

Rotary Club of Palgrave's Weekly Rotary Minute

By Doug Nicholson

In many ways, Rotarians represent a contradiction.

Rotarians are generally busy people, many in leadership positions, and yet they gladly find time to serve. Many members have positions within their professions that focus on the bottom line and yet they collectively contribute hundreds of millions of dollars in tangible gifts and volunteer their time willingly.

Further to this Rotarians become disciples of fellowship by attending a weekly meeting. Long before the term 'club service' was adopted in Rotary, its members practised it by breaking bread together, telling jokes, going on outings and generally having fun. In a world where the nightly news increasingly has stories of violence, corruption, scandals and disasters, it is little wonder Rotarians value the fellowship of Rotary.

A long tradition among Rotary Clubs in many countries is the levying of monetary fines. Most of the income for the Rotary Club of Chicago in the early years was derived from fines. The Sergeant-of-arms is the club officer charged with exacting fines from the members and is usually a person with a sense of humour. In our Club, the position is passed around each week, but the required sense of humour seems to always be there. Sometimes, it seems as if there is no end to the devious creativity of the Sergeant, much to the delight of all the members, including the poor Rotarian who was penalized. And all for a good cause. When fined, a member can take some consolation by knowing that other Rotarians all around the world are going through the same process. This is part of our fellowship.

The reasons for accepting an invitation to join Rotary are many: The desire to serve one's community, the desire to make the world a better place, an opportunity to make friends or possibly network with other Rotarians. Once in the club, the vast majority of Rotarians enjoy their meetings, enjoy the fellowship of Rotary and somehow feel that by being part of such a group they can contribute something worthwhile to their community and the world. My personal favourite definition of Rotary is simply good people doing good things for their community, at home and around the world.

For more information on all that we do in Rotary or for information on becoming a member, please visit www.rotaryclubofpalgrave.com anytime.