



Information for New & Prospective Members

www.benziesunriserotary.org

District 6290

Club Number:

53286

We welcome you to Rotary and to the Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club. We hope that the information that follows will be helpful to you as you become better acquainted with our organization, our club, and its members.

For more information about Rotary International, visit the web site www.rotary.org.

Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular, to encourage and foster:

First: The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service.

Second: High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

Third: The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life.

Fourth: The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

Rotarians judge ourselves by the **Rotary Four-Way Test**. Of the things we think, say or do:

First: Is it the Truth?

Second: Is it fair to all concerned?

Third: Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Fourth: Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Our membership is our most important asset. Rotary's members are the force that allows our organization to continue its service and humanitarian efforts within our communities and throughout the world.

The primary focus of The Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club is directed at assisting, helping, and making a difference in the lives and futures of the youth of Benzie County.

Rotary History

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA, was formed on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name "Rotary" derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed: clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. By 1921 Rotary Clubs had been formed on six continents, and a year later the organization adopted the name Rotary International.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its principal motto: "Service Above Self." Rotary also later embraced a code of ethics, called "The 4-Way Test," that has been translated into hundreds of languages.

During and after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting international understanding. A Rotary conference held in London in 1942 planted the seeds for development of the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and numerous Rotarians have served as consultants to the United Nations.

An endowment fund set up by Rotarians in 1917 "for doing good in the world" in 1928 became a not-for-profit corporation known as **The Rotary Foundation**. Upon the death of Paul Harris in 1947, an outpouring of Rotarian donations made in his honor, totaling \$2 million, launched the Foundation's first program—graduate fellowships, now called **Ambassadorial Scholarships**. Today contributions to the Rotary Foundation total more than \$80 million annually and support a wide range of humanitarian grants and educational programs that enable Rotarians to bring hope and promote international understanding throughout the world.

In 1985 Rotary made a historic commitment to immunize all of the world's children against polio. Working in partnership with non-governmental organizations and national governments through its Polio Plus program, Rotary is the largest private-sector contributor to the global polio eradication campaign. Rotarians have mobilized hundreds of thousands of Polio Plus volunteers who have immunized more than one billion children worldwide. Rotary's financial contribution to the global polio eradication effort will reach nearly \$650 million by the time the world is certified polio-free.

Rotary works to meet the changing needs of society, expanding its service efforts to address such pressing issues as clean water, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk. Today, 1.2 million Rotarians belong to some 30,000 Rotary Clubs in more than 160 countries.

Rotary History – Benzie County

On December 10, 1923—eighteen years after that first meeting in Chicago—the Rotary Club of Frankfort, Michigan was organized by 21 charter members. On February 18, 1924, with the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Traverse City, it was admitted to membership in Rotary International.

The Frankfort Rotary Club has had a significant presence in the community since its founding, ranging from granting thousands of dollars in scholarships over the years to the dedication of Rotary Park and the support of other civic and community endeavors through its Willoughby Foundation. The club is now comprised of over 60 members.

On October 16, 1999, the first organizational meeting of the **Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club** was held. With 25 charter members and under the sponsorship of the Rotary Club of Frankfort, our Club was granted a Charter from Rotary International on March 8, 2000.

The club is now comprised of about 40 members and is dedicated to extending the Rotary opportunity throughout Benzie County with a **focus on service to area youth**. In 2005 we completed work on our Centennial Project—**The Beulah Trailhead and Visitor Center**.

Other successful community service projects include: Funding **Benzie County Kids Eat**, donating computers to the **Benzie Central Computer Lab**, providing the **CHOICES Program** and **Choices Scholarships** to the **Benzie Central Schools**, awarding scholarships to the annual **Life Leadership Conference**, and providing financial and hands-on service to **BACN**. In 2018, we committed to providing or supporting programs that impact students in grades preK-12th in the Benzie Central Schools.

Financial Obligations of Membership

Annual Dues: Annual Rotary International Dues are \$140, payable in July. Local dues covering the cost for the meeting place and continental breakfast are an additional \$145. Dues for members joining after July are pro-rated. Dues for the first year are payable upon acceptance to membership. Thereafter, invoices are mailed by the Treasurer each July.

Application Fee: The Club application fee is \$75, payable upon acceptance to membership. This is a one-time fee. Those joining as the director of a nonprofit or as a young professional (under the age of 30) have the application fee waived.

Happy Dollars: At each meeting members are given an opportunity to share a recent success or some special family information by donating "Happy Dollars." As an additional fundraiser we occasionally auction a donated item.

Rotary Clothing: Members wishing to purchase a Rotary shirt, cap, or other items may do so by going to [Rotary Club & District Supplies - RUSSELL-HAMPTON CO. - Rotary Club Supplies Since 1920 \(bestclubsupplies.com\)](http://Rotary Club & District Supplies - RUSSELL-HAMPTON CO. - Rotary Club Supplies Since 1920 (bestclubsupplies.com))

Benzie Sunrise Rotary Foundation: The mission of this 501(c)(3) corporation is to provide resources to help the youth of Benzie County and generally contribute to the improvement of the quality of community life. Members are strongly encouraged to make a tax-deductible contribution of at least \$25 annually to the BSR Foundation.

Rotary International Foundation: Members are encouraged to participate in the Rotary International Foundation Sustaining Member Program ("Every Rotarian Every Year" or "EREY"). Rotary International encourages members to participate in EREY and to donate \$100 per year to the Foundation. A total of \$1,000 in donations qualifies a member to be recognized as a "Paul Harris Fellow" with the awarding of a pin and certificate.

Matching Gift Program: Each member is entitled to donate annually to local qualified charities an amount of \$250 (may be in increments of \$50). These donations will be matched by the Grand Traverse Regional Community Foundation.

Breakfast: At each meeting, an assortment of bagels and cream cheese, along with coffee/juice/water are provided. Those members wishing a hot breakfast may order and pay online with the Ursa Major Bistro. Orders must be placed by 5:00pm on Mondays and picked-up by the member on his/her way into the club meeting.

It is essential that you are aware of and understand these financial obligations prior to joining the Club. Members are required to participate in Club fundraising activities and other projects sponsored by the club.

Club Directory

A Club Directory is located on our website. New members receive login IDs and passwords and are asked to go on line to complete their profiles.

Conferences

Members are invited to attend the Annual District Conference and other training conferences during the year. These are not required but certainly will aid in your understanding of Rotary. Rotary holds a worldwide annual international conference in major cities around the world. Every third year the conference is held in an American city. Frequently the club will pay part of the registration fees of district conferences.

Attendance

Attending weekly club meetings allows members to enjoy fellowship, enrich their professional and personal knowledge, and meet other community leaders.

If members miss a meeting of their own club, they're encouraged to expand their Rotary horizons by attending a meeting of any other Rotary club in the world.

Getting Acquainted with Rotary

You will be presented your Rotary pin upon joining the club. This will be presented by your sponsor. Wear this pin proudly in the community, as it identifies you as a Rotarian.

On your name badge will be a "New Member" label. This identifies you to other club members as someone new to Rotary and encourages them to introduce themselves to you.

Before removing the "New Member" label you must accomplish the following:

- Check out the "New Member" section of the Rotary International website.
- Receive orientation on the Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club website
- Serve as the club GREETER at one of the regular club meetings.
- Attend one or more of the following Club functions:
 - ✓ Board meeting
 - ✓ Informal or social activity
 - ✓ Committee meeting
- Have at least an 60% attendance record for a 3-month period.
- Complete one or more of the following tasks:
 - ✓ Make up a meeting at another club
 - ✓ Participate in one club fundraising event
 - ✓ Participate in a club service project
 - ✓ Choose and accept an assignment to serve on a committee
- Present your bio at a club meeting.
- Extend Rotary to others through one or more of these activities:
 - ✓ Invite a guest to a Rotary meeting
 - ✓ Propose a new member

Keep track of these events and let your sponsor know when they have been completed.

Benzie Sunrise Rotary Club Leadership

Officers 2021-2022 Rotary Year

President: Kim Simon

President Elect: Diane Miller

Vice President: Jim Drubert

Secretary: Pat Kiely

Treasurer: Phyllis Kladder

Sergeant-at-Arms: Bruce Wildie

Immediate Past President: Valerie Gerhart

Foundation Chairperson: Dave Wynne

Directors

Bill Kennis

David Oellerich

David Sylvester

Jack Harnish

Presidential History

1999-2000	Bob Istnick (Charter President)
2000-2001	J.B. Daugherty
2001-2002	Matt Case
2002-2003	Linda Wood
2003-2004	Anne Ritchards
2004-2005	Bill Parris
2005-2006	Richard Nanni
2006-2007	Norm Plumstead
2007-2008	Scott Ver Strat
2008-2009	Bill Anderson
2009-2010	Dick Conrad
2010 -2011	Jack Goodnow
2011 -2012	Roger Perry
2012 -2013	Kris Thomas
2013-2014	Dick Conrad
2014-2015	Andy Ashworth
2015-2016	Barb Skurdall
2016-2017	David Sylvester
2017-2018	Steve Mitchell
2018-2019	Jeff Rabidoux
2019-2020	Dave Wynne
2020-2021	Valerie Gerhart

Current Membership

Andrew Ashworth	Gary Gordon
Tom Bishop	Jack Harnish
Paul Clulo	Christopher Hodges
Dick Conrad	Bob Istnick
Mitch Deisch	Justin Keillor
Jim Drubert	William Kennis
Robert Dunn	Pat Kiely
John Ester	Phyllis Kladder
Trina Garner	Keith Krause
Bruce Gerhart	Tia Kurina-Cooley
Valerie Gerhart	Phil Lambert
Mary Lane	Michelle Russell
Chris MacInnes	Kim Simon
Diane Miller	Barb Skurdall
Michael Musgrave	David Sylvester
David Oellerich	Tim Taylor
Matt Olson	Mac Whisner
Bill Parris	Bruce Wildie
Jeff Rabidoux	Linda Wood
Larry Ross	Dave Wynne