

How much does a Rotarian invest?

New members are charged a \$25.00 initiation fee and quarterly dues of \$200.00 (currently) to cover the Club's administrative expenses, the member's district and international dues, and weekly meals. All members are mailed *The Rotarian*, Rotary International's monthly magazine. Members may choose to opt out of purchasing lunch and reduce their quarterly dues to \$100.00.

All members are also encouraged to become Paul Harris Sustaining Members of the Rotary Foundation by contributing at least \$100.00 annually to the Foundation.

What services do Rotarians offer?

Rotary challenges each member to adhere to the ideal of "Service Above Self" in our vocations, our local community, and the international community. Cape Charles Rotarians support this ideal by contributing to a variety of service activities. These include:

- Strong support of Rotary International's effort to eliminate polio from the world, which is within sight.
- Support of the Eastern Shore Boys and Girls Club, the New Roots Youth Garden in Cape Charles, the Eastern Shore Coalition Against Domestic Violence, the Northampton High School Robotics Team, the Cape Charles Volunteer Fire Dept., a variety of Kiptopeke Elementary School projects, purchase of Central Park playground equipment, and many other deserving community programs and organizations.
- Doing good internationally by partnering with other District Clubs in International projects
- Volunteering time for other community service work, such as keeping the highway to Cape Charles trash-free via a quarterly clean-up.
- Participation in local school programs: for example, every year Rotary gives every third grader on the Eastern Shore their first dictionary. Interact Clubs (Rotary for teens) are supported at Broadwater Academy and Northampton High School to help develop leadership qualities in our local youth.



What is the Club's Vision Statement?

The Cape Charles Rotary Club provides fellowship and networking opportunities to its members, service to the local community, and support for the goals of Rotary International. Our vision is to become a vibrant club by encouraging every member to contribute to The Rotary Foundation and to participate in fundraising efforts to help fulfill these goals. The Club will continue to support International, District, and Local community service projects with our contributions and our hands-on support.

How does the Rotary Club of Cape Charles fund its service projects?

The Club makes and sells Crab Cakes for the July 4th and Thanksgiving holidays. This is our biggest fund-raiser, and universal participation by the membership is expected. All of the money raised by this and other fund-raising activities goes to our Club's designated service projects and other charitable causes.

What are some of the benefits Rotarians enjoy?

- Rotarians broaden their network of friends and acquaintances.
- Rotarians obtain knowledge of other businesses and professions and gain a better understanding of their overall community.
- Rotarians are able to expand their social lives through Club sponsored activities.
- Rotarians can receive a friendly welcome in almost every community throughout the world.
- Rotarians receive the satisfaction of serving others, which is after all the secret to true happiness.

THIS IS THE BEST OF ROTARY



ROTARY CLUB CAPE CHARLES VIRGINIA

July, 2025



What is Rotary?

Rotary is officially defined as "an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world."

Functionally, Rotary is a service organization composed of well-meaning individuals, Rotarians, who are members of a local Club; all local Clubs are members of the larger organization called "Rotary International."

Rotarians actively seek ways to live up to the Rotary motto:

"Service Above Self"

How did Rotary begin?

Rotary was organized by a Chicago attorney named Paul Harris in 1905, making it the oldest of all recognized Service Clubs. The name "Rotary" was adopted because the original Club met in rotation at each member's place of business. This rotation allowed members to learn more about fellow members and their respective vocations and talents.

What about the Cape Charles Rotary Club?

The Rotary Club of Cape Charles was organized in 1924, by a group of 15 Cape Charles businesspeople, making it the oldest Rotary Club on Virginia's Eastern Shore. For many years the Club had a unique meeting place; it was believed to be the only Rotary Club that met weekly aboard a ship, the Penn R. R. Steamer, which crossed Chesapeake Bay between Cape Charles, Old Point Comfort, and Norfolk. The docking time at Cape Charles was at noon, and the lay-over time was sufficient for the Club to board the steamer and enjoy a fine meal, great fellowship, and a full program.

The Cape Charles Club is the sponsor of the two other Clubs on the Eastern Shore: the Exmore and Onancock Clubs. Learn more about the Cape Charles Club by visiting <https://capecharlesrotary.org/>



Is Rotary a Large Organization?

Rotary is both large and small. Individual Rotary Clubs range in size from 20 to 300 members; many communities have but one Club while others may have several. Over its 120-year lifetime, Rotary has grown tremendously; today there are over 35,000 Clubs worldwide, and total membership exceeds 1.2 million individuals committed to helping others. Please visit <https://rotary.org/> for more information.

How can I become a Member?

Membership is by invitation, but if you let us know that you want to provide service to our community, we will welcome you! New members must be nominated by a current member and are accepted into membership only after review by both the Club's Board of Directors and the full Club membership. Each Club tries to ensure that its members come from a broad representation of people in their area, making each Club a cross-section of its community.

What is expected of Members?

Rotary is built on service, fellowship, and friendship. Members are expected to participate in the Club's meetings as well as its social, service, and fund-raising activities.

Attendance is deemed vital to a Rotary Club's success. Each member is therefore encouraged to attend at least 50% of the regular weekly meetings of his/her home Club during each half-year. It is, of course, understood that conflicts may arise, so each member is given the opportunity to "make up" a missed meeting at any Rotary Club in the world. This affords club members an opportunity to interact with other Rotarians, expand fellowship, and bring back ideas and information to their home Club. We also have Zoom available so that members can attend our meetings live from remote locations or make-up a meeting by watching it later.



Where and when does the Cape Charles Club meet?

The Rotary Club of Cape Charles meets at noon each Tuesday, except for a "social gathering" on the last Tuesday evening of every third month or so. The noon meetings are currently being held at Small's Smokehouse, 22512 Lankford Highway, Cape Charles.

What is the meeting format?

The weekly lunch meeting starts at about noon, with fellowship and lunch being served to all members and guests. Members are encouraged to get to know each other better by sitting at different tables each week. This is followed by the membership reciting the Pledge of Allegiance and singing a patriotic or lively song. The meeting continues with an Invocation given by a member, after which guests are introduced.

The business portion of each meeting starts at about 12:30 PM, when a modified 50/50 cash drawing is conducted. After members share "Happy Dollar" events, the President and others make brief announcements and review any pressing Club business. We then usually have speaker from the community who might update us on some interesting subject or possibly just entertain us in some way.

On the third Tuesday of each month, a "Club Assembly" is often conducted without a guest speaker. During the "Club Assembly" local, Club, district, and international Rotary matters are discussed, and Club decisions are made.

New members are generally inducted into the Club in a simple ceremony led by the President which includes the presentation of a Rotary pin, membership badge, and selected brochures which explain various local and international activities of Rotary. New members are expected to perform some extra duties during the months after joining, such as being "greeters" at our weekly meetings and serving as speakers at one of our noon meetings when they tell the club more about themselves.