women in the 1986-87 Rotary year. The Council on Legislation officially opened Rotary International to all women worldwide in 1989. Our first woman Member was Mae Nettleship.*

Q Is it okay to laugh and have fun during Rotary meetings?

A *It depends on whether you are laughing at or with someone. Laughing at them is a lot more fun and is sanctioned by our Club. If a Club meeting is getting dull, it is permissible to stand before the assemblage and say "Fred Vorsanger."*

Q Where do all the announcements come from and why are there so many?

A *The assemblage of Club members for Thursday lunch is actually a Club meeting under the RI Constitution and it is always proper for Members to bring items up before the assembly for consideration. Of course, when speakers have been invited it can become a burden on the President and all too often a breach of common courtesy to schedule too many announcements. It would aid the President a great deal if she or he were notified prior to the meeting on Thursday re: a request to make an announcement. It is possible that alternative means of delivery can be suggested. The Club bulletin board is a good place to post general information. Important and time sensitive information can be shared by e-mail.*

Q How do I get up on the stage to make an announcement?

A *I have found the stairs next to the risers to be very helpful. If you have an announcement that requires amplification (very rare) please schedule this with the President well in advance, be brief, and be crouching next to the risers like a tiger ready for your cue to come bounding onto the stage.*

Q What is all this talk about a pig on a wheel?

A *It has been a popular camp fire story among older Rotarians that our Club once worshiped the “Hog on a Cog” or “Rampaging Razorback on a Rotary Wheel” and actually had graven images cast. In the more recent history of the Club, we have given such ceramic mementos to speakers, Rotarians who traveled the farthest, and other dignitaries as a remembrance of their time with the Club. After a year’s absence, I am pleased to say that the RR on a RW is back!*

Q When does the food get better?

A *When your Mama starts cooking our lunch. In truth, the Radisson finds the finest in Sam’s Club products and spends many hours creatively preparing the same. Of course, this is for the Northside meeting on Tuesday. By Thursday, the same food is a bit gamey, but nothing a good gravy can’t camouflage.*

Q Why don’t the speakers get more time?

A *I’m not sure what you mean. We gave Roy Rom the task of highlighting the past eighty years of the Club at our Eightieth Celebration Gala and Roy felt comfortable squeezing his talk into three hours. As for the weekly programs, it is Board policy that speakers be allowed to begin no later than 20 til. As noted above, it must be remembered that, first and foremost, the Thursday gathering is an official Club meeting for the purpose of conducting Club business.*

Q Where do I park if the parking garage is full?

A *Many members double park behind cars in the garage. It is best to do this with your older car. Always check up top for additional space. Please be aware that the garage was designed by an engineer who obviously drove a go-kart. I would avoid parking in the Cozart Building lot just north of the Radisson. Unless you have a pass, your car will get to ride “wheels up” to the impound yard. There is a parking lot west of the Square. Also, be sure to get your garage “free parking” card from Marsha (while all the time bowing and scraping).*

Q How do I know when we are meeting on the 1st or 2nd floor.

A *As a general rule, if you look in the room and no one is inside, we aren’t meeting there. We are supposed to be in the better, larger room upstairs unless the Radisson has more important users such as the Ozark Trotline Poachers Association or if it is anticipated that we will have our largest crowd of the year. Where there is a button board there are Rotarians.*

Q What time should I show up for the regular meeting?

A *10:45am if you want to sit with Ed Maxey. Otherwise, it is best to get there before the Club meeting starts at approximately 15 after noon. Food will be available by no later than a quarter til. Late arrivers have slim pickins' at the food trough. This may be a blessing.*

Q If I have to leave a bit early from a meeting, does this still count for attendance?

A *If by a "bit" you mean that you sign in, shake a hand or two, and then head out to eat real food, then the answer is "no." According to the Club Constitution, Art. VIII (a)(1), to count for attendance a Member must be present for 60% of the meeting. In our case, that is 36 minutes. Therefore, to count you have to eat all your lunch and listen to most of the announcements. If you're going to stay for the hard part, you might as well stay for the program.*

Q How do I introduce my guest after I've proposed her/him for membership?

A *First and last name, rank, and serial number. Do NOT introduce her/him as a new-member-to-be.*

Q Why are monthly Board meetings held at 10:30am?

A *When I was President I held meetings at 6:45am. Some Board Members thought it was something akin to the Bataan Death March, only with bagels. The idea is that holding the meeting at 10:30 prior to a Club meeting insures that discussion will be limited. It is also for the ease of Board Members who can go from the Board meeting right to the Club meeting. Also, since the Club is 45% comprised of lawyers, a late morning meeting doesn't interfere with golf, lunch, naps, or scheduled goofing off.*

Q How do I become a Paul Harris Fellow?

A *There are two ways. First, your spouse can agree to your giving the Rotary Foundation a check for \$1000. Or, you can become a Sustaining Member at \$100 a year for 10 years if contributing to the Foundation at the rate of 3 cents a day is better for your cash flow.*

Q How do I find out where other Clubs meet?

A *The easiest way is to go to <http://www.rotary.org/support/clubs/> and do a quick search. Most of the information is correct. You may also ask Marsha Payne (calmly, with no sudden motions) at the desk for a list. The other way is to wander from town to town looking for the little Rotary wheel on the outskirts of the city limits. Going to the Northside meeting on Tuesday at noon at the Radisson is the next best thing to going to a real Rotary Club meeting.*

Q I have heard that one can make-up on-line. Is this true?

A *These days you can do most anything on-line. Just ask John Threet. As for making up, go to <http://www.rotaryclubone.org/> and follow the instructions. It is a simple way to make-up and get good information about Rotary as well.*

Q Is there some place I can look up all the Rotary acronyms such as PETS, ADG, RYLA, etc.?

A *YYCFIOATRIWS (yes, you can find it on-line at the RI web site):*
<http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/history/headings/abbreviations.htm>

All additional questions should be directed to “Ask Uncle Ronnie” and may be given to Uncle Ronnie Woodruff or Secretary Bill Burrows.