

Questionnaire

Rotary District 5650 History Project



1. How does your club integrate with your community?

Lincoln South Rotary Club supports the community financially and with volunteer hours. We take full advantage of the District Grants available and also use the Lincoln South Rotary Club Foundation to provide financial support of projects and programs. We tend to select recipients that typically don't have large sources of financial support or a wide reach for support.

Our fundraisers use and support local companies – RU Nuts for our winter Nut Sales; Russ's IGA for our Grocery Grab; one of the local merchants for our Wine Tasting; and a local golf course when we have a golf outing.

Along with the other Rotary Clubs in Lincoln, we salute a local business annually – selecting a company for providing employment over a number of years. We provide regular volunteers for Meals on Wheels and annually for the Salvation Army Bell-ringing Campaign. Other volunteer efforts are on an ad-hoc basis. We hold a Career Day event that focuses on studying, but more importantly, working in Lincoln.

2. What do you do for fun and networking? Any stories about networking or fun times that you would like to share?

Annually we hold a Holiday Party which is purely social. Two of our fundraisers are very social in nature – a wine-tasting event and a "Cooking Contest" with varying themes.

We consider the Rotary District Conference an opportunity for networking and generally have a good group of participants for the awards-event as well as other parts of the conference.

A very memorable event was a Haunted Tour around Halloween; complete with a limo and a tour guide. We also ensure that there is some social time before each of our club meetings – to visit with each other, speakers, and guests. We have been known as a social club and many members of other clubs like to visit our meetings

3. Tell us about any club members, past or present, who have been involved in projects that emphasize service above self. District or International.

The late Dr. George Lytton was a major force in getting our club involved in giving to The Rotary Foundation. Our Club has provided a gift of a Paul Harris Fellow at the District Conference for a number of years, largely due to the inspiration by Dr. Lytton.

Joe Roberts has been a force on the District teams for years but most noted for his personal donations to The Rotary Foundation to help others reach their Paul Harris Fellows.

Tom Cardwell has spent a great deal of time and has personally funded projects and trips to The Republic of Georgia including a couple of International Grant Projects.

Nicolette Klein has been on humanitarian trips at her own expense – including working with The Children of the Dump in Nicaragua and participating in a polio National Immunization Day in India.

A number of club members have attended Zone meetings and International Conventions at their own expense to experience the Internationality of Rotary and bring back ideas and excitement about the work that Rotary does in the World.

Questionnaire



Rotary District 5650 History Project

4. Tell us about your club traditions such as boat rides, golf tournaments, and other traditions you may have. *Our Holiday Party is a tradition – and includes a gift exchange component that is very fun (it involves the concept of taking a gift that is already open or selecting one to open, etc. and gets rather competitive).*

We have many other traditions for annual activities. But, our strongest and most important traditions are about Rotary. We have an award-winning tradition in many aspects and we take pride in reviewing the standings and working toward earning the #1 clubs in the District.

We also have a very strong tradition of supporting The Rotary Foundation and often work to out-do our previous year's giving.

5. What have you done as a club that is unique or that you are known for in your community? *We are getting to be known for our Grocery Grab but also, among the other Rotary Clubs, for our Nut Sales.*

All Rotary Clubs in Lincoln join together to present dictionaries to all 4th graders – and the schools and students look forward to that every year.

Also, the Annual Salute To Business which involves all Rotary Clubs in Lincoln where we salute a business for providing employment in our community.

6. Provide the date your club was founded. *April 30, 1984*

7. Why was your club founded?

Lincoln South was started as a Morning Club as many in Lincoln thought a Morning Club was needed; there was already a Lunch Club in Lincoln as well as an Evening Club (I believe Lincoln East – formerly Lincoln Northeast – was meeting in the evenings at that time.

8. Tell us about your club's important projects - past and present.

American Cancer Society Daffodil Days; the ACS has now dropped this fundraiser but, when it is in place, our club was credited with much of the success in Lancaster County. The sales grew annually and put the local ACS among the top in the region.

We consider our support of The Rotary Foundation to be vitally important – for local projects, International projects, and of course Polio eradication.

Our High School Scholarship program is important as we focus on helping our youth become our future leaders.

9. What keeps your club going?

Energy. We are fortunate to have brought in some very young members. Though we have lots of traditions and pride, we don't shy away from the ideas of our young members. We do not say "we have always done it that way". Young and Old / New and Veteran Members all work side by side. All members support our activities and projects.

Celebration. We announce accomplishments and take pride as a Club. Members announce personal and business accomplishments through Happy Dollars and we celebrate with them.

Questionnaire



Rotary District 5650 History Project

10. What long-term results have you seen from your efforts/projects?

Polio Eradication.

Clinic With A Heart (healthcare for the un / under insured); we have done a couple of grant projects with them and helped raise awareness in Lincoln and throughout the District.

Dictionary Project – we have seen the value of giving literacy and joy to children; the schools look forward to us returning annually.

Bore Holes in Zambai – we supported that project and have seen how bringing water to the villages has helped improve the health in that area.

11. Who were your founders? *Lincoln #14*

12. Are there any other interesting facts about your club?

The number of members in our Club in District Leadership Positions is amazing considering the size of our Club.

We have a page with a brief history of our club at www.lincolnsouthrotary.org, then go to the About Our Club Section, then click the link History of Lincoln South Rotary (or [click here](#)). We also have a page dedicated to our Charter information including a list of the Charter Members and the other Rotarians who were instrumental in getting Lincoln South Rotary Club started – [click here](#).

We also are proud of our award-winning history and have a page on our website for that ([click here](#)). For 16 years of tracking Lincoln South Rotary Club has been #1 12 times, and in the Top 3 for all 16 of those years.

We take pride in our tradition of support of The Rotary Foundation. For 20 years of tracking, Lincoln South Rotary Club has been in the top 4 clubs in Per Capita Giving to The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund – 14 of those years in the top 2, and 6 of those years as #1. The Club also earned the Rotary International Presidential Citation during all of those years.

The list of awards achieved by our Members because of their commitment to District leadership and International programs is extensive.

-- 4 Members have earned the District's Highest Awards – The Cadwallader Award

-- District Leadership Award, Outstanding District Chair, etc. – earned by members a number of times over the years

-- Members have earned International Service awards including ClubBuilder Award, Rotary International Avenues of Service Citation, The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service, Regional Service Award for a Polio Free World and the Service Above Self Award.

Thank you for your time. Your story is important to our District 5650 history. [Click here to enter text.](#)

Madeline Madden
Rotary District 5650 District Historian