

The Story of Rotary

Being a brief history of ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL and the
ROTARY CLUB OF BARBERTON
at the end of the first year



U. L. LIGHT

FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE BARBERTON CLUB

*Rotary is a hopeful, trustful, joyful acceptance of
the Golden Rule as a practicable, workable course of
procedure for the attainment of success and happiness.*

May 1st, 1925

Charter Members

Name	Classification
A. J. Heiman	Musical Dealer
H. A. Rudd	Match Manufacturer
H. O. Wearstler	Dentist
Eldon Richberger	Retail Clothier
U. L. Light	Public Schools
A. O. Austin	Insulator Manufacturer
E. A. Jacobs	Life Insurance
P. L. Maloney	Real Estate
H. L. Smallman	Surgeon
E. F. Crites	Banking
M. S. Yoder	Perennial Gardens
W. A. Mills	Commercial Secretary
B. O. Etling	Wholesale Lumber
F. J. Dayton	Real Estate Loans
H. S. Gaugler	Wholesale Hardware
E. W. Edwards	Photographer
R. E. Wyre	Drugs
R. E. Haley	Tire Manufacturer
A. R. Henry	Ice Manufacturer
O. D. Everhard	Lawyer
J. R. Hope	Furniture
C. R. Sadler	Boiler Manufacturer
F. J. Weigand	Undertaker
E. S. Longenecker	Automobile Dealer

PAST PRESIDENTS OF BARBERTON ROTARY

1924	Uriah Light	1966	W. Leslie Parker
1925	Meno Yoder	1967	Jack Harig, Jr.
1926	Ellsworth Crites	1968	William Haury
1927	Oliver Everhard	1969	Fred Deuber
1928	Henry Young	1970	Earl Raymer
1929	Irv Traugott	1971	Don Sours
1930	Russ Wyre	1972	George Brown
1931	Ernie Heppert	1973	Marine Cornachione
1932	Pay Morton	1974	Melvin Ballinger
1933	Irv Benner	1975	James Drury
1934	Al Henry	1976	Carlos Elliott
1935	Virgil Walker	1977	Orville L. Reed, Jr.
1936	Frank Terpe	1978	Charles Manges
1937	Alpheus Crane	1979	Edward DeVane
1938	Curtis Diehl	1980	Ralph Young
1939	Floyd Withrow	1981	John May
1940	Harvey Finefrock	1982	Richard Brindley
1941	Arthur Austin	1983	Robert Critchfield
1942	Howard Wearstler	1984	Larry Taylor
1943	Joe Wadsworth	1985	Glenn Morgan
1944	Oliver Wolcott	1986	Michael Bernatovicz
1945	George Davis	1987	Ron Morris
1946	Joe Hope	1988	Carl Bako
1947	Harvey Gaugler	1989	Dick Cordill
1948	Evan Owen	1990	Vic Myers
1949	Eugene Chandler	1991	Gail Blunt
1950	William Bolton	1992	John Vargo, III
1951	Harold Yoder	1993	Jeff Houck
1952	Robert Airhart	1994	Virginia Lazar
1953	Charles Warner	1995	Bill Roderick
1954	Ralph LaPorte	1996	Pat Taylor
1955	David Hartman	1997	Brenda Ferrell
1956	William Corson	1998	Rick Fisher
1957	E.W. Edwards	1999	Karen Burnette
1958	Royal Wood	2000	Bruce May
1959	William Marr	2001	Don Stryffeller
1960	Otto Moyer	2002	Francis Rice
1961	Grant Schlup	2003	Tim Brenner
1962	Irving "Babe" Bennett	2004	Tom DeBord
1963	Harold Stuteville	2005	Fred Fries
1964	John Taylor	2006	Richard Morris
1965	Tony Borowski		

The Story of Rotary

Rotary was founded in Chicago February 23rd, 1905, by Paul P. Harris, an attorney of that city.

Harris had traveled about the world, making the acquaintance of many people and many lands. Returning to Chicago after one of his many trips he decided to practice his profession in that city. Here he met with the same fate that awaits many who come as strangers to a city, for solitude is the average intellectual man's lot who finds himself a stranger in a large city, where the chief stimulus to thought in the ordinary mind is money, the getting and the spending thereof, without regard for one's fellowmen.

Discovering that he was not alone in his plight he conceived the idea of forming a club wherein the members might not only become acquainted with one another, but also devise means of proving useful to the community. He explained his idea to a small group of friends, resulting in a meeting being held in the office of one of these founders. From this time forth the meetings took place regularly, each member acting the part of host in his office in turn. The club grew so rapidly however, that it was soon necessary to hold the meetings in hotels and restaurants.

Several names were suggested for the new club. One of them was "Rotary", because of the original practice of rotating their meetings in the places of business of the members. Thus was established a custom which has resolved itself into one of the present-day features of Rotary Clubs—"the business of service talks" by different members.

Others Organized

A little more than three years after the organization of the first Rotary Club in Chicago, the second club came into existence. At that time Manuel Munoz, an American citizen of Spanish ancestry, member of the Rotary Club of Chicago, at the suggestion of Paul Harris, carried the "Rotary Idea" across the American continent to San Francisco, where in November, 1908, the Rotary Club of San Francisco was organized. The idea soon spread across the bay to Oakland and then up the coast to Seattle. The fifth Rotary Club was organized in Los Angeles in June, 1909, and the sixth in New York city in August of the same year. Then New

England caught the inspiration and in December, 1909, a club was organized in Boston.

In August, 1910, the first National meeting was held in Chicago. Sixteen clubs sent representatives to this meeting, where the National Association of Rotary Clubs was organized. Paul P. Harris was elected its first President and Chesley R. Perry was elected Secretary-General, which office he has since continued to hold by unanimous vote.

By 1913 the "Rotary idea" having spread to Canada and Great Britain, the National Association passed out of existence, making way for Rotary International. Under this leadership Rotary has spread rapidly in the United States and Canada and is now making great strides in every section of the globe. At the time of the last report there were 1529 clubs, with an approximate membership of 96,800 Rotarians in 26 countries.

Rotary in Barberton

For several years a number of Barberton's leading business and professional men had been watching with interest the results of Rotary in Akron. They had seen some of Akron's selfish, hardboiled, picayunish, penny-pinching, narrow-gauged human workers lifted up and made to see further than their home, their business, and their personal interests, and set them rooting for the community. They had looked with envy—these men who had the progress of Barberton at heart—and thru Rotary they saw an opportunity for developing the necessary leadership that would bring about a new era in Barberton. So when, thru "Ed" Tibbitts, President of the Akron Rotary Club, an opportunity came to form an organization in Barberton, the men were quick to grasp the opportunity.

Two men—M. S. Yoder, then President of the Chamber of Commerce, and U. L. Light, Superintendent of Schools—felt much of the preliminary work. These men, working with the organization committee, interviewed the men selected for charter membership. A group was invited to Akron early in February, 1924, and were addressed by the then District Governor, Sam Siddall of Warren. Having learned something of the ideals and purposes of Rotary they decided to attempt organization in Barberton.

The first formal meeting of the group was held in the Peoples Bank Club rooms on Wednesday, February 13th, 1924. U. L. Light, who had been designated as chairman

of the organization committee by the Akron Club, presided at the meeting. He outlined the purpose of the meeting and at the conclusion of his talk a formal resolution to apply for charter in Rotary International was adopted. A nominating committee was appointed resulting in the nomination and election of the following:

President: U. L. Light.

Vice-President: H. A. Rudd.

Sergeant-at-Arms: E. S. Longenecker.

Secretary-Treasurer: W. A. Mills.

Directors-at-large: R. E. Haley, A. O. Austin, H. L. Smallman.

The club accepted the standard By-laws and Constitution of Rotary International, choosing the "Democratic" method of election. At this first meeting it was decided to hold weekly meetings—Thursday at 11:45.

Subsequently the President announced the first committee appointments:

Rotary Education: O. D. Everhard, H. L. Smallman, E. W. Edwards

Fellowship: E. A. Jacobs, F. J. Dayton, B. O. Etling

Public Affairs: A. O. Austin, H. O. Wearstler, J. R. Hope

Publicity: Wm. A. Mills, R. E. Haley, E. H. Richberger

Business Methods: Eldon Richberger, M. S. Yoder, J. F. Harper

Rotarian Correspondent: William A. Mills

Crippled Children: P. L. Maloney, H. L. Smallman, R. E. Wyre,
E. S. Longenecker

These committees were enlarged later in the year.

Akron Assists

The local club continued under the wing of the Akron Club for many weeks following the organization meeting. That club was liberal with its assistance and advice. The Barberton Club depended upon Akron almost entirely for speakers during the first few weeks.

Early in March the club was notified of its election by Rotary International and plans were started at once for the acceptance of the Charter. In this work the advice of the Akron club was timely and helpful.

Charter Night

With Rotarians present from nearly every city in Northeastern Ohio, the Charter Night of the Barberton Rotary Club was easily the outstanding Rotary event of the 21st district during the administration of Sam Siddall, excepting

of course the annual conference at Lima. The meeting was called to order by Uriah, who briefly welcomed the visiting Rotarians and thanked the Akron club for organizing and sponsoring the organization. He then turned the gavel over to Special Representative "Ed" Tibbitts of Akron, who responded to the welcome and introduced District Governor Siddall, who acted as Master of Ceremonies.

The District Governor called upon six Akron Rotarians who spoke on the six items in the Objects of Rotary as follows:

"The Ideal of Service as the Basis of All Worthy Enterprise"—Fred Ayers.

"The Ideal of Service in Business"—J. Ed. Good.

"The Acceptance of the Ideal of Service in the Development of Ethical Business and Professional Standards"—Frank Burch.

"The Ideal of Service in Social Contact"—Albert Spanton.

"The Ideal of Service in Civic Life"—David Alexander.

"The Ideal of Service as applied to World-wide Fellowship"—Charlie Seiberling.

Under the leadership of Lynn B. Danna of Warren there was a session of song and fun, following which Governor Sam delivered his address on the Rotary Platform.

The formal presentation of the Charter was made by Judge Killits of Toledo, in a charming address on the responsibility and opportunity of Rotary. Each member of the new club was presented with a copy of the Code of Ethics and a booklet "A Talking Knowledge of Rotary". On behalf of the Barberton Club Uriah accepted the charter and introduced representatives from the visiting clubs who brought greetings to the new "Rotary Baby".

The meeting was one of fun, education and inspiration, and was brought to a close by all standing and singing the "Star Spangled Banner", followed by a salute to the Flag.

Take Up Crippled Children Work

Early in the existence of the club it became apparent the major program of the club would be work among the crippled children. Under the leadership of Paul Maloney considerable progress has been made along this line. Contact with the crippled children of the city was made thru

the medium of the Sunshine School, and thru this group of "Kiddies" much of the work has been done.

A survey made by the committee disclosed the fact that there were some instances of undernourishment among the crippled group and in order to meet the situation the committee on behalf of the club has furnished milk every day to the members of this class. Where needed new shoes have been furnished and the general welfare of the children has been considered.

At Christmas time the Crippled Children's Committee in co-operation with the December Entertainment Committee staged a Christmas party for the members of the Club and the crippled children. Santa Claus visited the party and presented each boy and girl with valuable presents. He did not forget the big brothers of the crippled children, for every Rotarian also received a gift. Under the leadership of Mrs. Simons the youngsters presented an entertainment that would have been a credit to children without physical handicap.

At this time the committee's attention was drawn to the need of wheel chairs, and three chairs were provided by funds furnished by the organization.

Nearly every week one of the members of the committee visits the Sunshine School in order to keep in touch with the needs. Holidays the youngsters are not forgotten and in addition the children are recipients of many courtesies from individual members of the club.

Boys' Work

While there has been no definite program of boys' work the club has had several speakers on this subject and individual Rotarians have been active in the work of the Y. M. C. A. and in the Boy Scout work. The address of Ed. Kelsey of Toledo late in April was full of inspiration, and as the result of the suggestions made during the course of his remarks it is likely that a new impetus will be given this important work.

Social

The club has grown so rapidly during its first year that most of the social energy of the members has been spent in becoming better acquainted with his fellow club members. Three outstanding events of the club year have been the ladies' party at Chippewa Lake last summer, the banquet

and dance at the K. of C. hall in January and the inter-club party at the home of F. A. Seiberling, when he entertained members of the Barberton and Akron clubs at his home.

A Constructive Force

Rotary is no longer an experiment in Barberton. The club has grown from the original twenty-three charter members to its present membership of sixty during a short period of fourteen months. The membership would have been much larger but for the restrictions placed upon the club by Rotary International, limiting the club to three new members a month. Recognizing the wisdom of this policy of slow growth the Board of Directors has kept well within the limit set by International.

Every man invited into Rotary is invited because the club believes him to be a leader in his special line of activity, and because he manifests those qualities of head and heart which fit him to interpret and impart the message of Rotary to others in his craft. There being only one representative of each vocation in Rotary, every Rotarian becomes the ambassador from the club to his classification or craft, and it becomes his duty to carry the ideals and principles of service which the club inspires to those not affiliated.

Membership in Rotary is an honor and a privilege. Like every other honorable privilege, it involves corresponding duties and obligations. The price of efficient membership is regularity in attendance at the weekly functions. One of the great privileges of Rotary is fellowship, and the mutual confidence which it inspires. It is therefore expected that each Rotarian will bear his full share of responsibility for the development of those closer personal relationships, which will enable us to derive and impart the maximum of assistance and inspiration.

Rotary thru its philosophy of "Service" has taught a greater community responsibility. The first demonstration of the effectiveness of this new interpretation of "Service" was shown during the Community Fund campaign, when thru the efforts of the Rotarians and their co-workers, the Kiwanians, 40,000 dollars was raised for the social and welfare agencies of the city. The campaign was a success because of the workers. The workers were the men who had learned that "He Profits Most Who Serves Best—Service Above Self".