

## Why I Belong to Rotary

1. **In 1974, Carl Pierson**, a man I admired, and after whom this hall is named, invited me to join Rotary.
2. The next week, **Emil Berg**, the club secretary, had me come to his office at KSU and explained Rotary...and that 90% attendance was required...Emil said, "If you don't do 90%, you can't be a member." Emil enforced the 90% rule with an Iron fist.
3. Several weeks later, I had to do a make up meeting in Ravenna. **Mr. Gray of Vale Edge Florists and Grocery** was receiving an award for 43 years of perfect attendance. The next week, knowing I have a compulsive personality, I skipped Rotary because I didn't want to be chasing some perfect attendance record. With my travel schedule, I thought it might be too much to take on. I admire what Bruce has done... forty-seven years of perfection....but perfect attendance was not for me...Just 90+%!
4. **In July 1, 1980** I was scheduled to become president of this club. On the same date, I was to become: **Director of Basic Medical Sciences**, the first two years at NEOMED; the **Inspector General** of this five state area in the Naval Reserve; and, Ruth and I were to **host our Mexican son** at our home for one year while he attended KSU. In the middle of June, several weeks before my new obligations, Ruth and I suffered the tragic loss of our eighteen year old Marine son, Jon. It was a busy, but difficult year!
5. Our **neighbors** were supportive, my **colleagues** at the Med School and Navy were understanding, our **church friends** cared for us...but we received the **most support during that year from Kent Rotarians**.
6. I believe that if a name were to be **randomly drawn** from our membership roster, that person would be an outstanding president of this club, because all members are such fine leaders.
7. This club is the **best organization** in which I've ever been a member...I believe the Four Way Test says it all.
8. **Those are the reasons I'm a Kent Rotary member.**