

EFFINGHAM ROTARY CLUB

“POLICY ON POLITICAL ISSUES”

“The 1905 members of the Rotary Club of Chicago, so valued the friendship of their fellow-members that they put a ban upon religious and political discussions, fearing that they might become disturbing factors, and they were richly rewarded for their foresight.” (Paul Harris, This Rotarian Age, page 59).

In compliance with the general guidelines of Rotary International, the Effingham Rotary Club has adopted the following policy regarding Political Issues.

The Effingham Rotary Club will not endorse any political candidate whether at the local, state or national level. To reinforce our neutrality with this issue, the club will not permit any program(s) given by any political candidate (or associated organizations) within a six (6) month window of any election. It will also be considered inappropriate for any fellow Rotarian to publicly endorse any candidate at one of our club meetings.

For the record, it is permissible for a candidate to visit our club as a guest during this time period. The candidate will not however be allowed to speak publicly other than a courtesy greeting. The candidate will also be advised not to “work the room” or stand at the doorway attempting to “meet and greet” other Rotarians. We wish to extend a warm welcome to all our guests, but in this realm of political matters, we choose to be extremely discreet.

There are occasions when public issues may be considered by our local community. Such issues for example may be school, library, park district referenda or other county/city tax matters. Since such matters do not involve individual candidates nor are seldom aligned with any political party, it will be the sole discretion of the Board of Directors as to whether such issues may be presented to the club. Consideration will also be given whether or not opposing views, if any, should also be allowed to be presented.

The Effingham Rotary Club strongly encourages all of its members to take an active role in the political process. This policy in no way should ever inhibit any member from becoming actively involved. This policy does however set strict guidelines regarding politics within our weekly meetings. We hope all of members will respect and show consideration for this policy.

Note: Club President Dick Reimers requested Dave Ring develop a “Political Policy” for the Effingham Rotary Club. The policy was written on October 26, 2004. It was presented to the Club on November 10, 2004 and was formally adopted at the next Board Meeting.