

ROTARY CLUB OF BROWN COUNTY – THE BEGINNING

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow. The seed for the beginning of the Rotary Club of Brown County grew from the fertile mind and yearning of a restaurant entrepreneur and business man, Delano (Del) Newkirk.

Del began selling his business holdings in 1991. That same year, he and his wife, Letty, moved to Brown County and began building a new home high in the Hills O' Brown where they "could be one with nature and enjoy the sunrises and sunsets."

Del had long envied the fellowship, community leadership and service of Rotarians but had never stayed in one place long enough to participate in Rotary. He set about to change that even though there was no Rotary club in Brown County.

With the help of people such as Past District Governor Orphie Bridges, District Governor Owen Hungerford and Brown County retiree Prof. Dick Hulet, a past president of the Normal (Illinois) Rotary Club, Del began recruiting for the county's first Rotary club.

By the fall of 1992, he and others had recruited 25 outstanding men and women, had drafted by-laws in accordance with Rotary International and District guidance, and presented themselves for chartering.

The new club was officially chartered November 2, 1992, and celebrated at a Charter Night gala Thursday, November 19, 1992, attended by more than 100 people including Rotary dignitaries from Rotary International and Rotary District 6580. Many of the District's clubs sent representatives bearing Rotary paraphernalia as gifts to help the fledgling club begin. Entertainment for the evening was provided by friends of Del -- Past Rotary District Governor John Egan and his wife Anne Marie, professors of music from St. Joseph College.

It was the first Rotary club in Southern Indiana to be named after a county. The first meetings were in Nashville's Artists Colony Inn, and the club has held its regular weekly breakfast meetings at that location every Thursday ever since.

District Governor Hungerford installed the club's first officers: Del as president; Dick Hulet, vice president; Bill Percifield, secretary; Kathryn Richardson, treasurer; Michael Chamblee, sergeant-at-arms, and Stewart Turner-Ball, chaplain.

Directors were Jim Crane (community service), Yvonne Oligier (international service), Donna Stouder (vocational service) and Pamela Taylor (club service).

Del is the only club president to serve three terms, including the partial Rotary year following chartering. He is thought of as "the father of Brown County Rotary," a description well-earned with his active role in leading by example and practicing the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

ROTARY CLUB OF BROWN COUNTY -- HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Charter Members (Charter Night – Thursday, November 19, 1992)

| | |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| Robert W. Barger | William L. Percifield |
| Jay Carter | Burton R. Perdue |
| Michael A. Chamblee | Jamie L. Pirtle |
| William S. Cook | Kathryn M. Richardson |
| James R. Crane | Martin K. Saari |
| Scott DeDomenic | Patricia D. Setser |
| Robert C. Hale | Donna Stouder |
| Brian Heller | Kathy J. Strahm |
| Richard E. Hulet | Pamela J. Taylor |
| Steven E. Kritzer | Stewart Turner-Ball |
| Del Newkirk | Douglas E. Van Winkle |
| Yvonne C. Olinger | George A. Warner |
| Robert R. Ormiston | |

Club Presidents

| | | | |
|--------------------|-----------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Del Newkirk | 1992-1994 | Pryde Bayliss | 2008-2009 |
| Jim Crane | 1994-1995 | Bert Clemons | 2009-2010 |
| Kathryn Richardson | 1995-1996 | Sue Ann Werling | 2010-2011 |
| Scott DeDomenic | 1996-1997 | Richard Lawlor | 2011-2012 |
| Greg Marshall | 1997-1998 | Rod Russell | 2012-2013 |
| Jim Allen | 1998-1999 | Richard Rhyant | 2013-2014 |
| Dick Routh | 1999-2000 | Brandy Brandon | 2014-2015 |
| Michelle Cohen | 2000-2001 | Larry Hanson | 2015-2017 |
| Dick Knobloch | 2001-2002 | Al Kosinski/Jim Allen | 2017-2018 |
| Del Newkirk | 2002-2003 | Dwight Thompson | 2018-2019 |
| Bob Kirlin | 2003-2004 | Beverly Teach | 2019-2020 |
| Diane Cantrell | 2004-2005 | Robert Willsey | 2020-2021 |
| Al Kosinski | 2005-2006 | Tim Kelley/Mike Laros | 2021-2022 |
| Yvonne Olinger | 2006-2007 | Jim Tichenor | 2022-2023 |
| Jaydene Laros | 2007-2008 | | |

Club Secretaries

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|
| William L. Percifield | 1992-1995 | Teed Howard | 2009-2011 |
| Judy Brown | 1995-1997 | Dennis Kubal | 2011-2012 |
| Charlene Kowaliuk | 1997-1999 | Pryde Bayliss | 2012-2013 |
| Aldea Cloutier-Hartung | 1999-2000 | Larry Hanson | 2013-2015 |
| Cynthia Thompson | 2000-2003 | Jaydene Laros | 2015-2016 |
| Jaydene Laros | 2003-2005 | Beverly Teach | 2016-2019 |
| Suzannah Zody | 2005-2007 | Jim Tichenor | 2019-2020 |
| Jane Gore | 2007-2009 | Beverly Teach | 2020-2023 |

Rotarian of Year

| | | | |
|--------------------|------|----------------------------|------|
| Jim Simms | 1994 | Sue Ann Werling | 2009 |
| Greg Marshall | 1995 | Teed Howard/Ken Harker | 2010 |
| Randy Snyder | 1996 | Wanda Jones | 2011 |
| Jim Allen | 1997 | Jane Gore | 2012 |
| Kathy Strahm | 1998 | Mike & Jaydene Laros | 2013 |
| Bob Ormison | 1999 | Al Kosinski | 2014 |
| Bill Percifield | 2000 | Larry Hanson/Jaydene Laros | 2015 |
| Diane Cantrell | 2001 | Dick Routh | 2016 |
| John Kipp | 2002 | Mike Laros | 2017 |
| Jim Reichert | 2003 | Beverly Teach | 2018 |
| Howard Hughes | 2004 | Jaydene Laros | 2019 |
| Jaydene Laros | 2005 | Dwight Thompson | 2020 |
| Dick Routh | 2006 | Kim Robinson | 2021 |
| Cindy Rose Wampler | 2007 | Brandy Brandon | 2022 |
| Teed Howard | 2008 | | |

Rotary District 6580 Officers

| | |
|--|-----------|
| Yvonne Oliger, Assistant District Governor | 2014-2016 |
| Yvonne Oliger, District Secretary | 2007-2010 |
| Dick Routh, Assistant District Governor | 2000-2004 |
| Greg Marshall | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> District Governor's Advisory Council | 1999-2000 |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chair, Long-Term Youth Exchange Com | 2000-2001 |
| Bill Percifield, District Treasurer | 1994-1997 |

Rotary District 6580 Awards

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|
| District Citation Award | 2019-2020 |
| Best Small Club | 2018-2019 |
| Best Small Club | 2016-2017 |
| Best Club Secretary (Teed Howard) | 2010-2011 |
| Best Small Club | 2010-2011 |
| Best Club Secretary (Jane Gore) | 2008-2009 |
| Most Outstanding Club | 1999-2000 |
| Best Club Secretary (Bill Percifield) | 1993-1994 |
| Numerous Best Club Spirit Awards | |

Rotary International Awards - Numerous Presidential Citations