**Blacksburg Rotary Club**

**Guidelines for a sponsor of a new member**

* Invite a prospective new member to several Rotary meetings (if possible) before their application is submitted.
* Discuss the various club committees with your prospective member (a list will be provided) and help guide them to a committee they may have an interest in. Introduce them to the chair and follow through with the secretary to ensure they are assigned to that committee.
* Discuss main objectives, time commitment and monetary commitment for Rotarians.
* Submit prospective member’s application to the Board for consideration.
* Attend orientation session that the new member has been invited to if you are able. Attend the meeting where they are inducted into Rotary.
* Sit with the new member at different tables for the first few meetings after he/she becomes a member and introduce them to other members (if you cannot attend, ask other members to step in for you.)
* Introduce the new member to their assigned Rotary Ambassador. The Ambassador will check on the member throughout the first year of membership and introduce them to other members.
* It is suggested that you follow up with the new member you sponsored after a couple of months, then again around 6 months to see how they are doing. This could be by email, or an in-person conversation.

**Ambassador Program**

The Ambassador program is a way to usher new members through their first year as Rotarians. We want to ensure they feel comfortable, connected, and welcomed. It is not easy to assimilate into a large club like ours without someone looking out for you. When a new member is oriented into the club, the Membership Committee, with the help of the Orientation Committee, will assign the new member an ambassador from the list below. We will try to match up interests and occupations as much as we can. You job will be to explain how the club functions and some of our traditions, answer questions, help them get to know other members, and, if they miss any meetings, make sure all is well.

The Membership Committee will check in with you on an annual basis to determine your interest in continuing. It is possible you may go an entire year without having a new member assigned to you. Having an ambassador does not negate any responsibility the new member sponsor has in the process. We envision the two working together.

Once assigned a new member:

* The Ambassador will sit with the new member at meals when possible, introduce him to table mates, makes sure he knows where the dessert table is and ensure that he is included in any conversation
* Talk to the new member about committees and what they do, determine interests and introduce him to a committee chair if needed
* Talk about projects the club has completed in the past and what we do for community service
* Encourage and assist your charge with their scavenger hunt

**Ambassadors for 2020-2021 Rotary Year**

Chris Belluzzo

Dan Carper

Sandy Grant

Candi Kelly

George Miller

Franklyn Moreno

Todd Murray

John Skelton

Mike Snyder

12/1/20 Membership Committee

1/21/21 Endorsed by the Board of Directors