

1900—Paul Harris inspired to form organization where men of different professions could gather in fellowship. He spends some five years considering the possibility.



1905—First meeting, Thursday, February 23, in Chicago, Young Harris fresh from five years as a reporter, doctor, cowboy, seaman, granite salesman, fruit picker and hotel clerk, five years building a successful law practice put his idea to work.

He observed that success and respect could come from organizing professional acquaintances. On this night he and Silvester Schiele walked over to Gus Loehr's office in Room 711 for the first meeting where Hiram Shorey joined them. Several weeks later Schiele was elected first president. The name Rotary was suggested.

1906—Members agree to be on a "first name" basis. Singing introduced by Harry Ruggles in part to lighten up the serious atmosphere.



Wagon wheel emblem adopted, the first of many variations of the "wheel emblems" to be used by different clubs, until 1912, when a geared wheel was adopted. The official emblem was authorized in 1924—a wheel of six spokes, 24 cogs and a keyway.



1907—First community service project: a "public comfort station" in Chicago near City Hall for men and women. Harris writes that he was pressured by both the saloon keepers and lady's garment stores NOT to install such a convenience.



1908—Homer Wood formed second club in San Francisco. Paul Harris asked Chicago Rotarian, Manuel Munoz, who went to San Francisco for work, to “spread the word” about Rotary. This was just 2-years since the great earthquake of 1906 which devastated the city.



1909—Homer Wood then organized clubs in Oakland, CA; Seattle, WA, Los Angeles, CA, another in Seattle, WA and Tacoma WA. Paul Harris’ dream of taking Rotary to many cities realized.



1910—First Rotary Convention in Chicago, August 15-17 with 16 clubs in Rotary. The National Association of Rotary Clubs was formed Paul Harris elected president. Chesley Perry served as General Secretary of Rotary for 32 years. Rotary “principles” adopted—5 Objectives.

Rotary becomes international on November 3, 1910 with organization of Rotary Club of Winnipeg, Canada. It was chartered on April 13, 1912 (#35) prior to convention in Duluth, MN—Rotary became International Association of Rotary Clubs.

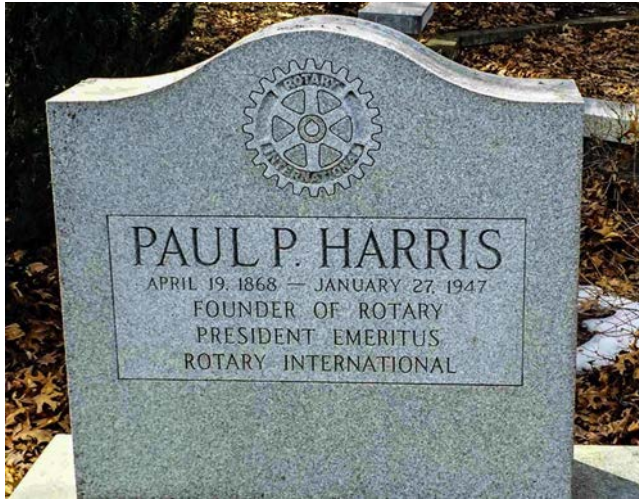


1911 National Rotarian magazine appears. General secretary Chesley Perry is the editor.

Service Above self is introduced by Frank Collins
Classification System is created by Fred Sheldon



1947 Paul Harris dies



1910—San Francisco Rotarian William Stuart Morrow becomes an unlikely figure in Rotary Global History when his San Francisco business dissolves and he returns home to Dublin, Ireland and brings Rotary with him. He organizes several clubs in Ireland and the UK. He has the full endorsement of Paul Harris and Chesley Perry, until he runs afoul of London Rotarians.



1914—Club #100 is formed. On that day six clubs applied. No record of how #100 was determined from the six.

"Rotary Ann" became name fondly given to Ann Brunier who traveled from San Francisco to the convention in Houston. Rotary Ann was given to the women who supported Rotary principles.

1977—Three separate proposals to admit women into membership submitted to Council on Legislation for consideration at the 1977 Rotary Convention. A Brazilian club makes a different proposal to admit women as honorary members.

The **Rotary Club of Duarte, CA** admits women in violation of RI Constitution and Standard Rotary Club Constitution.

Rotary International terminated the club's membership in 1978.

1915—Term “**Governor**” established for DISTRICTS.
200th Rotary Club is Chartered



1983 California Superior Court rules in favor of Rotary International upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Clubs

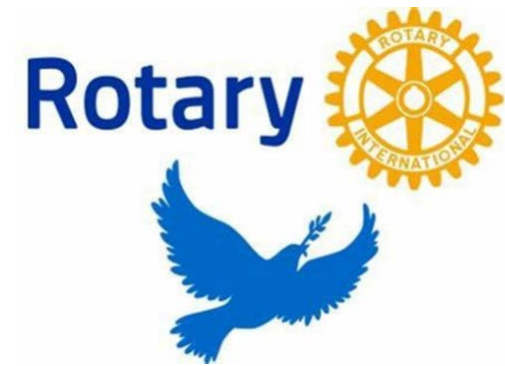


1917—**Arch Klumph**, Rotary's sixth president, proposed to **Rotary International Convention** in Atlanta GA the creation of an “endowment fund for Rotary... for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational and other avenues of community service”. A few months later, the endowment received its first contribution of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City.

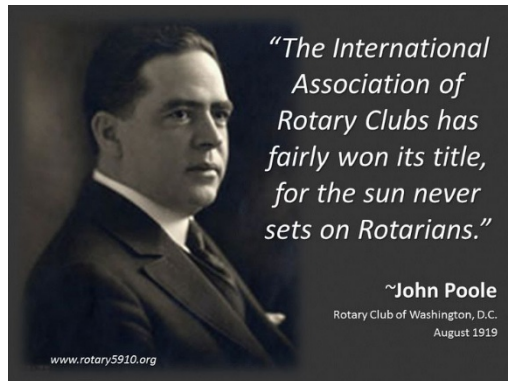


1999 Rotary Peace Centers for International Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution are established

A collaboration between Duke University and University of North Carolina peace centers offer tailor made curricula to prepare individuals in peace building and conflict resolution.

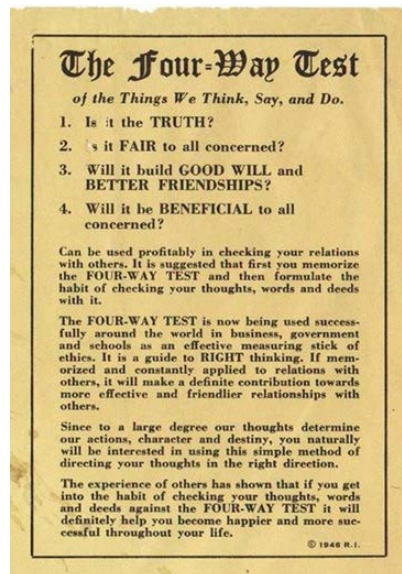


1922 The name Rotary International is adopted. Changed from the International Association of Rotary Clubs



2008-9 Rotary officially launches the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Challenge Grant to help eradicate Polo.

1932—Four Way Test was written by Chicago Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor who in the summer of 1932 had a serious business problem. How he solved it is a legend in Rotary. "I leaned over my desk, rested my head in my hands and prayed. After a few moments, I looked up and reached for a white paper card. Then I wrote down the 24 words that had come to me."



2013 – Anne Matthews begins her term as the first woman to serv as Rotary International Vice President.

She is a member of the Columbia East Rotary club, SC



1932 Paul Harris traveled to Europe and planted

“Friendship Trees” in many European countries. The first tree planted by Harris on foreign soil was in Berlin.



2019—Council on Legislation passed resolution that membership in **Rotary International includes Rotaract Clubs**. Rotaractors are full-fledged Rotarians



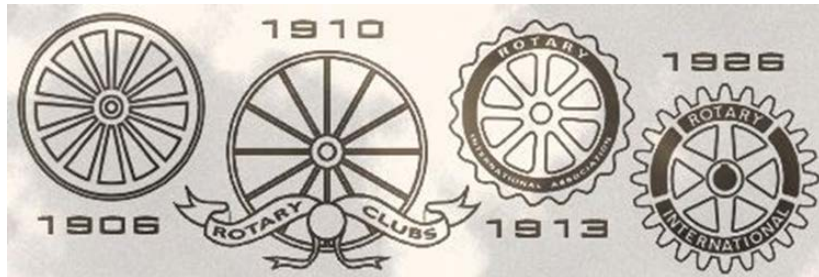
1924—**Inner Wheel** was founded. It is one of the largest volunteer organizations for women in the world today, formed to complement and support Rotary Clubs and offer the hand of friendship worldwide.



2022—Jennifer Jones installed as first female RI president.



1929—The new Rotary logo designed by **Oscar Bjorge** of the Rotary Club of Duluth was adopted by Rotary International.



1968 Rotaract begins at Charlotte North Rotary Club, NC



1945—Forty-nine Rotarians help draft the **United Nations Charter** in San Francisco. Many of the delegates from around the world were also Rotarians.



1985—Rotary announces the **Polio Plus** program to immunize all children of the world against polio.



1962—First Interact Club was formed at Melbourne High School in Florida.

Interact
Rotary Sponsored Club



1964 Council of Legislation contains an enactment from the Rotary Club in Ceylon to permit the admission of women into Rotary Clubs. It is voted down

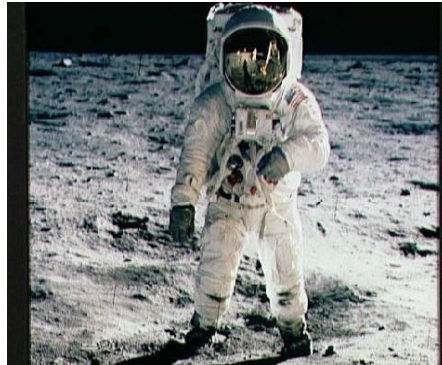
1968—Rotarian Colonel Frank Borman carries a **Rotary Banner** with him on **Apollo VIII Lunar Mission**. This banner was later presented to Rotary International President Togasaki in Honolulu Hawaii by Colonel Borman.



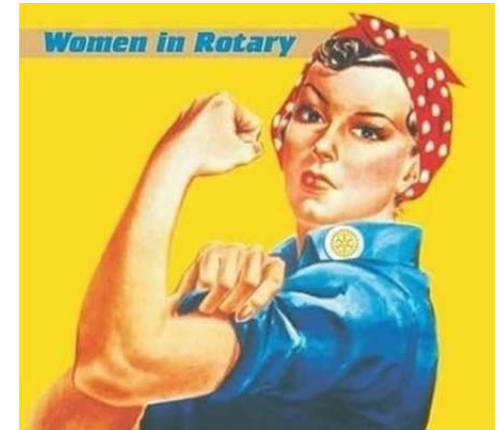
1916—El Club Rotario de la Habana, capital of Cuba first club in a non-English speaking country on June 1, 1916.



1969—Buzz Aldrin, an honorary Rotarian of the Rotary Club of Spring Lake-Brielle (New Jersey) where his father was a member and a member of the rotary Club of Space Center (Houston), planted a **Four-Way Test** pin on the moon when he landed Apollo 11.



1972—Women are reaching higher positions in their professions with more clubs begin lobbying for female members. A US Rotary club proposes admitting women as Members.



1950— Rotary Club in India proposed an enactment to **delete the word “male”** from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution to the Council on Legislation meeting at the 1950 Rotary Convention.

1987—May 4 US Supreme Court rules that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Rotary issues a policy statement that any Rotary club in the United States can admit qualified women into membership.

Rotary Club of Marin Sunrise, CA is chartered on May 28. It becomes the first club after the Supreme Court ruling to have women as charter members. Sylvia Whitlock, Rotary Club of Duarte becomes first female club president.

