

Blue Ridge Rotary Club June 6, 2018

Good evening fellow Rotarians, I have been asked to give a few remarks about the founding of this club. There are several versions about how this club got started and I will confine my remarks as to my part.

From 1977 until 1983, I , along with Jack Fishback, Phil Morton, and Ken Neathery, was a member of the Albemarle Rotary Club which held it's meetings at the Boars head Club on Thursdays at noon. One day, Mr. Hovey Dabney, Chairman of Jefferson National Bank tried to reach Jack Fishback by phone--Jack was at the Rotary luncheon-- He then tried to reach Ken Neathery who was also at the Rotary luncheon. Well-- the next day a memo was sent to all employees of the bank informing all that no one could be a member of a Civic group that held luncheon meetings.

The next day, I asked Mr. Dabney if there was a problem with me getting a breakfast club started. He said no.

Discussions were held with the --I believe-- Directors of the Albemarle Club and contact was made with District. A organizing committee was formed with Buddy Smith as the District Gov. Rep and chair. I cannot remember who was on the committee but I believe in addition to Buddy and me, there was Ken Neathery and Marshall Pryor and probably a member from the the Charlottesville and Albemarle clubs.

The committee met several times and a prospective name was chosen--that is another story, for another time--, and prospective membership names were submitted. Buddy asked me if I would serve as Charter President and assist with forming the officer and committee list. I agreed and the rest is history. The first two Presidents were set. The first five were:

1. Kinny Kinnier
2. Ken Neathery
3. Jim Kennan who switched places with Harold Qwright due to construction at Harold's TV station
4. Harold Wright
5. Marshall Pryor

There was no grand plan in place that the first three presidents were "HOKIES"

I am proud of how this club has progressed over the years and wish you much success in the future.

Edgar O. Kinnier, Jr.
POOP # 1 aka "Kinny"