

## What is a Rotary Satellite Club?

**The concept of a “Satellite Club” was developed to provide an alternative approach to establish Rotary Clubs. The concept gives Clubs the opportunity to start up a small group with the ultimate intention of forming a new club in due course. It is also a means of involving prospective members in Rotary activities before any new club is chartered. A Satellite Club is anticipated to have a minimum of 6 members on inception.**

**The Satellite Club** will conduct its meetings on a weekly basis in a format of its own choosing and choose projects suitable for its members interests but in line with those of Rotary. Meetings can take place in a room in a local pub or in a coffee shop and are anticipated to last around 1 hour. Unlike existing Rotary Clubs a meal is not necessarily required, unless members so agree.

**The Satellite Club** program's purpose is to accommodate changes that have occurred in our professional environments, in family structures, and impersonal commitments

Rotary states that the Satellite Club pilot is aimed at securing Rotary's future as a premier humanitarian service organization.

"Feedback from numerous Rotary surveys and focus groups has repeatedly shown that prospective Rotary members and current younger Rotarians require flexibility in their Rotary club membership."

Rotaract & Satellite Clubs: The Differences

Rotaract is a program separate from a Rotary Club. They have their own charter, constitution and bylaws. Rotaract Clubs are sponsored by a Rotary Club who then act as a liaison as they see fit. Rotaract Clubs are independent from the Rotary Club.

Current information states that the transition from Rotaract to Rotary Clubs is a difficult one and we lose a lot of young leaders once they leave Rotaract.

**A Satellite Club** is not a replacement for the Rotaract program; it is a way to build a better bridge for prospective members (like Rotaractors) to transition into the Rotary Club organization.

The purpose of a Satellite Club is not to create more complexities or just one more thing to "sponsor" – it is a way for clubs to grow in a creative way.

Today's world isn't full of big companies eating small companies - it's full of fast/innovative companies eating slow companies. This is an opportunity to try something innovative and new to help us grow a great organization!

The Impacts of a Satellite Club are intended to be:

- *Decrease the average club membership age*
- Introduce new leaders to the organization who are eager to get involved with the club's current projects and maybe introduce some new ones
- Offer the opportunity for members to have a bit more flexibility in their meeting schedule
- Get more people involved in an organization that has a serious growth and retention issue

### Conclusion

Satellite Clubs are an extension of the Host Rotary Club. They do not have their own charter, constitution or bylaws.

They offer more flexibility to attract members that may not, and would not, ever join a traditional Rotary Club.

They may look and feel like a separate club because they will have their own leadership and committees but these leadership roles and committees are expected to be in close partnership with the parent club.