A Rotary program for understanding “Fellowships.” For all Rotarians to use to explain the value of Fellowships and RAGS

By Jack M. B. Selway, Founder of Rotary Global History Fellowship (RGHF)

www.rghf.org

Most everyone has some understanding of “fellowship.” It’s what we do at our meetings, whether Rotary or meeting someone for coffee, or working on a project.

Today, in Rotary, there exist two groups of Rotarian activities under the leading of Global Networking Groups.

RGHF has the entire story at http://www.globalnetworkinggroups.org for those interested in studying the entire subject.
But, let’s start at the beginning, shall we? There’s nothing better than a like-minded group of Rotarians, whether it be antique car enthusiasts or wine lovers. So, it was natural that some Yachting Rotarians founded the Yachting Fellowship of Rotarians, back in 1947, claiming the position as the first “fellowship”

http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/yachting.htm

RI, though, says that Esperanto was first, in 1928.

http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/esperanto.htm

History is full of minor differences. There’s even some evidence that Rotary might have had its beginnings in 1904, but that’s another subject.

http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/clubs/rotaryone/1904.htm

FELLOWSHIPS OF ROTARIANS
So back to “Fellowship” in Rotary. Today, there are about 100 groups that enjoy the company of each other in similar activities. [http://www.fellowshiphistory.org](http://www.fellowshiphistory.org) lists them all.

Love Canoes? Then this is for you.

The first group to band together, “on the internet” was ICUFR. International Computer Users Fellowship of Rotarians. [http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/icufr.htm](http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/icufr.htm)

Followed soon by ROTI. Rotarians on the Internet [http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/roti.htm](http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/roti.htm)
Not for the faint of heart is cycling
http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/cycling.htm

Here's a fun group with heart.
http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/doll.htm
Anybody getting hungry?
http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/fellowships/gourmets.htm

Welcome to the World Fellowship of Rotarian Gourmets, started by a few members of the Rotary Clubs of Richmond, Ladner and Burnaby, B.C., and chartered by Rotary International in 1991.

Getting started……..

1. First invite a few Rotarians, their spouses, ex-Rotarians from two or more of neighboring clubs, to an informal get together at your home. (Widows/widowers; former Rotary-Anne-what better way to keep former members in touch with Rotary! They may even return to the coop!) Let everyone bring a dish or hors d’oeuvres or perhaps plan a BBQ.

2. Once they have all committed themselves to being part of this great Fellowship, plan your next dinner menu from a particular country. Dinners may be held as often as you may wish- once a month, every 2 months whatever suits your taste - no pun intended! Every effort should be made to demonstrate the preparation of at least one dish at your dinner venue.

3. Next, send a list of your members along with a one-time membership fee of $25.00 Canadian Funds or $20.00 U.S. Funds for your aprons, Gourmet pins plus a copy of our constitution.

As a fellow ‘Gourmet’ you are welcome to attend any dinner being held by any Chapter during your travels to other countries and cities.

You will then become the latest Chapter in our Fellowship:
- Richmond: Penticton: Arbutus: Vancouver
- Westside: Houston Texas:
- Port of Spain Trinidad

Former Chapters included Australia, Turkey, and Washington. (They lost steam!)

CHEERS!
Okay, you get the idea. These are people having fun, sharing a common interest, and they are all Rotarians.

The “fellowships” even have a newsletter. It’s called the “Fellowship Advancer,” and the most recent and archives are found here http://www.rotaryfirst100.org/philosophy/fellowship/ri/index.htm

ROTARIAN ACTION GROUPS

On 1 July 2006, RI decided that a new group was needed. They are called Rotarian Action Groups, the history is at www.actiongrouphistory.org

There are some serious subjects here, but still you find Rotarians enjoying fellowship.

- World Health Fairs - A Rotarian Action Group
- Global Network for Blood Donation - A Rotarian Action Group
- Water and Sanitation Rotary Action Group
- Rotarian Action Group for Population & Development
- Disaster Relief - A Rotarian Action Group
- Polio Survivors & Associates - Rotarian Action Group
- Rotary Diabetes Action Group
- Rotarian Action Group for Blindness Prevention
- Rotarians for Multiple Sclerosis Awareness
- Rotarians for Fighting AIDS
- Rotarian Action Group for the Alleviation of Hunger and Malnutrition
- Rotarians for Mine Action
- Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers
- Rotary Action Group for Microcredit
- Rotarians for Hearing Regeneration
- Rotarians Eliminating Malaria
- Humanitarian Service Rotarian Action Group
- Rotarians for the Prevention of Drug Abuse

ABOUT THIS PROGRAM AND OTHER “HISTORY” FELLOWSHIPS AND ORGANIZATIONS

The RGHF section on “Fellowships” was created by Jack M. B. Selway, Founder and CEO, Rotary Global History Fellowship, Member of Rotary eClub of the Southwest,
RGHF, an internet history fellowship, was preceded by RHHIF, Rotary Heritage & History International Fellowship.

RHHIF was responsible for “saving” Room 711, now preserved at the RI headquarters http://www.room711.org and from this came the effort to save the home of Paul Harris http://www.paulharrishome.org now with its own foundation.

Today, one of our RGHF webmasters maintains the Paul Harris home website, and the recent Council on Legislation has asked the RI board to support the effort, of the Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation, to preserve the Harris home “Comely Bank. RGHF also provides the website for RHHIF at http://www.historyfellowship.org and Room 711 at http://www.”room711.org, in addition to the Harris office at RI at http://www.harrisooffice.org and the Harris memorial at http://www.paulharrismemorial.org

Our fellowship will celebrate 10 years, this October, at a three-day event, in Chicago. Those attending will tour Room 711, Paul’s house, the cemetery, Paul’s office, RI headquarters plus three wonderful dinner events and lunch with the Rotary Club of Chicago http://www.rghf101010.org

Today, RGHF is one of the larger fellowships, with nearly 600 members, 11,000 subscribers, and about 1,000,000 annual visitors.

Enjoy Rotary by joining a fellowship of Rotarians. See http://www.rotaryfellowships.org for more from Rotary International.