

## Rotary Club of Pryor, OK History

Through Rotary International, club charter # 5726 was granted to the Rotary Club of Pryor, OK on February 17, 1944 by then Rotary International President Charles Wheeler and District Governor Fred Speakman.

The charter banquet was held on March 31, 1944. The newspaper headlines at that time: *Rotary Club is Presented Charter at Banquet Friday: Largest Banquet Ever Held in Pryor: Eight clubs represented.* 325 people were in attendance at the Graham Community Building! The eight clubs represented were: Claremore, Sapulpa, Muskogee, Bartlesville, Vinita, Nowata, Bristow and Drumright.

The first Pryor Rotary Club President was Norvelle Green, Mortician!

The first official meeting of the Pryor Rotary Club was held on February 25, 1944 at the First United Methodist Church where meetings are still held to this day. The Methodist Ladies Group has been cooking and serving great homemade meals to Rotarians since the very beginning.

In a Club Secretary's report given June 30, 1946, the numbers given were:

35 charter members

22 resignations

6 reinstatements

26 new members

Total – 45 members

17 members had perfect attendance for at least 6 months, 5 for one year, those being: Enos Cloninger, Haskell Gaither, Ernest Brown, Norvelle Green and Carl Samuels.

Early meetings had programs such as The Four Objects of Rotary, Rotary in the Community, musical performances by local students.

The March 24, 1944 meeting guest speaker was Retired Col. O.W. Hoop, then Dean of the History Department at The University of Tulsa who talked about his WWII experiences as an officer in North Africa.

Guest speaker on June 2, 1944, Judge Dick Jones of the Criminal Court of Appeals of Oklahoma spoke on communism and the June 9<sup>th</sup> program was by Tulsa Rotarian Harry Clarke on the 5<sup>th</sup> War Bond Drive which was a kickoff to a local Rotary Club-driven Bond Auction event.

The Secretary's duties included telegraphing the monthly attendance reports to the district governor.