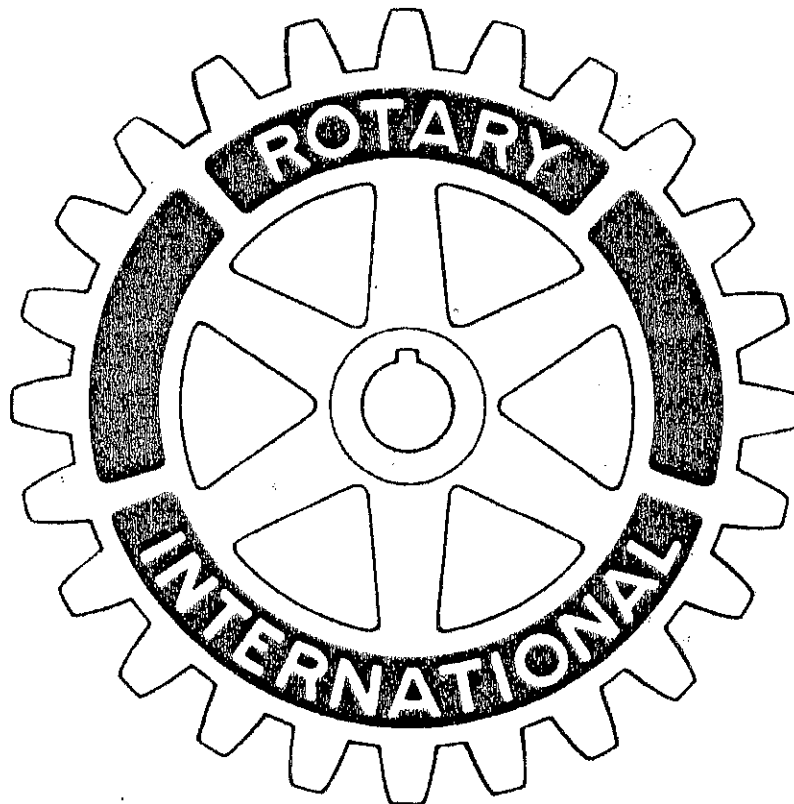


THE
ROTARY CLUB
OF
GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN



Seventy years of service
1937-2007

THE OBJECT OF ROTARY

To encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

First. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

Second. High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

Third. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

Fourth. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

**GROSSE POINTE ROTARY CLUB
2006-2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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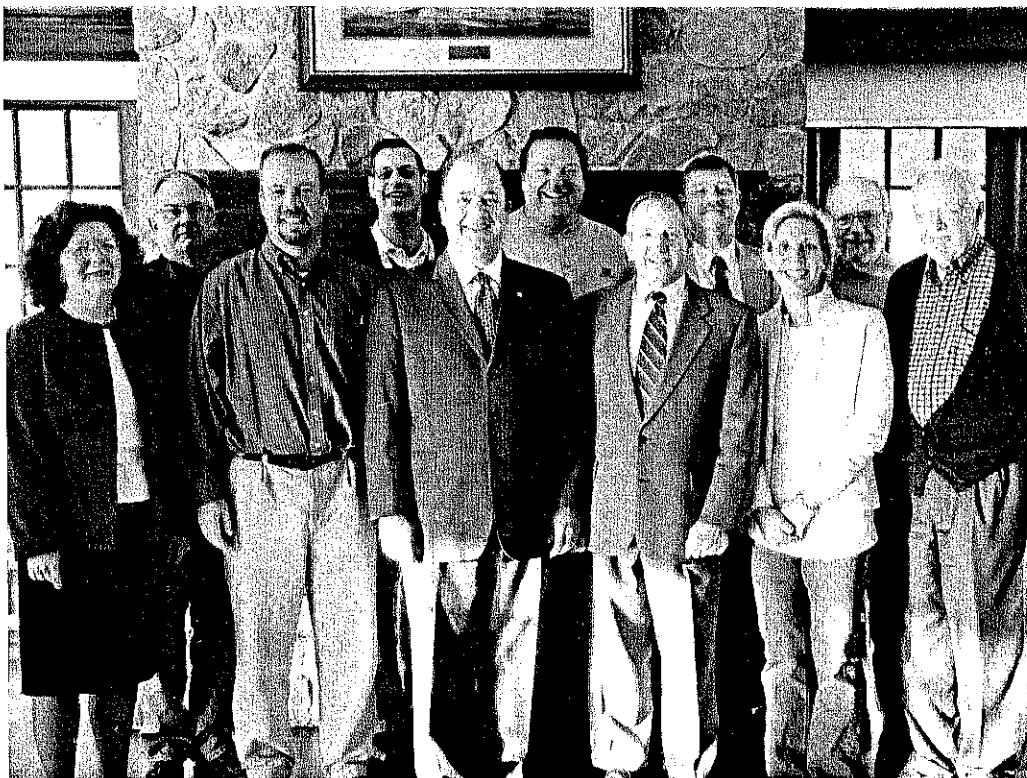
This booklet commemorates the Seventieth Anniversary of the Rotary Club of Grosse Pointe. It is intended to increase the pride of all members, old and new, in our Club and its heritage. Much of the story of our own Club is a revision of the Grosse Pointe Rotary history originally prepared by Robert K. O'Neil in 1955 and updated in 1987 for the Club's 50th anniversary.

This booklet was assembled by the the Club's Historian Committee, Co-Chaired by Bruce Bockstanz, Jack Cobau and Peter Higbie

**GROSSE POINTE ROTARY CLUB
MEMBERSHIP ROSTER
May 1, 2007**

ALLISON, Richard	GELTZ, Lincoln	MOZENA, John C.
ASMUS, Marvin	GENNARO, Amy	MOZENA, John F.
BASHARA, Robert	GLENDENING, Vernon	OLLISON, Frederick
BASILE, Mark	GLENDENING, Doug	PYTELL, Robert
BLAIN, Don	GOSS, James	REESIDE, Shane
BLOOMFIELD, Dawn	GROBBEL, Marita	REITZLOFF, Kevin
BOCKSTANZ, Bruce	GUEVARA, Walter	RENTENBACH, Paul
BONASSO, Vincent	HACKATHORN, Robert	RICE, William
BRINKER, Patricia	HADGIS, Theodore	ROBINSON, F. James
BROOKS, Mark	HENDERSON, William	RUSSELL, Richard
BURNS, Benjamin	HIGBIE, Peter	SANDIFER, Richard
BURY, Robert	HOUSEY, Glenn	SCHALK, Keith
CARLSON, Cynthia	HOWELL, David	SCHMIDT, Kim
CARROLL, Teri	HUEBNER, Mary	SCOTT, William
CERAVOLO, Albert	HUGHES, Susan	SELTZER, Florence
CHAMPION, Cathy	HULL, Barry	SHAMMAS, George
CHARVAT, David	HULL, Roger	SHEORIS, John
COBAU, John R.	HUNTINGTON, William	SMITH, Jeffrey
CONWAY, John	JASKOLSKI, Jeffrey	SMITH, Myrna
COTE, Charles	JENSEN, Daniel	SOLAK, Richard
CREEDON, Gaylord	KINHAL, Vithal	STEFEEK, Lori
DAME, Peter	KLEIN, Suzanne	STRICKLER, Diane
DAVIS, Terry	KOSINSKI, Mike	THOMPSON, Minert
DEWALD, John	KOUEITER, George	TOLARI, Joseph
DeYOUNG, Michelle	KRONNER, John	TOWAR-COLTON, Kimbriel
DiVIRGIL, Theresa	LAENEN, Remie	TOWAR-KEATING, Branci
EVERETT, James	LARABELL, Christopher	TREDER-LANG, Mary
EVERETT, Robert	MACKOOL, Linda	VALENTE, Dean P.
EVERINGHAM, J. Theodore	MacMILLAN, Elizabeth	VALENTE, Mark
FERRARA, Richard	MAIER, Sharon	VANDEVEEGAETE, Scott
FERRARA, Richard, Jr.	MALISZEWSKI, John	VITALE, Ronald
FIKANY, James, Jr.	MAROWSKIE, Gary	WEBER, Mark
FIKANY, Joseph	McCOURT, William	WILSON, Mark
GABEL, Charles	McMILLAN, Steven	WOOD, Douglas
GANDELOT, Jon	McNEILL, Roger	YOUNGBLOOD, Kimberly
GANDELOT, Lisa	McSKIMMING, Drew	YOUNGBLOOD, Thomas
GAWEL, Susan	MEYERING, Carl	ZMYSLOWSKI, Mark
		ZOIA, Anthony

Honorary Member
COLTON, Dave



2006-2007 Board of Directors and Officers

From left to right are:

Suzanne Klein, Kevin Reitzloff, Mark Brooks Tony Zoia,
Roger Hull, Bob Bashara, Bill Scott, Mark Wilson,
Linda Mackool, Gaylord Creedon, Marv Asmus

Not pictured: John Maliszewski

ROTARY CLUB OF GROSSE POINTE THE FIRST SEVENTY YEARS

Organization. Grosse Pointe Rotary was chartered on June 17, 1937, as Club No. 4317. Len Johnson, Bill Moir, Fin Henk and Rex Cranson were the local men who helped the Hamtramck Rotary Club to organize the Grosse Pointe Club. Twenty-seven members were signed as Charter Members of the Club; they are listed separately on pages 16 – 18.

The organizational meeting was held on June 3, and the Charter from Rotary International was formally presented at a banquet held in the auditorium of the Neighborhood Club on July 28. At the banquet short messages of encouragement were given by the following men: Dick Harfst (Past President, Detroit), Ward Macauley (Detroit), Frank Justeson (Past President, Detroit), Paul King (Past District Governor, Detroit), Harry Robins (Governor's Aide), Arthur Fitzgerald (Past District Governor, Windsor), and Roy Shaw (District Governor, Detroit). Gifts were presented from the following Clubs:

Ann Arbor – Rotary Plaque
Chatham – Canadian Flag
Detroit – Rotary Lapel Buttons
Hamtramck – Rotary Bell and Gavel
Highland Park – Silk American Flag
Mount Clemens – Button Case and Large Buttons
Plymouth – Flag Standard
Royal Oak – Record Book
Trenton – Nursing Bottle

Members are expected never to shirk an assignment, and to be willing to serve the community. One of the first acts of community service, which received no publicity at the time, occurred at the Charter Banquet when a visiting Rotarian had a flat tire in the parking lot. Butch Harshman, who held the Club's Garage classification, went to his service station and changed the tire without the visitor ever knowing about it.

Early Years. The Club first met at the Neighborhood Club on Thursdays, but in September of the first year the day was changed to Monday, which it has remained to this day. The change was made to accommodate George Deets, who held the Fish-Retailing classification and was unable to escape the aroma of his business, even after going home for a bath before the meetings. After three years of meetings at the Neighborhood Club, the Club was forced to find another meeting place, due to catering difficulties. A few meetings were held at Pete Moore's Restaurant, then the Club moved to Al Green's Restaurant. This wasn't satisfactory, so meetings were moved to the Whittier Hotel in Detroit, where the Club stayed for ten years. In the years following World War II several members worked actively to help form the Grosse Pointe War Memorial, and on February 13, 1950 the Club met for the first time in the War Memorial Center. Our 70th

February 13, 1950 the Club met for the first time in the War Memorial Center. Our 70th anniversary year also marks the 57th year of our meetings in that location, the beauty of which has been a source of pride to all our members.

Our Members in World War II. During the years of World War II the Club maintained contact through correspondence with its members who served in the armed forces: Matt Houghton in the Army, Gus Miehm in the Navy, and Fran Lemmer in the Coast Guard.

Women in our Club. For many years the members of our Club were exclusively men. With the increasing participation of women in business and professions, many Rotarians came to feel that we should welcome them into Rotary. This was part of a broader acceptance of women in social and business groups, and was encouraged by a case decided by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1987 which ruled that an organization similar to Rotary could not exclude members solely on the basis of gender. Shortly after that, on January 30, 1989, our Club inducted its first woman member, Rena DeRidder, principal of Ferry Elementary School in Grosse Pointe Woods. While she did not remain a member for a long period, she was soon succeeded by several other women. Theresa DiVirgil, inducted in 1991, has been a very active member, and served as our first female President in 1999-2000. Two other women have served as President, Kim Youngblood and Kim Towar-Colton, and women have been active in many key areas, including Youth Exchange, Group Study Exchange, Fellowship and World Community Service. Of the current membership of 112 (as of May 1, 2007), 26 are women.

The Flower Raffle. Shortly after the Club was chartered, its Flower Fund was established. As in many smaller Clubs, members were fined for various infractions or acts not in accordance with the rules, such as coming late to meetings or leaving early or not making up (at other Rotary clubs) missed meetings or failing to wear the Rotary pin. Although this was a common practice in Rotary Clubs, all members did not take kindly to it, and it was agreed (as an alternative) that each member would be assessed ten cents each week for a chance on the flower raffle. After Vince DePetrus became a member, he donated each week a floral arrangement which was raffled off at the meetings; for the past several years the flowers have been contributed by Dave Charvat. For many years the winner also received the entire "pot," but for the past several years he or she has received only one-half of the funds paid into the raffle, and the rest goes for Club activities.

Our Oil Can. The oil can presentation at our meetings is a direct result of abolition of the fines. The Club needed a reminder for those members whose performance didn't measure up to Club standards, so the presentation of the oil can was devised. Our oil can has traveled halfway around the world and returned (as may be noted from the inscription on it) by the President of an Australian Club. The reasons for giving the oil can have greatly broadened, and it is frequently given for meritorious service to the Club or Community.

on pages 21-23. When Ed resigned from the Club in November of 1938, Dick Maxon became the editor and carried on until 1957. From 1958 until 1973, Bob Orr was the editor. He was succeeded by Bill Peters, who served until 1981. It is presently edited by members of a committee on a rotating basis, and bound copies are kept in the Club archives at the Grosse Pointe Historical Society.

The Blue Book. The first Roster of the Club was a mimeographed copy which was published as the Rotarpointe for August 1, 1938, listing 34 members. The first pocket edition was printed in 1941, with a plain paper cover. On the fifth anniversary of the Club, the Roster was printed in a larger size with a brief history of the Club. The next few editions were with a stapled cardboard cover. On our tenth anniversary, a car was raffled to obtain funds for a Roster with a picture of each member, and this has been the pattern of the Club Rosters each year since.

The Rotary Spirit. Consistent with the high ideals of Rotary International, the general welfare of the Community is our members' first concern. The Club will not endorse or recommend any candidate for public office, but it is the duty of each Rotarian to participate in public affairs and to accept public office. Since the organization of Grosse Pointe Rotary, many members have served the community as public officials, including city councilmen and managers and public safety officials. The public and private schools of Grosse Pointe have also benefited from the work of our members, among whom have been school superintendents, principals and teachers. These members are busy men and women, but still find time to donate their services to their community. So it is with many other Rotarians who are active in civic and community groups. It is the spirit of Rotary which instills the ideal of Service in their actions. It is the spirit of Rotary which binds us together in community service activities, both in the Club and in outside activities.

In Service to the Community. The first community service project of the Club occurred when the Club was only two months old. One of the charter members had died, leaving a family of several children. The Club had no money for charitable projects, and practically no money in the Treasury, but Fintan Henk, our first President, took it upon himself to outfit and clothe this family. This act depleted our funds, but made every member feel that he had been of service. This project also stimulated the members to find some means of raising money for community service activities. The Club gives priority to projects involving underprivileged, crippled or ill persons, and the youth of the community. One of our first major projects was to donate to Bon Secours and Cottage Hospitals modern oxygen tents for community use. A room was also donated to each hospital, plus a large donation for the outpatient clinic of Bon Secours. Underprivileged children have been recipients of Rotary aid in the form of television sets for bedridden boys, orthodontic work for a high school boy and girl, special tutoring for a blind-crippled girl, summer camp for handicapped and delinquent children, tuition and board at Wayne State University for a crippled student, monthly movies for the patients at Marine Hospital, and a special radio set for a Grosse Pointe boy at Marine Hospital. A welfare fund was established for needy students at Pierce Junior High School; Christmas gifts were provided for wounded servicemen; a surgical appliance was provided for a needy

boy; crippled children were provided with two weeks at a summer camp; a garage and tool house was built at the crippled children's camp; and emergency hospital care was provided for a needy family. Other medical-health related programs were a project (Vial of Life) designed to provide health professionals with medication information in emergency situations, the purchase of equipment to help remove persons from wrecked vehicles (Jaws-of-Life), and providing local public safety departments with thermal imaging cameras.

Fund Raising Activities. The Club's first fund-raising project was a Country Fair held at the Neighborhood Club; the proceeds were used to purchase tickets to a preview of Colleen Moore's Doll House, for the benefit of crippled children. On November 21, 1938 the Club held its first annual Feather Party, under the chairmanship of Al Herrmann, and the Club netted the sum of \$355.85 for community service activities. Ed Pongracz was active for many years in the organization and promotion of this event. They were continued each year until 1951, when local authorities advised the Club that they might be illegal in Michigan as a form of gambling. The last Feather Party netted the Club \$8,100. A full-blown musical comedy show, "You Can't Beat Fun," was produced at Parcels School in 1954, but only \$1,000 was raised. For the 21 years from 1955 until 1976 the Club relied chiefly upon its sponsorship of an Antiques Show to obtain funds for service purposes; the last such show was held in March of 1976. In addition, from 1965 on there was also a small members-only party held just prior to the opening of the Antiques Show, and funds to supplement Show revenues were raised at this event by auctioning off items contributed by members. Proceeds from this source gradually became more significant, and in 1975-1976 the Board under President Pete Higbie decided, after all members were consulted, to discontinue the Antiques Show and put our efforts into an expanded Auction at which all friends of Rotary would be invited to participate. This expanded Auction was held each year, usually in February, up to and including 1984, in which year a new pattern developed: the Auction is now held as a major event once every two years. In its most recent year, 2006, the Auction realized a profit of about \$80,000. Revenues formerly realized from the Auction as an annual event have been replaced by profits from a 50/50 Raffle held each Fall. Since 1984- its first year - between \$10,000 and \$15,000 has been realized from this Raffle each year. Since 1994 the Club has also sponsored an annual golf outing, usually held in September at the Lochmoor Club. In 2006 the event, now known (after a deceased member) as the James R. Fikany Golf Outing, raised \$14,800 for local charities in 2006. In recent years it has been primarily organized and promoted by Jim Fikany, Jr. and Joe Fikany.

Our Foundation. In the Club's early years, as funds raised from the Feather Parties increased, more and more community service activities were developed, and many of the projects continued for a number of years. During World War II, the nature of the projects changed, so that recipients of Rotary Club aid were mostly servicemen and projects devoted to their comfort. The Grosse Pointe Rotary Foundation was formed in 1956/1957 as a conduit for the Club's fund raising and charitable activities; it has a separate Board of Trustees. In its fiscal year ended June 30, 2006 it disbursed \$66,100 of which \$48,500 went to support civic and community organizations, \$13,650 was spent on education programs, and \$3,750 was spent for awards and gifts.

Grosse Pointe War Memorial. The first Grosse Pointe War Memorial Committee was organized by the Rotary Club. A large contribution was made to get this project started, and the Club has assisted the War Memorial financially at various other times.

Tool Library. Another first by the Rotary Club was the formation in 1943 of the "Tool Library" in the Grosse Pointe Public Library. This was a proposal of the Boys' Work Committee under Paul Essert, and received national recognition among Librarians. The Grosse Pointe Central Library was also given the furnishings and motion picture projector and screen for its Meeting Room.

Family Life Education Council. In the late 1960s the Club played a prominent role in helping organize the Grosse Pointe Family Life Education Council ("FLEC") and in promoting its continuing work against substance abuse and related problems which affect principally the young people of our area. FLEC was started in 1966 by concerned citizens, was approved as part of the Grosse Pointe Board of Education in August, 1967, and became an independent nonprofit agency in April 1969. This last step was made possible by a grant from our Grosse Pointe Rotary Foundation in the amount of \$10,000. Another grant of the same amount was given in a subsequent year. The talents and expertise of Grosse Pointe Rotarians have been generously provided by a number of our members. Max Gardner, William Peters, Robert Pytell, Fred Sibley, Frank Sladen, Jr., Joe Spagnoli, and Clarence Washer were all actively involved through the years and many other Rotarians have given financial support on a regular basis. FLEC is dedicated to enhancing the quality of community and family life, and from its beginning has concentrated on young people and their concerns. The problems it deals with are great and the needs for service were and are readily visible; it was one of the first community organizations to establish a methadone withdrawal clinic where adolescent heroin addicts could receive intensive group therapy by professionals and where their parents could receive guidance and counseling. Rotarian Clare Wascher took an impressive step to demonstrate service to the community in 1971 by making a vacant building in the Village available to FLEC to establish a drop-in center for the youth of the community; this proved to be an important factor in demonstrating the needs that existed. FLEC remains a program of importance to the Grosse Pointe community and one that Grosse Pointe Rotary is proud to have supported and fostered from its infancy; this program has been administered in recent years as a part of the Children's Home of Detroit.

Neighborhood Club and Tot Lot. The Neighborhood Club of Grosse Pointe has been another prime beneficiary of the Foundation: for construction of its building on Waterloo, it received \$25,000 from our Club in 1978-80. In 1997-98 our Club, working with the Neighborhood Club, the City of Grosse Pointe, and the Grosse Pointe Board of Education, developed a site plan to renovate the Tot Lot opposite the Neighborhood Club's building. Our Club, through its members and friends and Foundation, raised the major part of the cost of the project, about \$70,000. Dino Valente was primarily in charge, and was instrumental in selecting the playground equipment; the lot was re-dedicated as the Rotary Tot Lot in the summer of 1998.

Happy Smiles. One outstanding activity of our Foundation at the international level was participation in the “Happy Smiles” program under which a team of physicians from this country traveled to the mountains of Mexico to perform reconstructive surgery on children, with cleft lips and palates. Jose Borrego, with a complement of anesthetists from Bon Secours Hospital, traveled with the group in the Spring of 1982, and our Club gave financial support for transportation expenses. Steve Tsangalias and David Benfer were also active in promoting the venture and providing necessary materials and equipment.

International Service. The Club is especially proud of its participation in two International Service projects. **Water Purification.** Ralph Basile, who had a second home in the Dominican Republic, suggested that we could improve the health of some children in that country by using solar heat to purify water; our Club paid the cost of the necessary equipment, and the local Rotary Club arranged for its installation. In March of 2000 Club President Theresa DiVirgil flew to that country, where she met with Ralph, his wife Suzanne, and members of the local Rotary Club and their incoming District Governor; she received thanks for the new purification system. **Children of the Dumps.** In 2003 the Club became aware of a problem in Nicaragua, where families, and often children without families, lived in huge garbage/trash dumps and survived by scavenging food and materials discarded by others. We responded to this on a club level by supporting a micro-farm project and a community center at one such dump, and our District 6400 promoted contributions and similar projects by other clubs and by individual Rotarians. Rotarians Kim Towar, Brandi Keating, Walter Guevara and Walter’s wife Rosa were active in this project for our Club.

Habitat for Humanity, Services for Older Citizens. In recent years the Club, under the leadership of Myrna Smith, has supported the local chapter of Habitat for Humanity as it works to build homes for the disadvantaged in Wayne County, both by a donation of \$15,000 in 2004 and by encouraging our members to participate individually in constructing the new homes. It has also supported Services for Older Citizens (S.O.C.), which provides a wide variety of services for the Grosse Pointe community’s growing population of senior citizens; when S.O.C. moved into a part of the Neighborhood Club’s building in 2001, the Club provided \$40,000 for modular offices and later contributed \$12,000 for leasehold improvement to the building.

Social Activities. While the emphasis in Rotary will always be on service, the friendships which it fosters remain a strength of the Club and a pleasure to its members. Some of the Club’s social events have become traditional: the President’s Ball has been held each year since 1957, the Progressive Dinner has been a highlight of the Club’s activities for many years, and each December one festive meeting during the holiday season includes members’ spouses and features choral music from one of the local high schools.

International Youth Exchange. Grosse Pointe Rotary has a long history of involvement with foreign exchange students on the high school level. In the late 1950s we brought the first AFS (American Field Service) student to Grosse Pointe. In the mid-

1970s we began to participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Each year we have received, and have sent abroad, one or two students. During the 2006-2007 year, our visiting student was Kachole Siddhant ("Sid") from Aurangabad, India. Visiting students are encouraged to attend our weekly meetings, and our members have had much pleasure from speaking with them and hearing of their home countries and their impressions of our community and country. They also participate in the Interact Club and the Foreign Exchange Club at South High School, and attend several District-wide activities at which they meet and work with exchange students sponsored by other District clubs. Each Spring our students and these other District 6400 exchange students attend our District Conference; there they present a program, each carrying the flag of his or her native land, which is always a highlight of the conference. It demonstrates that all children – regardless of national origin – have the same hopes and dreams for themselves and their families. In recent years much of the credit for our Club's program belongs to Cindy Carlson and Kim Youngblood.

Interact Club. This is a Rotary-affiliated group of high school students who meet regularly to plan and implement programs to benefit the community. An Interact Club was active – with sponsorship from our Club – at North High School for many years under the guidance of our member Paul Pierron, a business education teacher. When he was no longer available in the 1980s, the Club was not able to continue. In 1998 our Club, under the leadership of John Conway and Bob Bashara, was instrumental in organizing an Interact Club at South High School. Interact has been very active in community service projects across metro Detroit. Its projects have included Habitat for Humanity, Gleaners Community Food Bank, tutoring inner city children, and working with Services for Older Citizens. The Club conducts a car wash to raise funds which are donated to local causes such as the Children's Institute, national efforts such as Hurricane Katrina relief, and international projects such as Heifer International. Several members of Interact have received college scholarship assistance from our Club. Its members and faculty advisors, currently Mary Collins, have been frequent guests at our meetings. The Club has a membership of 35 to 40 students in the 2006-2007 school year. In recent years Diane Strickler has been our liaison person with the Club.

District Activities. Grosse Pointe Rotary is one of 51 clubs in Rotary International District 6400, and has long taken an active role in District activities. Six Grosse Pointe Rotarians have served with distinction as District Governor: Clifford W. Ashton in 1963-1964, Frank J. Sladen, Jr. in 1979-1980, Max L. Gardner in 1986-1987, Bob Harrison in 1992-1993, Mark Zmyslowski in 1996-1997 and John Brooks in 2000-2002. (John Brooks served a second year as District Governor when the District Governor Nominee was unable to serve as such in 2001-2002.) Many Grosse Pointe Rotarians have helped plan and manage District 6400 Conferences, held annually each Spring: among them were Bob Harrison, John Brooks, Cindy Carlson, Kim Towar, Brandi Keating, Steve McMillan and Bob Bashara. Our members have also played a prominent role in District Assemblies, where training is offered to new officers of District clubs; Steve McMillan of our Club was in charge of this training from 2001 to 2004. The Club has evaluated and sponsored several outbound Rotary Scholars, and has welcomed many inbound Scholars as speakers and as guests in members' homes while they studied

in the Detroit metropolitan area. It has been similarly involved with the Rotary International Group Study Exchange ("GSE") program, under which teams of young business and professional people – with a Rotarian as leader – are exchanged between Rotary districts of different countries to provide in- depth studies of the businesses and institutions of each other's land: Grosse Pointe Rotarians have helped select GSE teams from our District for visits to Japan, Finland, Australia, India, Austria, Brazil, Columbia, the Philippines, Belgium, South Africa, Taiwan, Chile, Russia, Germany, Greece and New Zealand, and Club members have also served as hosts to GSE team members when they come to our area. Several of our members have had leadership roles in GSE at the District level: Tommy Thompson and Jack Cobau have been District Chairmen; Al Ceravolo, Ron Vitale and Kim Youngblood have worked with the District Committee for many years. Cindy Carlson has been Chairperson for the District Youth Exchange program; Kim Towar has been publisher of the District Digest newsletter since 2003 and also served as Membership Development Chairperson.

Sponsorship of Grosse Pointe Sunrise Rotary. Patterns of employment changed over the years, and Rotary clubs with morning meetings became more prominent. Several of our members felt that a second club in the Grosse Pointes would attract active members who could not attend luncheon meetings. The matter was discussed at length in Club meetings and received strong support from Frank Sladen and Max Gardner, both Past District Governors. Finally the Club under President Ron Vitale decided to sponsor a new Rotary Club which would meet in the morning. An informational meeting was held on January 23, 1991 with several prospective members at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, and Grosse Pointe Rotary Sunrise was formally chartered by Rotary International on August 15, 1991. Active in forming the new club were Mark Zymslowski (Chairman of our Club's Extension Committee), Frank Sladen and Max Gardner. Sunrise Rotary meets on Tuesday mornings at 7:00 a.m. at the Grosse Pointe Yacht Club, and currently has about 30 members.

Our Web Site. Our Club maintains a web site containing useful information about Rotary District 2400 and Rotary International. It is easily accessed by entering: www.grossepointerotary.org.

Our Executive Secretaries. No story of our Club would be complete without reference to the services of our Executive Secretaries, who have kept our records and handled much of the day-to-day work of the Club. Bob O'Neil served until 1967, and was instrumental in developing our Club into a strong organization. Fred Seltzer gave excellent and dedicated service at this post from 1976 until his untimely death in 2000, and Bill Scott has capably performed those duties since 2003.

FRANK J. SLADEN, JR. AND ROTARY

A special tribute to Frank Sladen. Although many others have contributed to the growth and accomplishments of our Club, those who worked with Frank would agree that for many years he was the heart and soul of Grosse Pointe Rotary. He was active on many Committees until the time of his death in 2005, and his wisdom and dedication are greatly missed.

Frank became a Rotarian in 1966 and for several years played a prominent role in Rotary organization, at the local, district and international levels. He served as Secretary of this Club in 1969-1970, and as President in 1972-1973. He was then headmaster of Liggett School, which was in process of merging with University School, and his responsibilities there meant he was often unable to preside at our meetings. When he left teaching in 1972, Frank, with the able assistance of his wife Betty, opened a retail bookstore, The Bookshelf, on Kercheval on The Hill. Frank and Betty conducted that business for several years, finally closing its doors about 1986. Meanwhile Frank remained very active in Rotary. In 1978 our Club nominated him for District Governor-Elect, and he was elected to the position over the opposition of the official candidate of the Past District Governors – a rare occurrence in our District. In the course of his duties as District Governor in 1979-1980, he visited every club, usually driven by one of our members. His talks to the individual Clubs were laced with gentle humor but encouraged all members to work for the highest of Rotary ideals, and he did not hesitate to point out weakness in individual clubs (including his own) which should be corrected.

As a Past District Governor he played a prominent role in nurturing future District 6400 leadership. For several years he chaired the District committee soliciting contributions for the Rotary International Foundation, the Ambassadorial Scholarship Committee, and also the Alumni Committee which works to maintain contacts with District-sponsored Scholars and Group Study Exchange team members. He was also active in the Group Study Exchange District Committee; and he always had a prominent role at the District Conferences. When Rotary International launched its Polio Plus drive to eradicate polio world wide, he motivated club members to contribute and also became a leader in soliciting major gifts from well-to-do Rotarians and friends of Rotary. His work received recognition at the R.I. level; he was selected to fill a vacancy on the RI Board in 1992-1993, and in 2005 he received the H. William Ives Lifetime Achievement Award.

Frank did not neglect the local Club. He was for many years chairman of our Club's Rotary Foundation Committee, and he was editor of our Rotarpointe for several of the same years. He believed our Club should have a vision for future years, and he worked to organize and meet with other active Rotarians in several long-term planning committees. He was an inspiration to all of us, a true embodiment of Service Above Self. Frank is no longer with us, but the ideas he so eloquently expressed continue to inspire our members.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Early History. On February 23, 1905, at the invitation of Paul P. Harris, an attorney, four men met in an office in the Unity Building (now the 127 North Dearborn Building) in Chicago, Illinois. The four were: Harris; Silvester Schiele, a coal dealer; Gustavus E. Loehr, a mining engineer; and Hiram E. Shorey, a merchant tailor. It was agreed that evening or organize a club based on the idea that Harris had been developing for the past five years – that men in business could and should work together as friends to achieve a better community and world.

The following day, Harris interested Harry Ruggles, a printer, in the proposed club. He, in turn, interested Will Jenson, a real estate dealer. Within a short time the Rotary Club organization was completed at a meeting in Schiele's office with the election of Schiele as President, Jenson as Corresponding Secretary, Shorey as Recording Secretary, and Ruggles as Treasurer. Paul Harris modestly declined any office in the new Club and he did not become its president until two years later.

Each of the six first members of the Chicago Rotary Club was a comparative stranger in a large city who had come from a small town to Chicago to go into business, and no doubt felt the need of personal friendships to replace those that had been severed by removal from his former home. The aim of the first Rotary Club was the encouragement of friendship, fellowship, and mutual assistance.

At one of the early meetings, several names were suggested for the new organization. Adopted was Paul Harris' suggestion "Rotary," which was prompted by the original plan of the Club members to meet in rotation at their various places of business. Papers on business topics were read at these early meetings. Harry Ruggles developed the idea of community singing in the Club, an idea which would be adopted by many other types of organizations; and Paul Harris frequently suggested original stunts to enliven the meetings. The membership of the new Club grew rapidly. Its novelty was attractive and those who joined the Club found its friendship and fellowship a tonic that stimulated them to better achievement in their business, social and community relationships. As the Club's membership increased, it became inconvenient to meet in the offices of members. As a result, the Club began to hold dinner meetings, which later gave way to weekly noonday luncheons.

The second Rotary Club was established in San Francisco in 1908. By 1910 there were sixteen Clubs with 1,800 members, and the first Rotary convention was held in Chicago. The first Club outside the United States was Winnipeg, Manitoba, in 1910, and the first overseas Club was Dublin, Ireland in 1911. Rotary's first Club in Latin America was formed in 1916 in Havana, Cuba. Both World Wars slowed growth temporarily, but served as tangible proof of the need for stronger personal contacts between people of different countries and races; the aftermath of each war saw a great resurgence of Rotary growth.

Current Statistics. In the Spring of 2007 there are approximately 32,000 Rotary clubs with a membership of 1,200,000 in 200 countries and geographical regions. There are 10,741 Rotaract clubs with a membership of 180,000 in 120 new countries, and 3,050 Interact clubs with a worldwide membership of 247,043. The number of Paul Harris Fellows is expected to reach 1,000,000 by June of 2007.

The Rotary International Foundation. This Foundation was originally proposed in 1917 by Rotary International President Arch Klumph, and was formally established by the R.I. board in 1928, but economic depression and war hindered its development. During and after World War II, the Foundation contributed to certain relief measures for war-struck Rotary families. When Paul Harris died in 1947, Rotarians memorialized him in a fitting way, by donating millions of dollars to the Paul Harris Memorial of the Rotary Foundation.

The fund provided for the international exchange of "Rotary Fellows" (today they're called "Rotary Scholars"), young men and women who, like Paul, traveled to distant lands to learn about other peoples by living among them. The original eighteen "Rotary Fellows" were graduate students funded for a year of study abroad. Later, Rotary Foundation fellowships were extended to include undergraduate students, artisans, technicians, teachers of the handicapped, and working journalists. The Foundation also sponsors teams of young business and professional men, called Group Study Exchange teams, who exchange visits between Rotary Districts in different countries, and provides Special Grants for educational and charitable projects. Since 1947, about 40,000 men and women from 100 nations have achieved the distinction of serving as Rotary Scholars; in the year 2006-2007, a record 800 Rotary Scholars were chosen. Rotary Foundation award recipients act as goodwill ambassadors between sending the host countries, sharing their thoughts and experiences in speeches before Rotary clubs and other groups. Many from this select group have risen to positions of leadership in their countries. Former Foundation Fellows include prominent authors and journalists, legislators, and cabinet ministers.

Since the 1980s the Foundation has turned its efforts to the problems of World Health, first through its "3-H" (Health, Hunger and Humanity) projects and later through its most ambitious project, PolioPlus. In this program Rotary, in cooperation with the World Health Organization and some 130 individual Third World countries, supports a global effort known as Expanded Program on Immunization, the objective of which is to eradicate in those countries six childhood diseases which can be prevented by immunization: poliomyelitis, measles, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, and tuberculosis.

Grosse Pointe Rotarians have supported the goals of the Rotary Foundation both through work at the District and International level and through personal contributions. As of April 1, 2007 268 members and friends of Grosse Pointe Rotary have contributed \$1,000 or more and are Paul Harris Fellows/multiple Paul Harris Fellow/Michigan Donors. As of April 1, 2007 40 members or former members have become Benefactors and/or Bequest Society members of the Foundation. Club members have contributed \$593,000 in support of PolioPlus and other Foundation programs.

ROTARY CLUB OF GROSSE POINTE CHARTER MEMBERS

Dr. Norman K. Bonney ("Norm") was a physician with offices on Kercheval. He had a perfect attendance record of twelve years, and remained in the Club until his death in 1964. Classification: Surgeon.

Raymond J. Boos ("Ray") was meat manager at Glaeser's Meat Market on Kercheval in the City of Grosse Pointe. He died suddenly a short time after the Club was formed, and a fund-raising event was held for his family. Classification: Meats-Retailing.

Dr. Rex P. Cranson ("Crans"), second President of the Club, was a dentist with offices on Mack Avenue. He was instrumental in the Club's first regular fund-raising event, "Feather Parties," which were held at the Neighborhood Club from 1938 to 1951. These parties were attended by Rotarians and their friends throughout the community, and participants played a game similar to bingo in which they could win prizes. He remained in the Club until he gave up his dental practice in 1945, after which he became active in Republican politics. Classification: Dentistry.

John S. Davis was a funeral director with an establishment at 15301 Mack. Classification: Funeral Directing.

George S. Deets operated a fish market on Mack Avenue. He supplied live lobster for the Club's summer picnic held at Fin Henk's cottage. He was obliged by time pressures to resign from the Club in October of 1939. Classification: Fish - Retailing.

Carl M. Dell. He was a member only until March or April of 1938. Classification: Drugs - Retailing

Gaston DeRidder had a plumbing business and was a member until 1961. He was active in pigeon racing, which was sponsored by a club headquartered on Cadieux Road. Classification: Plumbing.

Ray S. Ellis operated a barber shop at 15044 Mack. He served at the Club's first Treasurer, and was a member until early 1939 when he moved to Canada. Classification: Barber Shops.

Felix Francois was born in France and came to this country in 1927. After two years in New York City he established a hairdressing shop on Kercheval near the Punch & Judy Theater. Upon his physician's advice that he had only a few months to live, he resigned from the Club and moved to Florida in the 1940s. Classification: Beauty Parlors.

Francis M. Harshman ("Butch") operated a gas station and garage on the southwest corner of Kercheval and St. Clair. He remained a member until January of 1940. Classification: Refined Oil Products & Retailing.

Fintan L. Henk ("Fin") served as the first President in 1937-1938. He had a real estate and insurance business, and wrote articles on local history which were published in the Grosse Pointe Review. Many of the Club's fellowship outings were held at his cottage in Anchor Bay, and he stayed active in Grosse Pointe Rotary until the 1950s. Classification: Insurance.

Alfred E. Herrmann ("Al") was a butter and eggs distributor. He was Chairman of the first "Feather Party" in 1938, and remained in the Club for more than 37 years until his death in 1976. Classification: Butter and Eggs – Distributor.

Mervin R. Jaynes ("Red") operated a hardware store on Kercheval between St. Clair and Notre Dame. His membership terminated in late 1938 or early 1939.

Armin C. Johnson. He is not named in the Rotarpointe or listed in the first roster of August 1, 1938, and perhaps never activated his membership. Classification: Electric Appliances – Retailing.

Leonard A. Johnston ("Len") was editor of the Grosse Pointe Review, a newspaper with offices on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park. He was the first person approached by Herb Smith of Hamtramck Rotary, who was attempting to form a club in Grosse Pointe. Len initially contacted Bill Moir, and the two of them contacted Fin Henk. These men then enlisted the other charter members. Len resigned from the Club in 1938. Classification: Newspaper Publishing.

Lincoln Maire ("Linc") had a landscaping business on Cadieux north of Mack and planted many of the cherry trees along Lakeshore Road. He was a member until 1940. Classification: Landscape Architecture.

Richard L. Maxon ("Dick") was President in 1943-1944. He had a real estate business on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Farms, and was also an accomplished golfer and squash and racquets player. He published the Rotarpointe from 1938 to 1957 with diligence and whimsical humor, and remained a member until the 1960s. Classification: Real Estate.

August J. Miehm ("Gus") practiced real estate law and also had a brokerage business. Classification: General Law Practice.

William J. Moir ("Bill") was President in 1946-1947. He was born and raised in Canada. He was instrumental in organizing the Club, and was its first Attendance Chairman. He founded the Farms Market and operated it until 1972. Classification: Groceries – Retailing.

Dr. Robert K. O'Neil ("Bob") was President in 1953-19554. He was a veterinarian with offices on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe Park. He served as Secretary of the Club from 1940 to 1952, followed by two years as President-Elect and President, and then continued as Executive Secretary until 1967, shortly before his death in January of 1968. He was often called "Mr. Rotary," and his dedication to Rotary objectives was instrumental in building the Club into a strong community organization. Classification: Veterinary Medicine.

Edward J. Pongracz ("Ed") was born in Chicago and educated in New York City. He operated Pongracz Jewelry on Kercheval in Grosse Pointe. He was a dedicated Rotarian, and was regular in his attendance until he and his wife became ill in the years before his death in early 1987. Classification: Jewelry – Retailing.

Ernest A Provo ("Ernie") had a plant protection firm, and later opened a burgler alarm business. He loved to play golf, and was also active in Gratiot Township politics. He was in Grosse Pointe Rotary until 1943, and later moved to California, where he died in 1952. Classification: Patrol Service.

Morris C. Schiller. He is not named in the Rotarpointe or listed in the first roster of August 1, 1938, and perhaps never activated his membership. Classification: Cleaning & Dyeing.

William J. Schultz ("Bill") was a native Detroiter, and was officer of a wholesale and retail creamery on Mack Avenue known as Schweitzer Creamery. He was the fourth President in 1940-1941, serving with much energy and loyalty to Rotarian principles. Classification: Creamery Products – Distributing.

Dr. Roland E. Schwab ("Elmer") was a physician with offices on Lakeview south of Jefferson. He was in the Club until January of 1939, when the time pressures of his profession obliged him to resign. Classification: Physician.

Joseph E. Venola ("Joe") operated a toy shop near Kercheval and St. Clair. He and his wife owned several race horses. Classification: Variety Stores.

Adolf P. Verdonckt ("Dolph") operated Verdonckt Bakery on Mack Avenue, and was in the Club until his death in an auto accident in Canada in 1943. He was born in Belgium, and was active in various local Belgian-American organizations. Classification: Baking – Retail.

OFFICERS OF GROSSE POINTE ROTARY 1937-2007

<u>Term</u>	<u>President</u>	<u>Secretary</u>	<u>Treasurer</u>
1937-1938	Fintan, L. Henk	Leonard A. Johnston	Ray Ellis
1938-1939	Rex P. Cranson	Edward E. Allen	Edward Pongracz
		August J. Miehm	
1939-1940	Paul Rehmus	August J. Miehm	Edward Pongracz
1940-1941	William J. Schultz	Robert K. O'Neil	John Davis
1941-1942	Vincent R. DePetrus	Robert K. O'Neil	Ernest A. Provo
1942-1943	William J. Watkiins	Robert K. O'Neil	Matthew A. Houghton
1943-1944	Richard L. Maxon	Robert K. O'Neil	Henry Horn
1944-1945	Alphonse J. Meyer	Robert K. O'Neil	Henry Horn
1945-1946	Francis G. Palmer	Robert K. O'Neil	Fred Kopp
1946-1947	William J. Moir	Robert K. O'Neil	Ernest Graham
1947-1948	David S. Burnett	Robert K. O'Neil	Robert Boyer
1948-1949	Edward L. Rector	Robert K. O'Neil	William Johnson
1949-1950	William B. Hurley	Robert K. O'Neil	Austin Neeb
1950-1951	Earl N. Holzbaugh	Robert K. O'Neil	William Johnson
1951-1952	Ernest C. Graham	Robert K. O'Neil	Larry Hetzelt
1952-1953	Cyril F. Paye	Glenn M. Pratt	Allan Walter
1953-1954	Robert K. O'Neil	Robert M. Orr	Gerald Fitzgerald
1954-1955	William G. Wahl	Robert M. Orr	Herbert Baker
1955-1956	Glenn M. Pratt	Herbert Savage	Remington Purdy
1956-1957	David E. McCarron	Clifford W. Ashton	James Alexis
1957-1958	Robert M. Orr	Matthew A. Houghton	Gilbert Hauke
1958-1959	Remington J. Purdy	Bruce K. Bockstanz	Edward W. Taube
1959-1960	Clifford W. Ashton	Ralph M. Burke	Anthony Manardo
1960-1961	Andrew F. Rauth	William G. Strawbridge	Milton M. Volkens
1961-1962	Edward W. Taube	Robert Wilcox	Kenneth W. Smith
1962-1963	Ralph M. Burke	Kenneth W. Smith	William Quinlan
1963-1964	William G. Strawbridge	Edward J. Hickey	Thomas V. LoCicero
1964-1965	Albert D. Thomas	Elton Turner	James A. Passanante, Jr.
1965-1966	Kenneth W. Smith	James A. Passanante, Jr.	Vernon S. Glendening
1966-1967	Bruce K. Bockstanz	John A. Hammel	George E. Measel
1967-1968	James A. Passanante, Jr.	John Peel	Robert Harrison
1968-1969	Vernon S. Glendening	Robert Maunz	Max L. Gardner
1969-1970	Stephen A. Balogh	Frank J. Sladen, Jr.	William G. Sutter
1970-1971	Robert C. Harrison	William J. Merritt	Elton A. Turner
1971-1972	Max L. Gardner	William G. Sutter	William F. Schroeder
1972-1973	Frank J. Sladen, Jr.	Thomas A. Persing	Henry H. Sobson
1973-1974	Clarence F. Wascher	Carl E. Meyering	Donald E. Gilbert
1974-1975	Frederick W. Seltzer	Minert N. Thompson, Jr.	Richard J. Pryce
1975-1976	Peter C. Higbie	G. Bruce Feighner	W. Philip Ardussi
1976-1977	Albert J. Ceravolo	Mark Valente, Jr.	Bert A. Hyman
1977-1978	Carl E. Meyering	John R. Cobau	Elton A. Turner

1978-1979	Minert N. Thompson	Robert O. Spuier	Elton A. Turner
1979	W. Philip Ardussi	Ronald J. Moir	Arthur E. Judson
1979-1980	Mark Valente, Jr.	Ronald J. Moir	Arthur E. Judson
1980-1981	John R. Cobau	Ronald J. Moir	Arthur E. Judson
1981-1982	Steve S. Tsangalias	Robert H. Pytell	E. Normand Giard
1982-1983	Jose M. Borrego	Thomas R. Youngblood	Donald R. Briggs
1983-1984	William A. McCourt	John F. Mozena	Thomas R. Youngblood
1984-1985	E. Normand Giard	William T. Peters	Theodore C. Hadgis
1985-1986	Thomas R. Youngblood	William F. Schroeder	William T. Peters
1986-1987	Robert H. Pytell	John C. Brooks	Paul F. Mabarak
1987-1988	John F. Mozena	Jim Alle	Ron Vitale
1988-1989	Ted Hadgis	Jim Alle	Gary Marowske
1989-1990	John Brooks	Mark Raveschot	Mark Zmyslowski
1990-1991	Ron Vitale	Dave Case	Don Riddell
1991-1992	Mark Zmyslowski	Ron Moir	George Koueiter
1992-1993	Mark Raveschot	Tom Coughlin	Jon Gandelot
1993-1994	Don Riddell	Dean Valente	Steve McMillan
1994-1995	George Koueiter	Jack Sullivan	Dean Valente
1995-1996	Tom Coughlin	Cindy Carlson	Theresa DiVirgil
1996-1997	Steve McMillan	Darrell Finken	John Conway
1997-1998	Bill DeFrance	Mark Hauck	Kim Youngblood
1998-1999	Jack Sullivan	Kim Towar-Colton	Chuck Clute
1999-2000	Theresa DiVirgil	Chuck Clute	Mark Brooks
2000-2001	Dick Allison	Dave Wick	Mark Brooks
2001-2002	Darrell Finken	Dean Valente	Mark Brooks
2002-2003	Kim Youngblood	Roger Hull	Amy Gennaro
2003-2004	Kim Towar-Colton	Roger Hull	Amy Gennaro
2004-2005	Ben Burns	Mark Wilson	John Maliszewski
2005-2006	Kevin Reitzloff	Mark Wilson	Anthony Zoia
2006-2007	Roger Hull	Linda Mackool	Anthony Zoia

WEEKLY PUBLICATION OF THE GROSSE POINTE, MICHIGAN, ROTARY CLUB

October 22, 1937

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 WE MAKE OUR BOW
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You now have in your hands the initial copy of the publication of our local organization. First editions sometimes attain great value. It is hoped, however, that each subsequent issue of this bulletin will be of as much or more value to you than this first one.

In looking over the material sent for our assistance in this venture by the R.I. Secretariat we conclude that the function of a club bulletin is really three-fold. Its primary function is that of being informative. It may accomplish this by presenting announcements of coming meetings and giving details concerning club and committee activities. The bulletin should also serve as a record of club activities. While a complete record of this type is kept by the club Secretary it is not always available for the use of individual members. The club publication can serve a real purpose in this connection by including all information of an official nature, such as reports of previous meetings, lists of prospective members, lists of absent members, etc., that will aid Rotarians in keeping a cumulative record of their club's activities. The third purpose of the bulletin may be to present items of general interest to all members that would not fall under the preceding classifications. Items included in this category may be letters from other clubs and officers, clippings from other publications, personal opinions of members on matters of general interest to the group, and personal items concerning members and/or their families, ie, birthdays, travel, illness, etc.

While extreme dignity, in itself, impresses some people as being ridiculous, unbridled "horseplay" can be highly offensive to others. Well meaning banter has a definite place in creating the proper atmosphere for club gatherings but its inclusion in such a publication as this should probably be made with care. The Editor pledges himself to attempt to keep as serious as possible and still not make the publication read like the house organ of an embalming fluid company.

The Editor also pledges himself to endeavor to make the bulletin a service to members of a service organization. It is hoped that an inspection of its copy by Rotarians outside of this club will convey the impression that every activity of the group is founded on and initiated by the fundamental principles and spirit of Rotary International.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

A LOT. The name of any publication can be quite significant of its general purpose. We want the club to choose the name for this bulletin. Each member is requested to bring to the next meeting of the group a suggested name for this publication with his signature attached. The next week's bulletin will contain a complete list of all suggested names but will not identify the persons suggesting them. Further information concerning the method of selecting the name for the bulletin will be given with this list.

PROGRAMME, MONDAY, OCT. 25, '37

George Deets announces that the programme for next Monday will bring something interesting under the general title of "oil." The Standard Oil Company is to aid in this presentation. Regardless of the brand, we all use quite a bit of this substance and should be interested in what George has arranged for us.

NOVEMBER PROGRAMMES

"Doc" Cranson gives us an inside tip on the general nature of the programmes for November. He and Paul Rehms and Jim Drysdale have done a good job in getting things lined up for the month and every meeting promises to be an interesting one.

- November 1 Detroit Community Fund Programme
- November 8 International Meeting, Windsor
- November 15 Ladies Night. Radio Personality as Speaker. Details Later
- November 22 Michigan Liquor Commission Programme
- November 29 Michigan Centennial Programme. An Ex-Governor to Speak.

INTERNATIONAL MEETING

Members are asked to be sure to keep the Windsor meeting in mind and plan on attending. It is possible that arrangements will be made to have transportation available to take members directly from the Neighborhood Club to the meeting across the river. If you have suggestions give them to President Fin Henk.

WATER OVER THE DAM

You fellows who missed either or both of the last two meetings lost out on an opportunity to hear discussion on a matter of general civic interest. On Oct. 11, Charles Parcells, President of the Board of Education gave the Board's point of view on the junior high school situation, now and in the future. On Monday, Oct. 18, Mr. John Sweeney, a representative citizen of Grosse Pointe, presented the point of view of those not in agreement with the Board of Education on this subject.

MATTERS OF INTEREST FROM THE MAIL

District Governor E. Roy Shaw sends the following communication after his appearance on the programme of October 7:

October 11, 1937

Mr. Finton I. Henk, Pres.
Grosse Pointe Rotary Club
15224 E. Jefferson Ave.
Grosse Pointe, Michigan

Dear Finton:

Many thanks for the courtesies extended to me on my official visit to your club. I certainly enjoyed the time I spent with you. You have a dandy type of membership and I know they will go far in any project they may undertake.

One thing quite noticeable to any visitor would be the splendid Rotary spirit as evidences by the members. I will be looking for some great things from the Grosse Pointe Rotary Club under the leadership of your present administration.

Rotarily yours

E. Roy Shaw, Governor
153rd District R. I.