

## **President's Report**

### **1983-1984 Year**

In October of 1983, the formation of our Club began with organizational meetings designed to attract a core group of twenty people needed to charter a Rotary Club. In January 1984, we had reached our goal and applied for charter from Rotary International. On March 9, 1984, we had our Charter Night at the James River Country Club during which we celebrated the official organization of the Oyster Point Rotary Club. Our regular meeting place was designated as the Ramada Inn on J. Clyde Morris Boulevard at which the Club met every Friday morning at 7:30 A.M. By June 30th, the Club had grown in size to thirty-two individuals, which equated to a 60% increase over the initial chartering members. This growth enabled us to receive recognition for the largest increase in membership of any club in District 760. Additionally, our Club met the requirements to receive recognition from the Rotary International's President for meeting certain criteria which he had established for clubs that year.

### **1984-1985 Year**

The 1984-1985 year was highlighted by three major events. The first event was the Oyster Point Rotary Club's oyster roast. This outing was met with such broad-based enthusiasm from the membership that the Club has decided to make the oyster roast one of the Club's annual events. In the fall we also participated in the American Heart Association's fund raising efforts by sponsoring the Cardiac Arrest Program in Newport News. We raised nearly \$12,000 that evening for the Heart Association, thereby exceeding the goals set for us and being the most successful Cardiac Arrest Program in the State that year. In March, we held our annual Ladies Night at the James River Country Club, which coincided with the format of our Charter Night the previous year. In the spring our meeting location was changed to the Terrace Room at Christopher Newport College. Our membership continued to grow throughout the year, and by June 30th we had approximately forty-five members. We completed the year with the honor of receiving the District Governor's Area Representative's Award as the outstanding club in Area 5 of District 760.

## President's Report 1985-1986 Year

Four major events stand out during the fiscal 1986 Rotary year. On a beautiful Saturday evening in early November, the Club hosted its first Oyster Roast involving ticket sales to friends and acquaintances outside of our own membership. The setting for over 200 people in attendance was the inner courtyard of the Mariners' Museum. Oysters, clams, and a live band enabled the Club to enjoy an evening of tremendous fellowship as well as realize a substantial profit. A \$700 contribution to the Mariners' Museum was made as a result of this undertaking.

The next memorable event was our Christmas program. We invited our members' children and grandchildren to join us at our weekly breakfast meeting. Entertainment for our very special guests was provided by the "Juggler." An excellent meal and program was enjoyed by all.

In April 1986, Oyster Point hosted one of the members of the Group Study Exchange from Sheffield, England of District 127. Our program of April 11th included a brief presentation by each of the 5 members of the group. Brian Midgley, the team leader, gave an eloquent speech, thanking us for our true "Southern" hospitality as well as for not forcing our British visitors to revisit Yorktown. It was an outstanding example of International Service in action.

The Club, in support of the Rotary Foundation, established its Paul Harris Sustaining Member Program. Ten members committed to participate in this installment program towards ultimate recognition as a "Paul Harris" fellow. Wendell Barbour was recognized as the Club's second Paul Harris Fellow at our annual Ladies Night function. District Governor John Nelson made this presentation and served as the evening's keynote speaker.

Other accomplishments during the year included the addition of twelve new members resulting in a net gain of six as of June 30. We initiated the application process which would enable the club to host a Friday evening "Party at the Point" in downtown Hampton as a fundraiser. Our President-elect represented Oyster Point at the Rotary International convention in Las Vegas. We participated in the Newport News Cardiac Arrest Program for the second time and have raised approximately \$23,000 in the staging of these two events. Our deep-sea fishing trip landed four tunas weighing in at 249 pounds. I greatly appreciated our return to land following a day on the "high seas." Even more importantly, I was deeply honored to have served as the President of Oyster Point Rotary Club.

## President's Report 1986-1987 Year

"Rotary Brings Hope" was the theme for the 1986-87 Rotary year, hope for a world at peace and children without polio. It was at the International Convention in Las Vegas, Nevada, that I learned of Rotarians around the world doing good deeds and bringing meaning to the creed serving above self.

My hope to lead the Rotary Club of Oyster Point to a successful year was fulfilled by the contributions of each member week after week to achieve our goals.

The Polio Plus campaign was kicked off during the year, and Oyster Point assumed a leadership role by setting a goal to contribute \$50,000. In support of that goal the Oyster Point Rotary Run for Polio Plus was conceived during the year and held on April 18, 1987. The event, chaired by Tom Herbert, was a resounding success with over 600 runners, the largest five-kilometer run ever held on the Peninsula. Every member in the Club contributed to the success of this event.

The Club turned out in force to man the party at Mill Point in August of 1986 and raised over \$2,000 for Polio Plus. Through all its fund raising activities the club was able to name four Paul Harris Fellows. Dr. Jack Anderson, President of Christopher Newport College, was the first Paul Harris Fellow named who was not a member of our club. Scott Miller, David Alexander and Nick Viattas were also named Fellows at the annual charter night held in February. The club also continued its Paul Harris sustaining member program.

The Club again hosted the Annual Oyster Roast at Mariners Museum in November and raised \$1,000 for the museum. Another \$1,000 donation was made to Christopher Newport College for a music scholarship.

The quality of the weekly program was high throughout the year, highlighted by a program with Pat Robertson in June. Hampton Mayor James Eason, Newport News Mayor Jessie Rattley, Hampton City Manager Bob O'Neill and Newport News School Superintendent Don Bruno also addressed the club. The Christmas program featuring the "Juggler" for the children of the Oyster Point Rotarians was also held.

The Club membership grew from 46 to 57 members by June 30, 1987. Contributions to international service were made by hosting the group study exchange from Thailand. The Club installed the Rotary sign announcing our meeting time and place at the entrance to Oyster Point Business Park. The Club was given the Presidential Citation from Rotary International President M.A.T. Caparas for achieving all of his goals set for individual Rotary Clubs.-

In the Spring of 1987 Oyster Point sponsored the formation of the Coliseum-Hampton Rotary Club. Past President Tom Brooks spearheaded the effort to recruit new members and organize the Club.

At the District Conference held in Williamsburg in April, the Rotary Club of Oyster Point was presented the Most Improved Club Award in District 760 by District Governor Rob Fleming, highlighting the achievements of the Club throughout the year.

To serve as President of such an outstanding organization has been an honor. The service of each member to achieve our goals is appreciated.

Nicholas E. Viattas

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1987-1988 YEAR

The 1987-1988 Year was another successful year for the Oyster Point Rotary Club. We began the year with a tremendous challenge of fulfilling our Club's commitment to the Polio Plus Campaign. I am pleased to report that the challenge was met through the efforts of our Rotarians who worked as a team on a variety of events during the year. Specifically, the events that were held were the following:

- In September and May we held very successful "Parties at Oyster Point". Excellent membership participation with the help of many spouses resulted in successful fund raisers. Profitable beverage sales as well as a successful raffle drawing resulted in a healthy contribution to Polio Plus. Dave Corley and John Whitley helped coordinate these events and Jim Beran organized the raffle.
- In November our Club held its Annual Oyster Roast at Mariners Museum. Craig Hearn was our leader in this successful effort that raised \$1,000 for the Museum and a nice contribution was also made to Polio Plus.
- In April, the second annual Oyster Point Run for Polio Plus was held. The event was chaired by Mike Sim who did an outstanding job of organizing this run. Again, good membership participation helped to make this a successful event in every way.
- Other on-going efforts such as our weekly raffle were beneficial to the fund raising success we experienced. We experimented with the format of this weekly raffle this year and modified the pot and timing of the drawing to encourage attendance and raise additional funds for Polio Plus.

Our Club is fortunate to have several proficient golfers. This year Dwight West, Jeff Bostic, Mike Link and Marc Cooper formed a team to represent Oyster Point Rotary in the first annual Rolympics Golf Tournament at Kingsmill. Our team finished a close second.

The annual charter night was held in March. Several individuals were recognized for their contributions to the Club. Tom Herbert received the "Rotarian of the Year" award which was decided by membership vote. Jim Beran was presented the "Rookie of the Year" award for his outstanding contributions during his first year with the Club. Meredith and Bostic were awarded the non-member Paul Harris Fellowship award. Tom Brooks was awarded the Rotary member Paul Harris award.

Over the years our Club has taken a great deal of pride in providing interesting programs at our regular membership meetings. 1987-88 was no different since we continued to have good quality speakers during the year with the likes of former U.S. Congressman G. William Whitehurst from the second congressional district, and Dr. Ronald Godby who spoke to us about his experiences in Africa with the Operation Smile Program.

The Club membership grew from 54 to 61 members by June 30, 1988.

Under the able leadership of Nick Vlattas, the Club's participation in the Paul Harris sustaining member program was increased to seven (7). In addition, Jim Beran and David Hall were named Paul Harris Fellows at the annual charter night function.

The combination of special fund raising events and increased participation of our members in the Rotary Foundation and the sustaining member programs helped us to exceed our self-imposed goal of \$15,000 contributed to the Polio Plus program.

This was a special year for me for many reasons. I felt honored to serve as President of the Club during the year. The cooperation of our members was particularly gratifying and this cohesive effort made it possible for us to meet or exceed our goals.

W. Lee Barnes

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 1988-1989 YEAR

The Oyster Point Rotary Club had a good year. Club Membership Chairman, Tom Herbert and Club Information Chairman, Craig Fern did an excellent job. Our membership grew from 61 to about 74 members.

My thanks to Dwight West, Program Chairman; Jim White, Bulletin Chairman; and Pete Wallio, Handbook Chairman for also doing an excellent job.

Dwight also chaired our golf team that won us \$4,000 for coming in first place. Steve Saunders, Fund Raiser Chairman, was also chairman for the Oyster Roast held at the Mariner's Museum. We donated \$1,000 to the Mariner's Museum and still netted \$1,168. Dale Goodman, Chairman of the 5-K Run, netted approximately \$3,000. Dave Corley chaired the Newport News occasions, "Midweek Oasis" outings that raised even more revenue.

Garland Walker, our Community Service Chairman, had his hands full. On December 6, 1988 we became officially committed to the "Business & Education Partnership Program" with Ferguson High School. On January 6, 1989 we received a "Certificate of Appreciation" while the school principal, Mr. Henry Godfrey, hosted our entire club for breakfast at Ferguson. Garland had Bill Moore, our Youth Chairman, work with F.H.S. on several projects with the students. For example: assisting with their Green House; having nine of our club members speak to different student classes about their careers and arranging a one-on-one career discussion with a doctor. Garland had furniture delivered to the school when the need arose. It was donated by Va. Power. Garland also headed up the "Adopt A Highway" project for which we received the mayor's Blue Ribbon Cleanup and Glad Bag-A-Thon Certificate of Recognition.

John Whitley, our Vocational Service Chairman, asked if he could help in any extra way. I asked Garland if John could head up the Interact Club Project with F.H.S. John contacted Dave Theobald, Interact Chairman, who along with Willey Donaldson, got the ball rolling. The students met our invitation with an overwhelming surprise. They elected their officers and had 29 members on their roster. The "Certificate of Interact Club Organization" from Rotary International was signed June 30, 1989 by Don Ragland, our Club Secretary, and myself, which was the last meeting of our term in office.

Dave Corley, our International Svc. Chairman, had four new names to add to our Paul Harris Fellows roster. It was the club's pleasure to make Mr. Henry J. Godfrey an Honorary Paul Harris Fellow. Alan Witt, John Sealy and Jerry Passarro were the other Paul Harris Fellows. Dave also coordinated our club responsibilities with the Australian Exchange Program. Dale and Teri Goodman were kind enough to host one of the Australian's at their home.

Many people did many things to make this club what it is today. David Hall brought the Yates Elementary School's request to buy \$1,000 worth of "Just Say No To Drugs" T-Shirts. Our club authorized up to \$500 in matching funds. It didn't take David long to find the other \$500, and before you knew it, Yates had David and myself watching all those children being sworn into their "Just Say No To Drugs" program. The Oyster Point Rotary also paid Rotary Int. \$10,000 for our commitment to the Polio Plus Program. We have now paid \$30,000 towards our \$50,000 commitment.

In conclusion, it was an honor for me to serve as President of the Oyster Point Rotary Club. I thank you for making this an experience we can all be proud of.

Sincerely,  
Charles L. Harper, Jr.