

**Fellowship-A Rotary Core Value**  
Delivered at the Club's weekly luncheon  
by Andrea Bernardini  
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Fellowship as defined in the *Cambridge Dictionary* is as "an amount of money that is given to postgraduates to allow them to study a subject at an advanced level."

I was glad when President Lou asked me to talk about Rotary Fellowship since I had no idea I could get money BACK from Rotary if I went back to school.

There is also a definition marked as old fashioned that states "a friendly feeling that exists between people who have a shared interest or are doing something as a group."

Since I don't fashion myself as old fashioned, nor do I believe President Lou is actually going to give me a check if I go back to school, I thought I would come up with my own definition as it pertains to our Rotary Club.

Fellowship:

F – for Friendly fire. Reminding us that some of us NEED to go to the driving range before the Rotary golf outing.

E – Ethics – We remember to ask permission before cutting in the lunch line

L – Love – How we tend to take care of our own. The cards, the birthday cakes, the friendly hellos in downtown Ann Arbor, and the love letters John sends us when our dues are coming up.

L- Laughter – How everyone laughs at even the bad jokes.

O – Ownership – Rotarians take pride in our mission. We aren't just members of the Downtown Rotary club, we are the downtown Rotary club and we know it.

W – Wine, Women and Song – Our tradition of attending an event to remind us how our lunch time serenade should sound.

S – Spring Fling – Our annual reminder of why we should not wear snakes on our hats.

H – Helping hand – How Joanne Pierson always helps me do anything creative.

I – There is no "I" in our Rotary team

P – Planting – Only good friend would be crazy enough to get up at 7 a.m. to plant trees in November. Thanks, Ian.

And for more information on Rotary fellowship, you can follow us on Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Flickr, and YouTube as suggested by the Rotary International Website!

Rotary Fellowship is defined by us and shared by us. From the golf outing to the friendships that are built--we define Rotary. Our Fellowship is the ability for us to bond in the shared belief that I can make "your" life better. "You" is the person next to us at lunch or a starving child in Africa. We all want someone to laugh with that will also stand by our side when the days turn rough and celebrate with us when we are blessed. That is our Rotary fellowship.