

"PROBUS"

PROBUS is an association of retired and semi-retired persons who join together in autonomous Clubs throughout the world.

The word **PROBUS** is an abbreviation of the words PROfessional and BUSiness, but membership is not restricted to these two groups. It also embraces former executives of government and other organizations and, in fact, anyone who has had some measure of responsibility in any field of endeavour.

The basic purpose of a **PROBUS CLUB** is to provide regular gatherings to those who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and of similar levels of interest.

The emphasis is that the Clubs:

- Be simple in structure.
- Be free from the constraints and obligations of service Clubs.
- Involve members at a minimum cost.
- Be directed, primarily, to providing fellowship and the opportunity for development of acquaintance.
- Seek members who are compatible with one another.

Their Activities normally fall into two parts:

- **A meeting** on a set day of each month, from 10:00 am to 12 noon comprising about 30 minutes of business, 30 minutes coffee break and 60 minutes for a speaker and discussion.
- **Visits** (between meetings) to organizations and places of particular interest to members and occasional social and sports activities.

Rising out of their membership and activities there is self-generating goodwill, a sense of belonging, a diverse background of interests, fellow feeling and cordiality evident within the Clubs, ensuring for **PROBUS** a highly successful future as a firmly established part of the community.

To preserve the integrity and reputation of these autonomous Clubs, they are encouraged to adhere to the standard constitution provided. This has proved to be a very successful basis for serving the needs of retirees in the many countries in which the **PROBUS** movement is now flourishing.

Some Important Features:

The Clubs are non-political and non-sectarian

They are non-profit and non fund raising

All Clubs are sponsored by **Rotary** or by an existing **PROBUS Club**, but on formation are autonomous, independent of their sponsor and independent of each other. There is no central governing body but Rotary or the sponsoring **PROBUS Club** maintains contact and an ongoing interest in their progress.

Past membership in Rotary, or any service Club is not a requirement for potential members of **PROBUS**. Some **PROBUS** members are members, or past members, of Rotary or other service Clubs.

There is no restriction on the number of members from any one vocation.

There is no compulsion to attend any number of meetings.

PROBUS members may be active members of any other organization and many are.

Membership Fees are unlikely to exceed \$30 to \$40 per year with a charge for coffee, etc. at meetings. **Probus** lapel pins and name badges for meetings and functions are supplied by the Club. Members' spouses and guests are invited to take part in most visits and in special functions.

History:

The Clubs spring from two main roots: the "Campus Club" founded by the Rotary Club of Welwyn Garden City and the "PROBUS Club" founded by the Rotary Club of Caterham in England in 1965 and 1966 respectively. Since then they have spread worldwide and continue to be established at a rapidly increasing rate as former professional and business persons and executives, invited to join, recognize the value of participation and observe the enthusiasm of existing members and the way in which **PROBUS** enriches their lives. **PROBUS** moved to New Zealand in 1974 and to Australia in 1976. There are now over 2200 Clubs and over 100,000 members in the Pacific Region. The U.K has also expanded tremendously.

The first PROBUS CLUB in North America was the PROBUS CLUB OF CAMBRIDGE, Ontario sponsored in 1987 by the Rotary Club of Galt in Rotary District 7080.

We have now chartered 270 Probus Clubs in Canada with a membership of over 37,000 persons. (January 2, 2020) 255 are still active.

PROBUS CANADA, encourages and advises on the formation of further Clubs, maintain an up to date directory of local **PROBUS Clubs**, distribute lapel pins and other regalia as may be found necessary, and publish a **PROBUS Newsletter** regularly, giving ideas and information on the activities of local **PROBUS Clubs**. A small annual contribution per member helps to fund operations of **PROBUS CANADA**.

It is important to recognize that **PROBUS CANADA** owns and controls the **PROBUS Logo and Name in Canada under Government of Canada regulations** .

number can be as low as \$25.00 per year or higher .. dependent upon the Club's cost of operation.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q. How do I find out if there is a PROBUS Club in my area ?

A. If you have access to the internet we ask you to go to www.probus.org and you will find an abundance of information. Look in the column marked Directory and click on "Clubs by District" which will take you to the page where you can then go to your specific area. When you get to your province or area click on the Club name for further information.

Q. What if there is no Club listed in my community ?

A. If you would like to see a Club in your area we suggest you talk to some of your friends or associates and if there is enough interest contact the Director for your area also listed on the internet info page and you will receive lots of assistance to investigate the possibility of a new Club. You can also get details from the Managing Director listed on the web site or on this brochure.

Q. Is it true that some Clubs have all kinds of activities in addition to the monthly meetings ?

A. This is indeed quite correct. The decision as to how many activities any one Club may offer is entirely up to the Members of the Club. Some focus on the monthly meetings only while others have a wide variety to choose. Such activities as bridge groups, euchre, poker, hiking, camera clubs, luncheon groups, golf, bowling, travel, etc. are just a few of the choices available.

Q. Is it compulsory to participate in the sub groups ?

A. Absolutely notnor is attendance compulsory .. you make the choice.

Q. How much are the annual dues ?

A. Again, this is a number set by each Club and is dependent on a number of things ... rental of a meeting place, whether it includes the usual type of refreshments at the meetings, annual dues and liability insurance payment to PROBUS Canada. The

“PROBUS”

*Clubs for Retired or Semi-Retired
Persons who wish to get together
with others in like circumstances to
meet, learn and enjoy fellowship
on an ongoing basis.*



**For further information on
PROBUS CLUBS IN CANADA
please visit our web site at:
www.probus.org**

or contact

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**The development of PROBUS is
one of the many Community
Service projects of ROTARY Clubs.**