
**THE ROTARY CLUB
OF
WEST RALEIGH**



August 12, 1954 to August 12, 2004

SERVICE ABOVE SELF

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST RALEIGH



A 50 Year History August 12, 1954 to August 12, 2004

During an official visit to the Rotary Club of Raleigh in November 1953, governor of District 278, P. D. Midgett, Jr., suggested a project to establish another Rotary Club in Wake County. Ralph Cummings, President of the Rotary Club of Raleigh, appointed a committee of seven club members, one of whom was Chreston Holoman, to look into establishment of another Rotary Club in Raleigh.

In early 1954, the Raleigh Club officially designated an area in west Raleigh as the locale of a new club. This area included the campus of North Carolina State College and Cameron Village Shopping Center. On March 12, 1954, Rotary International authorized the organization of a new club for this designated area. The first meeting of prospective new members of this club was held May 27, 1954 at the Reinlyn House Restaurant in Glenwood Village Shopping Center.

The new club was established on July 29, 1954 with twenty charter members. The club officers were elected August 6, 1954, and Chreston Holoman became the charter president. The club was officially admitted to membership of Rotary International as The Rotary Club of West Raleigh, North Carolina on August 12, 1954. The first "Charter Night" meeting was held on the evening of August 12, 1954 at the Carolina Country Club.

The charter members of the club were Chreston Holoman (President), Thomas W. Alexander (Vice President), William H. Worth (Secretary), Allen C. Hunt (Treasurer), Joseph Scott (Sgt. At Arms), Thomas Wilson (Director), L.N. Hutchison, Jr. (Director), Lewis P. Watson (Director), Bern F. Bullard, George Cooper, James Ferguson, Thomas Ficklin, Marshall Hartsfield, A. E. Harer, George Jones, Lunsford Long, Jr., Jackson Rigney, J. H. Scott, Reginald Scott, Howard Sugg, and Lief Valand. The District Governor in 1954/55 was Egbert N. Peeler.

For the first four years, the weekly club meetings were held at the Carolina Country Club and membership grew to 36 by 1956. During 1956, the club sponsored a Boy Scout Troop. By 1957, the membership had increased to 47, the meetings were moved to Warlick's Restaurant, and the weekly club bulletin, The Wheel, was first published. The membership grew to 53 by 1958, and the Club established a scholarship fund for a student at N. C. State and also sponsored a little league baseball team.

The club's weekly meetings were moved to the Reinlyn House Restaurant in 1959. Meeting where the club had its official beginning in 1954, members began reaching out to the international community by establishing an international student scholarship, awarded to a foreign student who would be studying at N. C. State. Additionally, the club started making club contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

By 1960, the club membership had grown to 60, and the Rotary Club of West Raleigh Charitable Fund was established. The charitable fund was formed as a non profit trust and was funded by each club member's contribution as part of the regular quarterly membership dues. The purpose of the trust was to fund the annual international student scholarship.

As club membership continued to grow, there was a need to secure a larger meeting facility and in the 1961/62 Rotary year, the club relocated its weekly meetings to the Raleigh YMCA on Hillsborough Street. By 1963, membership had reached 65, and the club initiated expansion of Rotary into Cary by spearheading the establishment of the Rotary Club of Cary. Charter member Howard Sugg was the club's special representative to help establish this new club. In 1966, the club was also involved in the formation of the Rotary Club of North Raleigh.

Rotary year 1969/70 saw the club grow to 83 and by 1971/72, membership had swelled to 90. During the 1971/72 Rotary year the Board voted to establish an annual recognition to a club member (or members) that had best fulfilled the ideal of "Service Above Self". The Chreston Holoman Service Award, named in honor and memory of the club's first president, is presented for outstanding and significant personal service to the club and to Rotary. A trophy is presented each year to the new recipient, and it bears the names of each club member who has been recognized as a Holoman Service Award winner. Three club members shared the first award: charter members and past presidents Howard Sugg and Lewis Watson, and past president Avery Upchurch.

During the 1970s, many new things started that have become a part of the club's tradition. Reciting the pledge of allegiance began in 1972, the first annual club directory was published in 1974, and the first two Paul Harris Fellow awards were given. Paul Harris Fellow recognition is attained by an individual who gives a minimum \$1,000 contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Our first two recipients were J. C. Ferguson and W. Kern Holoman, brother of our first president. In 1976, our scholarship award recognition was expanded to include four local student scholarships, given to high school seniors in recognition of their outstanding academic and leadership

achievements. The scholarship project was later named in honor of Fred Cochran, a longtime educator and professor at N. C. State University.

With emphasis being placed upon contributions to the Rotary Foundation in 1980, the first "Club of 10" was formed and another Paul Harris Fellow award was given. The "Club of 10" was made up of 10 club members who each agreed to contribute \$100 per year for 10 years to the Rotary Foundation. Each year, one of the "Club of 10" member's names would be drawn out of a hat, and that person would become a Paul Harris Fellow with the supporting contributions of the other nine members of the "Club". Over the next three years, two additional "Club of 10" groups were formed, and by 1982, the Club had seven Paul Harris Fellows. With the "Club of 10" yearly contributions continuing plus individual members contributions, the club had 24 Paul Harris Fellows by 1986.

Over the years, club members have distinguished themselves within our District and beyond. Avery C. Upchurch, prior to becoming one of the most popular and effective mayors of Raleigh, served as Governor of District 771 (now 7710) in 1968/69. Layton Hoysler served as Governor of District 5960 in 1974/75. Douglas A. Bryant served as Governor of District 771 in 1988/89, and James E. Stewart served as Governor of District 773 (now 7773) in 1988/89.

Other members volunteered and distinguished themselves and our Club in the late 1970s and 1980s. Durant Bell led a Group Study Exchange (GSE) team to Korea in 1976, Kern Holoman led a GSE team to India, Nepal, and Bangladesh in 1982, and Aaron C. Vick led a GSE team to Brazil in 2002. Durant Bell, a dentist, made trips to the Philippines and Hong Kong, providing free dental service at dental clinics in each country. Along with another club member and dentist, Bob Sager, Bell went to Hong Kong for a second time and to Brazil. In 1983 our club collected and donated a large number of text books and after overcoming a great deal of "red tape," these books were shipped to a village in Kenya. Our club also sponsored an international scholar, Beth Patterson, and she spent a year in Australia in graduate studies.

The leaders of our Rotary District and also Rotary International have played important roles in our club's service to others. District Governor Wendell Moseley began a district wide project called Rotary Youth Leadership Award, RYLA. In 1985 our club sent its first delegates to this weekend leadership conference that was annually held in Ahoskie, NC. Local high school juniors are nominated and attend a full weekend of activities aimed at personal evaluation and development. This project remains an annual event each spring and our club has been supporting it since the inception of the program.

In the 1986, Rotary International introduced the Polio Plus program as an initiative for Rotarians worldwide to raise money for inoculating children in countries that still had polio as a crippling disease. The leaders of Rotary established a giving goal for each club and committed to raise \$120,000,000 for this project. Our club's goal was set at \$50,000. The board of directors notified Rotary International that we had set our goal at \$100,000. Over a period of the next five years or so, our club's members made

pledges/contributions that exceeded \$100,000. Out of this project, the number of Paul Harris Fellows nearly doubled to 55 by 1990.

In 1989, our club was asked by L. C. Bruce, longtime member of the Raleigh club, to assist the Salvation Army during the Christmas season by ringing a bell and manning their kettle at a Cameron Village grocery. This first year, we tackled the project for one week and many members donated their time by spending an hour, sometimes in cold, wet weather, encouraging donations. Since that first year, our club has taken on the project for two weeks, and two club members "team up" for two hours each during this period. A large percentage of our members volunteer each year, and as much as \$10,000 has been received in recent years.

Another significant event occurred during the 1987/88 Rotary year. Rotary International approved the admission of women into Rotary. Our first woman member was Lynne M. Loots, and she also became our first woman president, serving in the 1994/1995 Rotary year, forty years from the founding of our club.

The following year, 1990, our club initiated another project that has continued each year without interruption. Our Courtesy Award is given to an individual in the community who has made a contribution by living and sharing in a cordial, friendly way in helping others. The recipients attend a club meeting, are presented with a trophy and a citation recognizing the courteous and friendly way they have conducted themselves in helping others. As an added recognition, each recipient receives a proclamation, signed by the Mayor of Raleigh, designating that particular day as the recipient's "DAY" in Raleigh. Former Raleigh Mayor Avery Upchurch, a club member, was responsible for beginning this proclamation. The award is now named the John W. Lambert Courtesy Award to honor the committee's first chairman.

After meeting for almost 30 years at the YMCA, in 1991 we moved our weekly meetings to the N. C. State Faculty Club, now named the University Club. The meeting day remained Friday, but the time changed from 1 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

During many years preceding our 40th anniversary in 1994 and around Valentine's Day, our club celebrated what was originally called "Ladies Night". It was a grand social gathering where club members paid special tribute to their "Rotary Anns" and the Chreston Holoman Service award was presented. With the admission of women into our club, the annual event has been celebrated as a Valentine's social and more recently as our annual awards banquet. A joyous event was held in 1994 to celebrate our club's 40th year. In more recent times, our club has a spring picnic for Rotarians, family, and friends.

In 1995, under the leadership of President Blake Aydlett and immediate past president Lynne Loots, the Founder's Club was established. This fund was made possible by a generous donation made to honor charter member Bern Bullard and given by his wife Gladys. The purpose of the Founder's Club, as established by the Board or Directors, is to use the money raised to support significant local community projects. Thirteen

Club members contributed \$1,000 each to become “charter” members, with the ultimate goal of reaching \$100,000 to endow the Founder’s Club. We made a significant commitment to N. C. State University’s JC Ralston Arboretum, located two blocks from our meeting place, by making a financial commitment to name the Dr. Fred D. Cochran Teaching Arbor at the arboretum. Fred is a long time member of our club, a past president, and a Holoman Service award recipient. For many years he was a professor of horticulture at N. C. State University.

Other significant projects started and supported by our club in the 1990s and early 21st century include: YMCA Camp High Hopes, a summer camp for disadvantaged youth held annually at Martin Middle School; Wake Technical Community College scholarships given to students who are seeking their graduate equivalency degrees (GED); District 7710 Four Way Test Essay contest; and establishing a Rotaract Club at N. C. State University.

A special Rotary International award, The Four Avenues of Service Award for Individual Rotarians, has been presented to two members of our club. The first recipient was W. Kern Holoman in 2000/01, and our second recipient was John C. “Spike” Symonds in 2003/04. This award recognizes that the strength of Rotary is founded on the service carried out by individual club members worldwide, and it commends the service given by individual Rotarians to his/her club, thereby reinforcing the importance that Rotary places on the personal commitment of each club member in “service above self”.

The rich heritage and longtime traditions of The Rotary Club of West Raleigh are a testament to the 20 charter members who had the desire to give of themselves in providing service to others. Our club can be very proud of the past fifty years of leadership and for the dedicated commitment of our members. By annually qualifying and receiving a Presidential Citation, our club is recognized by Rotary International as an “outstanding” club.



THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST RALEIGH

**A 50 Year History
August 12, 1954 to August 12, 2004**

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST RALEIGH
50 YEARS OF SERVICE ~ ~ PRESIDENTS**

<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Name</u>
1954/55	Chreston Holoman	1980/81	William R. Martin, Jr.
1955/56	Thomas W. Alexander	1981/82	Douglas A. Bryant
1956/57	Thomas Wilson	1982/83	Robert N. Harper
1957/58	Harold Myers	1983/84	J. Marshall Lancaster
1958/59	Nathaniel A. Townsend, Jr.	1984/85	Thomas P. McNamara
1959/60	Troy H. Johnson	1985/86	John W. Lambert
1960/61	Avery C. Upchurch	1986/87	James H. Barnhill
1961/62	Jack A. Rigney/ Bern Bullard	1987/88	Lacy H. Reaves
1962/63	Marshall B. Hartsfield	1988/89	Glenn F. Bitler
1963/64	C. Howard Sugg	1989/90	Robert J. Ramseur
1964/65	Lewis P. Watson	1990/91	Charles W. Baker
1965/66	Thomas C. Worth	1991/92	W. Fred McClure
1966/67	W. Alex Wilson	1992/93	Raymond Mason Taylor
1967/68	J. M. Jenrette, Jr.	1993/94	Donald R. Weisenborn
1968/69	James R. Purser	1994/95	Lynne M. Loots
1969/70	F. Durant Bell	1995/96	Blake D. Aydlett
1970/71	Walter Watts	1996/97	Charles R. Hassinger
1971/72	Fred D. Cochran	1997/98	James L. Connell
1972/73	Wesley E. Kelly	1998/99	Fred R. DeJarnette
1973/74	Nathaniel D. Pierson	1999/00	Charles A. Harvey, Jr.
1974/75	Marion M. Fuller, Jr.	2000/01	John C. Little
1975/76	Jackson L. Coble	2001/02	Mary A. Oviatt
1976/77	W. Kern Holoman	2002/03	C. Phillips Kraemer
1977/78	Francis J. Hassler	2003/04	David W. Holoman
1978/79	Joseph Baker	2004/05	R. Peyton Woodson III
1979/80	Boyd E. Wilson, Jr.		

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST RALEIGH
50 YEARS OF SERVICE
CHRESTON HOLOMAN SERVICE AWARD RECIPIENTS**

Year	Name
1972	C. Howard Sugg, Avery C. Upchurch
1973	F. Durant Bell, John W. Lambert
1974	N. A. Townsend, Jr., W. Alex Wilson
1975	Nathaniel D. Pierson
1976	Troy H. Johnson
1977	W. C. Calton
1978	Fred D. Cochran
1979	W. Kern Holoman
1980	Marion M. Fuller, Jr.
1981	Joe R. Baker
1982	Robert F. Crumpler
1983	Robert I. Rothstein
1984	Wesley E. Kelly
1985	Jackson A. Rigney
1986	Douglas A. Bryant
1987	Walter A. Watts, J. Marshall Lancaster, Jr.
1988	Marshall B. Hartsfield, Boyd E. Wilson, Jr.
1989	William R. Martin, Jr.
1990	James H. Barnhill
1991	Paul Gabriel
1992	James H. Epps
1993	Robert J. Ramseur
1994	W. Fred McClure
1995	Glenn F. Bitler
1996	Nakleh P. Zarzar
1997	Raymond Mason Taylor
1998	Carl U. Patterson
1999	Lynne M. Loots
2000	Blake D. Aydlett
2001	Thomas D. Bunn
2002	Ernest B. Page, Jr.
2003	Mary A. Oviatt
2004	Charles W. Baker

THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST RALEIGH
50 YEARS OF SERVICE
PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS

P. Anne Allen
Joe R. Baker
James H. Barnhill
Glenn F. Bitler
Gale G. Bowman
Mary Jane Bryant
Gladys Bullard
W. C. Calton
James L. Connell
Wilbur G. Doub
James H. Epps
Paul L. Gabriel
Jeanne K. Gunter
Marshall B. Hartsfield
Charles R. Heatherly
W. Kern Holoman
Carol R. Jamison
Charles M. Kistler
Linda Lambert
William R. Martin, Jr.
Judith H. McClure
Alonzo B. McMillen
Roger F. O'Quinn
Doris G. Patterson
L. Thompson Quarles
Lacy H. Reaves
J. Gordon Riddick
David W. Robertson
Jane C. Rogers
John H. Steinbaugh
Norma Stewart
John Symonds
Avery C. Upchurch
Lewis P. Watson
Donald R. Weisenborn
L. George Wilson
Martha A. Woodson
Nakleh P. Zarzar

Blake D. Aydtlett
Henry B. Barnes
William T. Beckwith
Sara R. Bitler
Alvin V. Bryant
Gary W. Buchanan
Thomas D. Bunn
Jeffrey L. Cobb
Fred R. DeJarnette
J. Austin Drum
J. C. Ferguson
Charles W. Gaddy
Jacqueline H. Harper
Charles R. Hassinger
David W. Holoman
Allen C. Hunt
David W. Jones
Julian C. Knott
John C. Little
David D. Mason
W. Fred McClure
Richard M. Moser
Mary A. Oviatt
Newton G. Pritchett
Margaret W. Ramseur
Robert B. Redfern
Jackson A. Rigney
Ruby L. Robertson
Robert I. Rothstein
Donald E. Stewart
Henk Struik
Raymond Mason Taylor
Aaron C. Vick
Walter A. Watts
J. Bradford Wiggins
Suzanne Wise
R. Peyton Woodson
James L. Zimmerman

Charles W. Baker
Robert A. Barnhardt
F. Durant Bell
Henry D. Bowen
Douglas A. Bryant
Bern F. Bullard
Renneth J. Calton
Fred D. Cochran
Troy A. Doby
James L. Edge
Marion M. Fuller, Jr.
J. Gordon Gibbs
Robert N. Harper
Francis J. Hassler
Katherine H. Holoman
Kathryn M. Hunt
James A. King
John W. Lambert
Lynne M. Loots
Ronald Matlock
James L. McMillan
Cheyney M. Nicholson
Carl U. Patterson
James L. Purser
Robert J. Ramseur
Frances Richardson
James L. Roberts
David S. Robinson
Robert M. Shoffner
James E. Stewart
C. Howard Sugg
N. A. Townsend
William C. Vick
Gary S. Weingarten
Boyd E. Wilson, Jr.
Neil R. Woodcock
Chih C. Yang

**THE ROTARY CLUB OF WEST RALEIGH
50 YEARS OF SERVICE
FOUNDER'S CLUB MEMBERS**

**Blake D. Aydlett
Bern F. Bullard
Margaret H. Cochran
Jackson A. Rigney
Nakhleh P. Zarzar**

**Charles W. Baker
Gladys Bullard
Fred R. DeJarnette
Viola Rigney**

**Robert A. Barnhardt
Fred D. Cochran
Robert J. Ramseur
R. Peyton Woodson**

ROTARY BENEFACTORS

The Rotary Foundation aims to achieve world understanding and peace. A Rotary Benefactor is anyone who informs the Foundation in writing that he or she has made a provision in his or her will or other estate plan for a distribution to The Rotary Foundation Permanent Fund, or who makes an outright gift of \$1,000 or more to the Fund. The following individuals are Rotary Benefactors:

**James H. Epps
W. Kern Holoman
James A. King
Mary A. Oviatt**

**Robert J. Ramseur
James E. Stewart
Boyd E. Wilson, Jr.
Raymond M. Taylor**