

To

Chairman

THE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

(Subcommittee of Club Service Committee)

The membership committee is composed of a chairman (a member of the club service committee) and such other members as the needs of the local club may require. In a small club it may consist of but one member whereas in a large club it may have several members.

The membership committee considers all proposals for membership from the personal side. It thoroughly investigates the character, business, social and community standing, the executive position occupied and the general eligibility of all persons proposed for membership.

It reports its findings on all proposals to the club board of directors.

When it approves, it needs only so to mark on the proposal card. When it does not approve, it makes a detailed report for the guidance of the board of directors.

Rarely is the complaint heard that a membership committee has been too exacting in considering the qualifications of a proposed new member. The good name of the club is guarded by the work of this committee.

Among the points to be determined by the membership committee in the consideration of a proposed member are the following:

That his character and reputation be above reproach.

That the standing of his firm or concern in the eyes of the community in general, of competitors, and of those with whom the firm deals directly, shall be of the very best.

That he be one of the responsible heads of his firm and that he be able to speak for it.

That he be able to meet promptly the financial obligations of membership.

That he be able to attend weekly meetings regularly.

That he be socially acceptable to the members of the club.

The answers to many of the problems that will confront this committee will be found in the pamphlet "Membership and Classifications in Rotary" (No. 17) a copy of which should be obtained from the club secretary. He may get additional copies gratis if they are needed.

It goes without saying that the membership committee needs to be thoroughly familiar with those clauses of the constitution and by-laws which deal with questions of membership. (See Pamphlet No. 12, a copy of which will be found in the club secretary's office.)

Secret Membership Committee

It is the practice of some Rotary clubs (from one-third to one-half of all of them) to have secret membership committees. They favor this plan because it shields the committee members from pressure, which might be brought to bear by members desiring to influence the committee's decision in favor of a candidate for membership.

Clubs which do not favor the secret committee argue that such a practice offers an opportunity for the president to exercise undue influence in prospective club growth. They say also that a secret committee may act arbitrarily, not being influenced by the opinion of the membership generally.