

### Rotary Fellowships

Rotary Fellowships are independent groups of Rotary members who share a common interest in recreational activities, sports, hobbies, or professions. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to enhance your Rotary experience by exploring new opportunities and making connections around the world.

Rotary Fellowships began informally in 1928 when Rotarians with a shared interest in the language Esperanto joined together.

In 1947, a group of Rotarian boating enthusiasts began flying the Rotary flag from their crafts, calling themselves the International Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians; this fellowship now boasts the longest continuous existence.

#### HOW ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS OPERATE

Each fellowship functions independently of Rotary International, establishing its own rules, dues requirements, and administrative structure

Membership is open to Rotarians, their family members as well as participants and alumni of all Rotary and Foundation programs.

Fellowships must have an international scope, with active members in at least three countries

#### WHAT FELLOWSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE?

Fellowship activities vary widely. Members come together around hobbies or interests such as cricket or jazz, or vocations such as writing or medicine. Some groups are purely social while others use their fellowship for service projects.

Currently there are 62 fellowships active fellowships with a combined membership of 40,838 members in more than 180 countries worldwide. The average size for each Fellowship is 692 members.

The **smallest** fellowship is the International Fellowship of Pre-Colombian Civilizations, whose topic of interest is the study and understanding of the people of Latin America before the arrival of Christopher Columbus. They have **14 members in 3 countries**

One of the largest fellowships is the Rotarians' Wine Appreciation Fellowship  
Not surprisingly their topic of interest: exploring the making, tasting, consumption, collecting, and production of wine they have over 3,900 members in 63 countries.

I like their current Chairperson is a member of the Rotary Club of Grapevine

In December 2015, the RI Rotary Fellowships Committee recognized two new Rotary Fellowships:

1. International Fellowship of Rotarian Educators
2. 4 x 4 International Fellowship for Rotarians.

The latest provisional fellowship is Whiskey Drinking Rotarians and Members (or )The Whisk(e)y D.R.A.M.

The fellowship was started in 2015 to allow Rotarians a Whiskey appreciation fellowship. Their objective is to learn more about all the whiskies of the world, whiskey food pairings and any other topics related to the enjoyment of whiskey, so that our own appreciation will be enhanced. We accomplish that by sharing our own knowledge and experiences and by learning from the many whiskey experts and knowledgeable Rotarians throughout the world.

### **MORE THAN JUST A FELLOWSHIP**

Fellowships are not just all about fun....

The BREW Fellowship (Beers Rotarians Enjoy Worldwide) has a purpose to foster and encourage fellowship between and among Rotarians of all nations who have a love for Beer and through this fellowship support international projects of the Rotary Foundation. It is a fellowship for Rotarians interested in the making, tasting, consumption, collecting, production and sharing of beer culture. The fellowship has 350 members in 45 countries

Since water is a primary ingredient in beer, BREW is officially collaborating with the Water and Sanitation Action Group (Wasrag), to support Wasrag Projects around the world. Wasrag is identifying projects in Ethiopia, Uganda, Philippines, India and Mexico so that BREW members can financially support:

### **SOME OF THE MORE INTERESTING FELLOWSHIPS:**

- Antique Automobiles
- Curling
- Doctors
- Doll Lovers
- Draughts (Checkers)
- Honorary Consuls
- Italian Culture
- Jazz
- Magicians
- Old and Rare Books
- Photographers
- Police and Law Enforcement
- Quilters and Fiber Artists
- Shooting Sports
- Singles
- Skiing
- Table Tennis
- Wellness and Fitness
- Yachting

### **WANT TO START A FELLOWSHIP?**

Chances are if you have a strong interest in something, there are others in the Rotary family who share it. Forming a fellowship starts with finding members for your group. Once you have met the criteria for a fellowship, you can then apply for official recognition.