



***Charles Cotten***  
**Governor 2004-2005**

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Charles Cotten has lived in Odessa since 1995 when he began as the Associate Director for the John Ben Shepperd Public Leadership Institute. He is currently serving as the Interim Director. Prior to moving to Odessa, he lived in Garland, Texas for 25 years working for the government and as an association executive. Shortly after arriving in Odessa, he was invited to speak to the Greater Odessa Rotary Club about the institute and leadership education for young people. He was invited to become a member and gladly accepted, as Charles has always been involved in community service.

In previous years he has served actively as a member of the Texas Jaycees, elected as state president in 1977-1978. In 1996, he was invited to serve on the board of the Greater Odessa Rotary Club and has been on the board ever since. He served as club president 2000-2001 and the club met or exceeded all club goals in membership, projects and finances. Charles served as ADG from 2001-2003; was selected as Outstanding Rotarian for Greater Odessa in 2002; After his year as Governor, he served 4 years as District Trainer, is now a trainer and board member for LoneStar PETS and is the 2013 Operating Chairman. He has served at 3 Zone Institutes as Chief Sgt. At Arms and has been the District Representative to 2 Councils on Legislation. He and Bonnie are both multiple Paul Harris Fellows, Benefactors and Bequest Society members.

Charles is a Certified Association Executive as well as a graduate of the Federal Government Executive Management program and an alumnus of The University of Arkansas. Bonnie is a Texas Certified Purchasing Manager and recently retired after Thirty (30) years of service with The University of Texas Permian Basin; she serves on the Pastor/Parrish Relations Committee for their church.

Charles and Bonnie have four (4) grown children, eight (8) grandchildren, two (2) great grandchildren and two Grand dogs. They enjoy traveling, reading, gardening and playing with the grandkids.