MEETING TRADITIONS

Name Badges

Chesley Perry, who was the First Secret5ryary of Rotary International was the originator of the name badge in 1910. He was called the Called the "Builder of Rotary" by founder Paul Harris., and served as secretary for 32 years.

The president of Rotary Club of Oakland #3, Tom Bridges, stood up at the 1914 Rotary Convention in Houston to make a stirring appeal that henceforth Rotarians should call one another by their first names. Though the Chicago club had been using first names, it was not the custom of the time, and it was the motion by Tom Bridges that made the use of first names in Rotary systematic worldwide. - It became Rotary custom from that day forward.

Since 1914, members have generally referred to each other on a first-name basis. Since personal acquaintanceship and friendship are cornerstones of Rotary, it was natural that many clubs adopted the practice of setting aside formal titles in conversations among members. Individuals who normally would be addressed as Doctor, Professor, Mister, the Honorable or Sir are regularly called Joe, Bill, Mary, Karen or Charley by other Rotarians. The characteristic Rotary club name badge fosters the first-name custom.

However In a few areas, such as Europe, club members use a more formal style in addressing fellow members.

In other parts of the world, mainly in Asian countries, the practice is to assign each new Rotarian a humorous nickname which relates to some personal characteristic or which is descriptive of the member's business or profession. A member nicknamed "Oxygen" is the manufacturer of chemical gas products. "Trees" is the nickname for the Rotarian in the lumber business, "Building" is the contractor, "Paper" is the stationery or office supply retailer. Other members might carry nicknames like "Muscles," "Foghorn" or "Smiles" as commentaries on their physical features.

CLASSIFICATIONS

Rotary uses a classification system to establish and maintain a vibrant cross-section or representation of the community's business, vocational, and professional interests among members and to develop a pool of resources and expertise to successfully implement service projects. This system is based on the founders' paradigm of choosing cross-representation of each business, profession, and institution within a community. A classification describes either the principal business or the professional service of the organization that the Rotarian works for or the Rotarian's own activity within the organization.

2016 MOP: Each club shall have a well-balanced membership in which no one business, profession or type of community service predominates.

The club shall not elect a person to active membership from a classification if the club already has five or more members from that classification, unless the club has more than 50 members, in which case the club may elect a person to active membership in a classification so long as it will not result in the classification making up more than 10 percent of the club's active membership

Retired persons inducted into active membership in a Rotary club shall use their former profession as their classification, but this will not be counted towards the club's limit of members in a single classification.

Looking back at how classifications have changes, the Rotary Club of Columbus was chartered on November 15, 1915 at the Ralston Hotel. By classification they were a minister, a baker, an undertaker, an attorney, a hotel manager, an office supplies dealer, an osteopath, a railroad manager, a soft drink manufacturer, a coal dealer, a grocer, a merchandise broker, telegraph manager, theatre owner and seed dealer.

FINES

V. O. Lawrence, the sixth president of the Rotary Club of Oakland, is recorded as the first Rotarian in history to inaugurate a system of fines on latecomers at the weekly luncheons, enriching the club's charity funds.

The Rotary Club of Sioux City implemented fines in 1915. The first year fines were assessed for Service Above Self the club collected $1.35. Today they gross nearly $20,000 per year by this method.