

The world's first service club, the **Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA**, was formed on 23 February 23, 1905 by **Paul P. Harris**, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name "Rotary" derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary International is now an organization of service clubs known as Rotary Clubs located all over the world. The stated purpose of the organization is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. It is a secular organization open to all persons regardless of race, color, creed, gender, or political preference. There are 33,976 Rotary clubs and over 1.22 million members worldwide, known as "Rotarians."

Rotary's primary motto is "**Service above Self**", and its secondary motto is "**One profits most who serves best.**"

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;
- The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

This objective is set against the "**Rotary 4-way Test**", used to see if a planned action is compatible with the Rotarian spirit. The test was developed by Rotarian and entrepreneur Herbert J. Taylor during the Great Depression as a set of guidelines for restoring faltering businesses and was adopted as the standard of ethics by Rotary in 1942. It is still seen as a standard for ethics in business management:

Rotary 4-way Test

Of things we think, say or do:

- 1. Is it the truth?*
- 2. Is it fair to all concerned?*
- 3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?*
- 4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?*

The **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** was admitted to Rotary International on 21 February 21, 1962.

The **25 Founding Members** of the **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley**:

1. **J. Glenn Alexander**, Hay Grower, Weldon
2. **Hebert F. Bolz**, Community National Bank, Kernville
3. **Fred Dodds**, Miracle Hot Springs
4. **George O'Donnell**, Lazy River Lodge, Kernville
5. **Ken Durant**, Camp Erwin Owen, Kernville
6. **John S. Ewing**, Ewing's on the Kern, Kernville
7. **John C. Fryer**, Land Developer, Lake Isabella
8. **John K. Gobler**, Cattleman, A. Brown Co, Weldon
9. **Richard J. Harlow**, Kernville Hardware Co.
10. **Bert James**, James Store & Camp, Kernville
11. **William D. Joughin**, Cattleman, Lake Isabella
12. **J. Walter La Casse**, Mt. Whitney Lumber Co., Johnsondale
13. **Donald H. Marsden**, Calif. Interstate Telephone Co., Kernville
14. **Walter E. Marks**, Kernville Rock Company
15. **Elmer McClure**, retired
16. **Warren S. Morse**, Southern California Edison, Kernville
17. **(President) Earl Murray**, Principal, Kern Valley High School
18. **Primo A. Pazzelli**, Primo's Liquor Store, Kernville
19. **Robert L. Perrine**, Dentist, Lake Isabella
20. **Dave Torbett**, Merchant, Wofford Heights
21. **Charles Sager**, Plumbing, Wofford Heights
22. **Chet Stewart**, General Contractor, Kernville
23. **William G. Stewart**, Postmaster, Kernville
24. **Richard A. Vassalo**, Kern Valley Propane, Lake Isabella
25. **Ardis Manly Walker**, Kernville Inn Motel & Trailer Park

Rotary Club of Kern River Valley is one of the 72 clubs from 38 communities Rotary in Central and Coastal California where **Rotary District 5240** has served since January 1, 1918, currently with more than 3,600 members.

With about the same number of members (25) as when it was founded in 1962, the **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** is one of Rotary's smaller clubs, but among of its most active clubs.

The **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** is the only Rotary Club out of 72 in Rotary's District 5240 to celebrate its 50th year in 2012.

Over the past 50 years, members of the **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** have:

- Raised more than \$1,000,000 for community & international service projects, like Rotary's **PolioPlus** program which is close to eradicating Polio around the world.
- Volunteered for more than 500,000 hours of community & international service.

The **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** will celebrate its first 50 years of service on March 10, 2012 in Kernville, where it was founded in 1962.

ROTARY KRV 50th ANNIVERSARY FACTOIDS

Rotary is unique in fostering good deeds not just within the United States and Canada, but around the World.

Rotary's most notable current global project, **PolioPlus**, is contributing to the global eradication of polio. Since beginning the project in 1985, Rotarians have contributed over \$900 million and tens of thousands of volunteer-hours, leading to the inoculation of more than two billion of the world's children. Inspired by Rotary's commitment, the World Health Organization passed a resolution in 1988 to eradicate polio worldwide. Now a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative with WHO, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Rotary is recognized by the United Nations as the key private partner in the eradication effort.

In 2008, Rotary received a \$100 million challenge grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Rotary committed to raising \$100 million. In January 2009, Bill Gates announced a second challenge grant of \$255 million. Rotary again committed to raising another \$100 million. In total, Rotary will raise \$200 million by June 30, 2012. Together, the Gates Foundation and Rotary have committed \$555 million toward the eradication of polio. At the time of the second challenge grant, Bill Gates said:

"We know that it's a formidable challenge to eradicate a disease that has killed and crippled children since at least the time of the ancient Egyptians. We don't know exactly when the last child will be affected. But we do have the vaccines to wipe it out. Countries do have the will to deploy all the tools at their disposal. If we all have the fortitude to see this effort through to the end, then we will eradicate polio."

Some of Rotary's most visible programs include **Rotary Youth Exchange**, a student exchange program for students in secondary education, and the Rotary Foundation's oldest program, **Ambassadorial Scholarships**. Today, there are six different types of **Rotary Scholarships**. More than 38,000 men and women from 100 nations have studied abroad under the auspices of Ambassadorial Scholarship, and today it is the world's largest privately funded international scholarships program. In 2006-07 grants totaling approximately US\$15 million were used to award some 800 scholarships to recipients from 69 countries who studied in 64 nations.

The **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** has contributed to those projects as well as projects providing mosquito nets and solar powered LED lights in Africa, wheel chairs & Doctors Without Borders in Mexico, and clean water and education in Thailand. Last year, the **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** sent a Kern Valley Middle School student, along with her mother and 2 local Rotarians to **PACE Universal Girls School** in Piyali Junction, India.

As Rotarians can see their goal of ending Polio close to coming to a close, it is turning to other important worldwide projects, such as Literacy and Clean Water.

The **Rotary Club of Kern River Valley** website: www.clubrunner.ca/kernrivervalley