

CHAMPAIGN WEST ROTARY
25TH ANNIVERSARY

OCTOBER 18, 2003
CHAMPAIGN COUNTRY CLUB

25TH ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

1. *Is it the TRUTH?*
2. *Is it FAIR to all concerned?*
3. *Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?*
4. *Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?*

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CHAMPAIGN WEST ROTARY PRESIDENTS



1978-1979	Randy Moore
1979-1980	Donald S. Saegesser
1980-1981	Dennis A. Dahl
1981-1982	James W. Piercy
1982-1983	Edward J. Hynds, Jr.
1983-1984	Dennis E. Lewis
1984-1985	Anthony R. Ackerman
1985-1986	John M. Remsen, Jr.
1986-1987	Mark O. Thorsby
1987-1988	David B. Piper
1988-1989	Willard "Bill" Muirheid
1989-1990	Thomas B. Jordan
1990-1991	Tom Muphy
1991-1992	Dennis R. McMillan
1992-1993	Bill Acheson
1993-1994	Skip Binch
1994-1995	Fred Ruckman
1995-1996	Mary McGrath
1996-1997	Art Warren
1997-1998	Bruce Knight
1998-1999	Anita Broeren
1999-2000	Mark Dixon
2000-2001	Steve Whitsitt
2001-2002	Dan Crawmer
2002-2003	Greg Gonda
2003-2004	Kevin Yonce

ROTARY THEMES 1979-2004

Reach Out

Let Service Light the Way

Take Time to Serve

World Understanding and Peace Through Rotary

Mankind is One -- Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the

Share Rotary -- Serve People

Discover a New World of Service

You are the Key

Rotary Brings Hope

Rotarians -- United in Service-Dedicated to peace

Put Life into Rotary --Your Life

Enjoy Rotary!

Honor Rotary with Faith and Enthusiasm

Look Beyond Yourself

Real Happiness is Helping Others

Believe in What You Do -- Do What You Believe in

Be a Friend

Act with Integrity Serve with Love Work for Peace

Build the Future with Action and Vision

Show Rotary Cares for your community for our world for its people

Follow your Rotary Dream

Rotary 2000: Act with Consistency, Credibility, Continuity

Create Awareness Take Action

Mankind is Our Business

Sow the Seeds of Love

Lend a Hand

HISTORY OF CHAMPAIGN WEST ROTARY

Champaign West Rotary was chartered by Rotary International on October 15, 1978, and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Champaign, Illinois, USA. Due to the tremendous growth of the Champaign Club in the 1970's, the leaders of the club felt it was best to form a second club in Champaign, so that potential members would not be turned away due to full classifications, and thus the Champaign West Club was formed. The club was chartered with twenty-five members (three of those members are still active in the club). Today, CRWC has 140 members.



Champaign West Rotary became active in community service early in its existence, and it continues to be a major focus of the club today. The first club project was ringing bells for the Salvation Army in December of 1978, an activity which the club has participated in for the past 25 years. In 1982, the club took on a much bigger project by sponsoring a "Bike-A-Thon" to raise funds for St Jude's Children's Hospital. From that simple beginning on May 16, 1982, the club developed the event into the largest "Bike-A-Thon" in the nation. During the 13 years of sponsorship, the event raised over \$425,000.

In 1992, Champaign West Rotary became the first organization in the community to sponsor a street beautification project. The club adopted a one-mile stretch of Springfield Avenue and assumed responsibility for cleaning up that street on a semi-annual basis. The "Acheson Project", which

was named after a former club president who was the driving force behind establishing a community cleanup project, is now a quarterly event.

Currently, Champaign West Rotary's biggest annual project is a "Relay for Life" fundraiser for the American Cancer Society. This venture was selected by the club to honor three former club members who each died from a different form of cancer. Since the club started sponsoring the event in 1997, more than \$580,000 has been raised for cancer research.

Rotary International approved the admission of women members in 1987. Champaign West Rotary was quick to recognize the importance of this change in policy, and was the first club in District 6490 to admit a female member. Women have played an integral role in the club ever since.

Champaign West Rotary has also been actively involved in the area of international service. Club members have provided support for the Rotary Foundation of Rotary International through the Annual Giving Program and the Polio Plus project. The club currently has 56 Paul Harris Fellows, five of them multiple Paul Harris Fellows. The club has participated in Rotary Youth Exchange, the Rotary Group Study Exchange (three current members participated on GSE teams), and the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars Program. The club has also helped raise funds for various humanitarian projects sponsored by Rotary clubs in other countries.

LISTING OF ROTARY WEST HIGHLIGHTS

1978 – 1979

President's Theme: Reach Out

Rotary International President: Clem Renouf

CWRC President: Randy Moore

- Attended first District 0649 Conference and were recognized as gaining the largest membership growth for a club its size 68%. We also received the Friend of Rotary Foundation certificate for 100% participation in Rotary Foundation in our first 6 months.
- First community project: We rang bells for the Salvation Army on 12/20/78
- Took part in our First Football Guessing

1979 – 1980

President 's Theme: Let Service Light the Way

Rotary International President: James L. Bomar, Jr.

Champaign West President: Donald S. Saegesser

- Career Night at Round Barn Center to celebrate our 1 year anniversary 10/17/79
- Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army.
- Gordon Kemper was first full year Football Guessing Coach
- Painted and hung curtain rods at Opportunity House 12/8/79
- First fund raiser was a popcorn selling competition

1980 – 1981

President's Theme: Take Time to Serve

Rotary International President: Rolf Klarich

CWRC President: Dennis A. Dahl

- Reached 600% in club contributions to Rotary Foundation
- Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on 12/17/80
- Second annual popcorn selling competition 3/4/81
- Donated about 40 tons of gravel to Opportunity House 6/10/81
- Joe Burden played in and won the Rotary International Golf Tourney in San Juan, Puerto Rico 6/17/81

1981 – 1982

President's Theme: World Understanding and Peace
Through Rotary

Rotary International President: Stanley E. McCaffrey

CWRC President: James W. Piercy

Rotarian of the Year: Mark Thorsby

- Hit 700% in Rotary International giving 7/8/81
- Held first tailgate party for the Iowa game 10/31/81
- CWRC wins Football Guessing for the first time 12/2/81
- CWRC "adopts" St. Jude's as it new project. Donates \$7,000 first year 12/30/81
- Mark Thorsby becomes first Rotarian of the Year
- Received Club Activity Award for District 649

1982 – 1983

President's Theme: Mankind is One-Build Bridges of Friendship Throughout the World

Rotary International President: Hiroji Mukasa

CWRC President: Edward J. Hynds, Jr.

Rotarian of the Year: Rich Ruthenberg

- Sponsored 2nd Annual Pee Wee Golf Clinic 7/30/82
- Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on 12/22&23
- Second Annual Tailgate Party vs. Pittsburgh
- Bud Leister donated our first piano 12/15/82
- Three local clubs do Career Day 3/16/83
- St. Jude's Bike a Thon raised over \$10,000

1983 – 1984

President's Theme: Share Rotary-Serve People

Rotary International President: William E. Skelton

CWRC President: Dennis E. Lewis

Rotarian of the Year: Don Armstrong

- Painted a porch at the Wilber Mansion 9/10 and 11.
- Ruffled a jacket and basketball to raise money for Fairhaven Center.
- For Thanksgiving & Christmas, the CWRC donated 71 complete meals for area families.
- Club members act as counselors for high school kids 1/11/84
- CWRC received an Achievement Award in each of the 4 Avenues of Service, plus a Presidential Citation

1984 – 1985

President's Theme: Discover a New World of Service

Rotary International President: Carlos Canseco

CWRC President: Anthony R. Ackerman

Rotarian of the Year: Bill Muirheid

- Board approved start up of \$750 to start a hearing aid bank to collect, recondition and fit hearing aids for people that cannot afford them
 - Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on 12/19&20
 - St. Jude's Bike A Thon raised over \$10,600(9/15).
 - Rotary International announced pledge to promote and assist Polio immunization of all children worldwide by 2005.
 - John Kelly, son of member Paul, is club's first IYE student to go to another country (France) for the 85-86 school
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1985 – 1986

President's Theme: You Are the Key

Rotary International President: Edward F. Cadman

CWRC President: John M. Remsen, Jr.

Rotarian of the Year: Bob Scully

- Ken Weiss introduced "Tin Cup" program to go to community projects
- Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on 12/11/18
- CWRC received 2 awards at the District Conference for Community Service and Vocational Service 5/29/86
- The times they were a changing! CWRC received notice that females could no longer be excluded.

1986 – 1987

President's Theme: Rotary Brings Hope

Rotary International President: M.A.T. Caparas

CWRC President: Mark O. Thorsby

Rotarian of the Year: Gil Brinkmeyer

- The St. Jude's Bike A Thon raised over \$33,000 this year
- Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on 12/3/86
- Annual Tailgate Party was at Illinois vs. Iowa game
- Clean Up Champaign in conjunction with Order of Omega

1987 – 1988

President's Theme: Rotarians—United in Service, Dedicated to Peace

Rotary International President: Charles C. Keller

CWRC President: David B. Piper

Rotarian of the Year: Bernie Quick

Rookie of the Year: Van Dukeman

- Club voted in the non-discrimination resolution and Dorene Kuffer became the first woman in the club 8/12/87
- Helped sponsor the Urbana Sunrise Rotary Club 9/2/87
- Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on 12/9/87
- St. Jude's Bike A Thon raised \$38,400

1988 – 1989

President's Theme: Put Life Into Rotary-Your Life

Rotary International President: Royce Abbey

CWRC President: Willard "Bill" Muirheid

Rotarian of the Year: Ed Harvey

Rookie of the Year: Bill Acheson

- Assisted in ticket sales for Taste of CU 8/27/88
 - St. Jude's Bike A Thon raised \$43,824 9/24/88. To date the CWRC Bike A Thon has raised over \$130,000!
 - Career Night at Parkland College 3/1/89
 - C-U Clean Up Day to help senior citizens clean up their own properties
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1989 – 1990

President's Theme: Enjoy Rotary!

Rotary International President: Hugh M. Archer

CWRC President: Thomas B. Jordan

Rotarian of the Year: Fred Ruckman

Rookie of the Year: Cathy Emanuel

- St. Jude's Bike A Thon raised \$69,026 9/16/89. The average Bike A Thon raises \$800.
- To date CWRC has pledged \$35,796 to Polio Plus 2/21/90
- CU Clean Up of Centennial Park 5/2/90
- 3 members honored by St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital; Jon Rector, Gil Brinkmeyer and Tom Jordan

1990 – 1991

President's Theme: Honor Rotary with Faith and
Enthusiasm

Rotary International President: Paulo V.C. Costa

CWRC President: Tom Murphy

Rotarian of the Year: Bill Amacher

Rookie of the Year: Nancy Byrne

- Career Night at Centennial High School 3/7/91 with over 400 participants
- Helped paint A Woman's Place 4/13&27
- Gil Brinkmeyer honored as District 649 Rotarian of the Year 3/24/91

1991 – 1992

President's Theme: Look Beyond Yourself

Rotary International President: Rajendra K. Saboo

CWRC President: Dennis R. McMillan

Rotarian of the Year: Skip Binch

Rookie of the Year: Jeff Elliott

- St. Jude's Bike A Thon raised over \$30,000
- Jon Rector, Gil Brinkmeyer and Rich Ruthenberg were presented Distinguished Service Awards from St. Jude's .
- Club received plaque from Salvation Army for all of our volunteer efforts
- CWRC received Significant Achievement Award of the District 649 Conference

1992 – 1993

President's Theme: Real Happiness is Helping Others
Rotary International President: Clifford L. Dochtermal
CWRC President: Bill Acheson
Rotarian of the Year: Jim Williams

- St. Jude's Bike A Thon raised over \$29,000. In the prior 10 years, the CWRC Bike A Thon has raised \$400,000, making it the #1 Bike A Thon in the country.
- Continued tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army on 12/92
- CWRC Charities gave \$1400 to various charities

1993 – 1994

President's Theme: Believe in What You Do-Do What You Believe In
Rotary International President: Robert R. Barth
CWRC President: Skip Binch
Rotarian of the Year: Tom Jordan

- The CWRC Bike A Thon raised over \$425,000 for St. Jude's Research Hospital
- First Adopt a Highway (Acheson Project) event 11/20/93
- CWRC Charities gave out \$5900
- Chili-Fest raised \$5800
- Anita Bergman introduced the Family Literacy Project 3/22/94
- Long Range Planning Committee formed 4/1/94

1994 – 1995

President's Theme: Be a Friend

Rotary International President: William H. Huntley

CWRC President: Fred Ruckman

Rotarian of the Year: Art Warren

Rookie of the Year: Bob Overstreet

- Board approved the development of a new member proposal and orientation process for the club.
 - Club sponsored a "Chilifest" at Centennial H.S. – proceeds used for Unit 4 School District libraries.
 - Club participated in Prairie Play Community Playground Project. \$33,000 was raised by club members for the project.
 - Club members helped with repairs and renovations at the Birch Village and Lakeside Terrace family centers.
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1995 – 1996

President's Theme: Act with Integrity, Serve with Love,
Work for Peace

Rotary International President: Herbert G. Brown

CWRC President: Mary McGrath

Rotarian of the Year: Anita Broeren

- Introduced a "mentor" program for new member indoctrination.
- Club sponsored the 2nd annual "Balloon Festival" fundraiser for Matthew House.
- Past President Dave Piper died in January 1996. Dave served as club president in the 1987-88 year. He was the first active club member to die.
- The club earned 5 awards at District Conference in Eppingham.
- Club collected new and used books for The Literacy Project.

1996 – 1997

President's Theme: Build the Future with Action and Vision

Rotary International President: Luis Vicente Giay

CWRC President: Art Warren

Rotarian of the Year: Ernie Hoffman

Rookie of the Year: John Kelley

- Purchased playground equipment (\$5,000) for the new location of The Woman's Fund.
 - Began a program to recognize students at Centennial H.S. for outstanding achievement.
 - Selected "Relay For Life" as the club's major community service project.
 - Chilifest at Centennial H.S. – proceeds used to purchase computer equipment for Centennial (raised about \$6,500).
-

1997 – 1998

President's Theme: Show Rotary Cares, For Your Community, For Our World, For Its People

Rotary International President: Glen W. Kinross

CWRC President: Bruce Knight

Rotarian of the Year: Jim Williams

Rookie of the Year: Cindy Nelson and Mary Ann Royse

- Club held the first "Relay For Life" at Centennial H.S. – raised \$10,000
- Formed a committee to develop a new songbook
- Club donates \$1,000 for "Operation Rainbow", and \$325 for Wheelchair Sport Camp
- Dan Crawmer and Dale Foster receive awards for their outstanding work on the Vocational Service Awards.

1998 – 1999

President's Theme: Follow Your Rotary Dream
Rotary International President: James L. Lacy
CWRC President: Anita Broeren
Rotarian of the Year: Ray Lytle
Rookie of the Year: Rich Mihm

- “Relay For Life” at Centennial H.S. – raised \$40,000
- CWRC Celebrated its 20th Anniversary on 10/24
- Committed to build “Dream Houses” on 9/12 for Parkland and the Community Day Care
- Club donates \$500 for Anderson’s Golf Outing for the Crisis Nursery
- New song books made the first appearance on 4/30

1999 – 2000

President's Theme: Act with Consistency, Credibility, and
Continuity
Rotary International President: Carlo Ravizza
CWRC President: Mark Dixon
Rotarian of the Year: Nestor Ramirez
Rookie of the Year: Jill Guth

- “Relay For Life” at Centennial H.S. – raised \$110,000
- Participated in the 4th of July Parade
- Help in proceedings to get Mahomet Rotary Club started
- Received awards for Polio Plus Program 6/10. Nestor Ramirez was nominated for the Nathan Davis Award for Outstanding Global Health Initiative

2000– 2001

President's Theme: Create Awareness Take Action

Rotary International President: Frank Devlyn

Champaign West President: Steve Whitsitt

Rotarian of the Year: Kevin Yonce

Rookie of the Year: Barb Burch

- Rotary International President, Frank J. Devlyn, is hosted at a special reception in Champaign-Urbana on 7/22/00. Seven club members were presented their Paul Harris Fellow recognition by President Frank.
 - Club enters into an agreement with the Champaign Park District to develop a portion of land on the west side of Mattis Park, to be known as Champaign West Rotary Club Meditation Garden.
 - Relay For Life raised over \$150,000
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2001 – 2002

President 's Theme: Mankind is Our Business

Rotary International President: Richard D. King

Champaign West President: Dan Crawmer

Rotarian of the Year: Eric Robeson

Rookie of the Year: Hilary Heustis

- Club sponsors a float in the 4th of July parade featuring Ernie Hoffman and his band.
- Along with the Champaign, Urbana, and the Savoy Clubs, CWR builds a Habitat for Humanity house.
- Club member Jane Bernthal organizes a raising effort for victims of the 9/11 terrorist attack. Her effort raises over \$100,000 by selling American flags.
- Relay For Life raised over \$220,000.

2002 – 2003

President 's Theme: Sow the Seeds of Love

Rotary International President: Bhichai Rattakul

Champaign West President: Greg Gonda

Rotarian of the Year: Ellen Schmidt

Rookie of the Year: Christie Martin

- Club members attend Chicago Cubs v. Colorado Rockies game on 8/2.
- We dedicated the CWR Meditation Garden in Mattis Park..
- Club raises funds to help Jean Driscoll bring wheelchair athletes from Ghana to C-U.
- Club became a sponsor of the annual banquet for the UI Tennis Team – the team wins the 2003 NCAA championship!
- Relay For Life raised over \$220,000 for the American Cancer Society.

2003-2004

President's Theme: Lend A Hand

Rotary International President: Jonathan Majiyagbe

CWRC President: Kevin Yonce

- 25th Anniversary Celebration Champaign Country Club

CHAMPAIGN WEST ROTARY FACTS

- Charter Banquet was held December 6, 1978 at the Round Barn Banquet Center. Price \$10.00/ per person with a cash bar and 146 people attended
- Lunch price in fall of 1978 \$3.25 price but, was raised to \$3.50 in January 1979
- Began ringing bells for Salvation Army on December 20, 1978
- First 100% attendance meeting was on August 22, 1979
- In 1980 reached 300% and 600% in club contributions to Rotary Foundation, hit 700% level in July 1981.
- First Tailgate October 31, 1981 Illinois vs. Iowa game.
- First CWRC Rotarian of the Year Mark Thorsby is first nominee for a District Award as Community Services Chair.
- Received 1st Piano from Bud Leister on January 19, 1983
- Board approves the use of the Tim Cup on July 31, 1985 for community service projects.
- RI Polio-2005 drive begins March 12, 1986
- First female member admitted on August 12, 1987, Dorene Kuffer
- First Rookie of the Year named on August 20, 1987 Van Dukeman
- Burnie Quick introduced the progressive dinner idea on February 3, 1988.
- Meeting place moved to Carriage House, February 1989 and back to the Round Barn September 13, 1989.
- CWRC received "Significant Achievement Award" on May 22, 1992 at the District Conference.
- Family Literacy Program started on March 22, 1994.
- Long Range Planning Committee formulated mission statement for the club in April 1994.
- Began "Relay for Life" in Spring of 1998.
- Began Champaign Rotary West Meditation garden in 2000.

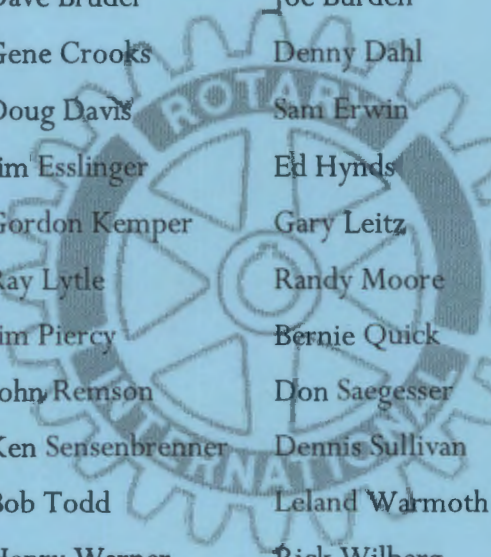
ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

- 
- 1981 Mark Thorsby
1982 Rich Ruthenberg
1983 Don Armstrong
1984 Bill Muirheid
1985 Bob Scully
1986 Gil Brinkmeyer
1987 Bernie Quick
1988 Ed Harvey
1989 Fred Ruckman
1990 Bill Amacher
1991 Skip Binch
1992 Jim Williams
1993 Tom Jordan
1994 Jeff Elliott
1995 Art Warren
1996 Anita Broeren
1997 Ernie Hoffman
1998 Jim Williams
1999 Ray Lytle
2000 Nestor Ramirez
2001 Kevin Yonce
2002 Eric Robeson
2003 Ellen Schmidt

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR RECIPIENTS

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- 1987 Van Dukeman
1988 Bill Acheson
1989 Cathy Emanuel
1990 Nancy Byrne
1991 Jeff Elliott
1992 None
1993 None
1994 Anita Broeren
1995 Bob Overstreet
1996 Mark Ballard
1997 John Kelley
1998 Mary Ann Royce
1999 Rich Mithm
2000 Jill Guth
2001 Barb Burch
2002 Hilary Heustis
2003 Christie Martin

CHARTER MEMBERS OCTOBER 15, 1978



Barry Barker	Barry Brindley
Dave Bruder	Joe Burden
Gene Crooks	Denny Dahl
Doug Davis	Sam Erwin
Jim Esslinger	Ed Hynds
Gordon Kemper	Gary Leitz
Ray Lytle	Randy Moore
Jim Piercy	Bernie Quick
John Remson	Don Saegesser
Ken Sensenbrenner	Dennis Sullivan
Bob Todd	Leland Warmoth
Henry Warner	Rick Wilberg
Eric Worner	

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jane Solon Eric Robeson George Johnston
Joe Chamley Sandy Lewis Rick Mills
Linda Hamilton Bev Friese Cindy Somers

Kevin Yonce, **President**

Mark Ballard, **President Elect**

Mary Ann Royse, **Vice President**

Greg Gonda, **Past President**

Ellen Schmidt, **Secretary**

Deb Hirschi, **Treasurer**

Ray Lytle, **Sergeant at Arms**

Bill Muirheid, **Historian**

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Michelle Bailey

Brian Bollman

Mark Ballard

Anita Broeren

Barb Burch

Ray Lytle

Eileen Prillaman

Ellen Schmidt

Kevin Yonce

CHAMPAIGN WEST ROTARY
25TH ANNIVERSARY

