

Elmer Brucks
Our Fourth District Governor

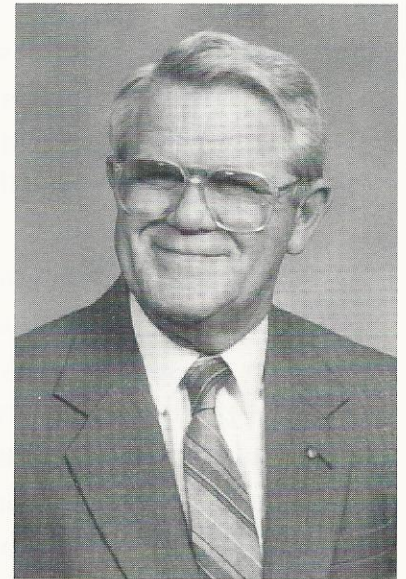
Elmer Brucks, a metal fabricator, joined Waukesha Rotary in 1960, serving as club president in 1970-1971. He was chairman of the District Youth Exchange, and led a Group Study Exchange team to the Philippines. In 1980-1981 Elmer was our District Governor.

Our next District Governor followed quickly, as Morris Spencer served in 1984-1985. Morris flew B-17s over Europe in World War II and stayed in the Air Force Reserves to become a colonel. His career was with Carroll College as vice-president and provost. He joined

Waukesha Rotary in 1958 and was club president in 1977-1978. He promoted Rotary International's Polio Plus campaign to eradicate polio and other diseases from the world, raising more than a hundred thousand dollars from our club over a three-year campaign.

Duane 'Zeke' Warren, club president in 1986-1987, has been our best fund-raiser, selling thousands of dollars in pancake tickets year after year.

During his term as club president in 1990-1991, Marty Frank asked members for "Good News, Bad News" at each meeting, with an opportunity to self-assess a contribution. It's been part of our weekly program ever since.



Morris Spencer
Our Fifth District Governor

Waukesha Rotary dramatically increased its community service in the last dozen years. In addition to our international work and our support of the students at White Rock School, a major project was the construction in 1991 of a twenty-unit apartment complex for the developmentally disabled at 1219 S. Grandview Boulevard. Rotarians Bill Nantell and Jim Tarantino led the effort from the beginning, especially including the complicated procurement of a large grant

from the federal department of Housing and Urban Development.



The Hickory Hill Home for the Developmentally Disabled

In 1926 Andrew J. Frame, the nationally-known president of the Waukesha National Bank from 1880 to 1919, donated to the City of Waukesha the expansive river frontage known as Frame Park. The next year he honored his son Harvey, our fifth club president, by presenting the club with a bronze bell. It's pictured on the title page of this booklet. Seventy-four club presidents in their turn have rung that bell each week to call our meetings to order.

In the mid-1990s our club donated skill, sweat and money to construct a park pavilion on the river in Frame Park. Known as the Rotary Building, it was built under the supervision of Rotarians Pete Van Horn and Al Link.



Pete Van Horn and the Rotary Building



Gary Olsen
Our Sixth district Governor

Our most recent District Governor, in 1993-1994, was Gary Olsen, a faculty leader at Carroll College. Gary joined us in 1975 and was our president in 1989-1990. He served on the District committees for the World Affairs Seminars, the Health Education Center, and the Group Study Exchanges.

When the Avalon Hotel closed in 1968, our club moved its meetings to the basement hall of the Salem E&R Church on the corner of Broadway and East Avenue. Two years later we moved to the new Elks Club building at 2301 Springdale Road.

In 1982 we moved to the Red Carpet Bowling Lanes at 901 Northview Road, returning to the Elks Club six years later. In 1996 we went to our new home in the pavilion we had built in the park donated by Rotarian A.J. Frame. Even though Andrew was late in joining Waukesha Rotary in 1929 at the age of eighty-five, it's "our" building, in "our" park!

That was the location of our new ambitious project, the summer music festival called Riverfest. Although he had many helpers, Rotarian Tom Constable was the driving force which created Riverfest and sustained it during its first two years of bad weather and substantial financial loss. With Tom's perseverance and the support of Waukesha's business community which now sponsors us with more than a hundred thousand dollars annually, Riverfest makes the largest contribution to our Charitable Fund even as it brings to our citizens popular music such as the hit band from the seventies, 'Kansas'.



Riverfest



With the Pancake Festival and Riverfest well established as annual events serving the community and contributing to our Charitable Fund, what's next?

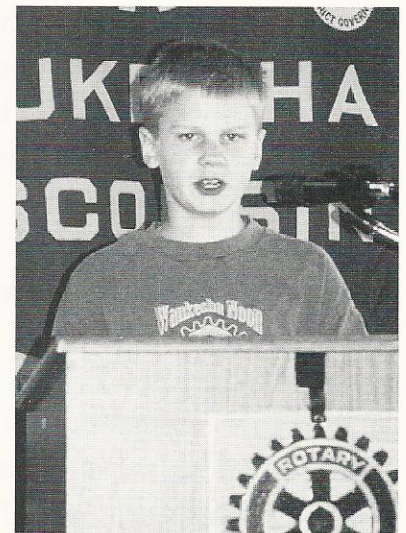
After considerable thought and discussion led by Rotarian Bill Nantell, we chose to work with the School District of Waukesha in promoting the development of positive assets among Waukesha youth. We accepted the identification by the Search Institute of Minneapolis of the forty most important assets necessary for the successful development of young people, such as family support, community approval, and individual motivation to achieve.

Then in 1999 we backed a survey of 3,602 students in grades seven through ten to determine how many of these forty assets they feel that they experience, thus creating an overall profile.

The survey revealed that Waukesha students reported a slightly higher than the national average percentage of assets but with plenty of room for improvement.

Now our task is to highlight, develop, expand and support programs designed to build assets, such as mentoring, peer helping, service-learning, and parental education.

Our White Rock School program is an excellent example. Students like Desmond Jones, whose life ambition is to buy American Motors and produce high-quality automobiles, are full of great promise for the future.



Desmond Jones
Addresses our Club in 2001

During my forty-six years in Waukesha Rotary, many of the changes in our society have been reflected in the club. For example, although Rotarians were informal with each other, when I greeted former Rotary president William Connell at my teller window in 1955 with a cheery “Hi, Bill,” he replied sternly, “When we’re not at Rotary, I’m ‘*Mr. Connell*’ to you!” Such a rebuke would never be heard today.

Meetings in the Avalon Hotel were hazy with dense, choking cigar smoke, even during high school Christmas concerts. Now, of course, nobody smokes during meetings.

We’d be criticized severely if we showcased Aunt Jemima, a buxom black mammy, at a modern Pancake Festival! Yet she was once a living symbol of our hearty breakfasts, not a racist stereotype.

Ah, women! There’s the biggest change! No longer are we a men’s club where off-color remarks are relished. I would not be comfortable commenting to the club, as I did upon the return from my honeymoon in 1958, “I’m glad to be back on my feet again!”

A couple of Rotarians resigned when we admitted Jill Strong (grand-daughter of our first president) and Bev Chappie, our first women members, in 1987.

While I believe the club has been enriched by the inclusion of women, the ambiance is dramatically different. No longer are Rotary’s women given special honor; there is no need for a ‘Ladies’ Night’. And nobody calls them ‘Rotary Anns’ today, much less ‘Cupcakes’!



Marlena Mackie
Our First Woman President, 1996-1997
With Roland Goldammer, 1997-1998

Unchanging, however, is the loyalty to God and country inspiring our passion for service, expressed in our opening prayer and pledge of allegiance each week. And of course the prevailing sense of camaraderie that permeates the club with acceptance and forgiveness.

My treasured memories of Rotarians include Russell Schuetze with his energetic cheerleading; the Keystone Farms strawberry festivals of Bob Rowlands; Bob Nanz' escape from Waukesha Memorial Hospital to keep his perfect attendance record; Tom Stine and his celebration of "ten happy years of marriage, plus thirty that weren't all that great"; Dick Guy's delightful recitations of deadpan humor; the elusive but creative Bill Nantell; the audacious pancake ticket salesmanship of Ken Riesch; the guitar strumming and singing of Stille Nacht by Peter David, and myriad more.

And who can forget the hilarious insouciance of Helmut Leukert? We are all joined in prayerful petition for his full recovery.

The Waukesha Rotary Club has initiated more than eight hundred members in its eighty years. We've been led by eighty club presidents. Their accomplishments are legion, and largely unchronicled. It's impossible in this brief history to recognize everyone, not even the most meritorious ones. But to them all, living and dead, we pay our homage.

We are one of 29,626 Rotary Clubs in 163 countries, and we are eighty-nine of 1,180,550 Rotarians. What a great constructive force serving our fellow citizens in Waukesha and around the world!

May Waukesha Rotary continue to distinguish itself in the decades ahead through its "Four Avenues of Service" – Club Service, Vocational Service, Community Service, and International Service!