

“Service above Self”



Rotary Club of Wilmington Downtown

Club # 6184 · District # 7730

P.O. Box 1194
Wilmington, NC 28402

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org
www.rotary.org

Visit us on Facebook

The Four-Way Test

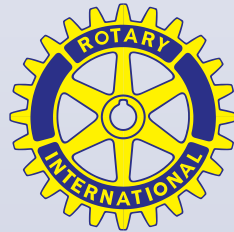
Of the things we think,
say or do...

- Is it the Truth?
- Is it Fair to all concerned?
- Will it build Goodwill and Better Friendships?
- Will it be Beneficial to all concerned?



This Historic Downtown Wilmington marker at 3rd & Front Streets is one of the signs given by our club to the city in 2005, commemorating Rotary International's centennial year.

Rotary Club of Wilmington



Meets Tuesdays at 12:30 p.m.

Coastline Conference Center

501 Nutt Street

Historic Downtown Wilmington

North Carolina

*Established: April 1, 1915
as Rotary Club #150*

INTRODUCTION

For almost 100 years, devotion to “Service Above Self” has characterized the Wilmington Rotary Club’s efforts to make a difference locally, in Southeastern North Carolina, and in the world. This brochure offers brief highlights of the club’s proud history as well as its current accomplishments.

In 2002, the extensive Herman Blizzard Rotary Archives was established at the William Madison Randall Library at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. To learn more about the club’s legacy, visit www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org and click on Herman Blizzard Rotary Archives link.

BACKGROUND

The Rotary movement began in 1905 in Chicago when young attorney Paul P. Harris brought together business and professional men to recapture the feelings of friendship and fellowship many had known growing up in small towns. Rotary International is the world’s first service club organization. The Wilmington Rotary Club – now approaching its centennial milestone – was North Carolina’s second, organized April 1, 1915, as Rotary’s 150th club.



Friendship and fellowship remain a key element of the club, with weekly luncheon meetings that provide interesting, informative programs and speakers, as well as humanitarian service projects, incorporating networking and camaraderie among the area’s influential and respected leaders.

MEMBERSHIP

Wilmington Rotary’s members, men and women – ages 20’s to 90’s – come from a wide spectrum of vocations in business and the professions, including entrepreneurial, corporate, not-for-profit, government and education. Some are retired. Today, the club boasts third generation members, including many father/son and daughter memberships.



The approximately 200 members of the Wilmington Rotary Club are among the 2,100 Rotarians in 51 clubs in District 7730, covering 14 counties in Southeastern North

Carolina, from Fayetteville to Morehead City to the South Carolina line. The Tar Heel State has some 14,300+ Rotarians in 297 clubs. We are part of the nearly 1.3 million members of Rotary International in more than 34,000 clubs in 200 countries. We are united with business professionals worldwide in promoting service, encouraging high ethical standards in all vocations and building peace and goodwill globally.

Membership is by invitation, based on good character and diverse vocations. New members are sponsored and endorsed by current members. There are moderate financial, regular service involvement and attendance obligations.



SERVICE

... PAST AND PRESENT

Our service projects are funded through a variety of sources, including club fund-raisers, individual contributions, Rotary International/Paul Harris Fellowships and District 7730 grants. Here are some examples....

LOCAL SERVICE TO YOUTH

- Developing a Rotary Legacy Project with lasting impact on youth, middle-school age or younger, with implementation expected in fall 2011

- Awards more than \$7,000 in annual scholarships to Cape Fear Community College students and UNC Wilmington students (local and international)

- Organizes, with participation from the other Wilmington Rotary Clubs, the annual local Rotary Youth Leadership Award Conference for approximately 55 students from the county's public and private high schools



- Sponsors 4 of the local delegates to annual District 7730 RYLA weekend at Trinity Center at Salter Path, NC

- Going back to the mid-1920s before orthopedic doctors practiced in Wilmington, the club sponsored an Orthopedic Clinic to help needy children.

Some of our club's presidents...recent and past

COMMUNITY SERVICE



- Cleans two miles of highway along Interstate I-140 four times a year as part of the state's Adopt-a-Highway beautification effort

- Raises and awards more than \$20,000 annually to worthy projects implemented by local non-profit organizations. Recipients include: Elderhaus, Crop Walk, Literacy Council, Police/Sheriff/Fire Departments, Celebrate Wilmington

- Actively supports the Salvation Army with members participating in annual Christmas bell ringing campaign and proceeds from weekly raffle



- Club support for Greenfield Park began in 1962 with construction of a lakeside amphitheatre. To commemorate its 50th anniversary, the club created the world's largest Rotary emblem as a formal 240-foot diameter Rotary Wheel Garden and funded a gazebo there in 1990.

Partnering with Cape Fear Garden Clubs and other Wilmington Rotary clubs, the club is restoring the garden for the 2011 Azalea Festival Garden Party and to make it an attractive site for weddings and other events. To learn more, visit www.facebook.com/RotaryWheel.



REGIONAL SERVICE

- In 2011, implemented a "Leading to Reading" emerging reader program impacting New Hanover, Brunswick and Pender county Pre-K students at the Wilmington Children's Museum



- Valuing service of active duty military and veterans, the club supports the district's Honor Flight initiatives to take WWII veterans to Washington, DC, to visit WWII monument

- Joined other North Carolina Rotarians in mid-1960s to build the Rotary Cottage at Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina on 42-acre campus at Lake Waccamaw. Support of the cottage and its residents is ongoing.

- Through contributions to Rotary International Foundation via Paul Harris Fellowships, Wilmington Rotary and District 7730 helped fund 63 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarships since 1952 for college students from Southeastern North Carolina to study abroad in 16 countries.

- Through RI Foundation, supports annual Group Study Exchanges, sending and receiving young non-Rotarian professionals on a month-long vocational exchange to and from other countries. Under the leadership of a seasoned Rotarian, the GSE team travels throughout the host district acting as ambassadors and gaining valuable cultural and professional insights.

- Consistently leads the district in contributions to RI Foundation, donating \$21,656 in 2009-10

- As of January 2011, boasts 400 Paul Harris Fellows, a distinction recognizing member contributions to the Rotary International Foundation in \$1,000 increments



- Our club has contributed more than \$500,000 to Rotary International Foundation

- Has sponsored 35 other Rotary Clubs, including five in Wilmington and provided 10 District 7730 Governors from our club



INTERNATIONAL SERVICE

- Eradication of polio has been a priority of Rotarians since 1985. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation joined the effort by donating a \$355 million challenge grant. As of late 2010, Rotarians from around the world have contributed more than \$700 million.

- In cooperation with host Rotary Club of Olanchito, Honduras and Water Missions International, Wilmington Rotary installed a \$25,000 water purification project serving five villages in Yoro Province, Honduras. An additional water purification project to serve four orphanages in Kerala, India, is underway in 2011.



- Collected and shipped books, videos and periodicals on WWII in the Pacific as well as a computer/software and funds for office supplies to Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart convent library serving the people of Tarawa, Kiribati

- In 2006, collected and shipped 3.5 tons of personal comfort items to the 2nd Marine Air Wing (Forward) in Anbar Province, Iraq, including toys for Iraqi children. The Marine Corps' Web site highlighted the project.

