



## **ROTARY CLUB OF SAND SPRINGS A Brief History**

### **In The Beginning**

On the evening of January 19, 1925, a group of Sand Springs men met in the basement of the Community Presbyterian Church, 4th and Main, to plan the organization of a Rotary Club in Sand Springs. The growing Tulsa Club, acting in the capacity of "big brother", sent several of its men to the thriving industrial community of Sand Springs to assist in the organization. Ed Monsell, Bob Gibbs, and Charles Hubbard were appointed a committee to recommend a constitution and by-laws. O. L. Stewart became the first president and Charles Parker the first secretary. Ed Monsell was chosen vice-president and Nat White treasurer. Charles Hubbard, Frank Lannon, and Ed Craig were the first directors.

### **Charter Members**

The following twenty men were charter members: Cliff Bobbitt, Joe Burke, Ed Craig, Ely Everett, Burt Frye, Bob Gibbs, W. B. (Dad) Hixson, Len Hohl, Jake Hollyman, Charles Hubbard, Frank Lannon, Jr., Ed Monsell, Charles Parker, Frank Pauly, O. L. Stewart, Sam (Doc) Strader, Burt Sutton, Ray Trimble, Sr., Nat White, and George B. Wilson, all prominent business and professional leaders in the Sand Springs area. From the beginning, weekly luncheons have been held Friday noon, first at the Community Presbyterian Church, then Ward's Cafeteria, later at Four Coin Restaurant, the Plaza Community Center, Case Community Center and today at the Broadway Baptist Church with lunch catered.

### **Club Service Emphasis - Student Loans/Scholarships**

Promptly after organizing, the Sand Springs Rotary Club elected operating committees and searched for methods of promoting the object of Rotary in the Sand Springs area. Working within the four service areas of Rotary, club service became the first active area with the newly formed club. Later, in August of 1929, the student loan and scholarship fund came into being with the grand sum of \$500.00, which in those days was a significant amount. The student loan fund was a significant contributor to the education of a number of needy Sand Springs area boys and girls over the years until student loans became readily available through other programs. The student loan fund was also used to finance the acquisition of livestock for 4-H and FFA boys and girls for those programs of self-development. In 2002-2003, the Sand Springs Rotary Club began to provide four (4) Scholarships for Charles Page High School graduates who met the criteria. Each \$1,000 scholarship provided additional schooling expenses beyond high school whether it be at a university, college, or technical vocational training school.

### **Great Depression**

Rotary membership in Sand Springs continued to grow and by 1930 there were 45 members in various Rotary classifications. Club service was promoted through interesting and educational assembly and fireside chats provided by the older members for newcomers. Vocational service was encouraged through the presentation of short plays and committee operation. Club membership continued to grow until the depression of the early '30's.

### **Community Partnerships - Sand Springs Welfare Association**

Economic and personal problems created by the Great Depression reduced the membership of the Sand Springs Rotary Club through loss of classification and job resignation. Those Rotarians remaining during this period devoted their attention almost entirely to the problems of the community and doing community service. The Sand Springs Welfare Association, now Sand Springs Community Services, had been started by the Sand Springs Woman's Club in 1929 to provide for needy persons in the area. The Sand Springs Rotary joined them in providing help for them in their efforts. During the administration of local Rotary President Clarence McKay, 1932-33, some 400 pairs of shoes were donated to the Sand Springs Welfare Association for distribution to the needy. Those shoes were purchased with \$300.00 which was contributed by Rotarians, along with money from the general fund of the Rotary Club. Through the difficult years of the '30's, Sand Springs Rotary continued to work through the Sand Springs Welfare Association to provide for the needs of citizens in the community with contributions for food baskets. At Christmas time for a number of years, Rotarians brought wrapped gifts to meetings to be distributed by the Sand Springs Welfare Association to needy children during the holiday season.

During the Rotary presidency of Erwin D. Phillips, 1971-72, a Christmas Bean Luncheon was held with food prepared by the Sand Springs Welfare Association employees and volunteers. All the funds were donated to the Christmas food basket and gift program of the Sand Springs Community Services. The Christmas "Bean Lunch Party" continues to this day.

### **Other Community Partnerships**

The Sand Springs Rotary Club hosts a Sand Springs Salvation Army Lunch in November as a fundraiser to kick-off for the annual bell ringing. Following the lunch, Rotarians sign-up to ring the bell for one entire day at a local store. At Christmas, the club has held a canned food and toy drive that has brought in over 800 pounds of food and 70 toys for the Sand Springs Community Services children. Another Christmas activity has been buying Christmas Gifts for needy families at the Sand Springs Home Family Villas.

Other youth services provided to the Sand Springs community have been providing scholarships for students for the Salvation Army summer athletic program, conducting "Be Wise Immunize" vaccinations, Boy Scouts, Rotary Youth Leadership Academy( RYLA), Operation Aware, Limestone School Reading program, Tulsa Boys Home, Senior Celebration, raising \$6,600 for warm-up suits for Sand Springs Special Olympians, and initiating a mentoring program at Central Elementary School.

Through student loans and scholarships and special efforts such as the donation to the Boy Scouts of America of six canoes with full equipment and towing trailer during the administrations in 1976-77, 1985-86 and 1994-95, and Mountain Bikes in 1996-97, work with youth in the Sand Springs area has been highlighted, as it has been during the entire 75 years of Rotary in Sand Springs. For many years, Superintendent of Sand Springs Schools, Clyde (Pop) Boyd, brought outstanding students each week as his guests to the Rotary meetings and until 1975, the new teachers in the Sand Springs Public School system were guests at a luncheon in order that Rotarians and the educators might become better acquainted. (Note: The New Teacher Luncheon continued today. Added to the event is a donation of teacher school supplies.)

Other nonprofit organizations have received financial support from the Sand Springs Rotary Club including the Red Cross, Relay for Life, Sertoma Club Fireworks Display, Salvation Army Disaster Unit, and Life Line.

### **International Projects**

Working with International Service became a growing concern of the Sand Springs Rotary Club and in 1947 Sand Springs Rotary Club commenced a continuing effort with its contributions and work with Rotary Foundation, and later with the Health, Hunger and Humanity Program of Rotary International.

A more recent activity in International Service by Sand Springs Rotarians was the participation in the Health, Hunger and Humanity Program, instituted by Rotary International in the last few years. From the inception of this program, which deals with the problems of needy people of the world, the Sand Springs Rotary Club has participated to the fullest extent through contributions and programs of information. The Health, Hunger and Humanity Program to date has provided medicines and vaccines for millions of children in Costa Rica, the Philippines, the refugee camps of Southeast Asia and many other Third World countries.

Over the years, the Sand Springs Rotary Club has been very involved in supporting Rotary International humanitarian projects such as donating to the RI causes of Clean Water, Digging Water Wells, Providing Wheelchairs, the eradication of polio worldwide, providing money for blankets for Afghanistan, and Medical Supplies Network International. It is sponsored by District 6110 and located in Tulsa. Here donated medical supplies and equipment are gathered, boxed, and shipped to countries around the world. The Sand Springs Rotary Club volunteers throughout the year and makes financial donations to this worthy project.

### **International Exchange**

Sand Springs Rotary has, over the past several years, hosted visiting groups of young adults from other areas of the world through the Rotary Foundation Group Study Exchange. These groups have come from Denmark, India, England, New Zealand, Australia, Chile, France and Finland. Sand Springs Rotary Club has also participated in the American Field Service Foreign Student Exchange hosting students from other countries attending Charles Page High School. Sand Springs Rotarian, the late Mike Pedrick, past local Club President and past Rotary District Governor, had served on a number of Rotary International Committees and was a former director of the Rotary International Foundation. Sand Springs Rotarian George Paden is also a past Club President and a past Rotary District Governor. Sand Springs Rotary Club is honored by the achievements of Mike Pedrick and George Paden and the awards and honors received by them as reflecting upon the Sand Springs Rotary Club.

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### **Fight Against Polio (Currently, End Polio Now)**

From the inception of the Sand Springs Rotary Club, in 1925, the work of the Crippled Children's Committee was an outstanding community service. Children with severe problems were provided with treatment in the Oklahoma City Hospital or in Doctor Sisler's Hospital in Tulsa, where the treatment of crippled children was a specialty. Many Sand Springs area children had their lives beneficially changed through the correction of club feet and other deformities.

Sand Springs Rotary, under the leadership of Harlan Pinkerton, Jr. has contributed a portion of the 500 million Polio Plus dollars raised by Rotarians to eradicate polio from 150 countries of the world. Rotary has inoculated over two billion children over the world against this dreaded disease. Health, Hunger and Humanity has been incorporated into the total program of the Rotary Foundation, assuring its continued positive contributions to World understanding and peace.

### **Fundraisers**

Through the years, the Rotary Club has held several different fundraisers to provide support for their many project, programs, and activities. Besides previously mentioned hosting lunches, the club has held an annual Golf Tournament, 5-K Run, Today, there are three main fundraising events. The Bass Fishing Tournament, Downhill Derby and the Chili Cook-off.

### **Paul Harris Fellows**

Sand Springs Rotary Club is now honored to have among its members, spouses, and other relatives many Paul Harris Fellows. Each year the list continues to grow. Our club initiated a program in 1977-78, of contributing through club and individual members, the \$1,000.00 or more each year necessary to the Rotary Foundation to provide a Paul Harris Fellowship for a local member. Our club has 71 Paul Harris Fellows.

## **Membership**

Sand Springs Rotary continues to grow and to prosper with an active and interested membership and today boasts approximately 90 members. On August 21, 1987, Sand Springs Rotary opened its doors to women after the United States Supreme Court Decision made a few months earlier. Today, the Sand Springs Rotary Club is a diverse Club with men and women of all ages, experiences, backgrounds, and abilities working together toward common goals and projects. Rotarians are well respected individuals within this community and are known for being able to get a job done. They continue to touch the lives of old and young alike. This particular club is known throughout District #6110 for its outstanding fellowship, close camaraderie, and warm welcome of visitors who attend its regular Friday noon luncheon meetings. Truly, Rotary and its wonderful spirit of service and friendship is alive and well in Sand Springs.

## **Writers/Authors**

Most of this brief information on Sand Springs Rotary Club and its history of Rotary service, was prepared by Erwin D. Phillips (Died September 13, 2004) of the Historical Committee of the Sand Springs Club for 2003-2004, the ninety-eighth anniversary of Rotary in the world. Additions were made by Henry McCandless (died October 12, 2016) and Peggy Dumas Dyer.

**SAND SPRINGS ROTARY CLUB  
ORGANIZED JANUARY 19, 1925  
CHARTER GRANTED BY ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FEBRUARY 3, 1925**

**CHARTER MEMBERS**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Classification</b>
C. T. (Cliff) Bobbitt	Filling Service Station
J. P. (Joe) Burke	Automobile Retailing
Edwin A. (Ed) Craig	Petroleum Producing
E. E. (Ely) Everett	Newspaper Publishing
Thomas B. (Burt) Frye	Garage and Service
Robert W. (Bob) Gibbs	General Law Practice
Walter B. (Dad) Hixson	Groceries Retailing
Leonard B. (Len) Hohl	Women's Clothing Retailing
Jonathan C. (Jake) Hollyman	Protestant Church
C. H. (Charles H.) Hubbard	Fruit Jar Manufacturing
Franklin P. (Frank) Lannon, Jr.	Zinc Smelting
E. M. (Ed) Monsell	Charitable Homes
F. R. (Frank) Pauly	Educational Public Schools
Charles B. Parker	Building and Loan
O. L. Stewart	Banking
Samuel A. (Doc) Strader	Drugs Retailing
Burt Sutton	Hardware Retailing
A. R. (Ray) Trimble	Dentistry
Nat D. White	Household Furniture Retailing
George B. Wilson	Lumber Retailing

## PAST PRESIDENTS OF SAND SPRINGS ROTARY CLUB

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Classification</b>
1925-26	O. L. (Ollie) Stewart	Banking
1926-27	Fred S. Halm	Physician
1927-28	E. M. (Ed) Monsell	Charitable Homes
1928-29	J. P. (Joe) Burke	Automobiles Retail
1929-30	George B. Wilson	Lumber Retail
1930-31	C. H. (Charles) Hubbard	Fruit Jar Manufacturing
1931-32	Ed S. Wolff	Electric Power and Light
1932-33	Clarence McKay	Oil Refining
1933-34	R. N. (Dick) Hoerner	Corrugated Box Manufacturing
1934-35	A. R. (Ray) Trimble, Sr.	Dentistry
1935-36	Harrison Young	Natural Gas Distributing
1936-37	Charles R. Parker	Building and Loan
1937-38	Wallace (Wally) Smiley	Lighting Fixtures Manufacturing
1938-39	Gus Weekly	Metal Smelting and Refining
1939-40	H. B. (Rusty) Dowell	Cotton Mill
1940-41	E. E. (Tom) Mansfield	Electric Light and Power
1941-42	Paul P. Pinkerton	Charitable Homes
1942-43	Harley Aitkin	Glass Jar Distributing
1943-44	George Way	Steel Mill
1944-45	Victor (Vic) Hulett	Business Promotion
1945-46	T. H. (Ted) Steffens	Railroad Transportation
1946-47	Harold Aitkin	Metal Smelting and Refining
1947-48	Clyde (Pop) Boyd	Education, Administration
1948-49	Phil Smith	Real Estate Sales
1949-50	Sam Gavril	Bedding Manufacturing
1950-51	Ura B. Crewson	Glass Jar Distributing
1951-52	Clarence Lawless	Instrumental Music
1952-53	C. C. (Clint) Evans	Postal Service
1953-54	George E. M. Campbell	General Law
1954-55	Harlan S. Pinkerton, Sr.	Casualty Insurance
1955-56	Luther Roberts	Electric Light and Power
1956-57	Mike Pedrick	Animal Foods
1957-58	Ray Miltz	Stock Yards
1958-59	A. R. (Ray) Trimble, Jr.	Dentistry
1959-60	Bert Sutton	Education, Attendance
1960-61	Clyde Browsers	Education, Vocational/Agriculture
1961-62	H. C. Jones	Banking
1962-63	Dennis C. Gilliam	Lumber Retail
1963-64	Tot Brown	Life Insurance
1964-65	N. B. Lasater	Commercial Gas Manufacturing
1965-66	Homer C. (Zenie) Goatcher	Radio Service
1966-67	Dan Brown	Animal Foods Distributing
1967-68	Ed E. Everett	Magazine Publication
1968-69	Marshall Perry	Liquid Gas Retail
1969-70	W. L. (Wink) Burcham	Steel Bar Manufacturing
1970-71	Ed Zickefoose	Animal Foods
1971-72	Erwin D. Phillips	Charitable Homes
1972-73	A. Lyle Crowder	Savings and Loan
1973-74*	James Borren	Hospital Administration
1974-75	Charles Hill	Electric Light and Power

1975-76	Bob Ray	Metal Smelting and Refining
1976-77	Herb Finnell	Corrugated Box Manufacturing
1977-78*	Herschell Daney	Mental Retardation Rehabilitation
1978-79	Wendell Sharpton	Education, Administration
1979-80	David A. Stone	Land Development
1980-81	Robert (Bob) Van House	Methodist Pastor
1981-82*	George Paden	Education, Secondary Schools
1982-83	Tom Gilbert	Casualty Insurance
1983-84	Lee Rand Smith	Special Education
1984-85d	Dale Morrow	Building Materials Retail
1985-86	Dick McClure	Office Supply, Retail
1986-87*	Ed Dubie	Corrugated Packing Industry Engineer
1987-88*	Mark Manahan	Optometry
1988-89	Bill Brown	Charitable Home Trustee
1989-90	Glen Richards	Banking-Administration
1990-91d	Phil Niles	Senior Active
1991-92d	Mike Snyder	Natural Gas Distribution
1992-93*	Tom Cobb	Civil Engineering
1993-94	Floyd Davis	Investments Counseling
1994-95*	Mary Sue Overbey	Governmental Finance
1995-96*	Larry Clenney	Telephone Service
1996-97d	David Mick	Insurance
1997-98d	Al Dodson, Jr.	Funeral Director
1998-99*	Kenny Tate	Real Estate
1999-00	Cindy Burks	Loan & Investments
2000-01*	Romme Pate	Tax Accounting
2001-02*	Joe Stephenson	Gas Distribution Wholesale
2002-03	Loyd Nixon	Investments General
2003-04*	Donna McLain	
2004-05*	Harlan S. Pinkerton, Jr.	
2005-06*	Jeff Smith	
2006-07	David Allen	
2007-08*	Clay Langley	
2008-09	David Phillips	
2009-10*	Howard Pidcock	
2010-11*	Brian Smejkal	
2011-12*	Brandon Grell	
2012-13*	Alan Copeland	
2013-14*	Gary Hargrove	
2014-15*	Robert Wood	
2015-16*	Cody Worrell	
2016-17*	Steve Lane	

\* = Current Members