

Fellowship of Rotarian Magicians Newsletter

July 2009

Promoting Fellowship among Rotarian Magicians
Advancing the ideals and Objectives of Rotary with Magic



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ReFORMing FORM

As you know our Chairman for many years, Jim Toth stepped down from Rotary in 2008 and thereby ceased to be a part of our fellowship. Jim ably led our group for at least 12 years and also published our newsletters. Fellowship members Stan Sorrentino (Providence RI USA) and Jim Lang (Trumbull CT USA) have taken the lead in reorganizing the Fellowship. Jim Toth provided a membership list and turned over the treasury which is less than \$100 USD. We need your assistance and participation to reignite the fellowship.

Here is what we have done so far:

- ◆ Deposited the treasury funds and instituted a financial reporting and tracking system.
- ◆ Contacted Rotary International to make them aware of the change in leadership.
- ◆ Created a database for tracking member information and facilitating electronic communication.

- ◆ Sent snail mail letters to all members asking for an update of information and payment of 2009-10 dues.
- ◆ Conducted an annual meeting by e-mail (for paid-up members) during which we elected officers and approved revisions to the Fellowship Constitution.
- ◆ Published a 2009 Newsletter. *(you are reading it)*

Now we need to reestablish ourselves with Rotary International and get the Fellowship active again.

Although officers were elected for a two-year term (in accordance with our constitution) both Stan and Jim hope that others will step up to replace them as "co-chairmen". Our constitution calls for 4 elected officers. We have temporarily met the requirements by having Stan and Jim each hold two elected offices.



Upgrading Communications

In order to improve the speed and quality of communications within our Fellowship, we have moved to emphasize electronic communications. We also held our first annual meeting via e-mail. We now have a web site under construction and this will be our

major method of sharing Fellowship news and information with members. The web site address is currently <http://RotaryMagician.org> however this may change as RI has expressed concerns about using the term "Rotary" in the URL



Navigating the New Web Site

The new web site has two purposes: (1) to be a primary method of communicating information to our members and (2) promoting our fellowship to those who are not members.

Although the site does not yet have a lot of information, the structure and essential information is there already. Let's take a tour of the menus and explain what information awaits you. Every major page on the site includes the exact same drop-down menus, so navigation should be easy.

The **HOME** page gives a brief explanation of who we are and includes recent member activities.

JOIN FORM provides information about Rotary Fellowships and how to join FORM. **Benefits** covers some of the values of joining our fellowship. **How to Join** explains who can join our fellowship and how to go about joining. **Application** takes the viewer to a PDF Writable membership application form. **What is a Rotary Fellowship** leads to a PowerPoint presentation about all fellowships. Please download it for use at club presentations or district conferences. **Constitution** is a PDF of our Revised Constitution.

MAGICIANS is a proposed section of the web site where members can post a description of the magic they "perform" along with contact information. It is provided to help clubs and districts find

magicians or speakers for meetings. We need suggestions from the members about whether this is a useful and appropriate section for our web site. Thanks to member Beers van Muiswinkel for serving as our sample listing.

The **MEMBERS** menu offers some information that can only be accessed with a password which is provided only to active members. It provides access to our **Newsletters** and **Magic Tricks** that can be used to promote Rotary. It also will include a **Member List**, the **Constitution**, and a **Find Dealer** page with recommendations from members and downloadable **FORM logos** that can be used on member web sites or a Rotary business card.

The **RESOURCES** menu can take the user to a **Search** page where you can search the site or the Internet. It also leads to useful Rotary and Magic **Links** and will allow the user to download a FREE copy of **Adobe Reader** in order to view some of our pages.

ROTARY.ORG takes the user to the Rotary International home page.

A Google translate function is on each page so members can convert our pages into their favorite language.

For now our site URL is <http://RotaryMagician.Org> or <http://RotaryMagician.Com>. However, RI has raised concerns about our use of the word "Rotary" in our URL, so we may need to change this site name.

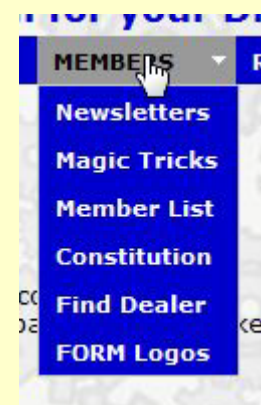
Re-establishing With Rotary International

In the August 2008 issue of our newsletter, Chairman Jim indicated that he was leaving Rotary. At the time he did not have a replacement and no meeting was held to elect officers. The Rotary International staff then officially terminated our status as a Rotary Fellowship.

As a result we must reapply for official recognition and we are currently in that process. We hope to submit an

application this month for consideration by the RI staff and Rotary Board of Directors at its November meeting.

The revamped constitution we approved at our annual meeting is also subject to additional revision if RI staff has any concerns with it.



Revamped Constitution

The revised Fellowship Constitution was approved at our annual e-meeting by a majority vote of paid-up members.

The revisions clarify some of the language and bring us more into line with Rotary International guidelines.

Under the revised Constitution, we are permitted to conduct our meetings electronically which should give more of our members a voice in decision-making.

It also makes clear the definition of "magic" that is used for purposes of our organization. In some places "magic" refers to the occult or supernatural forces.

You may download the revised Constitution from our web site.

New Officers

At our annual meeting we elected officers to serve through 30 June 2011.

Secretary/Co-Chairman - Jim Lang

Treasurer/Co-Chairman - Stanley Sorrentino

Vice Chairman - Dr. Brad Cleary

While your officers are enthusiastic about our Fellowship, they are both seeking replacements. The responsibilities for our fellowship need to be shared. Indeed, our Constitution requires a Vice-Chairman. So please let us hear from you about your willingness to serve. None of these jobs require a great amount of time once we finish our reorganization.

New Logo

Presenting ... the new FORM logo which was approved at our annual e-meeting. We encourage you to use it on your magic web sites, preferably with a link to our FORM web site.

We are also providing an abbreviated version without the blue ring.

Members also welcome to use the logos for their Rotary business cards.

We hope you like the new logo.

We are considering membership pins which you can wear at meetings to evoke questions about your interest in magic and in Rotary Fellowships.



The new fellowship logo can be downloaded and used by members for their web sites and Rotary business cards.

Where are the Tricks?

Part of the fun of being in our Fellowship is sharing magic tricks in our newsletter with a Rotary theme. So where are they?

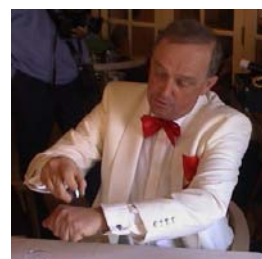
You will now find them in a password protected section of our web site. There is only one there for now until members submit more.

Your officers believe in protecting magic secrets. Now that our newsletter will be posted to an unsecured section

of the web site where prospective members (and others) might read it, we decided to move the tricks out of public view.

One major advantage is that the web site will now provide an archive as we build up this section with your ideas. This should evolve into a great resource!

Please send your submissions to us as a Microsoft Word® or .rtf document with any JPEG or GIF illustrations.



Member Beers van Muiswinkel sent this photo of him performing some close-up magic.



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We're on the Web!
<http://RotaryMagician.Org>

Accessing the Secured Web Pages - Joining FORM

Every paid up full member of our Fellowship is given a Username and Password that lets them view the secured sections of our web site.

All you need to do is apply for membership and pay dues. Just fill out a membership application found on the site, send it in with annual dues of \$25 USD.

We will respond with your membership card and instructions for accessing the secured web site pages.

Send your application and dues to our Secretary, Jim Lang, 24 Primrose Dr, Trumbull, CT 06611, USA.

Dues - How are they Used?

FORM dues cover membership for a full (or partial) year beginning 1 July. The current dues amount is \$25 USD.

Dues cover routine administrative costs and the cost of our RI Convention meeting. That meeting is mostly a social gathering; but an important part of our fellowship.

Dues may not be used to compensate any officer for service rendered or personal expenses incurred attending any Rotary or Magic meeting.

Typical administrative costs include postage, printing, and web site related expenses.

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