

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US!

Our Rotary club name is the “Suicide Prevention and Brain Health Rotary eClub.”

We are a CAUSE based Rotary eClub that meets virtually at 7pm CST on the 2nd and 4th Monday of each month using Zoom. Therefore, membership is not limited by geographic boundaries. Our Monday meetings and programs will be conducted in English, although additional programs in the future on other dates and times may be offered in other languages. Traditional Rotary clubs formed in past years were geographically and community based.

We understand that our members have tremendously busy schedules and commitments which is why we DO NOT require members to attend any specific number of meetings. We will record programs whenever possible for later viewing. If a member is not able to attend, the member can choose to send someone as a proxy attendee. Please notify a club officer so that we can recognize your proxy attendee and make them feel welcome. We will communicate and encourage input using email and other digital means when members are unable to attend.

CHARTER INFORMATION We were officially chartered on July 12, 2021, with 49 charter members from diverse backgrounds ranging in age from 19 – “80 something” who currently reside and/or attend college across four states. Our charter celebration was held via Zoom on July 19, 2021. During the first week after our charter celebration, three additional members joined the club with others indicating they plan to join in the coming months.

PURPOSE OR “CAUSE” SUMMARY STATEMENT. Our purpose or “CAUSE” is to promote Collaboration, Advocacy and Awareness, Understanding, Support, Elimination of stigma, Education and Encouragement surrounding suicide prevention, postvention*, brain / mental health and wellness in all forms, starting locally where our members live with plans to expand and grow exponentially across the nation and eventually the world. (* Postvention refers to support for survivors of suicidal loss.)

Additional definition of our purpose includes

- Promote and provide awareness, education and advocacy of Suicide Prevention and Brain Health
- reduce stigma related to suicide and mental/brain health differences
- promote “mental health is brain health which is physical health”
- identify and promote brain healthy lifestyles
- seek and support brain healthy communities
- understand and support individuals and families across diverse cultures and populations who struggle with mental/brain health issues
- support those who have lost someone to suicide
- collaborate and share resources and education with people and organizations across the world to accomplish these goals

ROTARY AND ITS STRUCTURE (www.rotary.org)

In order to share the vision and possibilities of our new club and its members within the structure of Rotary without overwhelming anyone, key information is broken down into manageable segments that hopefully tell part of our story.

- Rotary is the world's first service organization, started in 1905 in Chicago, by four men whose desire for camaraderie among business associates led to an international organization of service and fellowship.
- Rotary Vision Statement: Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change — across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves
- Rotary's motto is "Service Above Self."
- Currently there are 37,000 clubs in over 200 countries with a membership of 1.2 million members.
- Rotary played an essential role in building support during the formative years of The United Nations, and in selecting New York City for the Permanent Headquarters of the United Nations. As such, more than 60 years later, Rotary International still maintains the highest consultative status with the United Nations of any non-governmental organization
- Rotary is responsible for leading the world's efforts to eradicate polio. (My dream is to reach out through Rotary to educate and reduce suicide deaths across the world)
- Essentially a grassroots organization with most of its service efforts being carried out at the club level.
- Cause based eClubs are a new model to support today's needs
- The District and International structure is designed to support the clubs and help them provide more service in their local communities and abroad.
- Rotary International is divided into 34 Zones, each with a Director
- Within those 34 zones are 534 Districts, each with a District Governor (Max Duplant is our District Governor for 2021-2022)
- Our club is in District 5810 along with 62 other clubs in the Dallas/immediate north and east areas
- The district that includes Fort Worth and immediate north and west areas also has over 60 clubs.
- There are multiple districts in Texas with a similar number of clubs.
- Club member sizes range from 6 members to 400 members.
- Average club size is 35 members
- Clubs are considered to be 501(c)4 organizations
- A separate Rotary Foundation is designated as a 501(C)3 organization.

KEY CONSIDERATION AND OPPORTUNITY FOR OUTREACH. A club member is welcomed to visit any other Rotary club in the world which means that members of our club have automatic invitations to visit at least 120 clubs in the Dallas/Fort Worth and surrounding areas plus anywhere that has a Rotary club which is most towns in the U.S. We can share our message and programs to people who may not otherwise know about resources or think to seek them.

HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. The example of Rotary's reach and success in fighting polio in the world gives us hope for what is possible. You have to start somewhere which is what we are doing with the formation of this Rotary eClub. Even learning something new and sharing that information or talking with one other person who then shares with someone else starts a movement that can grow beyond what we can imagine. We each make a difference.

PLEASE JOIN US IN THIS JOURNEY!

For more information, please contact Shirley Weddle at swbrainhealth@gmail.com