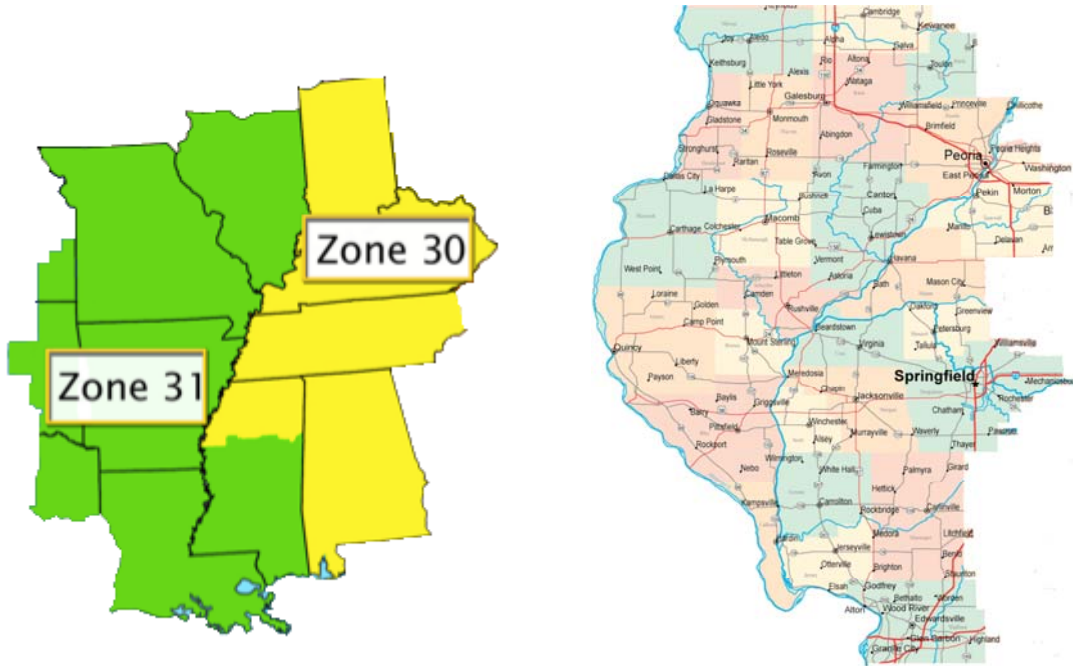


# A History of District 6460

Compiled by Charles & Lee Farrar



The first clubs chartered in what is now District 6460 were chartered in 1913. The first was Peoria as Club Number 76 on July 1, 1913. The story often told about the formation of the club was that a group of Rotarians from Chicago came to Peoria on the train and set about the process of recruiting members for a Rotary Club. This was followed by the same thing happening in Springfield and in August 1913 another new Rotary Club was formed. After hearing about the new Rotary Club in Peoria a group of young business and professionals in Galesburg began meeting on April 29, 1914 but when a charter was sought the club members were told that a club could not be chartered in a city with less than 50,000 population since it was thought that the Classification Principle could not be supported in a small city. After personally petitioning the board of directors of the International Association of Rotary Clubs the board relented and granted them a charter as Rotary Club Number 133 in December 1914 after having granted a charter to a club where the population was only 20,000 in October 1914.

A banner year for Rotary was 1915 because the decision was made to arrange the clubs into Districts and in 1915-16 those lines were implemented. Our district was Number 8, covering the states of Illinois and Indiana, and the first District Governor was Herbert C. Angester of Chicago. The Quincy Rotary Club was chartered in 1915.

The next club chartered in our current area was Kewanee in 1917 when our District Governor was Percival G. Rennick of Peoria, the first Governor from the area covered by our current district.

In 1918 the District Governor was J. Stanley Brown of Joliet and he saw Jacksonville and Monmouth chartered as Rotary Clubs and also saw our redistricting into District 12.

James O. Craig was the District Governor of District 12 in 1919 when Canton became a Rotary Club.

In 1920 new clubs formed were Macomb, Pekin, and Wood River in a great year for founding of Rotary Clubs and E.C. Fisher of Rock Island was the District Governor.

Alton-Godfrey Rotary Club was chartered in 1921 when Charles A. Taylor of Harrisburg oversaw the redistricting into District 19 brought about by the sharp increase in the number of Rotary Clubs around the world.

Emerit E. Baker of Kewanee, in our district, was the District Governor in 1922.

In 1923 Abingdon, Beardstown, Bushnell, and Galva were admitted to membership. James M. White of Urbana was the District Governor of the newly formed District 44.

Granite City and Virden were admitted to membership as a Rotary Club in 1924 and looked to James L. McConoughey of Galesburg, in our district, as the District Governor.

Another banner year was 1925! Carlinville, Delavan, Edwardsville, Madison-Venice, and Petersburg were chartered in that year. Mike Pontius of Jacksonville, in our district, was the District Governor.

Louis C. Moschel of Pekin, in our district, was the District Governor of District 44 in 1926 and then saw Havana admitted to Rotary the following May.

Mason City was admitted during the administration of District Governor Will Taylor of Springfield, in our district, in 1928. Governor Taylor later went on to become an RI Director.

Albert Peters of Peoria, in our district, was the District Governor in 1929 but he saw no clubs in our current territory admitted to Rotary. Thomas Williamson of Edwardsville, in our district, was the District Governor in 1930. 1931 saw Albert H. Dollear of Jacksonville as District Governor followed by Robert L. Conn of Springfield, and then by Ira W. Bingman of Quincy but none of these five saw an increase in club numbers in what is now our area.

Our next increase in numbers was in 1935 when B. H. Thompson of Pontiac was the District Governor when Farmington was chartered.

In January 1937 Auburn became a Rotary Club followed by Mt. Sterling in April of that year while Ray Graham of Mason City served as District Governor. He was to become the first District Governor in what has become the last major structural change to the shape of the district. Due to growth of clubs the east-central portion of Illinois was split off into one district (148) and the west-central portion of Illinois sort of divided at the midline of the state became District 146 bounded on the north by the Aledo, Cambridge and Kewanee Rotary Clubs and on the south by Highland and Collinsville. The district designations have changed to District 212 in 1950, to District 646 in 1955 and finally to District 6460 in 1990.

We also welcomed East Peoria and Rushville into the fellowship of Rotary in 1937. In 1938 five clubs joined Rotary. Benld, Greenview, Highland, Manito-Forest City, and Pittsfield. Our District Governor was Phillip Dale of Granite City.

Harry C. Bulkeley was the District Governor in 1939-40 and then was elected to the Board of Directors of RI and became Vice-President of RI in 1943. His brother Kenneth C. Bulkeley later served as District Governor in 1972-73. Both were from Abingdon Rotary Club. Harry C. Bulkeley's grandson and namesake served as Club President in the Galesburg Rotary Club in 1992-93.

The next club that became a part of District 146 was Bethalto in 1942 when Ed W. Brown of Alton was our District Governor.

In 1945 Collinsville started a Rotary Club under aegis of Charles L. Engstrom of Peoria.

Joseph Hirschinger of Quincy was the District Governor who welcomed the Aledo Rotary Club into existence in 1948 and then came to visit the club on its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1998. In 1969 the District Governor William F. Gerdes became unable to continue serving due to health problems. Joseph Hirschinger again stepped in and served a second term as District Governor.

Also a signal event occurred in the District in 1948 when District Governor Joseph W. Hobbs of Manito sent Richard "Larry" Carp, under the sponsorship of the Granite City Rotary Club off to Switzerland to study abroad in what came to be called Ambassadorial Scholars. The Rotary Foundation had initiated what they called then Rotary Foundation fellowship.

In 1950-51 the second scholar from our district was sent to Buenos Aires, Argentina to study for a year. The scholar, Suzanne Love, came back to work for a couple of years at the fledgling Rotary Foundation in Chicago and then returned to Peoria to marry a young engineer. Her experience in Argentina was a life changing event. She and two of her daughters became teachers of Spanish. Her husband became a Rotarian and was president of the Peoria Rotary Club. When women were admitted to Rotary Suzanne Love Smith became a Rotarian in the Peoria North Rotary Club. Susie became a GSE team leader to Chile in 1993 and was subsequently president of Peoria North and then District Governor in 2001-2002, the first woman to serve in that position in our district.

In March of 1949 DG H Gobbs presented a charter to a new Rotary Club formed in Athens. There is a long hiatus until 1953 before the next club was admitted to Rotary. It was Jerseyville when Clarendon Van Norman of Galesburg was the District Governor.

In 1955 Washington was able to put forth a Rotary Club and George Wilkins of Granite City was the District Governor.

Five years later in 1960 Chillicothe established a Rotary club overseen by Ketric Kingman, District Governor from Canton.

Morton was able to put together a Rotary Club in 1965 as Ernst Tovosky of Edwardsville served as District Governor.

The next club was just one year later, 1966, when Springfield South, the first city in our district to support two Rotary Clubs. James A Dunlap of Jacksonville was District Governor.

In 1968 Peoria North matched the accomplishment of being another city in the District supporting two clubs when Hobart Blair of Virden served as District Governor. In the next year Immediate Past District Governor Blair led the first Group Study Exchange to District 2770 in Japan.

Cambridge established a Rotary Club in 1970 while Lamont Heidinger of Edwardsville was District Governor.

In 1971 East Alton and Quincy East were founded as Joseph M. Kilton of Peoria was the District Governor.

In 1972 Robert L. Conn of Springfield had to resign from the position of District Governor and Kenneth C. Bulkeley of Abingdon stepped in to fill the position, serving his second term as District Governor, having previously served in 1958-59.

A similar situation developed in 1981 when William D. Masters of Forest City Rotary Club was the District Governor and had to vacate the position. Kenneth L. Evers of Edwardsville who had served in 1973-74 took over the position.

Robert A Stuart, Jr. of Springfield served as District Governor in 1986-87 and subsequently became a member of the RI Board of Directors serving in 2005-2007.

For seventeen years there were no more clubs established in the district. It was in 1987 Springfield Sunrise was formed under the supervision of Dawson R. Dean of Pittsfield. In 1990 Galesburg Sunrise Rotary Club was formed with the assistance of District Governor Gary Judy of Monmouth.

Mt. Sterling became the first club in the District to disband and give up its charter and on June 30 1991 surrendered the charter to District Governor John Giavaras of Springfield. It was in that same decade, in 1997 when Virden gave up its charter to District Governor Edward S. Peterka.

In 1992 Land of Goshen Rotary Club was formed in the Edwardsville area while Clyde W. Jones of Bethalto was District Governor. Jacksonville Sunrise was established in 1994 with District Governor Harold Camp of Bushnell overseeing the chartering.

District Governor Richard Hattwick accepted return of a charter from the Auburn Rotary Club in April 2001.

Our first female District Governor Suzanne Smith received the charter of the Greenview Rotary Club after it ceased to function.

Springfield Midtown became the fourth Club in Springfield in 2003. It was also that year that Peoria Sunrise came into being while Charles H. Farrar of Galesburg was District Governor. District Governor Rod Buffington received the charter following disbanding of the Madison-Venice Rotary Club in April 2004.

In that same year, his successor, Eric Dolbeare of Pittsfield as District Governor was obliged to accept the charter of the Beardstown Rotary Club after 71 years of service to the community and the world of Rotary in October. However in the following Spring Macomb Centennial was established in 2005.

Springfield Westside, the fifth club in Springfield was chartered in 2008 while Ronald Riggins of Peoria North was District Governor.

In 2010 Riverbend and Silver Creek were chartered and welcomed by District Governor Larry Thompson.

History is always unfolding and as time moves on we will see clubs chartered and, sadly, we can also anticipate that we will lose old and familiar friends. Our next project is to develop an individual history of each of the clubs in the district in much the same way that Bushnell has worked on keeping their history current and the work of the late Verne W. Dowers of Galesburg who, in 1994 completed the compilation of a book of the accomplishments and day to day activities of the Galesburg Rotary Club in the book, **R-O-T-A-R-Y**. This is by no means, the final word, just a beginning.