



SERVICE Above Self

Thomasville Rotary Club
P O Box 444
Thomasville, NC 27360

New Member Orientation Information

New Member Orientation Information Index

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2018-2019 President's Letter Welcome to the Thomasville Rotary Club!

Founded in 1922, the Thomasville Rotary Club is a club in Area 7, District 7690, Zone 33 and a part of the Rotary International Organization.

By becoming a member of the Thomasville Club, you become a part of a long line of area residents who chose to make this a better place to live by living out our motto of "Service Above Self." These residents left a 96, going on 97, year legacy that you are now a member.

You will be given a yearbook with the history of this club, lists of past presidents, current leadership and various committees that you might have an interest in joining. Please review it, and I am sure you will carry it with you always, as it is an invaluable tool to this club.

Rotary membership is by invitation, and you have been invited because our members see in you a strong moral character and a desire to serve your community. My hope for you as a new Rotarian is that you will embrace the opportunities to learn and to serve offered by this club, the District and Rotary International. By doing so, you will realize the benefits to yourself, your family and others, and discover your true worth as you serve those in our community and the world. **You probably never imagined that by joining this club at this time, you would be a part of stamping out polio from this earth.** Rotary offers you the opportunity to change lives locally and globally – seize that opportunity and you will realize the true value of membership.

Included in this booklet is information about Rotary and its various forms and functions. The goal of this booklet is to give you a quick overview of the type of organization you are now a part of, and to give you a starting point. Soon we will be asking you to become a part of the leadership team by taking a position on a committee. How you act in Rotary, by coming an active member, is how you will live the rest of your life. Embrace the opportunity and enjoy the ride!

I look forward to serving with you!

Deborah Saintsing
President 2018-2019



Thomasville Rotary Club – General Member Information

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards and to help build goodwill and peace throughout the world.

Each club determines its own service activities. These generally benefit youth, the disabled, disenfranchised and the elderly and meet a broad range of civic, social and cultural needs. Other activities are designed to encourage high vocational standards and build international goodwill.

Membership is by invitation with the goal of having a good cross-section of the community leadership involved. You have been invited to be a member because you are a recognized leader with high ethical standards. To remain a member in good standing, it is expected that you pay your dues, always conduct yourself with high ethical standards, and attend a minimum of 66% of our meetings.

Attendance is very important and should be a high priority for every Rotarian. To maintain membership in good standing, all Rotarians must attend 60% of the meetings. This can easily be accomplished by physically attending our meetings, attending a meeting at a different club, or by attending an “E” meeting, which is a meeting format held online. Our hope is that you would attend as much as possible, as each meeting is an opportunity for fellowship, relaxation and interesting and informative program topics.

Service to the community is one of the primary goals of our club. To meet the needs of the community, the club needs and expects your participation in club projects. This enables us to offer programs that enrich the lives of the citizens of Thomasville, and allows you the opportunity to live out two of Rotary’s mottos:

Service Above Self -He profits most who serves best, and **The Four-Way Test**:

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it fair to all Concerned?
- Will it Build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- Will it be Beneficial to all Concerned?



Rotary Information –

The Thomasville Club has been honored with these awards:

- Gold Club Award – we have met or exceeded district goals
- Presidential Citation – we have met or exceeded presidential goals
- 100% Paul Harris Fellow membership
- 100% Sustaining membership
- 100% Benefactor membership
- Triple Crown Club – because we are 100% Paul Harris Fellows, 100% Sustaining and 100% Benefactors, we were awarded with the Triple Crown Club award. We were the 13th Club in the world to achieve this award.

Paul Harris Fellows

- A Paul Harris Fellow is a member who has contributed \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation
- The club honors each new member with a contribution of \$100 to the Foundation
- After a minimum of six months, the club contributes the balance to the Foundation and the member is named a Paul Harris Fellow

Sustaining Member

Members contribute a minimum of \$100 per year to the Foundation. This is an expectation, so you should budget this amount as part of your cost of membership.

Benefactor

All members of the club are expected to become benefactors. At the minimum, you would sign a “letter of intent” that you wish for your estate to contribute \$1,000 to the Foundation upon your death.



Thomasville Club Financial Responsibilities* –

Initiation Fee - \$50

Dues - \$52 per quarter

Meals - \$12.00 per meal, billed quarterly in advance

Foundation Sustaining Dues - \$100 per year in the minimum expectation

Annual Scholarship Raffle – Each year the Thomasville Rotary Club provides scholarships to local high school students. These scholarships are made possible by every member selling a minimum of thirty (30) \$5.00 raffle tickets.

Discretionary Offerings – At our meeting each week some blue buckets are placed on each table. These buckets are there for you to contribute, at your discretion, to CARTS (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust). From time to time, we will pass the hat for various things that the board feels are worthy to bring before the membership, but that we are unable to fund through our normal budget. Your contributions are welcome but not required – give as you feel led to give.

As a Rotarian, you have the choice of higher levels of support:

Paul Harris Society Member – The Paul Harris Society is a group of Rotarians who commit to contribute \$1,000 per year to the Foundation. The contribution can be made to the Annual Programs Fund, PolioPlus or Humanitarian Grants programs. *This is not a requirement for membership in our club.*

Bequest Society Member – The Bequest Society is a group of Rotarians who have an estate plan that guarantees the Foundation a minimum donation of \$10,000. This can be accomplished with cash or by a life insurance policy. *This is not a requirement for membership in our club.*

**Fees for Young Professionals vary, please see the next page for details.*



The Young Professionals Program is designed to increase membership in the sub-40 age category. Individuals under the age of 40, whose employers will not pay for their dues, meals, etc. will be eligible to participate. This program is limited to ten (10) members at any one time.

Other Requirements:

- *Strive for 100% attendance at weekly lunch meetings and events*
- *Participate on or lead at least two committee teams during the year, i.e. chili cook-off, golf tournament.*

Financial Benefits:

- *Initiation fee of \$50 is waived*
- *Meals will be free for the first year and half-price thereafter until age 40*
- *Honored with \$100 contribution to Rotary International as part of the sustaining member program*
- *Honored with Paul Harris Fellow designation (\$1,000 donation to RI)*

Your expenses:

- *Dues - \$52 per quarter*
- *After the first year, Paul Harris Sustaining member of \$100*
- *After the first year, Half price meals until the age of 40*

Other Information

- *Benefactor – all new members sign a non-binding “letter of intent” agreement that leaves \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation at their death to help to continue to assist with the many initiatives that Rotary supports*
- *Annual Scholarship Raffle – each member receives thirty (30) \$5.00 tickets to be sold or bought by the member (\$150 in total). Proceeds are used to fund the scholarships to the local high schools.*



Getting Started in Rotary –

The club secretary will email you a confirmation of membership that includes your Rotary member number. This number is important, as it is your identifier to the district and international Rotary websites.

Access to information is one of the first steps in becoming a Great Rotarian. One of the first things you should do is to check out the district website at <http://rotary7690.org/index.shtm>. On the district site you will find a lot of information. There is a link at the top right for the District and Club Database DaCdb (pronounced Dack-DB). Click on that tab and you will be asked to enter your user ID (your email address) and your password (your membership #). Click on “My Club”, and you will be able to see club and district information, a calendar of upcoming Rotary events and much more.

After logging into the district site, you should also go the international site and set up a username and password there. The site address is <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en> and here you will find information on everything Rotary! If you become a club officer, you will need access to both the district and international sites to view and update club goals and information.

<http://www.clubrunner.ca/Data/7470/HTML/61490.abc.htm> is another great website. This site is a compilation of just about everything Rotary. We cannot guarantee the accuracy, but we will guarantee that you'll find the site interesting.

Once you get yourself established on the sites, you are now ready to consider what area of service you would participate. It has been said that you get out of something exactly what you put into it, and Rotary is no exception to that rule. We have found that people join Rotary for a lot of reasons, but they stay in Rotary because they get involved and engaged in the areas of service that Rotary offers.



As an organization, Rotary has six (6) areas of focus:

- Promoting Peace
- Fighting Disease
- Providing Clean Water
- Saving Mothers and Children
- Supporting Education
- Growing Local Economies

As a local club, we have focused on two of these areas: Fighting disease and Supporting Education. We have different programs that we support that address disease – specifically obesity and nutrition related diseases. We have outlined “what we do,” on the next page. It outlines most of the projects we do as a club.

One of the ways you can help is to become a member of one of our committees:

- Club Administration – Responsible for the day to day operations of the club
- Community Service – Develops and implements service projects
- Membership – Concerned with all things related to membership – retention, growth, member satisfaction
- Foundation – Oversees our Foundation efforts at the club and international level
- Fund Raising – Plans and executes events that provide funds to support our daily operations and our special projects in the community.

Each of us have been given different talents, and we are sure your talents will be of great benefit to these committees.

What we do...

Family of Rotary Outings
We will meet at the THS Bulldog Football game on August 17th. We are planning an after-hours social at the Chair City Tavern to attract new and young members to our club!

Rotary Golf Tournament
In June we have a golf Tournament at Winding Creek Golf Course. Proceeds go the local food banks.

CHILI COOK-OFF
Mark your calendar for October 19th & 20th for the Chili Cook-Off! We hold this event at Pace Park....chili, music and more!
On Friday at noon, we deliver chili to local businesses, On Friday night, we hold a chili dinner at Memorial UMC On Saturday, we're at PACE Park at the Cook-off Begins!

Phone Book Delivery
In April, members divide into teams and deliver phone books for North State Communications. The money earned is used for current projects.

Sweetheart Luncheon
This is a special luncheon held on or near Valentine's Day. This is a time when our club honors the spouses of members who have passed away.

Rotary Fall Fling
On October 6th, we'll hold our Family of Rotary Fall Fling at David Williams home for food, fellowship, music, and a friendly game of Corn Hole.

Salvation Army Bell Ringers
Every December our Club members volunteer to "Ring the Bell" for the Salvation Army. We usually are located at the WalMart in Thomasville.

Rotary Scholarships

Local high school and DCCC students are awarded scholarships by our Rotary Club. We sell raffle tickets to fund this project.

Shadow Day

Students from three local high schools are assigned to our members to "shadow" them at their workplace for the morning, then join us for our Rotary meeting at the Woman's Club.

Rotary Blood Drive

on the 3rd Thursday of every other month, our club hosts a Red Cross Blood Drive at a local church.

Administrative Professional's Day
In April our members honor their administrative assistants and office personnel at a special Rotary Luncheon.

Book Drive
Our Club provides books for students in the Thomasville Primary, Elementary and Middle School system. It's a pleasure to see them so excited over their own book!

CUSHWA CUP
The Thomasville and Lexington Rotary Clubs honor excellence in athletics and sportsmanship for all sports in the Central Carolina Conference.

The World's GREATEST Meal
A special collection is taken to support Rotary's Greatest Meal to help End Polio. Rotary Clubs all over the world celebrate this meal during the week of October 22nd—29th.

RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Program
Our club sponsors a local youth in the week-long program to develop effective and responsible leadership skills. It is held at Guilford College during the summer.

Rotary 4-Way Test Speech Contest
Local students prepare and present a speech based on the Rotary 4-Way Test. They compete at the local school and then represent our club at the district level.

FCS | Community Pride for Parents
Our club is participating in Pride for Parents. This effort is supported by several local churches and the Thomasville CIS. The event has clothing, toys, school supplies, etc. Parents can purchase item for their child at discounted price.

ART for CART

We will have an art class and social event on September 15th. Thanks to Beth Hibbits and Joe Hedgpeth for coordinating the event and leading our Class! Last year's event netted us \$665 for the CART Fund!

Children at Play—Playground Project
We worked with the City, Community Leaders and Local Businesses to refurbish the seven parks in Thomasville. The official opening was aptly named "Party in the Park" and were held August thru October of 2012. We continue to hold "Parties in the Park" at least twice a year. Hundreds of people come and celebrate the new parks! This project encourages children to "get out and play" and is part of our efforts to raise awareness in an attempt to prevent childhood obesity.



RUSH Project — Romanian Units to Soup-Kitchens
We are engaging home and commercial growers to donate their excess produce from their gardens. On August 11th we will collect, sort, bag and deliver it to local families in need. In November and December, we collect canned food to support CCM Ministries—last year we collected over 5,000 lbs of food!



Kentucky Derby Party
Save the Date—May 5th for the Kentucky Derby Party. We originally held a Derby Party for our 95th Anniversary Gala and had such a good time, we have decided to make it an annual fundraiser event!



Rotary District Conference
This year's District Conference is in Greenville, SC Friday—Sunday, April 28—30th

Weekly Events:

Every meeting begins with prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, and we sing a song. The meeting closes with the Club members reciting the Four-Way Test.

Coins for Alzheimer's Research Fund (CART). Members donate their coins into the CARTS buckets on their table. This collection of "coins" goes to raise funds for research to finding a cure for Alzheimer's. As a club, we contribute to CARTS in additional ways.



Split the Pot: This is a raffle for a chance to draw the Queen of Hearts to win half of the "pot". If the Queen is not drawn, the money stays in the pot for the next week.



Our Club Service Opportunities:

The next few pages show the different committees with a brief description of the duties and/or responsibilities:

Administration/Leadership:

- **Archives:** Responsible for maintaining records, awards and information for the Club
- **Programs:** Responsible for assigning members to present programs during the year. Schedule special events and work with the President for Club Assemblies
- **Devotions:** Responsible for assigning members to have prayer at meetings, or to pray if the assignee is not in attendance.
- **By-laws and Constitution:** Responsible for maintaining or updating Club By-laws
- **Budget & Audit:** Responsible for assisting the Treasurer in the event of an audit
- **Yearbook and Bulletins:** Responsible for compiling and publishing weekly bulletins and annual yearbook
- **Sergeant-At-Arms:** Responsible for recording and announcing visiting Rotarians, setting up the banners, bells and flag for weekly meetings.
- **Best Practices:** Make a note of best practices in the club and report to district level.
- **Strategic Plan:** Develop a plan for the upcoming year(s) as a guideline for club goals.
- **Split the Pot:** Responsible for assigning members to do split-the-pot at meetings, or to do it if the assignee is not in attendance.
- **Music:** Responsible for providing and/or leading music at club meetings.



Membership Committee

Membership: Objective is to increase membership in the club with members with diversity, strong character and good standing in the community

New Member Orientation: Provides new members with orientation quarterly. Responsible for mentoring new members and encouraging their involvement in club functions.

Fellowship of Rotary: Responsible for entertainment at the Sweetheart Luncheon and Administrative Assistance's Day. Charged with planning and organizing club events outside of the regular club meetings like the Fall Fling, Family outings at Baseball and Football games, and After-Hour Events.

Club Meeting on Membership: Responsible for holding a Club meeting about membership.

Sunshine Updates: Responsible for celebrating member's birthdays, and to update the club regarding events surrounding club members outside of Rotary.

Club Pictures and Articles for the Rotarian Magazine(s): Collect club pictures/videos at meetings and events. If warranted, write articles to submit to the Rotary magazines (district and/or international).

Local Media Events/Website/Social Media: Provide information/articles/news releases to the local newspapers. Update Facebook page and other social media sites to reflect club activities and events. Maintain the Club Website.

Young Professionals: Seek and encourage area young professionals to join the club. Get them involved in club activities and committees.



FUND-RAISING

Chili Cook-Off: Responsible for organizing, advertising, getting sponsorships and entries for the Chili Cook-off in October. Saturday - organizing members to work at the event. Friday - organizing members to help cook chili and deliver lunches and work evening meal at Memorial UMC.

Phone Book Delivery: Works with North State Telephone to secure contract and payment for book delivery. Organizes teams, the set up point and routes for teams to make deliveries.

Kentucky Derby Party: Secures location and sponsors for the Derby Party. Organizes team members to send out invitations, collect money for tickets, decorations and clean up. This event also would serve as the Thomasville Rotary Club's Anniversary celebration on appropriate years.

Golf Tournament: Organize and get sponsorships and teams for the annual golf outing held in June at Winding Creek Golf Course.

Art for CART: Organizes an Art event to raise money for the CART fund



FOUNDATION

100% Sustaining/Triple Crown/Bequest Society/ Paul Harris Fellow/ Paul Harris Society and Benefactor: Encourage members to participate in Foundation events, to continue to give to the Rotary Foundation as a Sustaining Member, to recruit Bequest Society and Paul Harris Society Members. To organize and maintain records with the Rotary International database.

Foundation Banquet: Attend and encourage club members to attend the District Foundation Banquet

District Grants: Research and apply for club projects on behalf of our Club. Apply and execute the District/RI Grant Process.

Global Grants: Research and apply for any global projects on behalf of our Club. Apply and execute the RI Grant Process.

Rotary Scholarship: Contacts schools referencing the Rotary Scholarships. Supply applications for the scholarship to the schools, collect the applications, review and select the scholarship recipients.

District Conference: Encourage members to attend District Conference in Greenville, SC in April '19

Thomasville Rotary Foundation: Maintains by-laws and holds annual meeting for the Thomasville Foundation. Oversees expenditures on behalf of the Foundation.



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Blood Drive: Coordinate with Red Cross to hold blood drives, encourage members to donate blood.

Children-At-Play: Continue the club's mission of eliminating childhood obesity. Food and meal planning, party in the park events, and family fitness.

Multi-Club Community Project: Coordinate with other Rotary Clubs for special joint meetings and/or projects.

Speech Contest: Coordinate with high schools to hold speech contest at school and district level.

Interact/Rotaract Clubs: Coordinate with local schools to create, mentor, and maintain in-school clubs.

CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust): Place and remove buckets at the meeting, coordinate annual meeting about CART.

Shadow Day: Coordinate with high schools and club members to allow students to shadow members at their companies.

Everybody's Day: Coordinate and schedule club members to represent Rotary at Everybody's Day.

Peace Fellows Conference: Encourage Club Members to attend the Rotary Peace Conference in April, 2019.

Arbor Committee: Coordinate Community Cleanup with Thomasville's City Beautification Committee, coordinate the planting of trees in community areas.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL – AREAS OF FOCUS

We have identified specific causes to target to maximize our local and global impact. At the same time, we understand that each community has its own unique needs and concerns. Through global grants and other resources, we help clubs focus their service efforts in the following areas:

PROMOTING PEACE – Today, 65 million people are displaced by armed conflict or persecution. Through our partnerships with several leading universities, Rotary Peace Fellows develop the skills to strengthen peace efforts, train local leaders to prevent and mediate conflict, and support long-term peace building in areas affected by conflict. We provide up to 100 peace fellowships per year at Rotary Peace Centers.

FIGHTING DISEASE – More than 100 million people are pushed into poverty each year because of medical costs. We aim to improve and expand access to low-cost and free health care in underdeveloped areas. Our members educate and mobilize communities to help prevent the spread of major diseases such as polio, HIV/AIDS, and malaria. Many of our projects ensure that medical training facilities are located where the workforce lives.

PROVIDING CLEAN WATER – More than 2.5 billion people lack access to adequate sanitation facilities. At least 3,000 children die each day from diarrheal diseases caused by unsafe water. Our projects give communities the ability to develop and maintain sustainable water and sanitation systems and support studies related to water and sanitation.

SAVING MOTHERS AND CHILDREN – At least 7 million children under the age of five die each year due to malnutrition, poor health care, and inadequate sanitation. To help reduce this rate, we provide immunizations and antibiotics to babies, improve access to essential medical services, and support trained health care providers for mothers and their children. Our projects ensure sustainability by empowering the local community to take ownership of health care training programs.

SUPPORTING EDUCATION – Sixty-seven million children worldwide have no access to education and more than 775 million people over the age of 15 are illiterate. Our goal is to strengthen the capacity of communities to support basic education and literacy, reduce gender disparity in education, and increase adult literacy.

GROWING LOCAL ECONOMIES – Nearly 1.4 billion employed people live on less than \$1.25 per day. We carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and develop opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old. We also help strengthen local entrepreneurs and community leaders, particularly women, in impoverished communities.



Rotaract - Rotary Club Partner

Rotaract is a club for adults ages 18 – 30 that meets twice a month to exchange ideas, plan activities, projects and socialize. While Rotary clubs serve as sponsors, Rotaract clubs decide how to organize and run their club and what projects and activities to carry out.

ROTARACT EVENTS - Celebrate your club's global impact by getting involved in:

- World Rotaract Week
- Rotaract multidistrict events
- Rotaract Preconvention Meeting
- Interota



Interact – Rotary Club Partner

Interact clubs bring together young people ages 12-18 to develop leadership skills while discovering the power of Service Above Self. Find out how serious leadership can be seriously fun. Interact club members enjoy the benefits of:

- Take action to make a difference in your school and community
- Discover new cultures and promote international understanding
- Become a leader in your school and community
- Have fun and make new friends from around the world



ROTARY'S FOUNDER – THE PAUL HARRIS STORY

In the fall of 1900, Paul P. Harris met fellow attorney Bob Frank for dinner on the north side of Chicago. They walked around the area, stopping at shops along the way. Harris was impressed that Frank was friendly with many of the shopkeepers.

Harris had not seen this kind of camaraderie among businessmen since moving to Chicago in 1896. He wondered if there was a way to channel it because it reminded him of growing up in Wallingford, Vermont. Harris eventually persuaded local businessmen to join him in a club for community and fellowship. His vision laid the foundation for Rotary.

"The thought persisted that I was experiencing only what had happened to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others in the great city ... I was sure that there must be many other young men who had come from farms and small villages to establish themselves in Chicago ... Why not bring them together? If others were longing for fellowship as I was, something would come of it."

GROWING UP



Harris was born on 19 April 1868 to George H. and Cornelia Bryan Harris in Racine, Wisconsin, USA. George attempted to support his family as a small-business owner but he often relied on his father for financial assistance. In July 1871 that reliance became permanent when Harris and his older brother, Cecil, were sent to live with their paternal grandparents in Wallingford, Vermont. Harris later wrote, "Of all charges which might have been made against George and Cornelia, parsimony would have stood the least chance. They were both royal spenders."

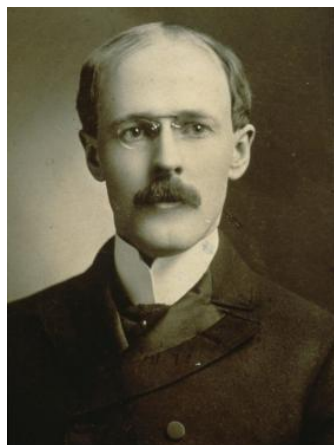
Harris was raised by his grandparents, Howard and Pamela Rustin Harris, and saw his parents only occasionally. He grew to revere the family values that characterized the New England of his youth. In

October 1928, when he returned to his boyhood home for the charter night celebration of the Rotary Club of Wallingford, he proclaimed, "Much that there is in Rotary today can be traced back to the good old New England family table."

He was a mischievous child. He attended primary school in Wallingford and secondary school in Rutland, where he played pranks and skipped class. He also attended Black River Academy in Ludlow but was expelled after only a few weeks. Harris enrolled at the University of Vermont in Burlington but was expelled with three others in December 1886 because of his involvement in an underground society. He later wrote that although he was innocent of the crime he was accused of, the expulsion was nonetheless justified.



Harris spent the spring with a private tutor and in the fall of 1887, he enrolled at Princeton University. His time at Princeton was cut short by the death of his grandfather in March 1888. He completed the semester but did not return to school the next year.



LIFE IN CHICAGO

After Princeton, Harris made his way to Iowa, where he found his professional calling working at the law firm of St. John, Stevenson, and Whisenand in Des Moines. After his apprenticeship, he attended the University of Iowa in Iowa City and graduated with a Bachelor of Laws in June 1891.

In 1896 Harris settled in Chicago, where he opened a law practice in the central business district. He remained active in his professional practice for more than four decades.

Harris sought meaningful personal and spiritual relationships in addition to his professional achievements. He attended religious services on Sundays but visited many different churches rather than

aligning himself with one congregation. Later in his life, he said that his religious affiliations were, like himself, difficult to label. "I really have no church affiliations ... I am not easily classified; that is to say my convictions are not that of that definite nature essential to whole-hearted affiliation with the general run of churches. ... Of course, these days one can hear the best of preaching over the radio and I generally hear three or four sermons every Sunday." Harris loved nature, and in 1908 he joined a group that organized monthly Saturday afternoon walking trips through the forests, fields, hills, and valleys around the city. In 1911 the group became the Prairie Club, and Harris served as one of its directors.

THE BIRTH OF ROTARY



The first four Rotarians (from left): Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, Hiram Shorey, and Paul P. Harris, circa 1905-12.

After setting up his law practice in Chicago, Harris gathered several business associates to discuss the idea of forming an organization for local professionals. On 23 February 1905 Harris, Gustavus Loehr, Silvester Schiele, and Hiram Shorey gathered at Loehr's office in Room 711 of the Unity Building in downtown Chicago. This was the first Rotary club meeting.

In February 1907, Harris was elected the third president of the Rotary Club of Chicago, a position he held until the fall of 1908. During his presidency, he formed the Executive Committee, later called the Ways and Means Committee, which met during lunch and was open to any member. The noon meeting was the foundation for Rotary's tradition of club luncheon meetings.

Toward the end of his club presidency, Harris worked to expand Rotary beyond Chicago. Some club members resisted, not wanting to take on the additional financial burden. But Harris persisted and by 1910 Rotary had expanded to several other major U.S. cities.

Harris recognized the need to form an executive board of directors and a national association. In August 1910 Rotarians held their first national convention in Chicago, where the 16 existing clubs unified as the National Association of Rotary Clubs. The new association unanimously elected Harris as its president.

At the end of his second term, Harris resigned, citing ill health and the demands of his professional practice and personal life. He was elected president emeritus by convention action, a title he held until his death.

In the mid-1920s Harris became actively involved in Rotary again, attending conventions and visiting clubs throughout the world.



LIFE WITH JEAN

Harris met Jean Thomson, Scottish-born daughter of John and Ann YOUNSON Thomson, during an outdoor excursion of what would later become the Prairie Club.

“One beautiful March Saturday in 1910 I joined my fellow Prairians on an Elgin and Aurora electric train bound west. I was a bachelor and quite open-minded on the matrimonial subject. That is to say, I had never closed my mind and heart to the possibilities of conjugal bliss ... Here is where she came in, blythe, bonny Jean.”

They married on 2 July 1910 in Chicago. In 1912 they purchased a house on Longwood Drive in Morgan Park, a suburb of Chicago.

The Harrises named their house Comely Bank after the street in Edinburgh where Jean had lived as a child. They entertained friends from Chicago and around the world, and hosted gatherings and reunions of the Rotary Club of Chicago. Many gatherings took place outside, in what they referred to as their “Garden of Friendship” or “Friendship Garden.”

The couple had no children and Jean joined Harris on his visits to Rotary clubs around the world. After Harris died, Jean briefly continued to live at Comely Bank. She later sold the house and returned to her native Edinburgh, where she died in 1963.



The Paul and Jean Harris Home Foundation purchased the house in 2005 and plans to restore it.

A WRITTEN RECORD

Harris wanted to write a special message for all Rotarians to read, but at the time Rotary had no way to spread the word. Chesley R. Perry, Rotary’s first general secretary, suggested creating a publication to disseminate news and club business, with the cost offset by advertisers. Thus, the “National Rotarian,” later “The Rotarian,” was born. Harris’s article “Rational Rotarianism” appeared on the front page of the first issue in January 1911. He wrote “Passing Our Tenth Milestone” to commemorate Rotary’s 10th anniversary in the February 1915 issue.

In his book “This Rotarian Age” (1935), Harris explored what causes people to do good things and described how Chicago in 1905 was ripe for the kind of change Rotary could offer. He also addressed Rotary’s future challenges and its potential as a force for world peace.

In 1935 Harris and Jean traveled for three months through Southeast Asia and Australia. Harris wanted to publish his account of this trip in a book that would become part of a series called "Peregrinations," to describe his travels as an ambassador of Rotary. He wrote "Peregrinations II" about his trip to Southeast Asia and Australia (1935), thinking he would combine the pamphlet-style reports he'd written about earlier trips to Europe and South Africa into a book called "Peregrinations I." Although he would write "Peregrinations III" (1937) about his trip to Central and South America, he never compiled "Peregrinations I."

THE END OF AN ERA



Paul Harris's headstone at Mount Hope Cemetery on the South Side of Chicago. Silvester Schiele, the first president of the Rotary Club of Chicago, is buried a few feet away. Jean Harris is buried in Scotland.

In December 1945, the Harrises traveled to Tuskegee, Alabama, for the winter months, a trip they had made many times. In early 1946 Harris contracted influenza. Chesley R. Perry, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago and Rotary's general secretary from 1910 to 1942, traveled to Tuskegee and reported that Harris was receiving good medical advice but remained weak: "He has had some lung trouble over many years. He was not getting the proper amount of sleep, nor proper nourishment." The Harrises returned

to Chicago on 28 March 1946.

Harris died on 27 January 1947 in Chicago at age 78 after his prolonged illness. Funeral services were held at Morgan Park Congregational Church on Chicago's South Side. Three Rotary leaders spoke: Perry, Past RI President T.A. Warren, and then RI President Richard Hedke. Past presidents of the Rotary Club of Chicago served as pallbearers.

Harris made it known that he preferred contributions to The Rotary Foundation when he died in lieu of flowers. By coincidence, days before he died, Rotary leaders had committed to a major fund raising effort for the Foundation. After Harris's death, the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created as a way to solicit these funds. The Paul Harris Memorial Fund was earmarked to help establish Rotary Foundation Fellowships for advanced study. At its May/June 1947 meeting, the Board of Directors allocated \$60,000 of the \$228,000 raised to support the program. The program was known as the Paul Harris Foundation Fellowships for advanced study during the first year.



INTERESTING FACTS

How do you describe the organization called "Rotary"? There are so many characteristics of a Rotary club as well as the activities of a million Rotarians. There are the features of service, internationality, fellowship, classifications of each vocation, development of goodwill and world understanding, the emphasis of high ethical standards, concern for other people and many more descriptive qualities.

In 1976 the Rotary International Board of Directors was interested in creating a concise definition of the fundamental aspects of Rotary. They turned to the three men who were then serving on Rotary's Public Relations Committee and requested that a one-sentence definition of Rotary be prepared. After numerous drafts, the committee presented this definition, which has been used ever since in various Rotary publications:

"Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world."

Those 31 words are worth remembering when someone asks, "What is a Rotary club?"

THE OFFICIAL ROTARY FLAG

An official flag was formally adopted by Rotary International at the 1929 Convention in Dallas, Texas. The Rotary flag consists of a white field with the official wheel emblem emblazoned in gold in the center of the field. The four depressed spaces on the rim of the Rotary wheel are colored royal blue. The words "Rotary" and "International" printed at the top and bottom depressions on the wheel rim are also gold. The shaft in the hub and the keyway of the wheel are white.

The first official Rotary flag reportedly was flown in Kansas City, Missouri, in January 1915. In 1922 a small Rotary flag was carried over the South Pole by Admiral Richard Byrd, a member of the Winchester, Virginia, Rotary Club. Four years later, the admiral carried a Rotary flag in his expedition to the North Pole.

Some Rotary clubs use the official Rotary flag as a banner at club meetings. In these instances it is appropriate to print the words "Rotary Club" above the wheel symbol, and the name of the city, state or nation below the emblem.

The Rotary flag is always prominently displayed at the World Headquarters as well as at all conventions and official events of Rotary International.

ROTARY'S WHEEL EMBLEM

A wheel has been the symbol of Rotary since our earliest days. The first design was made by Chicago Rotarian Montague Bear, an engraver who drew a simple wagon wheel, with a few lines to show dust and motion. The wheel was said to illustrate "Civilization and Movement." Most of the early clubs had some form of wagon wheel on their publications and letterheads. Finally, in 1922, it was decided that all Rotary clubs should adopt a single design as the exclusive emblem of Rotarians. Thus, in 1923, the present gear wheel, with 24 cogs and six spokes was adopted by the "Rotary International Association." A group of engineers advised that the geared wheel was mechanically unsound and would not work without a "keyway" in the center of the gear to attach it to a power shaft. So, in 1923 the keyway was added and the design which we now know was formally adopted as the official Rotary International emblem.

SOME ROTARY FIRSTS

- The first Rotary club meeting was in Chicago, Illinois, on February 23, 1905.
- The first regular luncheon meetings were in Oakland, California, chartered in 1909.
- The first Rotary convention was in Chicago in 1910.
- The first Rotary club outside of the United States was chartered in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada, in 1910.
- The first Rotary club outside of North America was chartered in Dublin, Ireland, in 1911.
- The first Rotary club in a non-English-speaking country was in Havana, Cuba, in 1916.
- The first Rotary club in South America was chartered in Montevideo, Uruguay, in 1918.
- The first Rotary club in Asia was chartered in Manila, Philippines, in 1919.
- The first Rotary club in Africa was chartered in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1921.
- The first Rotary club in Australia was chartered in Melbourne in 1921. (original idea from "Scandal Sheet")

OBJECT OF ROTARY

In some areas of the world weekly Rotary club meetings begin with all members standing and reciting the Object of Rotary. This statement, which comes from the Constitution of Rotary, is frequently seen on a wall plaque in Rotarians' offices or place of business. The Object of Rotary is "to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise." The statement then lists four areas by which this "ideal of service" is fostered: through the development of acquaintance as the opportunity for service; the promotion of high ethical standards in business and professions; through service in one's personal, business and community life; and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill and peace.

The Object of Rotary has not always been expressed in this manner. The original Constitution of 1906 had three objects: promotion of business interests, promotion of good fellowship and the advancement of the best interests of the community. By 1910 Rotary had five Objects as increased emphasis was given to expanding Rotary. By 1915 there were six Objects. In 1918 the Objects were rewritten again and reduced to four. Four years later they had again grown to six and were revised again in 1927.

Finally, at the 1935 Mexico City Convention the six Objects were restated and reduced to four. The last major change came in 1951, when the "Objects" were streamlined and changed to a single "Object" which is manifested in four separate ways. The "ideal of service" is the key phrase in the Object of Rotary. This ideal is an attitude of being a thoughtful and helpful person in all of one's endeavors. That's what the Object truly means.

ROTARY MOTTO

The first motto of Rotary International, "He Profits Most Who Serves Best," was approved at the second Rotary Convention, held in Portland, Oregon, in August 1911. The phrase was first stated by a Chicago Rotarian, Art Sheldon, who made a speech in 1910, which included the remark, "He profits most who serves his fellows best." At about the same time, Ben Collins, president of the Rotary Club of Minneapolis, Minnesota, commented that the proper way to organize a Rotary club was through the principle his club had adopted--"Service, Not Self." These two slogans, slightly modified, were formally approved to be the official mottoes of Rotary at the 1950 Convention in Detroit--"He Profits Most Who Serves Best" and "Service Above Self." The 1989 Council on Legislation established "Service Above Self" as the principal motto of Rotary, since it best explains the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service.



HISTORY OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



In 1917, Arch C. Klumph, Rotary's sixth president, proposed to the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, USA, the creation of an "endowment fund for Rotary . . . for the purpose of doing good in the world in charitable, educational, and other avenues of community service."

A few months later, the endowment received its first contribution of \$26.50 from the Rotary Club of Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

In 1928, when the endowment fund had grown to more than US\$5,000, the fund was renamed The Rotary Foundation, and it became a distinct entity within Rotary International. Five Trustees, including Klumph, were appointed to "hold, invest, manage, and administer all of its property. . . as a single trust, for the furtherance of the purposes of RI."

Two years later, the Foundation made its first grant of US\$500 to the International Society for Crippled Children. The ISCC created by Rotarian Edgar F. "Daddy" Allen later grew into the Easter Seals organization.

The Great Depression and World War II both impeded significant growth for the Foundation, but the need for promoting a lasting world peace generated great post-war interest in developing the Foundation. After Rotary founder Paul P. Harris died in 1947, contributions began pouring into Rotary International, and the Paul Harris Memorial Fund was created for the purpose of building the Foundation.

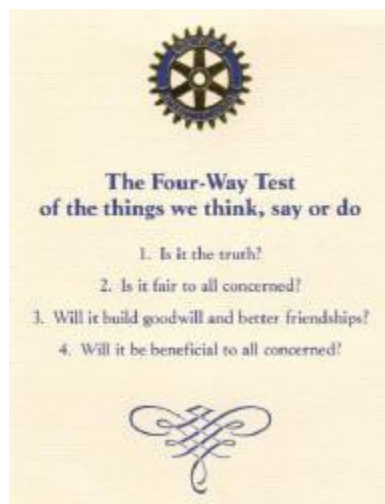
That same year, the first Foundation program was established Fellowships for Advanced Study, which was the forerunner of the Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships program. Then in 1965-66, three new programs were launched Group Study Exchange, Awards for Technical Training, and Grants for Activities in Keeping with the Objective of The Rotary Foundation, which was later called Matching Grants.

The Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) program was launched in 1978, with the Rotary Volunteers program being created as a part of 3-H in 1980. The [PolioPlus](#) program was announced in 1984-85, and the following year saw the introduction of Rotary Grants for University Teachers. The first Peace Forums were held in 1987-88, leading to the establishment of Rotary Peace Programs. Then in 1989, 1963-64 RI President Carl P. Miller and his wife, Ruth, donated US\$1 million to establish the Discovery Grants program.

Throughout this time, support of the Foundation grew tremendously. Since that first \$26.50 donation in 1917, the Foundation has received contributions totaling more than US\$1 billion. More than US\$70 million was contributed in 2003-04 alone. To date, some 914,792 individuals have been recognized as Paul Harris Fellows that is, someone who has contributed US\$1000 or has had that amount contributed in his or her name. Such strong support and involvement of Rotarians worldwide ensures a secure future for The Rotary Foundation as it continues its vital work for international understanding and world peace.



The Four-Way Test



In 1942, Richard Vernor of Chicago, then a director of Rotary International, suggested that Rotary adopt the Test. The R.I. Board approved his proposal in January 1943 and made The Four-Way Test a component of the Vocational Service program, although today it is considered a vital element in all four Avenues of Service.

Herb Taylor transferred the copyright to Rotary International when he served as R.I. president in 1954-55, during the organization's golden anniversary.

Today, more than six decades since its creation, has the Test lost its usefulness in modern society, as some critics maintain? Is it sophisticated enough to guide business and professional men and women in these fast-paced times?

- **Is it the TRUTH?** There is a timelessness in truth that is unchangeable. Truth cannot exist without justice.
- **Is it FAIR to all concerned?** The substitution of fairness for the harsh principles of doing business at arm's length has improved rather than hurt business relationships.
- **Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?** Man is by nature a cooperative creature and it is his natural instinct to express love.
- **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?** This question eliminates the dog-eat-dog principle of ruthless competition and substitutes the idea of constructive and creative competition.

The Four-Way Test is international, transcending national boundaries and language barriers. It knows no politics, dogma or creed. More than a code of ethics, it has all the ingredients for a successful life in every way. It can and will work in today's society.

The final test is in the doing. William James, the noted psychologist, once said, "The ultimate test of what a truth means is the conduct it dictates or inspires." At the heart of Rotary today is The Four-Way Test, a call to moral excellence. Human beings can grow together. Modern business can be honest and trustworthy. People can learn to believe in one another. At the 1977 R.I. Convention, James S. Fish of the U.S. Better Business Bureaus said, "To endure, the competitive enterprise system must be practiced within the framework of a strict moral code. Indeed, the whole fabric of the capitalistic system rests to a large degree on trust .

... on the confidence that businessmen and women will deal fairly and honestly, not only with each other, but also with the general public, with the consumer, the stockholder and the employee."

Few things are needed more in our society than moral integrity. The Four-Way Test will guide those who dare to use it for worthy objectives: choosing, winning, and keeping friends; getting along well with others; ensuring a happy home life; developing high ethical and moral standards; becoming successful in a chosen business or profession; and becoming a better citizen and better example for the next generation.

Eloquently simple, stunning in its power, undeniable in its results, The Four-Way Test offers a fresh and positive vision in the midst of a world full of tension, confusion and uncertainty.

By Darrell Thompson, who is a member of the Rotary Club of Morro Bay, California. This article is adapted from a speech given by Darrell, with contributions from Rotarians Douglas W. Vincent of Woodstock-Oxford, Ontario, Canada, and Myron Taylor.





Acronyms used in Rotary

3-H Health, Hunger & Humanity	AG Assistant Governor
AGM Annual General Meeting	APF Annual Programs Fund
COL Council On Legislation	COP Code of Policies
DDF District Designated Fund (Share Program)	DG District Governor
DGE District Governor Elect	DGN District Governor Nominee
DGND District Governor Nominee Designate	D-I-K Donations in Kind
DLP District Leadership Plan	DLT District Leadership Team
DRR District Rotaract Representative	DRFC District Rotary Foundation Chair
DT District Trainer	EREY Every Rotarian Every Year
FAIM Fourth Avenue in Motion	GSE Group Study Exchange
HESS Honeywell Engineering Summer School	ICUFR Int'l Computer Use Fellowship of
IPDG Immediate Past District Governor	IPP Immediate Past President
ITHF International Travel & Hosting Fellowship	LOA Leave Of Absence
MG Matching Grant	MOP Manual of Procedure
MPHF Multiple Paul Harris Fellow	MUNA Model United Nations Assembly
NGO Non-government organization, involved in a project	NID National Immunization Day
NYSF National Youth Science Forum	OD Official Directory (RI)
P President	PDG Past District Governor
PE President Elect	PEF Permanent Endowment Fund
PETS Presidents Elect Training Seminar	PHF Paul Harris Fellow
PHS Paul Harris Society (District)	PHSM Paul Harris Sustaining Member
PP Past President	PF Permanent Fund
PRID Past Rotary International Director	PRIP Past Rotary International President
PRIT Past Rotary International Treasurer	PRIVP Past Rotary International VP
PROBUS (Retired) Professional & Business Club	RAG Rotarian Action Group
RAM Rotarians Against Malaria	RAWCS Rotary Australia World Community Service
RC Rotary Club	RFE Rotary Friendship Exchange
RFSM Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member	RI Rotary International
RIBI Rotary International Great Britain and Ireland	RID Rotary International Director
RIDE Rotary International Director Elect	RIMZC RI Membership Zone Coordinators
RIP Rotary International President	RIPE Rotary International President Elect
RISPPO Rotary International South Pacific & Philippines	RITS Rotary International Travel Service
RIVP Rotary International Vice President	RLI Rotary Leadership Institute
ROAR Rotary Organization of Amateur Radio	ROMAC Rotary Oceania Med Aid - Children
ROTI Rotarians On The Internet	RRFC Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator
RTN Rotarian	RYE Rotary Youth Exchange
RYLA Rotary Youth Leadership Award	RYPEN Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment
RYTS Rotary District 9640 Youth Transition Seminar	SAR Semi Annual Report (Club to RI)
SE Science Experience	SWSL Save Water Save Lives
TARFT The Australian Rotary Foundation Trust	TPF The Permanent Fund
TRF The Rotary Foundation	WCS World Community Service
YEP Youth Exchange Program	YIR Yours in Rotary
YIRS Yours In Rotary Service	



Timeline: Partners in eradicating polio

Rotary has been working to eradicate polio for more than 30 years. Since 1979, we have vaccinated more than 2.5 billion children. But we haven't done it alone. Here is a timeline for our partnerships.

1979-early 1980s

Rotary undertakes a series of polio immunization campaigns throughout Southeast Asia and Latin America, beginning with one in 1979 in the Philippines and followed by similar activities in Cambodia, Haiti, Morocco, Paraguay, and Sierra Leone.

1985

Rotary introduces PolioPlus – the first effort to immunize every child in the world with polio vaccine – and aims to raise \$120 million. During its 1988 convention in Philadelphia, Rotary announces it has raised \$247 million, more than double the target amount.

1988

Rotary pushes forward the global resolution to eradicate polio at the 1988 World Health Assembly in Geneva. It also spearheads the launch of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with the World Health Organization, U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and UNICEF.

2002-03

Rotary launches the Polio Eradication Fundraising Campaign with a fundraising target of \$80 million. The campaign, netting \$135 million, eclipses Rotary's goal. The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation contributes \$1 million when it honors Rotary with its Gates Award for Global Health, its first gift to Rotary's efforts to end polio.

2007

The Gates Foundation announces its first major grant to polio eradication – a \$100 million challenge to Rotary, promising to match funds raised by Rotarians.

2009

Bill Gates pledges an additional \$255 million at Rotary's International Assembly, and Rotary increases its fundraising goal to \$200 million.

2011

Bill Gates speaks at the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans.

2012

Rotary raises \$228.7 million, surpassing the original goal of \$200 million. In the same year, Jeff Raikes, then-CEO of the Gates Foundation, announces an additional \$50 million contribution to polio eradication efforts at Rotary's International Assembly.

2013

An announcement at the Rotary International Convention in Lisbon sets the stage for a new extension of the partnership between Rotary and the Gates Foundation. The Gates Foundation agrees to match 2-to-1 every dollar committed by Rotary, up to \$35 million per year, through 2018. Throughout the campaign, Rotary exceeds its annual fundraising goal.

2017

On the heels of the success of the 2-to-1 matching grant, Rotary and the Gates Foundation announce an increased combined pledge of up to \$450 million at the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta. Rotary's new goal is to contribute \$50 million per year over three years. With a 2-to-1 match, the Gates Foundation's contribution will increase to \$300 million if Rotary reaches its fundraising target.