

Dear Fellow Rotarian:

It is a privilege and a pleasure to welcome you into the Rotary Club of Jackson. and also to the fellowship of Rotary throughout the world. Jackson Rotary Club (#532) was chartered on April 14, 1952. Since 1952 Jackson Rotary has sponsored 3 other clubs, Amador Upcountry (1983), Ione (1988), and Plymouth Foothill (2007). The four clubs in Amador County make up Area 7 of District 5190. District 5190 is the largest geographical district in the country. Stretching from Ione to the Northern California border and eastward to the Eastern Nevada border and includes about 2/3 of the state of Nevada. The Jackson Rotary Club is a member of Rotary International (RI). RI consists of approximately 32,000 clubs in 200 countries and has 1.2M members worldwide. RI is dedicated improving the lives of millions of people, one live at a time, throughout the World through **Service** and **Fellowship**.

The individual club is the backbone of RI. You have been invited to be a member of our club because of your vocation, interest in the ideals of Rotary, and your willingness to do your share in translating these ideals into tangible realities.

Membership is a privilege and an opportunity, but it also carries responsibilities and obligations. Some of the more essential ones are mentioned herein for your information.

#### EDUCATIONAL

The extent to which you will identify yourself with Rotary depends almost entirely on what you understand Rotary to be. It is your obligation to Rotary and to yourself to get acquainted with the story of Rotary, the origin, organization, its program, scope, and influence.

Read the Rotary Basics Manual to learn about Rotary's Four Avenues of Service and the Rotary Foundation. Visit the Jackson Rotary website @ **Jackson-Rotary.net** to learn about Jackson Rotary's rich 55+ year history, Jackson Rotary's youth service activities, Jackson Rotary's projects and fundraisers and Jackson Rotary's leadership.

Get to know as many of your fellow members as you can. Know your club officers. Learn how they are elected and what they do.

#### PARTICIPATION

You will discover that the more you put into Rotary the more you will receive. The rewards of personal participation in Rotary are limitless, and we invite you to discover them for yourself.

Try to do as much as you can in the Four Avenues of Service by:

A. Participate within the club by having a task to do. Your club president will give you an assignment to one or more of the club's committees. **(Club Service)**

B. Make a practical application of Rotary principles in your business or profession. **(Vocational Service)**

C. Participate in the building of a better community as an individual and as a Rotarian. **(Community Service)**

D. Link yourself with the world. Identify yourself with some Rotary World community project. **(International Service)**

## FINANCIAL OBLIGATION

The standard Constitution of all Rotary clubs states that every active member shall pay annual dues and assessments (such as fines, social events, etc.) as established by the board of the Club. Currently in Jackson Rotary these fees are:

1. Rotary dues per year of \$125.00. Members are billed in advance annually.
2. Evening meals per meeting (various payment options) @ \$14.00. A member receives credit for attendance when our club is notified he has attended another club or if the member has attended a Rotary function that has been declared a makeup such as a board meeting. If a member does not obtain make that member is expected to pay the \$14.00 for the missed meeting.
3. Annual club "fines" of approximately \$150.00. Fines are levied at club meetings as a means of fund raising and fun. These are normally levied for your birthday, anniversary or special event in your life. The President will confer with a member prior to levying a fine for these reasons. Throughout the year miscellaneous fines may also be levied for various reasons such as arriving at the meeting after the bell has been rung, failure to wear a Rotary Pin, failure to vote, receiving a cell phone call during meeting, etc.
4. Each member is asked to be a sustaining member of the Paul Harris foundation by donating \$100 per year.

It should be noted that the standard Rotary Club Constitution provides for automatic termination of membership for failing to pay one's indebtedness to the Club. Payment is due upon presentation of billing and past due 15 days thereafter. Of course, you can make arrangements with the Club Treasurer for deferred payment when necessary. If deferred payments are necessary, it is your responsibility to take the initiative to make appropriate arrangements.

## SOCIAL AND SPECIAL EVENTS

The cost of social and special events scheduled by the club throughout the year is usually borne by those members in attendance. All members, especially the new Rotarians and Spouses are encouraged to attend every function.

## CONDUCT AND CUSTOMS

Rotary puts a great deal of emphasis on regular weekly attendance. This is based on the time proven axiom that a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. Each Rotarian is one of the more than 1.2M links that binds Rotary clubs together all over the world.

Failure to attend club meetings will weaken that chain and entire Rotary organization will suffer. When you miss a meeting of our club you should make up that absence by attending a regular meeting of any other Rotary club or participating in an on line Rotary Club such as [rotaryclubone.org](http://rotaryclubone.org) on any of the fourteen days preceding the day of absence, on the day of absence itself, or on any of the fourteen days following the day of absence. You might take note of the fact that our by-laws allow for termination of a member after four (4) consecutive misses. Rotary International requires 50% attendance per quarter, 30% at the members own club.

A good Rotarian wears the Rotary pin proudly. You meet many fine people by the recognition by others of your leadership in the community.

Rotary badges are provided all members to wear at their own club meetings. This custom assists greatly in promoting acquaintance and facilitates fellowship.

A Rotary certificate is given to all new members. This should be displayed with pride in your business location.

Within 180 days after joining Jackson Rotary, new members are expected to complete the steps listed below:

1. Greeter two times
2. Take attendance four times
3. Make up at another Club
4. Attend fireside chat with President
5. Two of the following:
  - Introduce guest Rotarians
  - Invocation prayer
  - Lead flag salute
6. Attend a Rotary District event or club special event
7. Attend Board meeting and committee meeting
8. Participate in either a fund raiser or club community service

A Rotarian's thoughtfulness of others is the very basis of service, and helpfulness to others is its expression. So, be thoughtful and helpful to others.

A good Rotarian is tolerant of different faiths, opinions, and beliefs of others.

A Rotarian is looked upon as a representative of his business or profession and exemplifies the very best in his vocation by "Service Above Self". Raise the standards of your own business or profession and of your entire vocation.

Again, we wish to welcome you. Let participation be the keynote of your membership in this club. Make your club stronger and more effective.

Best wishes for many years of fellowship and service.

Sincerely,

Your fellow Rotarians and your Rotary Membership Committee.