



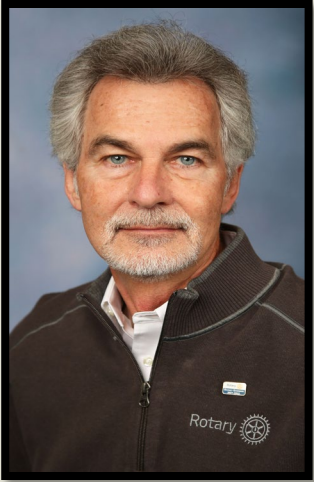
**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**



# Arizona Rotary History: It's People & Events

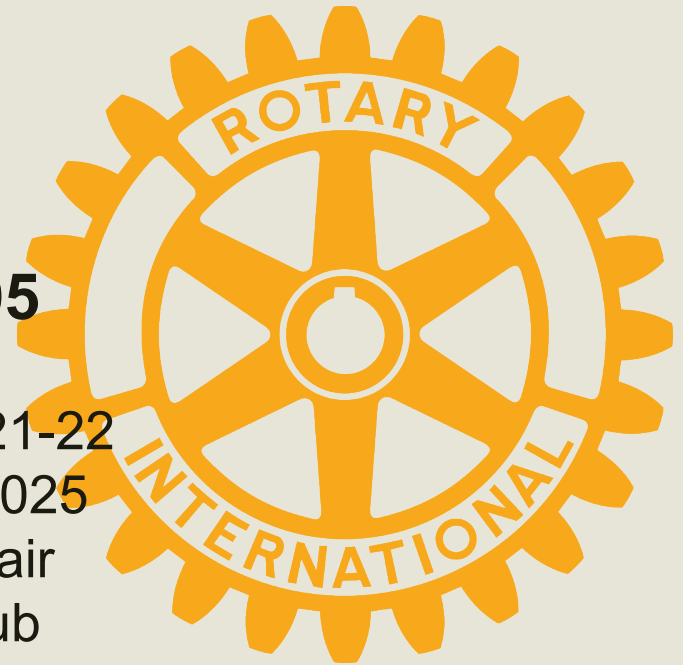
Arizona Rotary Leadership Academy 2023

# Faculty



## Bret McKeand, D5495

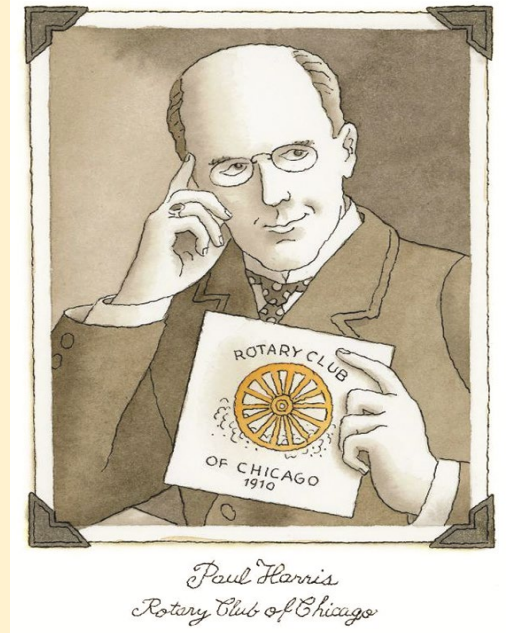
- Past District Governor, 2021-22
- Chair, Southwest PETS 2025
  - D5495 Public Image Chair
  - Peoria North Rotary Club



*By honoring our past and embracing our future,  
we can evolve and keep Rotary not only  
relevant, but thriving.*

*“Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves.”*

Paul Harris Message  
to the RI Convention, 1914  
Houston, Texas



# 1. Beginning of Rotary

# Paul Harris

- Born Paul Percy Harris on April 19, 1868.
- Grew up in Wallingford, Vermont.
- Attended the University of Vermont and Princeton and graduated with a law degree from the University of Iowa in 1891.
- Traveled the world for five years after graduating college – a time he referred to as his “five years of folly.”
- Settled in Chicago in 1886 and began practicing law.
- On Feb. 23, 1905, he and three other friends met to form the first Rotary club.



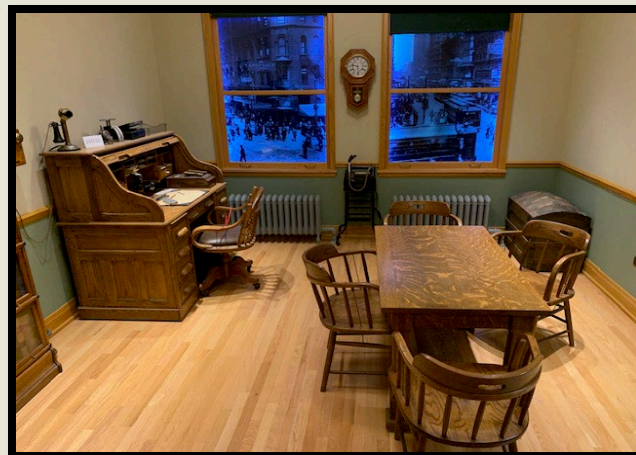


# Beginnings of Rotary: Chicago, 1905



Founding members of Rotary Club of Chicago: Silvester Schiele, Paul Harris, Hiram Shorey, Gustavus Loehr

Re-creation of Paul Harris's office and location of first Rotary organizational meeting (located today at Rotary One Center, Evanston, Ill.)



# Beginnings of Rotary

1905: Chicago (first club)

1908: San Francisco (No. 2)

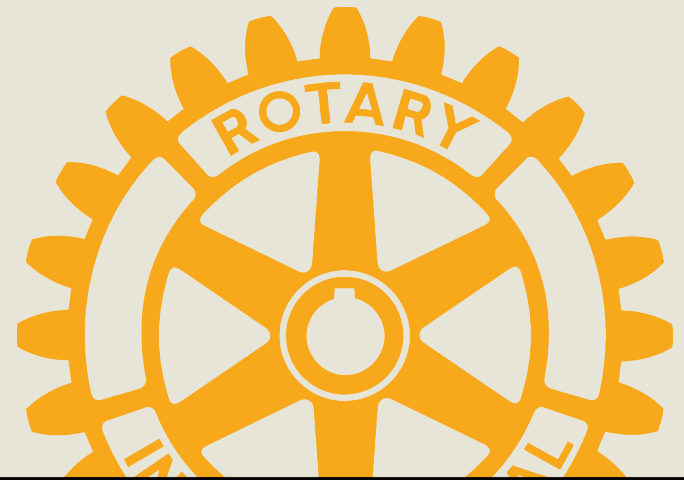
1909: Oakland (No. 3)

Seattle (No. 4)

Los Angeles (No. 5)

1910: Winnipeg, Canada  
(first club outside U.S.)

1911: Dublin, Belfast and London  
Duluth (Club No. 25)





## Rotary's **FIRST** Community Service Project

Working with local civic organizations, The Rotary Club of Chicago installed comfort stations (public toilets) along Michigan Avenue to improve sanitation in the city. Not without controversy, business and local taverns soon complained the stations were harming their business – simply because people no longer needed to visit their establishments to use the bathrooms!



# The Founding of The Rotary Foundation

## Arch C. Klumph

At the 1917 convention held in Atlanta, Rotary President Arch Klumph proposed creating an endowment “for the purpose of doing good in the world.”



- First contribution: \$26.50 donated by the Rotary Club of Kansas City.

In 2021-22, The Rotary Foundation distributed:

- ♦ \$27 million in district grants;
- ♦ \$8 million in disaster response grants;
- ♦ \$2 million in programs-of-scale'
- ♦ \$73 million in global grants!

# Herbert J. Taylor and Rotary's Four-Way Test



RI President  
1954-55

**1932** Herb Taylor devised the Four-Way Test to help rescue Club Aluminum Corp from bankruptcy

**1943** Rotary adopts the Four-Way Test as a guide for Vocational Service.



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

of the things we think, say, or do

*first...*

Is it the **TRUTH**?

*second...*

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

*third...*

Will it build **GOODWILL** and  
**BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

*fourth...*

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all  
concerned?

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary



## Rotary's mottos:

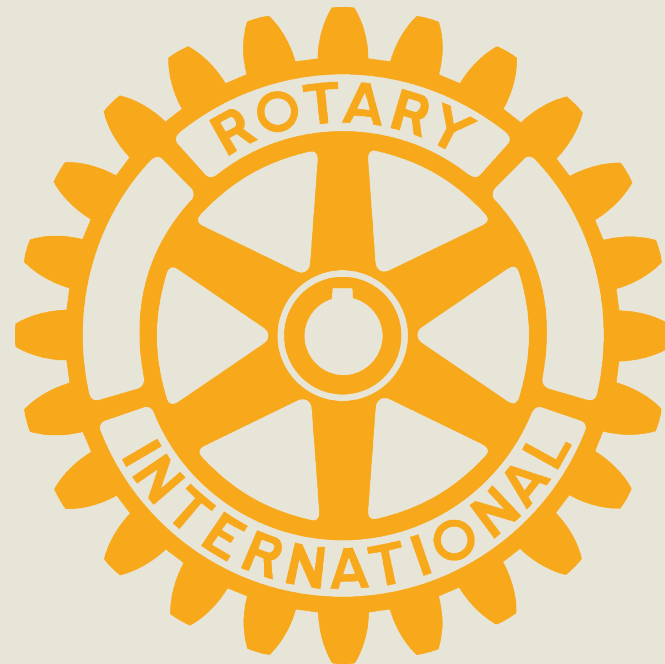
Rotarians at the 1911 convention embraced an early version of our primary motto, "Service Above Self." They also adopted an early version of our secondary motto, "One Profits Most Who Serves Best." Both slogans were formally approved as official mottos in 1950.



# Fun Fact:

How many U.S.  
Presidents have worn  
the Rotary pin?

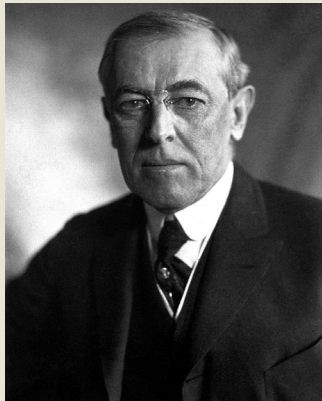
(Answer on next slide)



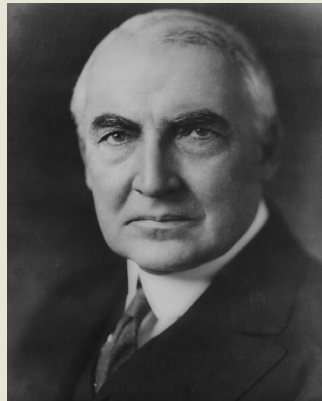


# Four

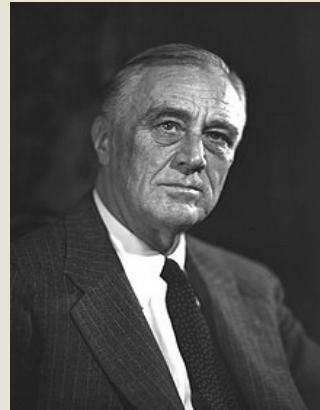
Only four presidents have  
belonged to Rotary Clubs!



Woodrow Wilson  
Rotary Club of  
Birmingham,  
Ala.



Warren G.  
Harding  
Rotary Club of  
Washington, DC



Franklin  
Roosevelt  
Rotary Club of  
Albany, N.Y.



John F. Kennedy  
Rotary Club of  
Hyannis, Mass.

# Other Prominent Rotarians

- **Neil Armstrong**, first man to walk on the moon  
Rotary Club of Wapakoneta, Ohio
- **Sir Winston Churchill**, prime minister of England  
Rotary Club of London
- **Walt Disney**, animation filmmaker  
Rotary Club of Palm Springs, Calif.
- **Sir Edmund Hillary**, explorer  
Rotary Club of Auckland
- **Cornelius “Connie Mack” McGillicuddie**, baseball manager  
Rotary Club of Philadelphia (Pa.) and RC of Fort Myers (Fla.)
- **George C. Marshall**, army general and Nobel Peace Prize laureate  
Member of four different Rotary clubs
- **James Cash Penney**, founder of J.C. Penney  
Rotary Club of New York, N.Y.
- **Albert Schweitzer**, physician, philosopher and Nobel Peace Prize laureate  
Rotary Club of Colmar (France) & RC of Passau (Germany)
- **Orville Wright**, aviation pioneer  
Rotary Club of Dayton, Ohio





## 2. Rotary Comes to Arizona

# Rotary Comes to Arizona:

## Rotary Club of Phoenix “100” is born, 1914



Wallace C. Button,  
Founder of Rotary In  
Arizona. President,  
RC Phoenix 1919-20

Wally Button, a Phoenix bookseller, met a San Antonio Rotarian on a train from St. Louis and decided to start a Rotary club in Arizona. But Wally and his friends met several challenges in launching a club in Phoenix:

1. The Chamber of Commerce did not want the ‘competition.’
2. A conspiracy theory floated—Rotary was a branch of the Ku Klux Klan.
3. Rotary wanted cities of 25,000; Phoenix at the time only had a population of 12,000.

# Rotary Club of Phoenix "100"

## Chartered March 1, 1914



Amos A. Betts  
President 1914-15

# Early Growth of Rotary in AZ

## Charles B. Christy

“Mr. Extension” started 10 of the first 16 Rotary clubs that chartered in Arizona during the 1920s:

1920: Mesa

1921: Tucson, Miami, Nogales, Prescott, Flagstaff.

1922: Glendale, Winslow, Globe

1923: Kingman, Jerome, Williams, Needles (Calif.), Safford, Holbrook and Tempe.



Charles Christy,  
President, Rotary Club of  
Phoenix, 1917-18  
District Governor, 1922-23



# Founding of The Rotary Club of Tucson, 1921

- The Tucson Luncheon Club of 75 community leaders met weekly to discuss affairs of the city. Through the grapevine, some members heard about internationally affiliated business groups called Kiwanis and Rotary. Sensing some interest, the Club wrote to each of the Chicago-based organizations, but no response.
- On February 14, 1921, representatives of Kiwanis and Rotary both arrived without prior notice. Club secretary Orville McPherson would meet with Mr. Kiwanis in the basement of the Chamber, and President Jack Lyman would meet with Mr. Rotary upstairs.
- Both McPherson and Lyman liked what they heard and thought Tucson could use **both** Kiwanis and Rotary. Orville “Speedy” McPherson selected a small committee to find a solution.
- His committee recommended that the guys **under 50** would be Rotarians; those **over 50** would be Kiwanians.

Rotary Club of Tucson was chartered **April 1, 1921**



# Key Events in Rotary History

- 1905-1910 Initial Clubs Founded
- 1910- First International Clubs: Winnipeg, Dublin, London
- 1917-18 Arch Klumph's Endowment Vision
- 1927 Rotary Youth Exchange Program begins in Copenhagen, Denmark and Nice, France
- 1929-1945 The Great Depression and WWII slowed Rotary's growth
- 1947 Death of Paul Harris. \$1.8 M in donations.
- 1948 First Rotary Foundation Program -- Paul Harris Scholars (later became Ambassadorial Scholars)
- 1948 Tucson Catalina, the first '2<sup>nd</sup> City Club'

# Key Events in Rotary History

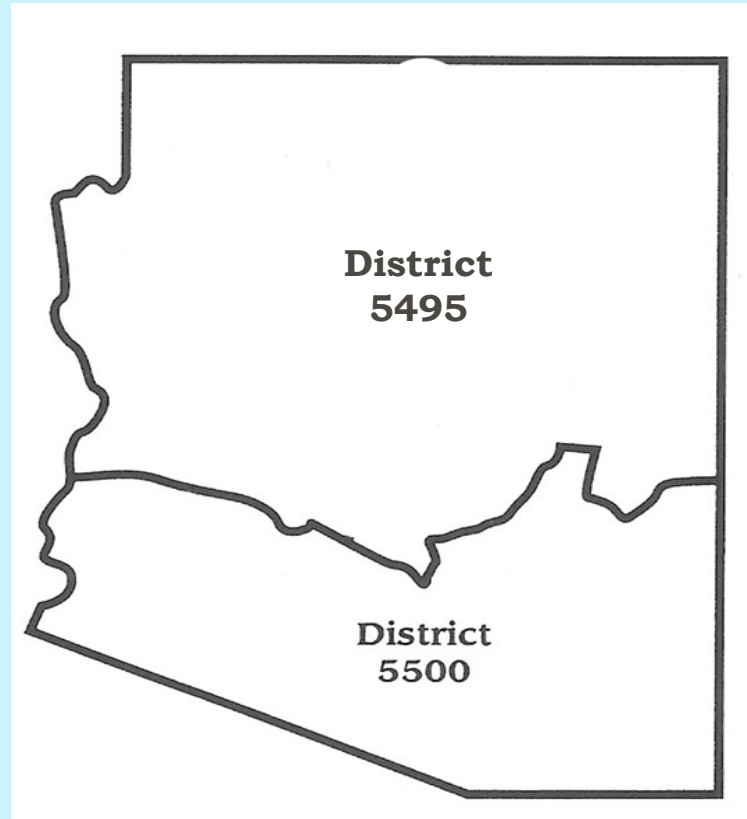
- 1962 Interact started in Melbourne, Australia
- 1963 Group Study Exchange begins
- 1968 Rotaract started in Charlotte, NC
- 1971 RI adopts RYLA, born in Australia in 1959
- 1986 Rotary Community Corps
- 1987 Polio Plus Campaign Launched
- 1987-89 **Women Admitted to Rotary**
- 2013 Rotary Foundation New Grants Model: Global Grants & District Grants
- 2020-21 COVID Pandemic Strikes the World. **Rotary goes Zoom!**



Dr Sylvia Whitlock  
1<sup>st</sup> Woman Rotary  
Club President



Jennifer Jones  
1<sup>st</sup> Woman President  
Rotary International  
2022-23 TITLE | 20

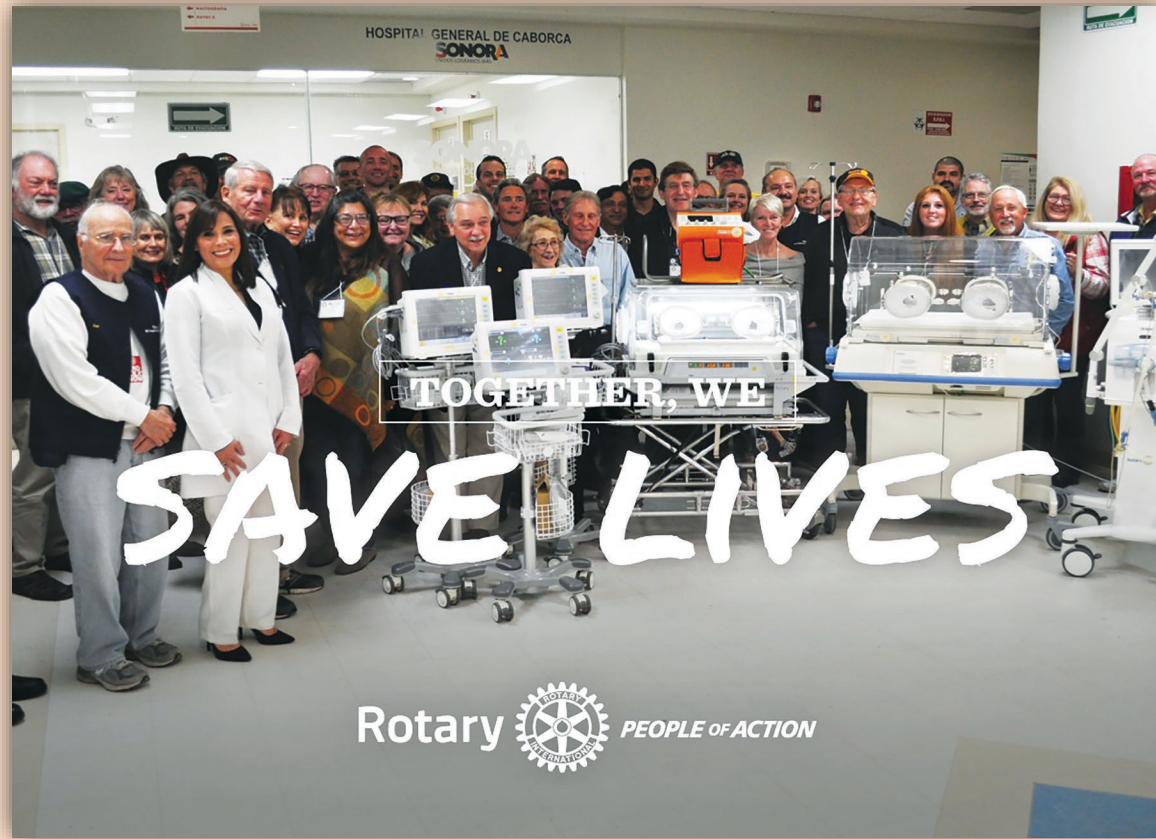


## 3. Growth of Arizona Districts

# Re-Districting Arizona Rotary

- 1914-1936 Arizona belonged to District 8 and then 43, which included clubs from Arizona, New Mexico, Calif. and Texas.
- 1937: Arizona becomes its own District 111 with 28+1 clubs (the extra club being Needles, Calif.)
- 1949 Arizona has 33+1 and becomes District 166
- 1957 Arizona has 40+1 and becomes District 549
- 1971 Arizona divided into D-549 and D-550
- 1988 D-551 approved, northeast Arizona
- 1990 Arizona now has three Rotary Districts: 549, 550, and 551
- 1991 With worldwide expansion, one Zero is added to make 5490, 5500, and 5510
- 2017 Declining membership in D5510 leads to merging 5510 and 5490 into 5495

**Arizona is today home to TWO districts: 5495 and 5500**



## 4. A History of Service

### Rotary in Arizona

# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1920-1940

- By 1920, RI had liberalized its views regarding the establishment of clubs in small towns. After seven years of having only one club in Arizona, Mesa became the second club to charter in Arizona in 1920, followed quickly by clubs in Tucson, Miami, Nogales, Prescott and Flagstaff.
- Many of the largest communities in Arizona back then were mining towns – or towns located along Route 66. Therefore, many of Arizona's earliest Rotary clubs were located in Miami, Kingman, Williams, Holbrook, Globe, Jerome, Safford and Needles (Calif.).

# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1920-1940

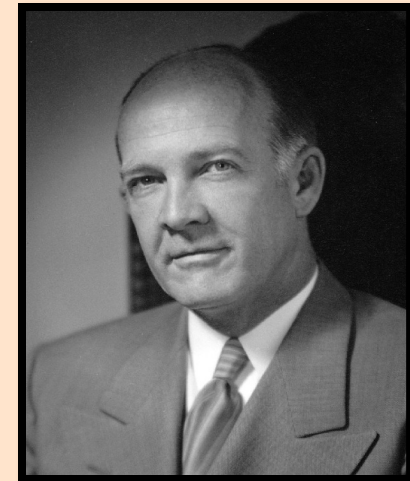
- 1922: Charles Christy becomes the first district governor from Arizona for District 8, which included clubs from New Mexico, West Texas and part of Southern Arizona.
- 1924: George Todd becomes district governor for the newly formed District 43, which includes 19 clubs from Arizona and one from California – Needles – which would remain in an Arizona district until 1937.
- 1937: Arthur Taylor becomes governor of the newly created District 111. After his accidental death, PDG Clarence Boynton from Phoenix, will finish Taylor's term as DG.



# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1940-1950

- The growth of Rotary comes to a standstill in 1942, due to World War II. No new clubs are chartered until late 1944, when clubs in Benson and McNary receive their charters.
- 1949: With 35 clubs in Arizona, a second district is created: District 166. Harry Bonsell, Sr. of the Glendale Rotary Club is elected its first district governor.
- 1951: Howard Pyle, a past president of the Phoenix 100 Club, becomes the 9<sup>th</sup> Governor of Arizona.



# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1950-1980

- 1957: District 166 becomes Rotary District 549 and Alden Miller, past president of the Phoenix 100 Club, becomes district governor. There are now 43 clubs in Arizona.
- Over the next decade, Rotary enjoys explosive growth in Arizona. By 1967, District 549 had grown to 69 clubs and plans begin to create a second district. By 1970, District 549 had grown to 74 clubs with over 4,000 Rotarians (far above RI preference for 50 clubs in each district).
- 1967: Horace Griffen Sr., DG of District 111, becomes the first GSE team leader from Arizona as he and six young businessmen travel to Rhodesia and South Africa.

# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1950-1980

- 1971: Arizona is split into two districts: 549 and 550. William Craig, District Governor in 1970-71, is the last to serve as district governor over the entire state. The Salt River served as the dividing line between the two districts at that time. There was not much cooperation or interaction between the two districts, each going their separate ways.

# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1980-1990

■ 1985: Gift of Life Arizona chartered. DG John Van Houton brought this program to Arizona to provide corrective heart surgeries for children in low-income countries with cardiac birth defects. Initial surgeries were done in Phoenix, however a second site was soon opened in Hermosillo, Mexico. In 2006, PDG Gary Whiting and PDG George Wheeler coordinated the training and start-up of the third Gift of Life program in Puebla, Mexico. More than 300 surgeries have been done in Phoenix, Tucson and Mexico.



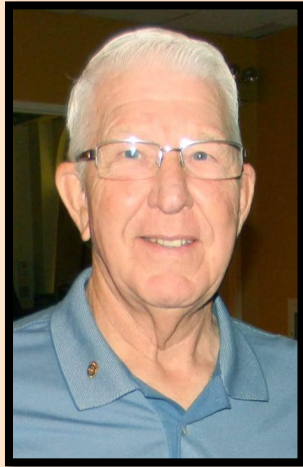
# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1980-1990

- 1989: Growth requires the creation of a new district. Arizona now has three districts: 549, 550 and 551. Jim Freeman, Bob Conley and Rodger Wagner would serve as the new districts first DGs, respectively.
- Because of Rotary membership growth worldwide, RI would add a zero to each district number – thus renaming Arizona's districts: 5490, 5500 and 5510.
- 1989: **Women in Rotary!** Women begin joining Rotary clubs in 1988, and Rotary International changes its constitution at the 1989 Council on Legislation, with a vote to eliminate the “male only” provision for all of Rotary.

# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1990-2000



PDG Jeanie Morgan and PDG Roger Bonnard.

- 1990: Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona established by Dave Wastchak, Roger Bonnard, Greg Podd and Jeanie Morgan. Donors receive a charitable tax-deduction and tax credit on state taxes.
- 1990: The first Arizona Tri-District PETS (President-Elects Training Seminar) is held.



# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1990-2000

- 1992: The three sitting district governors (David Wastchak, David Hossler and Roger Bonngard) initiate the first tri-district RYLA programs.





# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 1990-2000



- 1997: Norma Taylor-Roderique, a member of Phoenix Arcadia, becomes Arizona's very first female district governor as DG for D5510. Valarie Scanlan would be the first female DG for D5500 in 2001-02, and Wilma Basnett Emerson would be the first female DG for D5490 in 2005-06.
- 1998: Third Annual Rotary in Russia Conference held Feb. 19-21 in Tucson – 240 Rotarians attend, 35 from Russia.

# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 2000-2010



D5495  
Governor  
Kevin Pitts  
(2023-24)  
chairs the  
Mexico-USA  
Friendship  
Conference.

■ 2000: The Mexico USA Friendship Conference and Global Grants Exchange begins between Rotary districts in Arizona and Mexico. Over the years, the conference has produced global grant projects in every area of focus. The conference alternates each year between Arizona and Mexico, respectively. The dates vary depending on the schedule of the organizers and the districts' leadership teams.

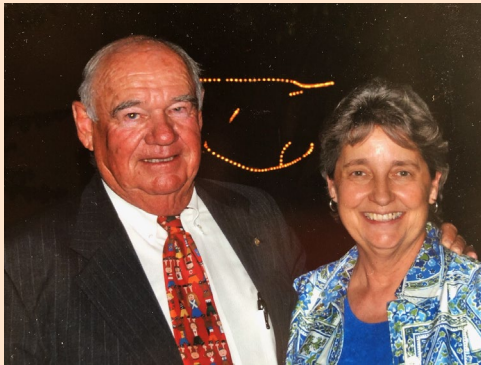
■ 2007: Arizona Tri-District Leadership Academy begins.



# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 2000-2010

- Arizona Million-Dollar Dinners to benefit The Rotary Foundation are held. D5510 holds a dinner Oct. 25, 2008, in Phoenix and raises \$3.1 million. D5500 holds an event Sept. 21, 2010, in Green Valley and raises \$1.5 million in pledges.



- 2009: Michael & Charlotte Harris of the Rotary Club of Casa Adobes, begin the Ride to End Polio in Tucson. Twenty-seven riders raised \$35K the first year. Ten years later, over 120 Rotarians participated and raised nearly \$5 million for Rotary's Polio Fund.

# A History of Service

## Rotary in Arizona: 2010-2020



The Ride to End Polio attracts riders from all over the world. It is one of the greatest fundraisers in the history of Rotary – having raised over \$60 million since its inception (not including the Gates match!)

- 2016-17: Districts 5510 and 5490 merge to become District 5495. District 5500 remains the second district in Arizona. Nancy van Pelt is the first district governor for D5495.



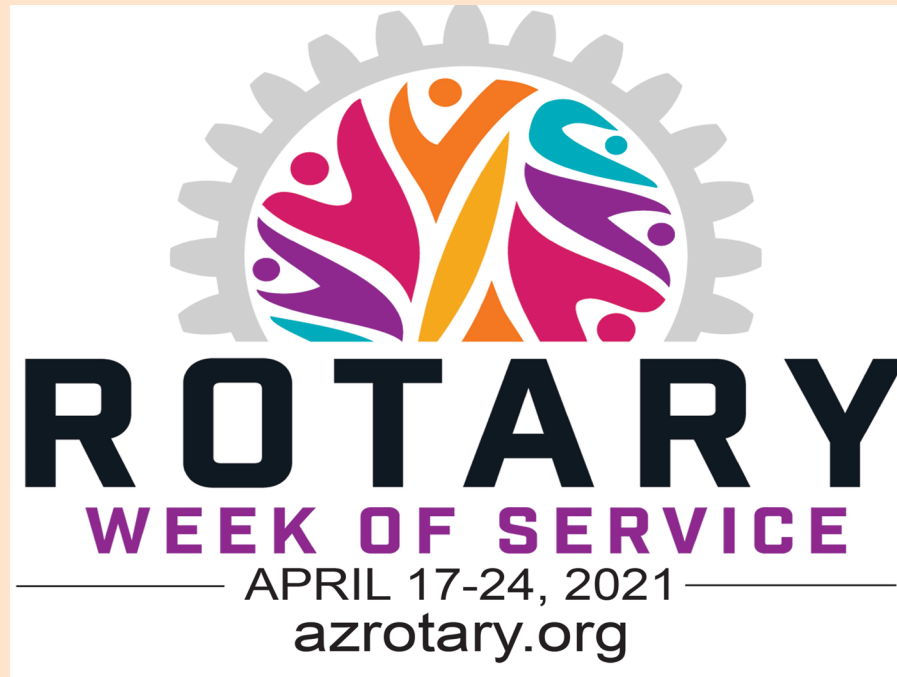
# A History of Service

## Rotary's Impact in Arizona: 2020-2023

- The worldwide COVID-19 pandemic forces the cancellation of district conferences (and international conventions) in 2020 and 2021 and many clubs throughout the state discontinue meetings or convert to virtual meetings. Despite the challenges, Rotary clubs in Arizona and worldwide continue to find ways to serve their communities.



- 2021: Seven Rotary clubs in Arizona celebrate their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary: Mesa, Glendale, Flagstaff, Prescott, Tucson, Globe and Nogales.



■ D5495 DG Elizabeth Mahoney launches “Arizona Rotary Week of Service” in April 2021, encouraging all clubs in the district to invite the public to join Rotarians in community service. The Governor of Arizona declares April 17-24, 2021, as Arizona Rotary Week of Service. D5500 would join the effort in 2022.





# 5. A History of Leadership

## Notable Arizona Leaders

*“May you be  
builders, and not  
mere climbers.”*

**Paul Harris**

The Rotarian Magazine  
February 1916

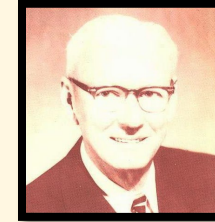


# Rotary International Directors from Arizona

- Frederick Shaeffer, Globe/Tucson, 1931-32



- Karl Barfield, Tucson, 1934-35



- Rodger Wagner, Scottsdale, 2004-05

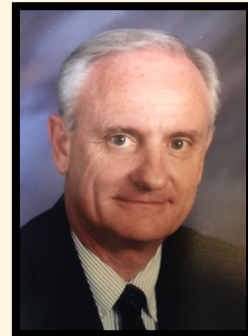
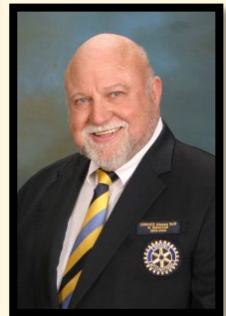
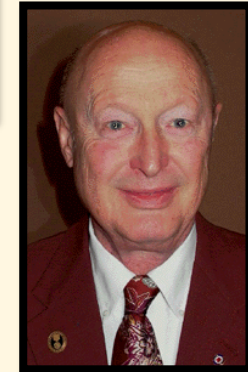
[Died in office, May 2005]

- David Hossler, Yuma, 2005-06

[Replaced Rodger Wagner for last year of his term]

- Philip Silvers, Tucson Sunrise, 2008-10

- Greg Podd of AZ was elected RI Director  
from D-5450 Colorado



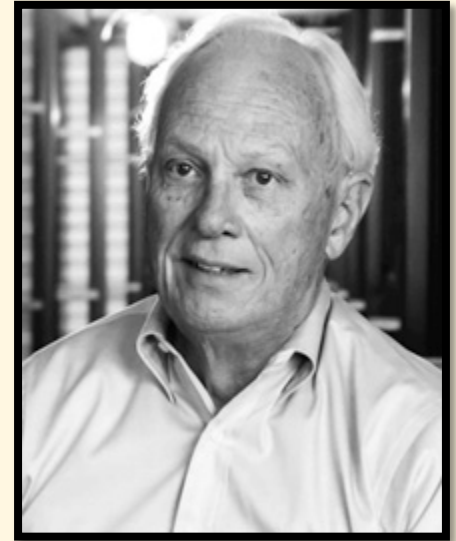
# James R. (Jim) Freeman, PDG



- Joined RC Miami AZ, 1974
- Club president 78-79, Miami AZ, D-550. Did water projects in India.
- As DGN, **proposed** doing an Arizona **Tri-District PETS**
- '90-91 District Governor, D-5490
- PDG Leader, D-5510—only Rotarian to lead in all 3 Arizona districts
- With DGEs Bob Conley & Rodger Wagner, led the 1<sup>st</sup> AZPETS, April 1990. Speaker was RI Director, Rick King
- D-5510 Faculty, AZ Tri-District Leadership Academy, 2007-2013

## **Ted Williams, DG 550 1989-90** **Believer in Tri-District Activities**

Created the 3-legged stool in 1990 as the third district in Arizona was established, to remind the Governors that Arizona Rotary was strongest when each district was equally involved. He championed the early Tri-District PETS.



## **Spencer W. Kimball, Arizona DG 1935-36**

A member of the Safford Rotary Club, he served as district governor for all of Arizona and started numerous Rotary clubs. He served as president of the Church of Latter-Day Saints, 1973-1985, and used Paul Harris's concept of "Tolerance" to reform church thinking.



## **Dave Wastchack, D5490 Governor 1992-93**

An inspirational leader, Dave founded the Centurian Program – voluntary commitments of \$100 per year to TRF. He helped create and led the district's very first RYLA camp in 1993 and helped create The Rotary Vocational Fund of Arizona.



## **Art Harrington, D5510 Governor 1998-99**

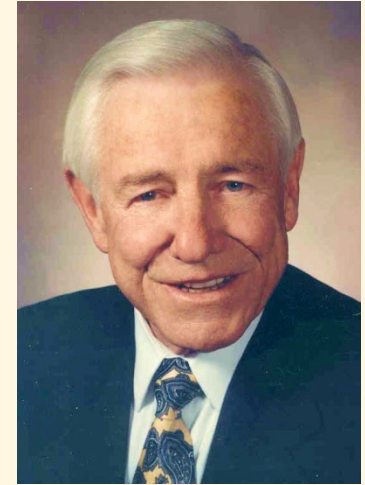
Art was the creator and advisor of the Interact District Council (a youth-run organization) and continues to serve as D5495 Interact District Advisor. He is currently chair of RI's worldwide committee of Interact chairs from 535 districts. Co-creator of Arizona Rotary Leadership Academy, Art has played a key role in leadership development throughout Arizona and in Rotary.





## **Timothy Creedon, D5490 Governor 1994-95**

Only Rotarian to serve as president of Arizona's two largest clubs: Rotary Club of Tucson (1981-82) and Rotary Club of Phoenix 100 (1991-92).



## **Linda Rumack, first woman in AZ Rotary**

She became the very first woman inducted into Rotary in Arizona when she joined the Rotary Club of Tucson Pantano on July 14, 1987. She has had perfect attendance since 1987.



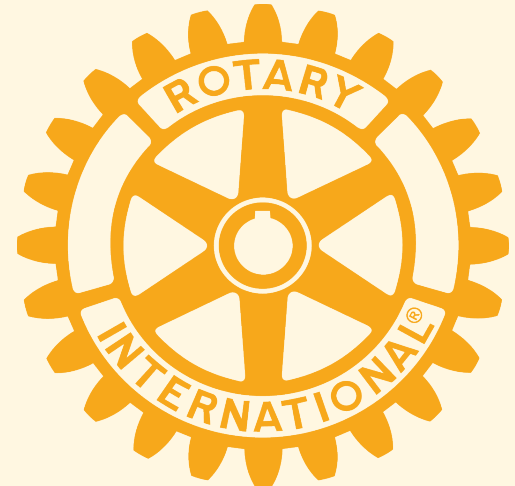
# First Arizona Female District Governors



**Norma Taylor-  
Roderique**  
**D5510**  
**1997-98**  
Rotary Club of  
Phoenix Arcadia.



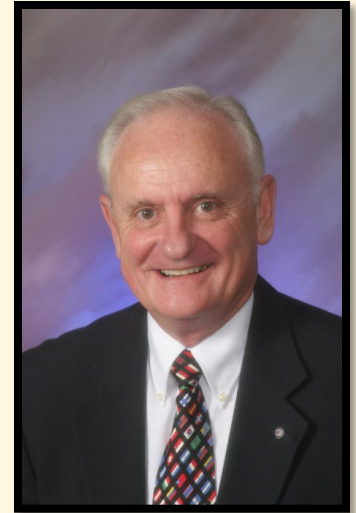
**Valarie Scanlan**  
**D5500**  
**2001-02**



**Wilma Basnett**  
**Emerson**  
**D5490**  
**2005-06**  
Rotary Club of  
Phoenix West

## **Phil Silvers, D5500 Governor 1999-2000**

His list of incredible accomplishments includes starting the Paul Harris Society in D5500, founding Rotary clubs in Russia, Palestine and South Tucson, chairing the Cadre of Technical Advisors and the Rotary in Russia Conference in 1998. He was the first ACK in D5500 and served on the RI Board of Directors 2008-10.



## **D5500 PDGs Sally & Ernie Montagne**

PDGs Ernie (2010-11) and Sally (2014-15) raised almost \$750,000 to support water, agriculture and human-development projects in Togo, Niger and West Africa.



## George Wheeler, D5490 Governor 1999-2000

A mentor to many Rotarians and district governors, George was an inspiration to many and a living example of the true spirit of Rotary. He chartered several clubs internationally and in Arizona and was extremely active at the local, district, Zone and international levels.



## Chuck Fitzgerald, D5490 Governor 2016-17

Chuck started four Rotary clubs in Arizona and was the creator of four Pursuing Peace Conferences and two Water Summits. He was the state governor's liaison between nonprofit programs and state agencies.



## **Michael Drake, D5500 Governor 2011-12**

One of the founders and long-time supporter of the USA-Mexico Friendship Conference, Michael also arranged a GSE with D2452, which led to several global grants in Palestine and helped change attitudes toward Muslims and Arabs in southern Arizona.



## **Elizabeth Mahoney, D5495 Governor 2020-21**

Governor during the COVID-19 pandemic, Elizabeth was responsible for creating Arizona Rotary's annual "Week of Service." She served as chair of the D5495 Rotary Foundation and Youth Services and held numerous leadership activities. She was named the first chair of Zone 26/27's Empowering Girls Initiative.

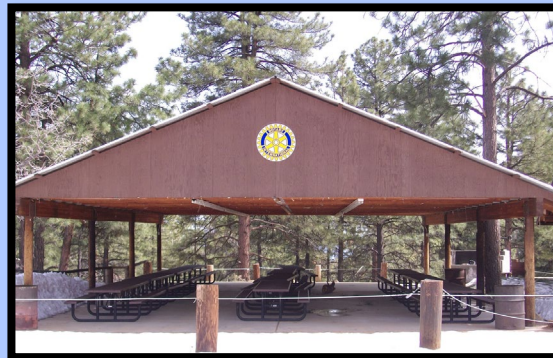
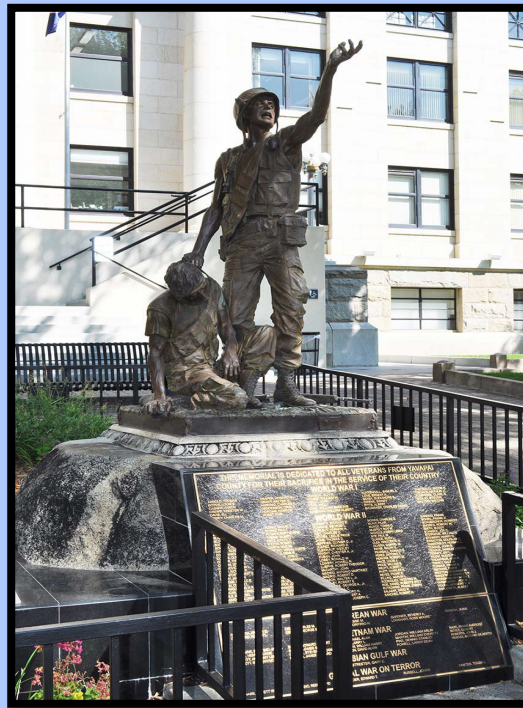
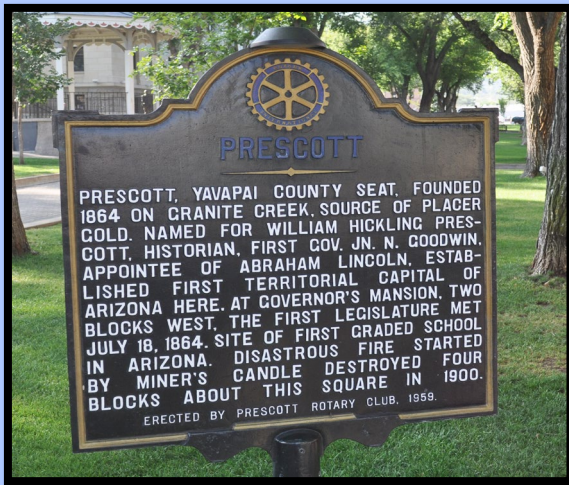




## 6. Rotary Landmarks in AZ

Rotary clubs have served our state for over 100 years – and their presence is felt – and can be seen – in cities and towns throughout Arizona. Rotary-branded landmarks are a point of pride for Rotarians and a collection of them can be found at the District 5495 website. We invite Rotarians to submit photos of all Rotary landmarks they find in Arizona.



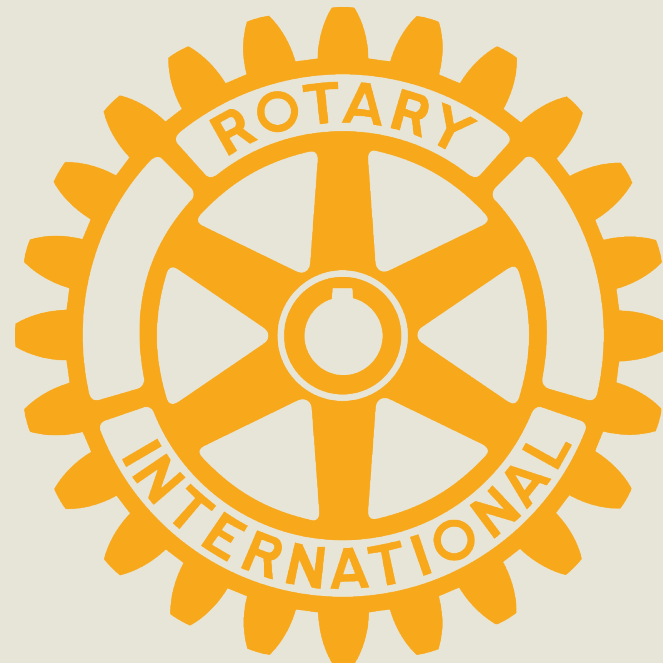






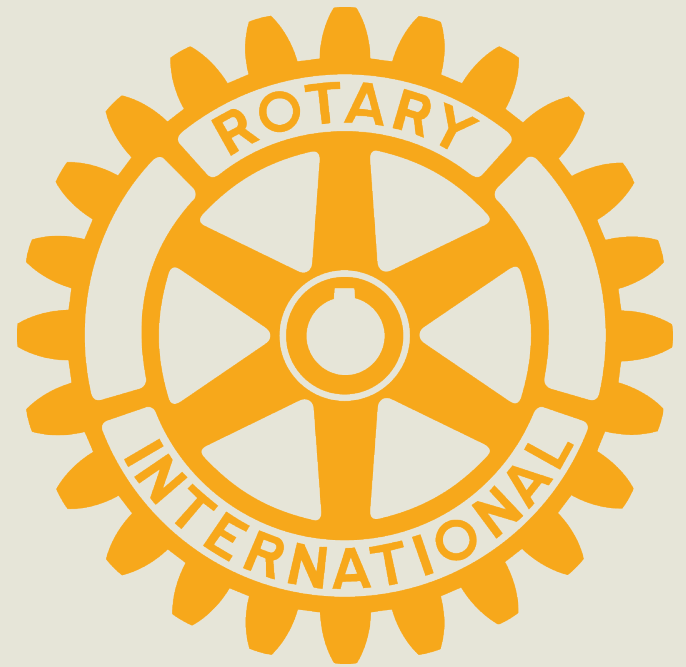
# Additional resources:

- History of Rotary: Online [History | Rotary International](#)
- “A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International,” by David C. Forward, 2003, Rotary International.
- “Doing Good in the World: The Inspiring True Story of The Rotary Foundation’s First 100 Years,” by David C. Forward, 2005, Rotary International.
- Past District Governors in Arizona: online [District 5495 website](#)
- Rotary Landmarks in Arizona: A photo travelogue of Rotary-sponsored parks, beaches, plaques, etc. throughout the state. [District 5495 website.](#)
- **Disclaimer:** There are obvious limitations on this presentations:
  - \* **Time**—we can only cover so many leaders & achievements;
  - \* **Knowledge**—there may be achievements that the presenters do not know about. It is always a work in progress.



- We owe a debt of gratitude to many dedicated Rotarians in Arizona whose research efforts are reflected throughout this presentation. Thanks to the following Past District Governors for their tireless efforts to research, promote and preserve the history of Rotary in Arizona: Phil Silvers, George Wheeler, Danny Messersmith, Roger Bonngard, Bret McKeand, Frank Crane, Jim Freeman, Ted Williams and Ron Roderique.

**Together, we see a  
world where people  
unite and take  
action to create  
lasting change –  
across the globe,  
in our communities  
and in ourselves.**



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**