

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE
ROTARY CLUB OF THE HISTORIC TRIANGLE
JULY 1, 2020

Our club was envisioned by the leadership of District 7600 in 2006 and brought into existence in 2007 through the joint sponsorship of the Rotary Clubs of Williamsburg and James City County. The District Governor was James Probsdorfer, PDG Ted Kirby from Bon Air was the District Extension Chair. AG Helmut Walter, from Yorktown, was Special Representative who guided our efforts.

All of these clubs were generous supporters of our formation

- Yorktown donated our Club Banner and Helmut Walter built the stand.
- Our American flag was presented by Bon Air
- Our sponsor clubs gave us our Bell, Badge Box and the Four-Way Test Banner

Through some intervention by the new District Governor, James Pierce, we were chartered on July 4, 2007. We began with 27 members, more than half of whom were active or former Rotarians, including eight past presidents. Only 7 were members of the sponsoring clubs.

The Colonial Heritage Clubhouse was chosen as our meeting place through the efforts of Sam Lazarus. We coordinated our meeting day and time with the other 2 clubs: James City meeting Tuesday morning, The Historic Triangle meeting on Wednesday at noon and Williamsburg meeting Thursday evenings.

From the beginning we organized under the revised structure suggested by Rotary International, moving away from the Avenues of Service approach. The officer and director positions were posted, all were filled except President which Jack Hostetter was asked to accept.

With strong Rotary experience among the membership our club hit the ground running. New recruits turned out to be very capable and eager to take on responsibility.

Over the years we have strived to offer a well-rounded program of activities and projects.

We focused on the areas of service suggested by the RI Presidents and District 7600 Goals.

- Knit hats for newborns overseas
- Funded needed Indoor Plumbing in our community
- Sponsored a new Interact Club at the new Warhill High School and a Career Fair
- Funded a grant for Heart Surgery for Children in The Americas
- Participated in Days of Caring with United Way with hands-on projects at Avalon and Dreamcatchers
- Conducted fundraising for scholarships and designated charities through dinners, golf tournaments, a book and author program, and high school basketball jamborees.
- Rang bells for the Salvation Army in the rain and the cold
- Addressed literacy with our Speaker Recognition program that donates children's book to the Williamsburg Regional Library
- Consistently supported the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund through Every Rotarian Every Year
- Achieved the 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club status and our Benefactor program is ongoing

Our Family of Rotary efforts have encouraged: participation in our service projects; joining in our fundraising events; gathering to celebrate holidays, especially Valentine's Day; and attending District events, many of which are held here in Williamsburg.

Our members were stressed in 2008 and 2009 by the economic recession. Some resigned due to business pressures or for financial reasons. Others moved or changed job locations. Through it all we continued to attract new members and our past club presidents remained active.

Regular attendance has always been a hallmark of our club. Members have been encouraged to visit other clubs when traveling (and exchange banners) and online makeups have been recognized. Our attendance performance keeps us in the upper ranks of clubs in the District.

Our administrative leadership has been outstanding. Secretary emeritus Paul Arrowood, a new Rotarian, quickly became the best in the District, Gale Treiber and subsequent Treasurers were effective and proactive. Officers and directors regularly participated in District conferences and training programs. We have encouraged Rotary leadership development by supporting members attendance at the Rotary Leadership Institute.

We have consistently attended District events and we hosted Group Study Exchange teams from The Philippines and Brazil.

Our annual accomplishments have been recognized with District Awards.

In response to a question from PDG Jim Pierce, we recommended the Waller Mill Community Building as the site for the relocation of the District Office, its present location.

The enthusiasm of our members for Rotary, which existed in the past, is still present here in the Rotary Club of The Historic Triangle.

Today we are beginning our club's 14th Rotary year and we will make the most of it!

Our past presidents:

2007-2009	Jack Hostetter	2014-2015	Sally Wolfe
2009-2010	Bill Lindsey	2015-2016	Jason Blanchard
2010-2011	Genevieve Owens	2016-2017	Mark Anderson
2011-2012	Nolan Yelich	2017-2018	Clay McEldowney
2012-2013	Bob Spencer	2018-2019	Tom Bozek
2013-2014	Mark Tisone	2019-2020	Bob Tassone