

ROTARY HISTORY OF THE GREATER PITTSBURGH AREA, DISTRICT 7300

July 2011

As are all Rotary Clubs worldwide, District 7300 is a direct descendant of the first Rotary Club organized in the city of Chicago on February 23, 1905, by Paul P. Harris, a young lawyer.

Within the following five years, twenty Rotary Clubs had their beginnings in San Francisco, Los Angeles, Seattle, New York, Boston, Pittsburgh and other cities in the United States. Pittsburgh, the first Rotary club in the present District 7300, was organized on December 2, 1910 as the twentieth Rotary Club. In that same year, the International Association of Rotary Clubs, now known as Rotary International, was formed. The nucleus of Rotary International was the early Rotary Clubs in the United States, Canada, England and Ireland. All Rotary Clubs were initially administered as one unit. However, in 1912, the Clubs were divided into six divisions, each administered by an Association Vice President. Pittsburgh Rotary Club was in the Eastern Division and was joined in 1913 by the McKeesport Rotary Club.

Oscar T. Taylor served as the first president of the Pittsburgh Rotary Club and presided at its first meeting, which was attended by Rotary's founder, Paul P. Harris. Mr. Taylor was a friend of Chesley Perry, first Rotary International Secretary.

Soon thereafter, Rotary Districts were created for administrative purposes. Pittsburgh, McKeesport, Washington and Wilkes Barre were placed in District 3. Steward C. McFarland of Pittsburgh served as District Governor in 1916-1917.

Many new Rotary Clubs were formed during this period which saw the area become part of District 6 with Edwin C. May of Pittsburgh serving as District Governor in 1919-1920. Beaver Falls Rotary Club was established in 1919 followed by Ambridge and greater Aliquippa in 1921. At that time, Beaver County had more Rotary Clubs than Allegheny County.

Between 1922 and 1937, thirteen new Clubs were formed and the area was included in District 33. Anthony W. Smith (1922-1923), Bert Smyers (1930-1931), both of Pittsburgh, Clifford Shafer (1932-1933) of McKeesport and John Pfeil (1936-1937) of Swissvale served as District Governors during that period.

Louis E. Evans of the Pittsburgh Club designed the original Rotary cog logo. Pittsburgh Rotarian David Farrar served on the Committee to draft the Rotary International Constitution. Arthur G. Pierce and William P. Conlin of Pittsburgh started the Classification Code, which was a model for Rotary International.

J. Frank Lanning, a Pittsburgh Rotarian, established the first Rotary Club in Puerto Rico as well as Rotary clubs in Buenos Aires and in other areas during his travels abroad. Pittsburgh Rotarians Arthur G. Pierce and William P. Conlin originated the classification concept of membership. The Past Service classification was originated by the Pittsburgh Rotary Club and first appeared at the Dallas Rotary International Convention in 1930. Ed May of Pittsburgh was the first Rotarian to hold the Past Service classification and made the first contribution to the newly formed Rotary Foundation. On September 19, 1934, Paul Harris visited and addressed the Pittsburgh club at a special meeting.

Between 1938 and 1950 our area became a part of District 176, which included virtually all of our present territory and that of District 733 to our south. During this twelve-year period, fourteen of our present Clubs were formed. All District Governors were from existing District clubs, except four.

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Rotary District 260 was created in 1949-1950 and remained as such for nine years during which period, nine of our present Clubs were chartered. All nine District Governors were from Clubs presently in our District.

District 730 was so designated in 1957-58 and included the same territory as the previous District 260. In 1959, Herbert Taylor, author of the Four Way Test, spoke at a District meeting. District 730 existed for thirty-four years, during which time seventeen new Clubs were established, bringing the total number of Clubs to fifty-eight. The first Rotaract Club in the District at Point Park College was formed in 1970. The first breakfast Club, Three Rivers Rotary Club, was established in 1984. By 1991, eight breakfast Clubs existed, three more being chartered as such, while four existing Clubs changed their meeting times to the breakfast period. In 1990-91, in accordance with Rotary International's new numbering system due to the growth of Rotary, District 730 was designated District 7300.

Our Greater Pittsburgh Area Rotary distinguished itself by the elevation of a number of its members to prominent positions with Rotary International. Our first Rotary International Director was Anthony W. Smith of the Pittsburgh Club in 1923-1924. H. V. Churchill of the New Kensington Rotary Club served as RI Director and First Vice President (1950-1951). Karl M. Knapp of the Pittsburgh Club served as RI Director during 1958-1960. Other nominated and selected RI Directors from our area and unfortunately died before their terms began were Lewis L. Doughton and Robert L. Stevenson from the Pittsburgh Rotary Club. Robert "Bob" Stevenson, whose Rotary classification and vocation was Public Relations, served as the first Rotary International Public Relations Committee Chair which initiated the "What's Rotary" pamphlet that is updated and produced in all Rotary languages each year and used throughout the world. Bob Stevenson later served with distinction as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation prior to his untimely death. Louis Piconi of the Bethel-St. Clair Rotary Club served as RI Director 1999-2001 and as Vice President in 2000-01. Lou later served as the Chairman for the Rotary International Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign for North America, which included Canada, Mexico and the United States; and served as the RI Promotions Committee Chair for the 2005 Chicago Centennial Convention.

Other distinguished Rotarians from District 730 who served as District Secretaries for long periods of time were Charles Starr, Sidney Smith and Charles Police.

District Conferences for District 730 were held at Bedford Springs Hotel through 1973. At that time, the Conference site was moved to the Seven Springs Mountain Resort. Exceptions were District Conferences held in Pittsburgh, Oglebay Park and Warrendale. In 1985, the then District Governor Louis Piconi convened the *Family Vacation Cruise Conference* aboard the liner "Carnival." That memorable five-day floating Conference originated and ended at the Port of Miami with stops at Freeport and Nassau in the Bahamas. District 730 chartered the entire ship with more than 1,000 Rotarians, families and friends participating in a unique and unforgettable week of Rotary business, information, fun and pleasure.

During the 1970's District 730 had an adult, a youth, and family exchange programs with District 107 in England. Groups from both Districts exchanged visits and hospitality for seven years. Many friendships still flourish because of this international exchange.

In 1973, one hundred seventy (170) District 730 Rotarians, their partners and a few Rotarians from neighboring Districts attended the Rotary International Convention held at Lausanne, Switzerland. Following the Convention, the group enjoyed a ten-day tour through Switzerland, Germany, Luxembourg and France before returning home.

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In 1990-91 Rotary International changed the District designation from 730 to 7300.

Throughout its long history, District 7300 Clubs have sponsored many successful projects and events. Most were carried out by individual clubs for the benefit of causes in their respective communities. The Rotary Foundation, working through Rotary Clubs worldwide, has helped fund many educational and humanitarian projects. The first international scholarship student to our District in 1948 studied at the University of Pittsburgh and came from the University of Brussels. Since then, there have been over 150 additional scholars and yearly group study exchange teams. Two recent projects, both of which received significant contributions from District 7300, need to be mentioned. Textbooks, seeds and agricultural technology projects benefited needy people in Africa, the Philippines and the Caribbean. This "people to people" project gave goods valued at over US\$50 MIL sent overseas that included contributions of \$140,000 coming from District 7300. Many World Community Service projects are currently in progress with several more in the planning stages

On a much larger scale was "Polio Plus" which has been heralded as the largest private humanitarian effort ever attempted. Polio Plus has played a significant role in eliminating polio and other childhood diseases in developing countries throughout the world. Of the more than US\$247 million raised by Rotary Clubs worldwide in the 1987-89 capital campaign, in support of Polio Plus, District 7300 has accounted for over US\$1.4 MIL. In 2002-2003, Rotary International President Bhichai Rattakul (Thailand) asked Rotarians to raise an additional US\$80 million to complete the task of Polio Eradication. Rotary Clubs worldwide responded by raising over US\$130 MIL. District 7300 raised \$326,000. In 1985 there were over 350,000 cases of polio reported in 125 countries. In 2003 only 720 cases were reported in six countries (Afghanistan, Egypt, India, Niger, Nigeria, and Pakistan). In January 2004, India reported no cases of Polio.

District 7300, as we are now known, is the beneficiary of a long and rich evolution from one Rotary Cub to our present fifty-one clubs located in Allegheny, Beaver, and Westmoreland Counties.



Limitations of space do not permit a complete recitation of the many examples of generous and unselfish service to persons and groups within our District, nation, and throughout the world which have resulted from over eight decades of effort to serve through friendship by District 7300. However, it must and is duly noted with great appreciation that PDG Paul Elder (Turtle Creek) gave the largest gift to The Rotary Foundation in its history at the time of his death in 1999, approximately US\$7.6 million.

Certainly, District 7300 Rotarians can state with justifiable prides that our District exemplifies and practices the Rotary International creed and official motto:

"Service Above Self"

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Rotary International Presidents who visited us during their term:

Frank L. Mulholland, 1914
Allen D. Albert, 1915
Arch C. Klumph, "Father" of the Rotary Foundation, 1916
E. Leslie Pidgeon, 1918
Guy Gundaker, 1923
Clinton P. Anderson, 1932
George Hager, 1939
Walter Head, 1941
Tom Davis, 1942
George C. Hager, 1947
S. Kendrick Guemey, 1948
Harold T. Thomas, 1960
Charles Pettingill, 1964
William Carter, 1972
William R. Robbins, 1974
Jack Davis, 1976
Carlos Canseco, 1984
M.A.T. Caparas, 1987
Charles C. Keller, 1988
Royce Abbey, 1988
Rajendra K. Saboo, 1991
Clifford L. Dochterman, 1992
Carlo Ravizza, 1999
Frank J. Devlyn, 2000
Richard D. King, 2001
Jonathan Majiyagbe, 2003

We express sincere appreciation to the following Rotarians whose efforts produced this brief history:

Robert Stuckrath, North Boroughs, deceased
Historian Paul Elder, PDG - Turtle Creek, deceased
Niles Norman, PDG - Bethel St. Clair, deceased
Connie Milroth, PDG – Pittsburgh, deceased
Louis E. Evans - formerly of Pittsburgh, deceased
Ralph S. Ellis, PDG, Carnegie, deceased
Louis Piconi, PRIVP/PDG/PTRFTrustee – Bethel-St. Clair

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THE ROTARY CLUBS OF DISTRICT 7300

1910	Pittsburgh	1949	Crafton-Ingram
1914	McKeesport	1951	Millvale
1919	Beaver Falls	1952	Bridgeville
1921	Aliquippa	1952	Etna-Shaler
1921	Ambridge	1953	Duquesne-West Mifflin – South Hills
1922	Wilkinsburg	1954	Bethel-St. Clair
1924	Carnegie	1955	Monroeville
1924	Clairton-Glassport	1955	Elizabeth
1925	Turtle Creek	1955	Moon Township
1926	Sharpsburg-Aspinwall	1956	Pleasant Hills
1927	Oakmont	1970	Fox Chapel
1928	Braddock	1972	Churchill
1928	Dormont-Mt. Lebanon	1972	Parkway West
1928	Swissvale	1982	Steel Valley
1937	McKees Rocks	1983	Green Tree
1938	New Kensington	1984	Three Rivers
1942	North Boroughs	1985	Hampton
1944	Oakland	1987	Allegheny Valley
1945	Pittsburgh East	1987	Quaker Valley
1946	Highlands	1988	McCandless
1947	Beaver	1988	Upper-St. Clair-Bethel Park Breakfast
1947	Forest Hills	1989	Burrell
1947	Lawrenceville	1990	Mt. Lebanon- Sunrise
1947	New Brighton	1996	Bethel Park
1947	Penn Hills	2000	Monroeville Sunrise

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PREVIOUS DISTRICT GOVERNORS

NOTE: From 1912 to 1915 our area was assigned in the Eastern Division and was administered by an International Association Vice President

YEAR	NAME/ADDRESS/PHONE	HOME CLUB	DISTRICT
1912-1913	Robert H. Clark* ¹		
1913-1914	Burton E. Pfeifler*		
1914-1915	E.I. Berlet*		
1915-1916	George W. Harris	Washington, DC	3
1916-1917	Steward C. McFarland*	Pittsburgh	3
1917-1918	Harold N. Rust*	Wilkes Barre	3
1918-1919	Fred A. Blue*	Charleston, W.VA	6
1919-1920	Edwin C. May*	Pittsburgh	6
1920-1921	Richard Aspinwall*	Morgantown, W.VA	6
1921-1922	Roy Neville*	Sharon	6
1922-1923	Anthony W. Smith, Jr.*	Pittsburgh	33
1923-1924	Fred Stover*	Butler	33
1924-1925	Emmett E. Bailey*	Oil City	33
1925-1926	William Charles Wallace*	New Wilmington	33
1926-1927	George T. Buchanan*	Indiana	33
1927-1928	Charles F. Uhl*	Somerset	33
1928-1929	Harry Whyel*	Uniontown	33
1929-1930	David E. Thompson*	Blairsville	33
1930-1931	Bert Smyers*	Pittsburgh	33
1931-1932	Harry White*	Indiana	33
1932-1933	Clifford J. Shafer*	McKeesport	33
1933-1934	Levi H. Beeler*	Grove City	33
1934-1935	Albert T. Smith*	Johnstown	33
1935-1936	W. Franklin Harkey*	Washington	33
1936-1937	John M. Pfeil*	Swissvale	33
1937-1938	F. Dewitt Zuerner*	Braddock	176
1938-1939	Willard A. Griffin*	Brownsville	176
1939-1940	Andrew T. Benson*	Pittsburgh	176
1940-1941	Clarence B. Nixon*	Carnegie	176
1941-1942	Bertram H. Kenyon*	Turtle Creek	176
1942-1943	Ralph W. Peacock*	Canonsburg- Houston	176
1943-1944	R. Donald Yauch*	Uniontown	176
1944-1945	Neal J. Mowry*	Rochester	176
1945-1946	Robert H. Wilson*	Pittsburgh	176
1946-1947	H.V. Churchill*	New Kensington	176
1947-1948	Arthur Clarence Manning*	Wilkinsburg	176
1948-1949	Raymond T. Barner*	Brownsville	176
1949-1950	Karl M. Knapp*	Pittsburgh	260
1950-1951	Joseph A. Riley*	South Hills	260
1950-1951	Karl M. Knapp*	Pittsburgh	260
1951-1952	Louis K. Hamilton	Lawrenceville	260
1952-1953	Harold R. Kirk*	Forest Hills	260
1953-1954	John E. Crawford*	Pittsburgh	260
1954-1955	Carl M. Nystorm*	McKeesport	260
1955-1956	Earl A. Reichard*	North Side	260
1956-1957	Paul G. Elder*	Turtle Creek	260

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1957-1958	A.F. Cooke, Jr.*	Lawrenceville	730
1958-1959	William A. Royston, III*	Penn Hills	730
1959-1960	Martin F. Snyder*	McKees Rocks	730
1960-1961	James J. Johnston*	Pittsburgh East	730
1961-1962	Lewis L. Doughton*	Pittsburgh	730
1962-1963	Ernest B. McNitt*	New Brighton	730
1963-1964	Don J. Del Vitto*	South Hills	730
1964-1965	Horace H. Johnston*	Pittsburgh	730
1965-1966	George W. Carson*	Beaver Falls	730
1966-1967	Walter F. Schulten*	Pittsburgh	730
1967-1968	Edward Wolf*	McKees Rocks	730
1968-1969	George A. Cole III*	Duquesne	730
1969-1970	George F. Pott*	Pittsburgh East	730
1970-1971	W. Davis Grove*	Glassport	730
1971-1972	Charles W. Rowlands*	Dormont -Mt. Lebanon	730
1972-1973	Niles Norman*	Bethel - St. Clair	730
1973-1974	C.J. Milroth*	Pittsburgh	730
1974-1975	Ralph S. Ellis 127 Sylvania Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15236 (412) 653-3113	Carnegie	730
1975-1976	Edward X. Hallenberg 4828 Roberta Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15236 (412) 881-3255	Forest Hills	730
1976-1977	Arthur A. Becker 227 Crescent Boulevard Glenwillard, PA 15046 (412) 457-0625	Moon Township	730
1977-1978	Richard D. Manning 9 Wood Spur Leetsdale, PA 15056 (412) 741-8924 <i>R.I. Theme "Serve to Unite Mankind"</i>	Monroeville	730
1978-1979	Richard T. Adams 3238 Ringwood Meadow Sarasota, FL 34235 <i>R.I. Theme "Reach Out"</i>	Beaver	730
1979-1980	David F. Figgins <i>R.I. Theme "Let Service Light The Way"</i>	Pittsburgh	730
1980-1981	Francis W. Matika 119 McLanahan Drive Beaver Falls, PA 15010 (412) 774-7800 (B) (412) 846-4607 (R) <i>R.I. Theme "Take Time To Serve"</i>	Beaver Falls	730
1981-1982	Robert L. Stevenson* <i>R.I. Theme "World Understanding And Peace Through Rotary"</i>	Pittsburgh	730

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1982-1983	James E. Simmermon 302 Fox Chapel Road Pittsburgh, PA 15238 (412) 782-3535 <i>R.I. Theme "Mankind Is One -- Build Bridges Of Friendship Throughout The World"</i>	Fox Chapel	730
1983-1984	Ernest U. Buckman*	Pittsburgh	730
1984-1985	Louis Piconi P.O. Box 112577 Pittsburgh, PA 15241-0177 (412) 221-0857 Email: lpiconi@aol.com <i>R.I. Theme "Discover A New World Of Service"</i>	Bridgeville	730
1985-1986	Gilbert K. Phares* <i>R.I. Theme "You Are The Key"</i>	Dormont - Mt. Lebanon	730
1986-1987	Robert D. Arbuckle 790 Zubal Road Apollo, PA 15613 724-727-3265 Email: rbuckl@yahoo.com <i>R.I. Theme "Rotary Brings Hope"</i>	New Kensington	730
1987-1988	Nick A. Carlisano Village at Bay Tree 164 Queens Road Little River, SC 29566 (803) 399-4789 <i>R.I. Theme "Rotarians -- United In Service -- Dedicated To Peace"</i>	Etna-Shaler	730
1988-1989	Robert P. Quinn <i>R.I. Theme "Put Life Into Rotary -- Your Life"</i>	Pittsburgh	730
1989-1990	Mark G. Brilmyer 219 Crestvue Drive Bridgeville, PA 15017 (412) 257-0758 <i>R.I. Theme "Enjoy Rotary!"</i>	Carnegie	730
1990-1991	Manmohan Singh Luthra 3058 Leechburg Road Lower Burrell, PA 15068-3446 (412) 337-7727 <i>R.I. Theme "Honor Rotary With Faith And Enthusiasm"</i>	New Kensington	730
1991-1992	William L. Harvanek 231 Hulton Road Oakmont, PA 15139 (412) 828-2233 <i>R.I. Theme "Look Beyond Yourself"</i>	Oakmont	7300
1992-1993	Tim Beck <i>R.I. Theme "Real Happiness is Helping Others"</i>	Bethel - St. Clair	7300
1993-1994	Christopher A. Beck* <i>R.I. Theme "Believe In What You Do -- Do What You Believe In"</i>	Three Rivers (Pittsburgh)	7300
1994-1995	Charles P. McGervey, Sr. <i>R.I. Theme "Be A Friend"</i>	Castle Shannon	7300
1995-1996	Balwant "Bunt" Singh	Oakland	7300

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	5409 Guarino Rd. Pittsburgh, PA 15217 (412) 422-2761 <i>R.I. Theme "Act With Integrity Serve With Love, Work For Peace"</i>		
1996-1997	Carl Gaddis 591 Rolling Green Drive Bethel Park, PA 15102 (412) 831-9537 cga091832@aol.com <i>R.I. Theme "Build The Future With Action And Vision"</i>	Bethel - St. Clair	7300
1997-1999	James R. Behr (Sandy) <i>R.I. Theme "Show Rotary Cares"</i>	McCandless	7300
1998-1999	Eugene J. Gallagher <i>R.I. Theme "Follow Your Rotary Dream"</i>	Carnegie	7300
1999-2000	Donald B. Arnheim PO Box 110160 Pittsburgh, PA 15232 412-687-6002 don3279@ao.com <i>R.I. Theme "Act With Consistency, Credibility, Continuity"</i>	Pittsburgh	7300
2000-2001	Jose F. Ravano 130 Carrie Ann Drive New Kensington, PA 15068 412-793-0153 jfravano@worldnet.att.net <i>R.I. Theme "Create Awareness, Take Action"</i>	Monroeville	7300
2001-2002	Charles Simmons* <i>R.I. Theme "Mankind Is Our Business"</i>	Beaver	7300

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2002-2003	Catherine Crawford 141 Carriage Hill Road Mars, PA 16046 724-772-3439 ceckathy@zoominternet.net R.I. Theme " <i>Sow The Seeds of Love</i> "	McCandless	7300
2003-2004	Richard S. Beck 141 Vernon Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15228 Beckon1@adelphia.net R.I. Theme " <i>Lend a Hand</i> "	Bethel-St. Clair	7300
2004 – 2005	Jonathan H. Maurer 90 Park Entrance Drive Pittsburgh, PA 15228 412-344-1761 JonDG7300@aol.com R.I. Theme " <i>Celebrate Rotary</i> "	Mt. Lebanon Sunrise	7300