



Long Branch Rotary Club's Fireside Chat meeting at Charley's on February 19.

## Rotary revives its Fireside Chat

By Jack Kearns

**Long Branch** — Long Branch Rotary Club members gathered at the upper room of Charley's Ocean Grill last Thursday, by the fireplace, to revive a past tradition that had been "misplaced." Called a "Fireside Chat," it is an informal coming together without the more formal business meeting protocol.

"We haven't done this since Lloyd Christiansen held these chats at his home in Rumson," host Roger Hansen said.

The members used to meet at Christiansen's huge fireplace, Hansen recalled, and it was a time for socializing, reminiscing and good friendship.

"The motto 'Service before Self' was always a part of the chats hosted by the man who had been the CEO for EAI in Eatontown, past president of Rotary and a Paul Harris Fellow, as well as a 50 years member of the club," Hansen said.

"Tonight we remember Lloyd as we welcome new members and revive the past friendships we lose track of in the business of today's hectic pace."

Hansen opened the after dinner talk session sitting on the hearth at fireside as in days past. New members were welcomed to view the original charter from February 1, 1921. It had been redone to make it as good as new, Hansen said.

President Peggy Bills introduced everyone, and welcomed new members. She said anyone

interested in membership can call Fred Brody, Community Service chair, at 732-643-0115. The web-site is [www.longbranchrotary.org](http://www.longbranchrotary.org).

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