

**Coming Events
February**

- 13 **Gabby Troutman**
Chesapeake Bay Fdn.
- 20 **PDG Sandra Duckworth**
RI Foundation Primer
- 23 **Rotary's 114th Birthday**
World Peace & Understanding
Day
- 27 **Rachael Reynolds**
VA Treatment Center
For Children

March

- 6 **Club Forum**
- 9 **Feed My Starving Children**
Crestwood Presbyterian
1:30-3:30 pm
- 10 **Bingo**
McGuire Hospital
- 13 **Clare Lorio**
National MS Society
- 20 **Richard Conti**
VA Science Museum

April

- 12 **Monte Carlo**
Salisbury Country Club

Lots Going On Last Week



Angela Won Big, taking home prize money from the third quarter and final scores of the Super Bowl. Resident “Bookie” Gordon presented her the cash. Nick role played, calling “Anita” to sell her tickets to Monte Carlo. Amber Vandemeer told how ASK Childhood Cancer Foundation helped her family through her son’s cancer. Ellen and Steve Cross talked about the Feed My Starving Children food packaging event scheduled March 9 at Crestwood Presbyterian Church. So far, 19 of our members and families have signed up to help and the club Board voted to give \$2,000 to the effort.

The Traveling Rotarian has been on the go: in the islands with Beverley and Barbara (who will try to get anyone to join Rotary) and in Las Vegas with Lisa, who was there working on an American Legion Auxiliary project.



The National Rotarians World



The First Four Rotarians: from left: Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram E. Shorey, Paul P. Harris.

On 23 February 1905, four men gathered in Gustavus Loehr's office for what would become known as the first Rotary club meeting. Paul Harris' desire for camaraderie among business associates brought together these four men and eventually led to an international organization of service and fellowship. Each of the first four Rotarians, and Harry L. Ruggles, who is often called the "fifth Rotarian," brought different professional perspectives to the organization.

Rotary's founder, Paul Harris, was born in Racine, Wisconsin, USA, on 19 April 1868. He was raised by his paternal grandparents in Vermont and attended the University of Vermont, Princeton, and the University of Iowa. Harris, a lawyer, was Rotary president from 1910 to 1912 and a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago until his death on 27 January 1947.

Loehr, a mining engineer, was born on 18 October 1864 in Carlinville, Illinois, USA. He was a Rotarian for only a few years, never holding office at the club or international level. But that first Rotary meeting was held in his office, Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. He died in Chicago on 23 May 1918.

Shorey, a merchant tailor, served as recording secretary during the club's first year. He was a Rotarian for only a few years, too. He was born in Maine, USA, in August 1862 and died in March 1944.

Schiele, a coal dealer, served as the Chicago club's first president in 1905 and Rotary International's treasurer from July to December 1945. Born in Terre Haute, Indiana, USA, in June 1870, Schiele attended Terre Haute Business College and served in the U.S. Army during the Spanish-American War. He was president of the Schiele Coal Company from 1902 until his retirement in 1939. He and Harris became lifelong friends and lived near each other on the South Side of Chicago. Schiele died on 17 December 1945 and is buried near Harris at Mount Hope Cemetery.

Originally from Michigan, Ruggles was a graduate of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, and joined Rotary at its second meeting. He was treasurer of the Chicago club during its first year, club president from 1908 to 1910, and a Rotary director from 1912 to 1913. He is known for having introduced singing to Rotary club meetings. His printing company, H.L. Ruggles & Co., printed the first issue of *The National Rotarian* and the first Rotary songbook. He died on 23 October 1959, an honorary member of seven clubs in addition to his home club, the Rotary Club of Chicago.

When the Rotary Club of Chicago published this member roster in October 1905, the club had grown to 21 members, including two honorary members.



Projects working together with fellow Rotarians is one reason Merle (far left back row) is a Rotarian.

Why I am a Rotarian

By Merle

When we lived in New Jersey, I was honored when two businessmen approached me about being a Rotarian. I knew a little about Rotary, since our daughter received a \$1,000 Rotary scholarship and I researched it then. However, I didn't realize what a fantastic organization it was! I basically joined Rotary because of the "giving back" opportunities it provided. When my NJ club shared pictures and stories about our community giving (both monetarily and time), I was "in". And then what joy to find out that it was not just the community but worldwide!

One of my favorite songs is "We Are the World". This epitomizes Rotary! Let us "stand together as one" in our club, our District and RI, as we touch our community and our world through one of our avenues of service and committing to them with our hearts, our care, our financial giving and our love.



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