

Classification

One thing very unique about Rotary membership is classification. When professionals join a Rotary club, they do so as a representative of their classification – their particular business or profession. Rotarians have the dual responsibility of representing their vocation within their club and exemplifying the ideal of Rotary within the workplace.

Each active member of a Rotary club is classified in accordance with the member's business, profession, or type of community service. By assigning each member a classification based on his or her business or profession, this system ensures that the club's membership reflects the business and professional composition of its community. The number of members holding a particular classification is limited according to the size of the club. For clubs with less than 50 members, they can elect maximum five members in a classification. For clubs with 50 or more members, the maximum number of members in a classification is 10 percent of the club's active membership.

However, to admit more members in one single classification, some clubs classify their members in creative ways. For example, instead of putting "Legal service" for lawyers as one classification, a club may subdivide it to "business law", "criminal law", and "intellectual property right", etc. Likewise, there may be boutique hotels, international hotels, and resort hotels for hoteliers. In the long run, the club may become an association of a single profession and may lose its diversity and representation of its community.

The classification principle allows a club to achieve a more diverse professional representation of the club's community. The goal is professional diversity, which enlivens the club's social atmosphere and provides a rich resource of occupational expertise to carry out service projects and provide club leadership. Each club should have a well-balanced membership in which no one business, profession or type of community service predominates. So look around your community and find more people to fill more classifications and make our club a diversified Rotary club!