

History of Rotary in Morehead City

Rotary and its ideals came alive in Morehead City on May 11, 1925 when John M. Aberly of the New Bern Rotary Club and special representative of Governor Charles J. Smith, District 37 Rotary International, Roanoke, Va, met with interested community leaders to present Rotary's objectives and opportunities. On Charter night, May 19, 1925 the Morehead City Rotary Club and its 22 Charter members joined with 2,094 other Rotary Clubs in 30 countries and 53 Rotary Districts in actively furthering Rotary's objectives. Governor Charlie presented the Charter.

Harvey L. Joslyn, Sr. became the first delegate to Rotary International from the newly chartered Morehead City Club. He was elected delegate to Rotary International, meeting in Cleveland, Ohio, from June 15 thru June 20, 1926. Rotary District 37 had chartered a rail car for its delegates and the Eastern North Carolina Delegates joined the "Rotary Car" in Goldsboro. The spirit of Rotary was very much alive as Rotarians from throughout the District traveled together to and from Cleveland, and as they met with other International Rotarians. Eighteen hundred fourth-three clubs of the 2,475 voting delegates and a total registration, including friends and families of 10,233.

From the beginning the Rotary Club of Morehead City was vibrant. The club got underway with the attendance rule and the objectives of Rotary stressed. This resulted in the club leading the District in attendance for many years. District Assemblies and Conferences were well attended by officers and other interested Rotarians, resulting in more Rotary knowledge and inspiration.

Unfortunately early records were lost in a fire that destroyed the Rex Restaurant in the early 1960's.

The March 1942 issue of Rotarian magazine featured the Rotary Club of Morehead City under the title of "these Clubs won't be licked". In 1952-53 the Rotary Club of Morehead City was honored by having fellow Rotarian, Stanley Woodland, chosen as Governor of the 773 District of Rotary International.

Many service projects conceived and sponsored by the club in its early years such as “The Best All Around Student” award which started in 1928. Additionally a scholarship was established for a student at Carteret Technical Institute and the Carteret Community College. Many of these continue to date.

Other projects started by the Rotary Club of Morehead City but turned over to governmental or civic groups include the State Port Authority of Morehead City and the Carteret County Health Department, both of which are outgrowths of the imitative and effort of the Rotary Club of Morehead City. The Morehead City Recreation Department results from a 1951 project to save and restore the former U.S.O. building for use as a youth center. The Morehead City Chamber of Commerce was organized in 1946 and continues today as the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce.

As the community grew, additional clubs were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Morehead City. The Beaufort Rotary Club was chartered on April 11, 1928. The Newport Rotary Club was chartered on June 17, 1949 and the Morehead City – Lookout Club was chartered in June 29, 1988.

History of the Morehead City Noon Rotary Club

In 1980 members of the Rotary Club of Morehead City voted to share the territorial limits for the extension of an additional Rotary Club under the direction of Calvin G. Wellons, President and R.B. (Bob) Howard, District Governor, 1980-81. W. Carlton and Sam McConkey were appointed representatives by the Rotary Club of Morehead City to explore, extend invitations and hold provisional rotary Club meetings at the Western Steer Restaurant.

The Morehead City Noon Rotary Club was officially chartered by Rotary International on June 11, 1981, while Bob Howard was District Governor. Charter night was held in August at the Dunes Club with W. D. (Bill) Pelton of Jacksonville, District Governor. Charter officers were: John T. Capps III President; H. S. Gibbs, Jr., Vice President/President Elect; Dewey Willis, Secretary and Treasurer. Directors of the Four

Avenues of Service were: Cotty Thompson, Club Service; Frank Cassiano, Vocational Service; Thurlow Whealton, Community Service; Henry Tull, International Service.

Charter members were:

John W. Anderson	Phil Asby	Bob Griffith
Ray Ball, D.D.S.	Carey Blount	Payl Hamlin
John T. Capps III	Frank Cassiano	Jeff Jones
Pete Cayado	Max Clous	Dennis Marquardt
Bill Condie	John Diemer	Gene Maloney
Don Ditto	John Gainey	Bob Mashburn
H. S. Gibbs, Jr.	Larry Good	Sam McConkey
Fred Odell	Lockwood Phillips	Art Ross
Marlin Sherron	Steve Smith	Len Springle
Cotty Thompson	Silas Thorne, M.D.	Henry Tull
Thurlow Whealton		Dewey J. Willis III

Gifts received on being chartered are recorded as follows:

-Secretary-Treasurers Record Book from:

Havelock-Cherry point – President Jim Biggerstaff

-Club Banner from:

Rotary Club of Jacksonville – President Bruce Briggs

-American Flag and Stand from:

Rotary Club of Kinston – President Bill Peddin

-Rotary Bell and Gavel from:

1981-82 District Governor Bill Pellon who presented the official Charter

-Rotary Name Badges and Membership Case from:

Rotary Club of Ayden – Jimmy Smith, Secretary

Rotary Club of Fayetteville – Kenneth Harris, Secretary

Rotary Club of Morehead City – Albert Gaskill, Treasurer

-Rotary Sash for lectern from:

Bob Howard District Governor from 1980-81

Additional Gifts received in the early years:

- Song books from 1985-86 President Newt Holloway
- President Elect Pin from 1981-82 President John T. Capps III

In the fall of 1983 the club nominated, the District Governor confirmed and the voting delegates at the Rotary International Convention in Kansas City, Ks. Elected John T. Capps III to serve at District 773 Governor during 1985-86. During that year Howard Laws served as District Secretary, George Walton as Treasurer and Dan Sotir as Chairman of the District Conference. Almost every member assisted and participated in the 1985-86 District Conference under the leadership of club President Newt Holloway.

Rotary International President 1986-87, M.. A. T. Caparas of Manila, Philippines appointed John as a member of the Rotary International Youth Activities Committee for 1989-6-89. RI President 1987-88 Chuck Keller appointed John as his personal representative to attend the Kiwanis Key club International Convention and in the spring of 1988 appointed Jane and John to be his personal representative to Rotary District 600 in Iowa.

In the fall of 1986, under the leadership of Ted Haigler, the cub nominated Tabbie Nance as a Rotary International Scholar of the Rotary International Foundation scholarship program, to Australia. Tabbie departed in the fall of 1987 for a one year educational and ambassadorial experience abroad. She returned home in the fall of 1988 and resumed her work at the Carteret County News-Times.

XXXX(Need more information from members)

The club's active and financial support of the Rotary Foundation through Paul Harris Fellows and Paul Harris Sustaining Members continues to bring knowledge of international understand closer to home by our involvement in the GSE program.

Participation in the GSE program continues to date and includes:

-In 1987, Mary and Dan Sotir were selected as the group leaders fo the GSE ,team to the Philippines where they spent 6 weeks. They accompanied four young professional ladies from the District. They spoke to many Rotary clubs and attended the Rotary

District Conference of District 387 where they were special guests. At this conference Mary Sotir was made a Paul Harris Fellow by her husband Dan. Bert Solis was the District Governor in Minidaoa.

XXX (additional fill from Lee Dixon and others)

The 1987-88 Rotary year was the start of the Polio Plus program of the Rotary Foundation under the leadership of Richard F. Gordon club chairman. At that time the club's and individual member commitment totaled \$15,000 over a three year period. Vision-Cable's corporate contribution of over \$2,500 was one of the first in the District under the leadership of Mike Williams. Over the years our total contribution to the rotary Foundation for the cause of polio has totaled over (get from Andy)

The club has supported the Rotary Youth Exchange program. In 1986-87 Isabelle Willemart from Belgium visited the Crystal Coast and studied at West Carteret High School. In 1987-88 we sponsored Frederique LeBerre from France to visit Carteret County and attend Carteret West High School and in 1988-89 we sponsored Albert Chua from Cotobato, Mindinao in the Philippines to spend one year at West Carteret.

XXXX Fill in needed from members) All expenses connected with these students stay with us is paid for by the Club. The student's housing is provided by member Rotarians by having the students as their guests in their homes during their stays. The sending club provides the transportation to and from the USA.

Club Presidents since Chartering on June 11, 1981:

1981-82 John T. Capps III	1992-93 Bill Walker Jr.	2003-04 Lee Dixon
1982-83 H. S. Gibbs, Jr.	1993-94 Paul Meyer	2004-05 Doug Wolfe
1983-84 Frank Cassiano	1994-95 Doug Goines	2005-06 Billy Parrott

1984-85 Cotty Thompson	1995-96 James C. Kraft	2006-07 Andy Chused
1985-86 Newt Holloway	1996-97 Marv Weisman	2007-08 Leisa Smith
1986-87 Ted Haigler III	1997-98 John Scibal	2008-09 Kynn Johnson
1987-88 Ray Ball	1998-99 Bruce Caldwell	2009-10 Bill Goodwin
1988-89 Fred O'Dell	1999-00 John M. Smith	2010-11 Roger Latham
1989-90 Dennis Marquardt	2000-01 Steve Smith	2011-12 Vernon Small
1990-91 George LaRoque	2001-02 Porter Wilson	

Rotarians of the Year:

1991-92 John T. Capps III	1999-00 Waylon Bissette	2007-08 Bill Condie
1992-93 Billy Scott	2000-01 Wayne Beasley	2007-08 Steve Hellersperk
1993-94 Smitty Kirkland	2001-02 Billy Parrott	2008-09 Barbara Johnson
1994-95 Doug Campen	2002-03 John Wittenstrom	2009-10 Rodger Baier
1995-96 Bob Lyerly	2003-04 Kynn Johnson	2010-11 John Scibal
1995-96 Waldo Gray	2004-05 Debbie Salter	
1996-97 Brian Bass	2005-06 Pam Hilbert	
1997-98 Clyde Lynn	2006-07 Paul Gillikin	