



Bemidji Rotary Club

ROTARY CHARGE

Fellow Rotarians, I claim your attention while (a) new member(s) are/is welcomed among us. Will:

please rise and come forward.

Your election to membership in the Bemidji Rotary Club is based on the premise that you are believed to be a worthy representative of your vocation and that you are in sympathy with Rotary's ideals and are prepared to help us in translating those ideals into realities. Membership in Rotary is an honor and a privilege; it involves corresponding duties and obligations. You should remember, that you do not merely represent your craft in this club, but, what is really more important, you are to represent Rotary to your craft and are to bring its principles to bear. You **OCCUPY** but do not **OWN** your classification. It is **LOANED** to you by the club. Upon

every loan made to us we must pay interest. See that your interest on this loan of classification is paid by a high type of service to your customers, your craft, your community, your home and your club.

We claim no monopoly on service ideals; but as Rotarians, meeting as such, and being so recognized throughout the world, there remains upon us an unquestionable responsibility. In electing you to membership something more has been done than merely taking you into a club. You have been made an Ambassador of Rotary Ideals. Those who know you will judge Rotary by your conduct.

It is important that you be impressed with the requirements and importance of regular attendance. The rules regarding attendance, as laid down by Rotary International and adopted by this club are not any schoolboy restrictions to be enforced by a taskmaster. They are as much for your benefit as for the good of the club. To be sure, you must live up to them or relinquish your membership, but these rules are based upon the old truth, that only through

constant and close contact can a person give his or her best to an organization and also receive the most from it. Should you miss a regular meeting of the club, you are privileged and expected to make up the absence by attendance at some other club, and for that purpose you are allowed 14 days before and 14 days after the meeting from which you are absent. Your contact with the club and its members will largely be through these weekly meetings, augmented, of course, by such committee work and other duties which may be required of you from time to time. You are urged to give your careful attention to this matter of attendance.

The cornerstone of all Rotary is fellowship. Faithful attendance, work, play, use of the first name, a common ambition to serve - all these things are factors in the building of fellowship. Robert Louis Stevenson has well said, "So long as we love we serve; so long as we are loved by others, we are indispensable." Just in proportion as you do your part, will you come to know and love your fellow members. And just in that proportion will you become a worthy member of this club.

It is now my/our happy privilege to present to you the Rotary emblem. As you wear it, let it always be a constant reminder to you that "He profits most who serves best." Fellow Rotarians, I commend to you
Rotarian(s):

Classification(s):

whom we now formally and most heartily welcome into Rotary. I charge you not to fail in your duty towards him/her/them.