



CLUB HISTORY

Founding the club

In the Spring of 1995, USF Administrator/Professor Dr. Thomas E. Wade was a member of the Rotary Club of Tampa which met in downtown Tampa, FL (with over 200 members). When District 6890 Governor-Elect Jorge Blondet visited his Club, Dr. Wade inquired about the possibility of starting a Rotary Club in the New Tampa area north of the University.

In July, 1995, Past District Governor (1986-87) Dr. William N. Leonard, was commissioned by District Governor Blondet to survey the New Tampa area (i.e., area north of Fletcher Avenue along Bruce B. Downs Boulevard) as a potential location for a new Rotary International Club. The survey indicated some 3,600 residents and approximately 14,000 people within three communities, most of which were business and professional people working in Tampa or nearby urban areas. An application was submitted to Rotary International with the sponsorship of the Rotary Clubs of Temple Terrace and Ybor City.

First Meeting

The first organizational meeting was held on September 13, 1995, at Hunters Green Golf & Country Club. In addition to Dr. Leonard, other (former) Rotarians attending the meeting were Dr. Wade, (Rotary Club of Tampa), William C. Spivey, (Rotary Club of Tampa North) and Thomas Dessy, (Rotary Club of Carrollwood) as well as 8 to 10 non-Rotarians. The name of "Rotary Club of New Tampa" was suggested by Dr. Wade and a meeting day and time was established. Since most potential members worked in downtown Tampa, a breakfast club was proposed. On September 22, a second meeting was held at 7 A.M. at the Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club with approximately 20 prospective members in attendance. At the September 29 meeting, club officers and directors were elected with 32 prospective members present. Dr. Thomas Wade was elected as the Charter President for the new club.



Dr. Thomas E. Wade
Charter President



Dr. William Leonard
Club Organizer

Charter officers & directors included:

Charter President - Thomas E. Wade

President-elect - William C. Spivey

Vice President - Lillian Strauss



Secretary - Andrew C. Greenburg

Treasurer - Kimberly W. Cole

Sergeant-at-Arms - Thomas Dessy

Club Service Director - Gerard A. Perret, Jr.

Vocational Service Director - Ann O. Bartlett

Community Service Director - Robert W. Smucker

International Service Director - Charles Davis

Senior Director William N. Leonard

Membership goals for the new club were set first at 35, then 40, then 50. **Charter Night was held on December 2, 1995, at the Tampa Palms Golf and Country Club with 63 new members (59 new Rotarians and 4 former/existing Rotarians), setting a new record in the Southeastern USA for clubs having the largest number of charter members (and within the top 2% of all Rotary Clubs ever chartered throughout the world).** Charter Night had an attendance of over 150 including eight past Governors and their spouses.

Club Banner

During the Charter year, Dr. Wade commissioned Lillian Strauss, principal at Tampa Palms Elementary School (and charter VP) to have children at her school propose the design for the Club banner as a competition. Based on these submissions, a design was selected by the Club Board of Directors and is still used today with minor alterations. An annual Club Roster (including club membership information, officers & directors, a list of Paul Harris Fellows, award recipients, etc.) was initiated by charter member Ann Wade, who subsequently served as the annual roster director for many years.

Community Service

Even before it chartered as an official club in December, 1995, the Rotary Club of New Tampa had undertaken a community service project, namely, bell-ringing for the Salvation Army outside a supermarket for a whole week, raising enough money to receive a special award from the Salvation Army. The first major service project included purchasing and planting trees in the median of Bruce B. Downs Blvd. This included raising some \$20,000 which was matched with funds from the City of Tampa. After completion, a road sign and a plaque were erected crediting the Rotary Club of New Tampa for its contribution.

Since its chartering, the club has undertaken many community service and vocational service projects. It is anticipated that the Rotary Club of New Tampa will continue to make a positive impact on the New Tampa community for many years to come.



PAST PRESIDENTS
Rotary Club of New Tampa

Thomas E. Wade	1995-96
William C. Spivey	1996-97
Gerard A. Perret, Jr.....	1997-98
Alan J. Lewis	1998-99
Kimberley Cole	1999-00
Joseph A. Amon	2000-01
F. Douglas Andrews	2001-02
Bernardus Geradts	2002-03
Jerry Bever	2003-04
Connie Bladen	2004-05
Colin Beach	2005-06
Gordy Larson.....	2006-07
Lynn Grinnell	2007-08
Mike Wallace	2008-09
Mac Anderson	2009-10
Gary Gunter	2010-11
Matt Palmer	2011-12
Dennis Loomis	2012-13
Peter Gambacorta	2013-14
Frank Moore	2014-15
Lesley Zajac	2015-16
Brice Wolford.....	2016-17

HISTORY OF
Rotary Club of New Tampa

- September 13, 1995 – Organizational Meeting at Hunter’s Green Golf & Country Club
 - September 22, 1995 – Second Meeting at Tampa Palms Golf & Country Club
 - September 29, 1995 – Officers and Directors Elected
 - December 2, 1995 – Charter Night
- Inducted 59 new members and 4 former Rotarians. Total of 63 members.

SPONSORING ROTARY CLUBS

- Rotary Club of Ybor City:
Dr. Jack Fernandez, President
- Rotary Club of Temple Terrace:
Sam Mudano, President

Charter Members (11 still active *)

Nichola C. Ahrens, Vicki Ahrens, Joseph A. Amon, **Mac Anderson***, James Anthony, William Auvil, Ann Bartlett, Charlotte Clark, Kimberley Cole, Patricia Coleman, Michael Crabtree, Chuck Davis, Liz DeAmbrose, Tom Dessy, Robert Doran, **Robert Ferrera***, Herb Fiss, Andrew Greenberg, Timothy Harris, Allen Hemmat, Larry Hooper, **Ram Kancharla***, Robert Kasak, **David Lanigan***, William Leonard, Alan Lewis, Michael Leslie, Laura Livengood, Brian Malison, John McCarthy, Lisa McDaniel, **Michael Morris***, **Bradley Page***, Jay Palmer, **Matthew Palmer***, **Gerard Perret***, William Poole, John Ramil, Pam Santo, Melinda Sheer,



Robert Smucker, Steven Sockler, Ric Spearin, William Spivey, Lil Strauss, Martha Streeper, Felix Subervi, Gerald Tippin, **Robert Van Sickler***, **Ann C. Wade***, **Thomas E. Wade***, W. Don Whyte, John W. Wilcox