

The Rotary Club

The idea of Rotary was born in 1905 in Chicago, Illinois, when a man named Paul Harris invited three business-men to join him to discuss mutual business problems. He believed that bringing people from diverse backgrounds together in discussion would result in the stimulation of new ideas for the good of all. The club was called “Rotary” because the meeting were rotated among different business locations.

In 1908, a second club was established. By 1910, sixteen clubs formed the National Association of Rotary Clubs, and in 1912 clubs were formed in Canada and Great Britain making it an international organization. Today Rotary has over 25,000 clubs in 172 countries and geographical regions and has evolved into a far different organization from that founded by Paul Harris. What was originally conceived as an organization to help solve business problems is now an organization whose major objective is to provide service to the community, the country and the world.

The Watertown Rotary Club was formed in 1959 and today has a hardworking membership of about 50 men and women involved in a number of community projects. The Watertown Rotary has been a major supporter of the library, it has provided thousands of dollars of college scholarships to graduating high school seniors, it underwrites the Learn to Swim program, and supports many local charitable organizations like the Easter Seals. The club has also provided many physical improvements around the town. These range from bus stops and benches to the Rotary Pavilion at Crestbrook Park. The latest project, working with the Junior Women’s Club and the Jaycees, provided playground equipment at the new Veterans Memorial Park.

Rotary Four Way Test

- I. Is it the truth?
- II. Is it fair to all concerned?
- III. Will it build good will and better friendships?
- IV. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?



The 2025

Alexander L. Alves

Award Nomination Form

Sponsored by The Watertown Rotary Club



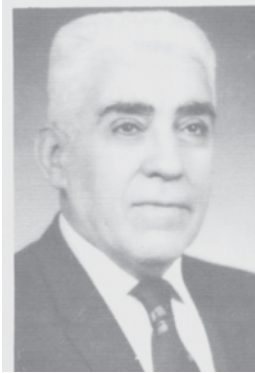
For

Significant Contribution

To The

Watertown-Oakville Community

Alexander Lopes Alves was born in Brazil, emigrating to Portugal in 1905 and to the United States in 1919. One of his first jobs was digging ditches on the Vanderbilt Estate in Newport, RI. Working days and going to night school, he completed a course in machine shop practice and got a job as a toolmaker apprentice.



Mr. Alves completed two bachelor of science degrees in four years, graduating in 1931 from Tri-State University, Angola, IN, with honors, and again in 1933 from Worcester Polytech in Worcester, Mass.

In 1933 he moved to Watertown to work at the Watertown Manufacturing Co. as an estimator, and in 1941 he became general manager of the company. In 1944, Mr. Alves founded Molded Metals, Inc., one of the first powder metal companies in America. In 1952, he started American Sinterings, a division of American Tool Works, in Hartford.

At the time of his death, he was employed as chairman of his company, a world leader in powder metal technology, and also was vice president of Alves Precision Engineered Products, Inc. Mr. Alves also founded Top Hat Tool Company, Inc. in 1953.

Mr. Alves and ESP were instrumental in producing Watertown's Bicentennial Medal for the community's 200th anniversary celebration in 1980, utilizing powdered metal technology.

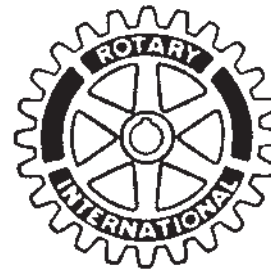
He was a major figure in Watertown government, having served on the Board of Education from 1949 - 1953, and was instrumental in getting Switt Junior High School in Oakville built. He served on the Parks and Recreation Commission from 1954 to 1961, on the Town Council from 1961 through 1967 as vice chairman the first four years, and as chairman the last two years.

He was a vice president and director of the Watertown-Oakville Chamber of Commerce in 1976, and was on the Watertown Housing Authority from 1970 to 1975. He also served on the Planning and Zoning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals.

In 1969, Mr. Alves was presented with a Distinguished Service to Powder Metallurgy Award by the Powder Metal Industries Federation. In 1977, the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution presented him with the DAR's Americanism Medal.

Tri-State University awarded Mr. Alves with an honorary doctorate of engineering degree in June, 1981. He was the first foreign-born alumnus to be so honored in the century-old history of the university. In 1984, he received an Official Citation from the Connecticut General Assembly for his service on behalf of the people of Watertown and Oakville from 1949 to 1975. In 1988, the Watertown Rotary Club gave Mr. Alves the Paul Harris Fellows Award for outstanding service.

He was considered by many as an outstanding humanitarian, often working behind the scenes assisting individuals and groups in need, eschewing recognition for his efforts.



SERVICE ABOVE SELF

The purpose of the award is to memorialize Alex Alves' contributions to the community by honoring a person who embodies the qualities of outstanding achievement, volunteerism, and service. The Rotary Club will select a recipient of the award who has made significant contributions in the area of charitable, political, or community service.

Any person or organization wishing to submit a nomination should submit the attached form to the Rotary Club no later than March 26, 2025.

The recipient will be honored at a dinner
in May 2025.

All nominations will automatically remain active for three years.

I \ We Nominate:

Reasons for Nomination:

Submit additional information with the application if necessary.

Submitted By:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Signature:

Date Submitted:

For Questions Please Contact:

Sandy Broden, Alves Committee

203-910-7001 or email: sjbroden@gmail.com

Return to Watertown Rotary Club

PO Box 88

Watertown, CT 06795

No Later Than March 26, 2025