A Tradition of Fellowship

The Bolivar Rotary Club traces its roots back to 1938 when meetings rotated between members’ homes in the evenings. The club later used the historic Bolivar Hotel for their meetings for many years.

Over the years the list of members of the Bolivar Rotary Club includes many of the leaders in our community and surrounding area. Politicians, retailers, educators, farmers, doctors and service providers were all welcomed to the club by work classification creating a well rounded membership of strength and diversity. Women were first welcomed in 1991. Rotary appeals to the younger generation because of our selfless posture towards service to others.

Club Meeting time – Noon, Wednesdays
Citizens Memorial Hospital
Community Room No. 1

Rotary International is the world’s first service club organization present in 40 countries worldwide, with more than 1.2 million members in 33,000 clubs. Rotary club members are volunteers who work locally, regionally, and internationally to combat hunger, improve health and sanitation, provide education and job training, promote peace, and eradicate polio under our motto Service Above Self.

The 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:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian’s occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian’s personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The Four-Way Test
Of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

Four Avenues of Service

Rotary’s Four Avenues of Service are the philosophical and practical framework for the work of this Rotary club.

- Club Service, the first Avenue of Service, involves action a member should take within his or her club to help it function successfully.

- Vocational Service, the second Avenue of Service, has the purpose of promoting high ethical standards in businesses and professions, recognizing the worthiness of all dignified occupations, and fostering the ideal of service in the pursuit of all vocations. The role of members includes conducting themselves and their businesses in accordance with Rotary’s principles.

- Community Service, the third Avenue of Service, comprises varied efforts that members make, sometimes in conjunction with others, to improve the quality of life of those who live within the club’s locality or municipality.

- International Service, the fourth Avenue of Service, comprises those activities that members do to advance international understanding, goodwill, and peace by fostering acquaintance with people of other countries, their cultures, customs, accomplishments, aspirations, and problems, through reading and correspondence and through cooperation in all club activities and projects designed to help people in other lands.

Rotary International is on a mission to eliminate Polio from the face of the earth. With the help of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, RI is in the middle of a major campaign to eradicate Polio from the last remaining occurrences of this ravaging disease. With the help of all Rotarians worldwide, this dream will be realized.
Since its inception, the Bolivar Rotary Club has organized many civic events to benefit the community by promoting fellowship and to help fund other projects and good works. The Polk County Fair, complete with motorized merry-go-round, was an early and popular project. Remnants of the old merry-go-round cars are part of our Light the Park display each Christmas season. The prestigious Bolivar Civic Service Award, Academic Achievement Awards, 4th of July Celebration of Freedom fireworks show and John Playter Rotary Park are examples of the work done by the Bolivar Rotary Club in and around the community.

While many prominent citizens have counted themselves as Rotarians, John Playter is probably the most prominent. John Playter Rotary Park was established in his honor and is situated just north of the intersection of Jones Street and South Meadow Lane in southwest Bolivar. There you can see examples of John’s many good deeds, as he exemplified the term Service Above Self. As a Bataan Death March survivor, long-time Bolivar city engineer, and church deacon, John was the model Rotarian. He was recognized for 49 years of perfect attendance during his 51 years of membership.

**Qualifications for Membership:**
1. Hold or be retired from a professional, proprietary, executive, managerial, or community position.
2. Have demonstrated a commitment to service through personal involvement.
3. Meet the club’s weekly attendance or community participation requirements.
4. Live or work within the vicinity of the club or surrounding area.

**Dues:** Quarterly dues are $95 and this includes the dinner meals. There are other “optional” opportunities to donate to special projects and events throughout the year. For more information, contact us at P.O. Box 296, Bolivar, MO 65613 or call Alan Simpson, 2013-14 Club President at (417) 777-7775.