

A Brief History of the Rotary Club of The Historic Triangle – Williamsburg

The Rotary Club of The Historic Triangle was envisioned and brought into existence in 2007 by the leadership of District 7600. The Rotary Clubs of Williamsburg and James City County jointly sponsored the new club.

AG Helmut Walter of the Yorktown Rotary Club was District Governor James Probsdorfer's representative who guided the new club chartering effort with the assistance of Past District Governor Ted Kirby from Bon Air Rotary Club, the District Extension Chair.

Through some intervention by the new District Governor, James Pierce, the club was chartered on July 4, 2007. Our charter name is Rotary Club of The Historic Triangle - Williamsburg. "T" in "The" of our club name is no mistake.

Our sponsoring clubs were very generous in their support. Yorktown donated our Club Banner and Helmut Walter built the stand. Our United States flag was presented by Bon Air. Our sponsor clubs also presented our club with the club Bell, Badge Box and the Four-Way Test Banner.

The club began with 27 members including eight past presidents. Only 7 members were from sponsoring clubs. Jack Hostetter had the honor of being the club's Charter President.

The club meeting day and time were set at Wednesday noon, and pre-coordinated with the James City club that meets Tuesday morning, and the Williamsburg club that meets Thursday evening. Charter member Sam Lazarus helped us pick Colonial Heritage Club as our meeting place.

We organized under the revised structure suggested by Rotary International, moving away from the Avenues of Service approach.

The club began with strong Rotary experience in its membership; the club hit the ground running. New members were very capable and eager to take on responsibility. The club leadership and membership sought a well-rounded program of activities and projects.

The club focused on the Areas of Service suggested by the RI Presidents and District 7600 Goals. Examples of service over the years include:

- Knitting hats for newborns overseas.
- Funding for Indoor Plumbing in our community.

- Sponsoring an Interact Club at Warhill High School & a career fair.
- Grant for Heart Surgery for Children in The Americas.
- Days of Caring with United Way – Projects with Avalon and Dreamcatchers.
- Fundraising for scholarships and designated charities through dinners, golf tournaments, a book and author program, & high school basketball jamborees.
- Bell Ringing in the rain and the cold for Salvation Army.
- Support of Literacy – children's books for the library in honor of club speakers.
- Consistent and sustained support of the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund.
- Family of Rotary events such as Holiday and Valentine's Day socials and End Polio Baseball games.

Regular attendance is a hallmark of our club. Members are encouraged to visit other clubs when traveling. During the COVID pandemic the club adopted a ZOOM format, meeting approach that continues concurrently with in-person luncheon meetings. Our attendance performance keeps us in the upper ranks of district clubs.

The club has benefitted from outstanding leadership beginning with our first president, Jack Hostetter. Charter member Paul Arrowood served as Secretary for many years. Gale Treiber served as club treasurer and later as our foundation treasurer. Since 2013, Nick Fairbanks has been Sergeant at Arms and Vice President. Club officers and directors participate regularly in District conferences and training programs. We have consistently attended District events and we hosted Group Study Exchange teams from The Philippines and Brazil., and our annual accomplishments have been recognized with District Awards.

Past Presidents

2007-2008	Jack Hostetter	2015-2016	Sally Wolfe
2008-2009	Bill Lindsey	2016-2017	Clay McEldowney
2009-2010	Genevieve Owens	2018-2019	Tom Bozek
2021-2011	Nolan Yelich	2019-2020	Bob Tassone
2011-2012	Bob Spencer	2020-2021	Felicia Stovall
2012-2013	Mark Tisone	2021-2022	Mitchell Harry
2013-2014	Mark Anderson	2022-2023	Dave Kleppinger