

### SOME ROTARY FIRSTS AND FACTS

- The first Rotary club meeting was in Chicago, Illinois, on February 23, 1905.
- The first regular luncheon meetings were in Oakland, California, chartered in 1909.
- The first Rotary convention was in Chicago in 1910.
- The first service project of the first Rotary club of Chicago was installation of public toilets in the city
- The Rotary emblem was printed on a commemorative stamp for the first time in 1931 at the time of the Vienna Convention.
- The first Rotary club banner (from the Houston Space Center) to orbit the moon was carried by astronaut Frank Borman, a member of that club.
- The first Rotary International convention held outside the United States was in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1921.
- Rotary first established the Paul Harris Fellow recognition in 1957 for contributors of US \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation
- The first Rotaract Club was formed in Charlotte, North Carolina, USA.
- The first women joined Rotary in 1987.
- In 1911 Paul Harris gave Chesley Perry a budget of \$25.44 to mimeograph and mail a new publication, The National Rotarian, to all 2,000 Rotarians in the 23 clubs nationwide. This was the first Rotary Magazine
- RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, began in 1959 when Rotarians from Queensland, Australia, organized a weeklong conference for outstanding young people. In 1971 the RI Board officially adopted RYLA as a youth program.
- The first youth exchange was when the Rotary Club of Copenhagen (Denmark) arranged to host several American boys in 1921.
- Rotarians in the United States make up 28% of all Rotarians worldwide

Some famous Rotarians have included:

- Neil Armstrong first man to walk on the moon, USA.... as well as Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin, the second man to walk on the moon
- Sir Donald Bradman
- Sir William Deane, governor general, Australia
- Pope Francis, when he was Cardinal Jorge Bergoglio
- Sir Edmund Hillary, explorer and mountaineer, New Zealand
- King Farouk of Egypt
- Prince Frederik of Denmark (became Frederik IX King of Denmark in 1947)
- Walt Disney,
- Thomas A. Edison
- Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh
- Prince Rainier III of Monaco

- Charles A. Lindbergh
- Douglas MacArthur, army general, USA
- Margaret Thatcher, prime minister, England
- Ted Turner, founder of cable television station CNN
- Orville Wright, aviation pioneer, USA
- Sir Winston Churchill, prime minister, England
- James Cash Penney, founder of JC Penney Co., USA

Lots of US Presidents and president hopefuls who've been members of Rotary, including

- George W. Bush, president, USA
- Jimmy Carter, president, USA
- Hillary Rodham Clinton,
- Dwight D. Eisenhower, president, USA
- Herbert Hoover, president, USA
- John F. Kennedy, president, USA
- Richard Nixon, president, USA
- Ronald Reagan, president, USA
- Franklin D. Roosevelt, president, USA
- Harry S. Truman, president, USA
- Woodrow Wilson, president, USA

### **A QUICK ROTARY CLUB GEOGRAPHY LESSON**

- District 9100 which comprises 14 West African Countries is recognized as the largest geographical District in the Rotary world. It was created in 1985 and uses three official languages - English, French, and Portuguese.
- The Rotary Club of Papeete, Tahiti, which is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean is the club that is most remote from any other.
- The southernmost Rotary meeting is that of the Rotary Club of Base Marambio-Antartida in Antarctica. If in the area you can also visit the Rotary Club of Base Antarctica Esperanza. Both are Spanish speaking clubs that meet Wednesday evenings
- To visit the northernmost club you must travel above the Arctic Circle to the Rotary Club of Barrow, Alaska, U.S.A.
- If you attend the El Aguilar club in Argentina, you are meeting with the highest club in the world at 16,000 feet (4,880 meters) above sea level.
- The lowest club meets at 40 feet (12.2 meters) below sea level at El Centro, California, USA.
- There are 69 Rotary clubs with the word "Tokyo" in their club names.
- It is said that there is a Rotary meeting being held someplace in the world every hour of every day. If you attended one meeting per day, it would take nearly 80 years to visit all of the more than 34,500 Rotary clubs in the world, and by that time, no doubt, there would be thousands more new clubs to attend