

Winter Park / Fraser Rotary Club

Winter Park / Fraser Valley Rotary Club meets Tuesdays at noon at Beaver Village Lodge 726- 5741

The Winter Park Rotary reminds you to protect your skin. Put on Sun Screen!



Service above Self

Where did Rotary Come From?

by Dan Lubar

This month's WP/FV Rotary article is a story for anyone that has ever wondered what those round "Rotary Club" signs that can be seen in almost every town around Colorado are all about.

Like many world changing things, Rotary started with one person with a good idea. That person's name was Paul Harris. For anyone from Rotary, he has the distinction of being the one whose idea and vision have allowed Rotary to become the means to serve many basic human needs throughout the world

Though born in Racine, Wisconsin, while still a young child, Paul Harris returned to his father's home in Vermont's Green Mountains where he grew up in the village of Wallingford.

Years later, a young Paul Harris returned to the Midwest to seek his fortune. He made the city of Chicago his home and finally fulfilled his destiny to become the founder of Rotary.

To provide a glimpse into his world and how the idea of Rotary came together, here is a short excerpt from a book he wrote in his later years.

"I took my scanty meals at German, Scandinavian, Italian, Greek, and Hungarian restaurants. I made acquaintances but not real friends. Chicago beaches swarmed with bathers and picnickers, each playing their parts in the recreational life of hundreds of thousands of city toilers. Everywhere were people but nowhere a familiar face.

To me one essential was lacking, the presence of friends. Emerson said, "He who has a thousand friends has not a friend to spare. In my earliest days in my adopted city, I had neither the thousand nor the one.

Betterment in human affairs comes through travail. Someone first has to visualize the need and suffering clarifies that as nothing else could. I saw the great need of human companionship as I never could have without such experiences.

The thought persisted that I was experiencing only what had happened to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others in the great city, came to me. I was sure that there must be many other young men who had come from farms and small villages to establish themselves in Chicago. In fact I knew a few. Why not bring them together? If the others were longing for fellowship as I was, something would come of it.

One evening I went with a professional friend to his suburban home. After dinner as we strolled about the neighborhood my friend greeted by name various tradesmen at their stores. This reminded me of my New England village. The thought came to me why not in big Chicago have a fellowship composed of just one man from each of many different occupations, with no restrictions as to their politics or religion, with broad tolerance of each other's opinions? In such a fellowship could there not be mutual helpfulness?

I did not act upon my impulse at once; months and even years passed. I did walk alone but eventually in February 1905 I called three young business men to meet with me and I laid before them a simple plan of co-operation and friendship such as all of us had once known in our villages. They agreed to my plan.

We grew in numbers, in fellowship, in the spirit of helpfulness to each other and to our city. The banker and the baker; the parson and the plumber; the lawyer and the laundryman discovered the similarity of each other's ambitions, successes, and failures. We learned how much we had in common. We found joy in being of service to one another. Again I seemed to be back in my New England valley.

At a third meeting of the group, I presented several suggestions as a name for the club, among them Rotary, and that name was selected as we were then holding our meetings in rotation at our places of business.

The third year I was elected president and my ambitions then were-first, to advance the growth of the club; second, to extend the movement to other cities; third, to intensify community service as one of the club's objectives.

From that humble start has grown a present fellowship of a quarter-million business and professional men. Rotary has made itself at home in seventy different countries; in truth it is said that the sun never sets on Rotary."

If this story strikes a cord with you, and you want to experience Rotary that is still part of the vision that Paul Harris created so long ago, please join the Winter Park-Fraser Valley Rotary Club to see Rotary in action any Tuesday at noon

Some WP/FV Rotary Club regular activities

- Fraser River adapt-a-river project
- Highway 40 clean up
- Shelterbox
- Eisenhower project
- dictionaries to 3rd graders
- Ecuador projects
- Christmas tree festival
- Rotary Youth Exchange
- International Study Exchange teams
- annual Service Above Self award
- theater nights in Winter Park
- various scholarship programs
- Reba Ferguson professional development awards
- sponsor of Mountain Family Center annual picnic

August Events

- 8/9 Eisenhower statue unveiling; 10:00 AM Fraser River Trail by Safeway
- 8/8, 8/9, 8/22, 8/23 Grand Lake Rotary Bingo Night: 7:30pm - Town Park

WP/Fraser Club meets Tuesdays at noon at Beaver's Lodge

Granby Club meets Wednesdays at noon at the Silver Creek Inn

Grand Lake Club meets Tuesday 7:00 pm at the Bear Paw Restaurant

Kremmling 2nd/4th Tues. - 7:00am at Middle School Cathy Shipley Room

For more information about the Winter Park Fraser Valley Rotary Club join us at a weekly meeting or see our web site at: www.wpfv-rotary.org

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