

## **Orientation Guide For New Global Trekkers**

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Official Name: Rotary E-Club of Global Trekkers D7690

Club Number: 6087

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Facebook: [www.facebook.com/groups/GlobalTrekkers](https://www.facebook.com/groups/GlobalTrekkers)

Club Website: [www.rotaryGlobalTrekkers.org](http://www.rotaryGlobalTrekkers.org)

District Website: [www.rotary7690.org](http://www.rotary7690.org)

RI Website: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

Global Trekker Zoom Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191334091>

### **Beginnings**

It's often said that "Rotary happens in the clubs." What's meant by that is that each club has its own individuality or personality. If so, what's the Global Trekker personality? Adjectives like fun, smart, new, "easy to attend," friendly, wonderful, informative, etc., etc. just roll off one's lips. The truth is, Global Trekkers is what you make of it. It is for you to determine. It's your club.

### **The oldest newest e-club**

Our real birth date is 22 February 1947. This is when Rotary International Club #6087 was chartered. The club was called the Rotary Club of Walnut Cove. Walnut Cove is a small rural community located in Stokes County, North Carolina. Back in 1947 it was a typical small town, having doctors, dentists, attorneys and other such small businessmen that formed the nucleus of Rotary at its start.

And then a drift towards centralization started: Most occupations began moving to central locations - larger towns and cities. The thriving community of Walnut Cove became something of a "back water." Some small businesses still exist, but the community does not have the variety of services it had fifty years ago.

Membership at the Rotary Club of Walnut Cove suffered as a result. The club got to the point where it was in imminent danger of losing its charter.

At the same time the Walnut Cove club was faltering an effort was underway to start a video conferenced based e-club in District 7690. This effort was led by three eager Rotarians: Kay Danes, Ken Gamble and Ray Pifer. But recruitment to the e-club was very slow. In a brilliant effort to speed things up, district leadership proposed a merger of the e-club and the Rotary Club of Walnut Cove. The merger of the two created the Rotary E-Club of Global Trekkers D7690 which formed on the very last day of the 2016-17 Rotary Year. (See Exhibit 1. Club Charter)

## **Understanding Global Trekkers**

The best way to understand what a club is intended to be is to study its bylaws. Bylaws lay out rules and regulations that are supposed to be followed by the members. Sometimes we diverge from the bylaws because we forget some aspect of them. If that happens, help us get things straight by pointing it out to us. But it will very much be worth your time to study the Global Trekker bylaws in detail. This is found by clicking the tab for “New Members” in our website [www.rotaryglobaltrekkers.org](http://www.rotaryglobaltrekkers.org) ... scroll midway towards the bottom. The next best way to understand a club is to study its strategic plan. You can find it also via the “New Members” tab.

Regarding membership, the life-blood of any club, we recognize that for e-clubs in general the age distribution of new members tends to be *J*-shaped. That is, in comparison to traditional clubs, proportionately more e-club recruits are young recently-out-of-college or just-retired older, with more older than younger new members. Reason: The older people want to leave some kind of legacy while having camaraderie and fun. The younger people want the kind of mentorship that comes from associating with those who have been a bit “around the block.” All want to do some kind of charitable service. Middle aged people are a less good target for recruitment because many are in the midst of raising a family and/or engaged in their professions.

Of lesser importance is a club constitution. All of Rotary’s 35,000+ clubs must abide by common elements in the “Standard Rotary Club Constitution.” Defining principles are among the most important things to learn from the Constitution: the four elements of the Object of Rotary, the Five Avenues of Service ... the most

important of which is “Club Service.” Because all clubs need to operate under the rules and regulations identified in the Standard Club Constitution, it is the glue that binds clubs together in a common fabric. Google will lead to examples.

Of least importance, but still important, is the Bylaws of Rotary International. This document’s main use is to indicate how inter-club protocol should be handled. A pdf version can be found by use of a search engine.

So here are some aspects of Global Trekkers\* you should know:

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\*The name “Global Trekkers” originated in an early formation meeting of Kay, Ken and Ray where parallels with “Star Trek” and Rotary were drawn. Before the e-club became a reality, all members voted on alternatives like “The Cove,” “Roots and Branches,” and some less well-chosen potential names. “Global Trekkers” was the winner, and Spock’s Vulcan salute and our closing wish of “live long and prosper” are natural outcomes of that. The Global Trekker Bowling Shirt design was accepted in a Club meeting with the ‘Black and Red’ colors chosen as they are Kay’s favourite Australian Rules Football Team (Essendon).

### Meeting Flow

- Log in Monday at 5:45 PM New York time and visit
- Zoom Meeting Room: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191334091>
- Meeting and recording officially starts at 6:00 PM<sup>+</sup>
  - Happy Dollars: Only happy (never sad) thoughts expressed in less than a minute
  - Guest speaker introduction, presentation, Q&A.
  - Four-Way Test and end of recording
- Video conferencing session kept open as long as people want to continue to visit.

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<sup>+</sup>Club business items can be brought up at any time in this meeting flow.

### Club Assemblies

Club assemblies are meetings designed for club members to work on club business items such as fundraiser or service project planning. It is proven to be good club practice to have around four of these each year.

## AGMs – Annual General Meetings

These are a once-a-year events best done in late November or early December but necessarily before December 31. They are formal occasions when all the members of the club vote on the officers and directors who will represent them in the new Rotary Year that will begin on July 1<sup>st</sup> of the next calendar year. It is also a natural occasion to make changes in club bylaws. An AGM rarely uses more than 15 minutes of the hour of club meeting time.

## Proper Online Behavior

Be considerate of others when visiting online. The following is a short list of “do”s and “don’t”s :

- Become a skilled Zoom user: Take the tutorials at <https://learning.zoom.us/learn>
- Log on before the start of the meeting. Late arrivals can break the flow of discussion
- It is more enjoyable to be in “Gallery View” (upper right corner toggle switch reads “Speaker View”)
- Especially when the guest speaker is doing his/her talk ...
  - Mute yourself by clicking on the microphone icon
  - But keep video on ... it helps the speaker know he/she is talking to a live audience and is not disconnected. Connection bandwidth is unaffected
- Don’t fumble around with the microphone
  - If using a headset, don’t touch the microphone’s head
  - If using your laptop or smart phone’s internal mic, know where it is and don’t touch it
  - In the Zoom video conferencing system, the border around your image is highlighted in yellow when noise is being sourced from your mic
- In a large group, state your name as the first thing you say: “This is *John/Jane Doe*. I want to ask ...”
- Speak clearly at a measured pace
- Follow the guidance of the meeting’s host and be respectful of others
- HAVE FUN! LAUGH! ENJOY THE CAMARADERIE OF GLOBAL TREKKERS! 😊

## Social Media

The principal mechanism we have to letting the outside world know what Global Trekkers is doing is our Facebook group. It is for each and every one of you to use to let the broader public know about the service activities you may be undertaking on your own. Add “comments.” And please “share” our posts with your Facebook “friends.” This is how we get the word out

about us ... it's just one simple click. Wouldn't you like to have some of your non-Rotarian friends experience the fun and good works that we do? Don't be shy. Let them know about us!

### Major Club Service Projects

At this point the Global Trekker club has two major service projects which were inherited from our Rotary Club of Walnut Cove predecessor

- Most improved student scholarships—Most improved graduating senior from North Stokes High School and from South Stokes High School are identified by school personnel. Scholarships in the amount of \$500 are made payable to the institution of higher learning the students plan to attend. If a student plans to attend a trade school or a junior college, money can be drawn from an investment account provided by the will of a former and now deceased Walnut Cove Rotarian. If, however, a student intends to go to a 4-year college, funds must be drawn from the Global Trekker “Community” bank account. This worthwhile service activity is necessarily executed in May or June at or near the time of student graduation from the two high schools.
- Alleviation of hunger – This is an initiative started in Rotary Year 2017-18 as a result of D7690's RUSH (Rotarians United to Stop Hunger) project. To date, support of two food pantry operations in eastern Stokes County have been targeted.

### Individual Member Service Projects

Many traditional Rotary clubs have a few club projects and that is that. Because e-clubs usually have members spread over sometimes vast stretches of geography, individual member-initiated projects are encouraged. These can range from tutoring, providing for the homeless, training service animals, etc. Your charitable activities in Rotary's “Seven Areas of Focus,” however trivial you might think they may be, should be reported to the Service Director of Global Trekkers.

### Club Expenditures

Rotary is not like a restaurant ... we always pay *in advance* for what we are to receive. In fact, Rotary International bills clubs for members listed on a club's roster on July 1 and January 1 even if those members have decided to quit and therefore not pay. When billed, please pay promptly. Global Trekker club bylaws detail charges and payment terms.

Wherever you might see money matters indicated in Rotary, please understand that the currency is in US dollars.

Club money is housed in three accounts:

- Club Account – This is where club dues are stored. As a courtesy to Global Trekker members, the voluntary portion of \$100 is taken from each member's dues payment\* and given to The Rotary Foundation's "Annual Fund-SHARE" account to make every member "Sustaining." When administered by the club, this is done in November- Foundation Month. For Americans, this \$100 is clearly a tax-deductible contribution. As Global Trekkers has American IRS 501c3 status the entirety, or a significant portion of the rest of the dues payment, could be tax-deductible. One's tax professional can provide guidance.

Club member dues are used to pay for Rotary International and District dues. And they are used to pay for required or optional club training events such as PETS, RLI, etc. The Global Trekkers club values advertising as well as member education and networking and is willing to use Club Account money to support it. Members not living in the geography of D7690 are supported in the locations in which they live just the same as those who are nearby.

- Community Account – This is where fundraising collections are stored. Money here is used to pay for expenses involved in raising funds as you generally have to "spend money to make money." The vast bulk of the money, however, is used to pay for charitable service activities.
- Grants Account – This is where Rotary Foundation "District Grant" or "Global Grant" money is stored. This grant money is given to our club upon writing a winning grant proposal. In most cases the grant money must be matched by our club, and the "match" occurs by transferring funds from the Community Account into this one. Grants Account money is used to pay for approved Foundation grant projects. Having a "Grants Account" is required by the district, and it simplifies accounting and proper financial management greatly. A minimum of \$100 is required to preserve the account.

## Budget

A budget is drawn up each year and should be presented along with goals for the new Rotary Year to club membership in a Club Assembly shortly after PETS and at least one week prior to May 15<sup>th</sup>, when some goals must be entered into RI's "Rotary Club Central" database. These are listed in presentation format.

## “District Achievement Awards” Criteria & Goal Setting

Each year the DG of our district specifies the things that he or she thinks clubs should try to accomplish. These items are laid out in what is called the “District Achievement Awards Criteria” and presented to club president elects at PETS. Generally, the criteria also incorporate criteria proposed by the President of Rotary International that should be met to receive a club award called a “Presidential Citation.” Both D7690 “District Achievement” and RI “Presidential Citation” awards are very prestigious. And a club that achieves them is a club that has had a stellar year.

Because of the significance of the “District Achievement” Award, it is helpful for Global Trekkers to use the criteria as a guide toward things to strive for in a new Rotary Year. Attaining success with this stimulates awareness of and good advertising for our club. And it is a source of pride for our membership to know that we are the “best of the best.”

Not many districts offer a “District Achievement” Award like ours. Instead they tend to have individual category awards like highest percentage attendance, most new members, best newsletter, highest per capita support to TRF, etc. Unless a club is recognized in all of these categories, it might not actually have had a good year.

## FOR – Fun

Family Of Rotary events are fun activities for Global Trekkers and their friends and family. These could involve going to a baseball game, developing art work (with supervision), online Cooking show with Kathy and Cookie, attending the “Stokes Stomp” or “Pigstock,” picking fruit or hanging out at a member’s farm, etc. Unfortunately, our distant members cannot attend these, but through photographs and short Zoom sessions they can enjoy them vicariously.

## Mentoring

You have a mentor. If you have questions now in reading this guide, ask him or her. And of course, you can turn to any other Global Trekker for guidance too.

## Rotary District 7690

D7690 is part of Rotary Zone 33 and is located in a 15-county section of the Piedmont of North Carolina. Major cities in the area are Winston-Salem, Greensboro, and High Point. Our district consists of about 50 Rotary Clubs.

D7690 has a remarkable history of support to The Rotary Foundation:

- It is the first district in the World which at one instant in time had *every* member be a Paul Harris Fellow. At the time district membership totaled about 4,000 people.
- It is the first district in the World to have a Triple Crown Club: At one instant in time every member was (1) a PHF, (2) Sustaining, (3) a Benefactor

Much information about D7690 is found at [www.rotary7690.org](http://www.rotary7690.org). There are several helpful tabs. Important things for you to see are:

- The district calendar
- Link to the “Piedmont Rotarian” – the district’s monthly newsletter  
<https://rotary7690.org/archives/the-piedmont-rotarian/>

The tab called “Links” provides access to DACdb, the District and Club database. Unless you change it, the login is the email address you provided when you became a Global Trekker and the password is your RI Membership ID Number. If you visit this database, it is best simply to never logout of it. Otherwise, you will probably have to scramble around to find your RI ID Number. DACdb is mainly for Club Service activities such as changing member information, identifying club officers/directors, reporting attendance, and logging achievements on the way to achieving club recognition via the “District Achievement Awards.”



## Rotary International

You might already know a lot about Rotary International. Our worldwide organization is headquartered in Evanston, IL.

RI's website is [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and as soon as you are informed of your Rotary ID Number you should visit that website and establish an account. It's easy to do. The "New Member" tab in our website shows you how. Your "My Rotary" account is the conduit to making Happy Dollar donations to the PolioPlus campaign. Be sure to **log in** before you **GIVE** via credit card. You can tell you are logged in when your email address is shown in the upper righthand corner and "Global Trekkers" is indicated as your club affiliation later in the donation algorithm.

As a Rotarian you are entitled to visit any Rotary club in the world. The RI website has a convenient club locator at the top of the home page. It's fun to do it. Remember, however, that if meals are served, please ask someone if you can pay for it. Meals are part of what traditional club members pay for in their dues. If you plan to visit another club, it is best to send an email to the club president or secretary asking if it is OK to do so. Club Assemblies generally are for club members only, and it is best not to try to visit when one of those is going on.

The [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) shows news from around the world. It's great to read it to see what's going on. And Rotary Showcase shows innovative projects that other clubs are conducting. The magazine, "The Rotarian," has great easy to read articles. By default you will receive a paper copy. If however you wish to get the more convenient and environmentally friendly digital version, you need to subscribe to that yourself. (See Exhibit 9. Digital Subscription To THE ROTARIAN.)

RI has tons of superb "how to ..." documents. The best way to find them is to use Google's "Advanced Search." And the website's "Learning Center" can help a lot too.

## And In Conclusion ...

Congratulations! You have joined one of the finest clubs in the best volunteer service organization ever developed. **Live Long And Prosper!**