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**Introduction to the Rotary Club of Denver Mile High**

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**Meetings**

**When and Where**: We meet every Wednesday from 7:15am to 8:30am at the University Club, 1673 Sherman St. in downtown Denver. The U Club is usually open by 6:30am. During the pandemic, meetings are also accessible on Zoom. The login information is available each week in the Club Newsletter. The Newsletter also includes information about any off-site meetings or any dark days because of holidays.

**What Happens at the Meeting:** The meeting starts at 7:15 with an inspiration and pledge of allegiance, and many members join us at 7am. After the meeting starts, there is a break and an opportunity to visit with your tablemates and get to know them better. Attendance at meetings is not mandatory, but what better way to learn more and tell a bit about yourself? It is also an opportunity to schedule lunch or coffee to get to know a member better. Member announcements start about 7:40 and the program starts promptly at 8:00. Speakers cover a wide range of topics, both local and international. The schedule of future speakers is on the

Club website and also in the Club newsletter.

**Breakfast:** Breakfast is available to members and guests. Members can elect to have breakfast each week and pay dues that includes the cost of meals. Members may also choose the drinks only, no-meal plan. Visitors or members on the no-meal schedule can purchase breakfast for $25. Drinks for visitors are $5. First time visitors interested in Rotary are encouraged to join us and receive a free breakfast.

**Dues:** As noted above, there are two levels of dues to choose from: dues that include a full breakfast at the Club meeting are $300 per quarter. Non-meal dues are $150 per quarter. Dues are invoiced quarterly and we ask that they be paid promptly. Dues are based on the operational costs of the Club and include payments to the Rotary District and to Rotary International. More information about dues payments is included in the letter from the Club Treasurer.

**Parking:** There is usually street parking within a block of the Club. Meters are free until 9am. From April through November, street sweeping is scheduled on the first Wednesday of each month and enforcement is strict.

**Greeting activities:** One of the first things that we will ask you to do is to take a role at a Club meeting. There are three different responsibilities that you will be asked to take on:

* Greet members as they enter the waiting area at the U Club. This is a great way for you to talk to Club members as they join the meeting.
* Host visitors. One of the Greeters will bring any guests to you. You will guide the visitors to the desk to sign in and get them Visitors badges and then direct them to the beverage table.
* Share a story or a reading that inspires you at the beginning of the Club meeting.

**Getting to Know the Club**

**Why Denver Mile High Rotary?** Denver Mile High Rotary is known for our warm atmosphere and friendly members who champion many different service projects. Joining Denver Mile High Rotary connects you to a global network of humanitarians who live the motto, "Service above self."

All members of the Club are encouraged to participate in service projects. Any member can identify a community need, present an action plan, and get fellow Club members involved. Close to home, we recently supported seven different local organizations responding to COVID19 emergencies. Whether providing food for inner city communities, mental health support, or funding for calls to housebound elderly, we contributed both time and money to help those affected by the pandemic. We also support a number of programs abroad, including economic training in Zimbabwe, providing mental health services in Uganda, and delivering medical equipment in Brazil. We don’t just send money—Club members often travel to project sites to truly partner with the communities to find sustainable solutions.

What we often discover through service activities is that they also create fellowship and a lot of fun. Our social calendar includes virtual and in-person happy hours, parties, biking, hiking and picnics. We often find that a dinner and dance serves many purposes: raising money, having fun, getting to know other Club members and their partners, and perhaps even soliciting support for a new project.

**How to Find Out More:** Your sponsor has introduced you to Rotary and we are delighted that you have joined us. Our Club wants you to learn about Rotary and feel comfortable asking any questions you have. We have the following aids to help you understand Rotary better. They are:

* This guidebook that touches on much of Rotary and how our Club operates.
* A mentor, an experienced Club member who will be available to introduce you to the many aspects of Rotary and answer any questions you have. Generally your mentor will be in addition to your sponsor. You can request a specific mentor if you would like.
* New Member orientation that will happen soon after you are inducted.
* The Red Badge Program, which introduces you to many of the Club’s activities and gives you a chance to feel involved from the very beginning.

**Red Badge Program:** The Red Badge form is included in this manual. It lists a number of different activities that you are asked to complete. Your mentor or sponsor can help you with any of these activities, which get you involved in several different aspects of the Club. Be sure to ask your mentor or sponsor to sign off as you complete each item.

**Club Website:** One way to get more information about the Club is through the Club website. It’s easy to log in and visiting the website is one of the Red Badge requirements. Go to <https://denvermilehigh.org/>. On the upper right side of the home screen is “Member Login.” If you do not remember your login name or password, there is a help screen for a reset. You will be required to know your email address, so remember to update it in the future if it ever changes. *Instructions for changing or adding information on the Club website are currently being developed.* The website includes the program and meeting schedules, current topics and events, and a link to past copies of the Club Newsletter. The Directory of club members is currently available under “Contact Us” on the home page.

**Club Newsletter:** The Newsletter is sent by email each Monday and includes current information and announcements, as well as a calendar of upcoming events and information about other Clubs’ activities. Input from readers is especially welcome.

**Rotary District:** Rotary Clubs are aligned geographically into Rotary Districts of about 60 Clubs each. Our District is 5450, which encompasses about one-third of Colorado, centered in Denver. Bob Kemp, a DMHR member, is currently our District Governor for the 2020-2021 Rotary year. In addition, we are honored to have Dan Himelspach as a member; he was District Governor in 2013-2014. For information about District resources or contact information of Rotarians from other District Clubs, go to: [www.rotary5450.org](http://www.rotary5450.org)

**Club Leadership and Committees**

**Club Leadership Changes each Rotary Year:** Rotary operates on a July 1 through June 30 fiscal year. Each year the leaders of Rotary International change, with a new RI President and theme for the year. Similarly, DMHR Club leadership changes each July 1. Elections of the new officers occur each December for the subsequent Rotary year. All members are encouraged to participate in the election.

**Club Committees:** Club committees are where the Club activities are planned and developed, whether service projects, programs, fellowship activities, or fundraising. Joining one of the Club’s committees is a great way to get involved quickly in the Club and it is one of the Red Badge requirements. Below is information on each committee and a brief description of the kinds of activities the committee supports. We encourage you to visit different committees; you can always join more than one.

Contact information for Club leaders, including Committee Chairs, can be found on the Club website at <https://denvermilehigh.org/>

***Local Community Service (LCS)*:** As the name suggests, this committee is the clearing house for local service projects. If you have an interest in local, hands on, service, this the committee to join. Recent LCS activities include Reading for Peace and Peace Day, two programs focused on kids and organized by the Conflict Center in Denver. The Club has supported several projects with MetroCaring, which provides healthy food distribution in central Denver; some of our Club members routinely volunteer with that organization. We have longstanding relationships with BrainWise, which teaches critical thinking skills and was created by Club member Pat Gorman Barry. And for over ten years we have sponsored 9Health Fairs providing health screenings in west Denver. And there are many other organizations that we have worked with over the years. If there is a hands-on volunteer activity that you would like to support, contact the Local Community Service Committee Chair and find out how to submit a request for funding.

*Chair: Tom Cella*

***World Community Service (WCS)*:** Rotary is known for sustainable projects around the world. Denver Mile High Rotary has always been actively involved in international service. One of our first international grants was the purchase in 1991 of an ambulance for a hospital in the Dominican Republic. Since then we have created or supported grants in Zimbabwe, Zambia, India, Nepal, Thailand and Brazil, as well as other countries. We have been active partners in Matching and Global Grants that provided economic training, water delivery systems, medical equipment, and libraries. If you have an interest in international service, feel free to attend WCS Committee meeting and join the committee. Travel is not required.

*Chair: Audrey Leavitt*

More details about how the Club funds our service activities, especially our international projects, can be found on pages 6-8.

**Fellowship:** Part of the success of Rotary’s service projects is a result of getting to know one another during service *and* fellowship activities. These fellowship events can take many forms such as mini-dinners (4-6 couples gather at a member’s home for dinner, which is also a fundraising function); a September party honoring our previous year’s Club president; holiday potluck gatherings; and happy hours at local restaurants and pubs. We encourage Club members to attend District 5450 functions, where they can meet and learn about other clubs’ members and activities. And finally, many DMHR members travel to, attend and socialize at the annual Rotary International Conventions, meeting or reconnecting with international Rotarians. Rotary is one big *Service and Fellowship* organization!

*Chair: Betty Speir*

**Fundraising for the Club Foundation DMHR Foundation:** Rotary makes fundraising as enjoyable and far flung as possible, holding functions that are open not only to members but also to guests. Examples are the Spring Swing (an annual big band dinner dance function), mini-dinners and citrus sales. Club members can help fundraise by selling tickets or fruit, or by participating in the logistics before, during, or after the event.

Fundraising can look like pledging support to club members engaging in a sport activity, such as the Woohoomanity (Bike) Challenge. There are other ways in which we raise funds, and we are always looking for new ideas about fundraising. If you have recommendations for fundraising, either large or small, contact the Fundraising Chair. In addition to hosting fundraising functions, we ask that you consider supporting the Club Foundation with a direct donation. More information about the **DMHR Foundation** is on page. 7.

*Chair: Tom Giordano*

**Programs:** This committee schedules speakers for nearly every Rotary club meeting throughout the year; these speakers come from every possible discipline, often from other non-profits, to educate, extoll and entertain our members. Many of our club’s service projects emanated directly from speakers’ presentations, and conversely, many speakers are drawn from organizations with which we partner to serve. During this period of Zoom participation, we are not limited to local speakers. If you have seen or heard of interesting speakers and programs that you think members would enjoy, contact the Programs Chair. Even better, ask to join the committee.

*Chairs: Brian Good and Adams Price*

**Youth Services –** DMHR sponsors two Young Rotary Clubs, at Career Education Center (CEC) Early College in Denver and at Aurora Central High School. Activities have been suspended for now, but we hope to recommence in the spring. Committee members attend Club meetings at the high schools and organize activities with the students, including breakfast meetings, hiking and whitewater rafting. We also support their fundraisers when possible. The Club has created a scholarship for a high school senior who is in Young Rotary at one of the two schools. We expect to award that scholarship to a student in spring 2021.

*Chair: Bruce Ward*

**RYLA** – This committee is directly involved in Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA), an international**leadership program coordinated by Rotary Districts.** Each year the Club funds the cost for several high school students to participate in the District summer RYLA camp. The committee encourages Club members to recruit potential candidates for the award. Committee members interview high school students and select those with the most leadership potential. Club members can fund their own relatives’ cost in this program as well.

*Chair: Linda Sue Shirkey*

**Membership –** All members in the Club are asked to invite potential members to visit the Club and consider joining DMHR. Many potential members choose to join after just one visit. Once a candidate visits the Club, the Membership Committee, working in tandem with the candidate’s sponsor, makes contact and encourages the candidate to learn more about the Club and about Rotary. If the candidate decides to join the Club, the Membership Committee provides all the information he or she needs, and takes care of all “back office” procedures to set that member up for success in Denver Mile High Rotary. The Committee provides the Introduction to DMHR, the DMHR website login credentials, the Red Badge checkoff list, a mentor, and other instructions once the DMHR Club officially accepts the individual into membership. The committee then monitors the progress of the new member and assists when necessary in order to make that member productive and welcome.

*Chairs: Tom Gregory and Jeff McAnallen*

**Rotary**

**Rotary International (RI):** Rotary unites people from all continents and cultures who take action to deliver real, long-term solutions to our world's most persistent issues. Each year, Rotarians invest hundreds of millions of dollars and countless volunteer hours to promote health, peace and prosperity in communities across the globe. We take action by providing access to clean water and sanitation, supporting education, preventing and treating disease, saving mothers and children, and growing local economies. In addition to Rotary Clubs, Rotary offers service opportunities to young people through Young Rotary and Rotaract.

**The Rotary Foundation (TRF):** Rotary achieves its goal of creating long term solutions through the contributions of Rotarians, supporters and other organizations throughout the world. Soon after its founding, Rotary International created The Rotary Foundation to enable donors to make tax-advantaged contributions to support its humanitarian activities. The efficiency and high standards of The Rotary Foundation is why Charity Navigator has consistently given The Rotary Foundation the highest possible rating as an effective non-profit organization.

There are several ways to support the work that is funded through The Rotary Foundation. All Rotarians are asked to contribute some amount to TRF every year. Rotary makes contributing easy through Rotary Direct, with an automatic monthly payment or online contributions on the Rotary website, <https://www.rotary.org/en>. Rotary offers recognition for donors achieving various levels of contributions. Denver Mile High has a generous program to match member contributions to achieve a Paul Harris Fellow level, with cumulative giving of $1,000. The Club’s Rotary Foundation Chair has more information and would be happy to help you support The Rotary Foundation.

Most donations to The Rotary Foundation support one of its major initiatives: Polio Eradication and Rotary Grants.

**Ending Polio:** For more than 30 years, Rotary has been at the forefront in the effort to end polio worldwide. Through our efforts and those of our partners, including the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, polio cases have been reduced 99.9%. Rotarians contributed $2.1 billion and countless volunteer hours to protect more than 3 billion children in 122 countries from this paralyzing disease. Today, just two countries continue to report cases of wild poliovirus, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Rotary will continue to raise $50 million per year to eradicate this disease. Denver Mile High Rotarians have consistently supported this effort. Each year, in honor of our speakers, we donate $1,500 to the polio eradication effort.

**Rotary Grants Matching Funds:** Rotary is the only service organization that returns 50% of undesignated contributions back to the Rotary District that contributed them. These funds are called District Designated Funds (DDF) and are available to be used with two different kinds of Rotary Grants:

* Global Grants are international, community-based sustainable projects that are implemented through a partnership of the local community, an in-country Rotary Club and an international Club (like Denver Mile High.) All partners in a Global Grant are actively involved. These projects support a Rotary identified Area of Focus and are structured to be highly successful. Rotary International oversees the implementation of these grants. Global Grants receive matching DDF and a further match from The Rotary Foundation.
* District Grants are small community-based grants that receive DDF as a match to cash contributions. These grants are not required to be sustainable, but they do include Rotarian involvement. The District oversees these projects, which may be local or international.

**Foundation of the Rotary Club of Denver Mile High**

**(DMHR Foundation)**

We have introduced you above to The Rotary Foundation and what it can accomplish. There is a second Foundation that is also critical in supporting the humanitarian work that we do – The DMHR Foundation. The DMHR Foundation was established in 1993 so that members and supporters of the Club’s humanitarian work could contribute in a tax-effective way. DMHR Foundation is a separate entity from the Club, although the Board members of the DMHR Foundation are all members of the Club.

The DMHR Foundation is supported by cash donations and fundraising efforts. Donors who contribute to the Foundation, either in cash or through fundraising activities, a cumulative amount of at least $1,000 are recognized as Loy Dickinson Donors. Donors are honored for every $1,000 that they bring to the Foundation. Members volunteering to help with a fundraiser make an essential contribution to our fundraising efforts.

At the beginning of each year, July 1, the DMHR Foundation Board determines the total amount of funds that are available for service activities for the year. This amount is determined based on fundraising in the prior Rotary year. The allocation of those funds between the World and Local Community Service Committees and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is decided by the Club Board and announced to the entire Club.

The Committees determine the projects that they want to support, within the requirements of the DMHR Foundation. The two service committees can choose to support grants that receive only cash, although this is infrequent, or grants that receive both Club funding and a Rotary match. You can see that the fundraising for the DMHR Foundation is a critical element of our successful service projects. The Club needs to have sufficient funds to provide seed money (cash) so that the project champions can request matching funds from the District and The Rotary Foundation.

**How We Initiate and Support Our Service Activities**

Club members are encouraged to identify opportunities to provide service in our local community or other parts of the world. Part of the power of Rotary is that grants are Rotarian- driven and the funding originates with the Club.

A member (the champion) brings an idea to one of the Service Committees: a local activity to Local Community Service (LCS) Committee or an international project to World Community Service (WCS) Committee. The committee discusses the proposal, offers suggestions, and decides whether to support it and for what amount. The champion then contacts other Clubs for cash and, at times, hands-on support. At the same time, the champion begins to develop details of the project. If the project is local (or small and international) the Champion then presents a District Grant application for DDF to the District for consideration. If the grant is approved, then the project can be implemented quickly.

If the champion proposes a large international grant, the process has additional steps. The champion must develop a larger, more involved Global Grant application for Rotary International. After getting a commitment from the District for DDF, the champion then submits the full application to RI. If the grant is approved, the cash committed is matched with both DDF and an additional match from the Rotary World Fund. Here are some examples of how powerful the collaboration with other Clubs and the Rotary match can be:

* Brazil Dialysis Machines: DMHR cash $7,500; total budget funded: $126,118
* Zimbabwe Women’s Empowerment: DMHR cash $6,667; total Budget funded $84,501.

Each of these grants started with the cash commitment from DMHR (funded through the DMHR Foundation.) We then approached other Rotary Clubs, both in and outside District 5450, which agreed to contribute cash as well. These amounts were then matched with DDF. Finally, The Rotary Foundation also provided a match. The leveraging in these examples shows the powerful impact of matching funds and the importance of both the DMHR Foundation and The Rotary Foundation in funding our humanitarian work.

Thank you for joining Denver Mile High Rotary. We are proud of the extraordinary members that we have and their commitment that enables us to be a vibrant Club and accomplish great things. We look forward to your ideas and participation.