

## **PART FOUR: HISTORY and TRADITIONS OF ROTARY in DISTRICT 7710**

### **Traditions of District 7710**

At the Installation of the next District Governor, the current District Governor may receive a diamond lapel pin and a contribution toward a Paul Harris award or a gift. The spouse of the District Governor also may receive a gift from the district.

When the District Governor Elect attends the Rotary International convention at which he/she is elected, the district should budget an amount to pay for or apply toward his/her and his/her spouses expenses.

Money received by the district treasury has been deposited in banks within the district. Investments in short term deposit certificates have been made, provided that the term of any deposit certificate should not extend past the end of the Rotary year by more than 90 days.

Financial support for operation of the Rotary Cottage at the Boys & Girls Home has been accomplished through appointment of a special committee to solicit funds from each club in the district for this purpose.

Selection of students to receive awards from the district should be based upon the residency of the student within this district. Students attending schools located in the district should make application through their home districts.

Candidates for club officers should be asked to accept the responsibility of attending the District Assembly prior to assuming office as part of the responsibility of that office. Clubs should be encouraged to nominate and elect only candidates who will make such commitments. (The incoming President must attend or send his/her representative. Club Constitution, Article VI, Section 4)

Clubs should include in their budgets amounts sufficient to reimburse those who attend the District Assembly. Clubs are asked to include in their budgets an amount to be divided among members who attend the District Conference. Clubs should include in their budgets amounts sufficient to reimburse the incoming President's expenses for attendance at the Presidents-Elect Training Seminar.

A memorial contribution is made each year by the District Council to the Rotary Foundation to commemorate the death of each Past District Governor of this district and each Past District Governor of another district who at the time of his/her death was a Rotarian in this district. The District Council establishes the amount of such contributions at its first meeting of each calendar year.

Prior to 1993-1994, District 7710 provided funding for foreign students to study at colleges and universities in the district and for district students to study in foreign countries. Each club contributed a per capita amount annually for this project, which is supplemental to Rotary International's similar program.

The District Council determines the reimbursements to be provided the following year from district funds to district officials for attendance at district functions and for engaging in district activities. The Finance Committee incorporates this information into the budget prepared for that year.

No Rotarian typically serves more than two terms in an office or on any committee. Filling a vacancy is considered a full term of service if more than half the term remains.

Committee chairs should be past presidents of clubs; Council members should have served as a club president and committee chairs. Rotarians nominated for District Governor should have served on the District Council or as chair of a major district committee. While not a rigid requirement, this procedure provides experienced leadership while it serves as a method of developing dedicated District Governor candidates.

### **Brief History of Rotary in District 7710**

On August 1, 1914, Rotary came to North Carolina when the Rotary Club of Raleigh received its charter as Club Number 124 of the International Association of Rotary Clubs. The Club owes its existence to the dedication of Rotarian George W. Harris, the noted photographer of Washington, D.C., who traveled to Raleigh on April 29, 1914, to meet with ten interested businessmen. He made the trip not by a high-flying jet nor a smooth super-highway, but by railway, taking many hours of his time. During the week following his visit, five men were added to the original ten, making fifteen charter members of the first service club in the state and in the present area of District 7710.

George Harris did not rest on his laurels. On November 9, 1915, he was back in North Carolina, this time at Durham, where his enthusiasm led to the formation of the Rotary Club of Durham, chartered on January 1, 1916, as Club Number 196 — helping produce a fifty-eight percent increase in the number of Rotary Clubs worldwide in a period of seventeen months.

As Rotary grew, there emerged the concept of Rotary Districts, each presided over by a District Governor. Commencing on July 1, 1915, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina comprised Rotary District 4, the first District Governor being David P. Sites of Roanoke, Virginia. This geographic alignment lasted until June 30, 1922, when the increased density of Rotary Clubs made it necessary to subdivide the district into smaller segments.

The first District Governor from what is now District 7710 was M. Eugene Newsom, of Durham, who served in 1924-1925. Gene Newsom went on to serve as the President of Rotary International in 1929-1930, the only native of the present District 7710 to be so honored. Much later (in 1967-1968), Luther Hodges, then living in Chapel Hill, also served as the President of Rotary International, so the district can claim two distinguished sons of Rotary.

The first district-wide effort of which we have a record occurred in 1943-1944, when Robert W. Madry was District Governor. Because of District Governor Bob's zeal, every Rotary Club in the district contributed to the Rotary Foundation — a statistic matched by no other American Rotary District during that year.

On October 6, 1950, a group of Rotarians met in Rocky Mount to formulate plans for a District Student Exchange Program. The plans were accepted by the clubs in the district; and the first foreign student, Michel Berger, of Besancon, France, was enrolled at Atlantic Christian College for the year 1951-1952. Through the years, students from twenty-three different foreign countries have been awarded scholarships to study at colleges and universities in the district. On four occasions, funds have been used to send local students abroad for a year of study.

About this same time, the Rotary Foundation began its program of awarding scholarships and fellowships to young men and young women for a year of study in a foreign country. The first recipient of a Foundation Award from this district was Mary B. Josey, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tarboro, who studied at Reading, England, on 1951-1952. In the years that followed, many students sponsored by Rotary Clubs in the district have studied in foreign countries. Not only has the district sent its young people abroad to study, but due to the widely-known educational centers in the district, it has received Rotary Foundation Scholars and Fellows from many parts of the Rotary world.

On July 25, 1965, ground was broken for the \$75,000 Rotary Cottage at the Boys & Girls Home at Lake Waccamaw. The Cottage was completed and dedicated on May 1, 1966. Funds for this project were raised through a cooperative effort by the four Rotary districts in North Carolina. Each year the district encourages individual Rotarians and Rotary Clubs to make generous contributions in support of the work of Boys & Girls Home.

The district has enthusiastically participated in the Group Study Exchange Program of the Rotary Foundation, starting in the spring of 1969, when a team visited District 265 in Australia. The team from District 265 visited District 7710 in the fall of 1969. Since that time, the following exchanges has taken place:

1971-1972	England [D-119]	1994-1995	Australia (New South Wales)
1976-1977	Korea [D-377]		[D-9650]
1978-1979	Tasmania [D-983]	1995-1996	Chile [D-4350]
1981-1982	India (Bangladesh & Nepal)	1996-1997	Denmark [D-1440]
	[D-329]	1997-1998	Philippines [D-3850]
1983-1984	Finland [D-143]	1998-1999	Thailand [D-3330]
1984-1985	England [D-104]	1999-2000	Paraguay/Argentina [D-4840]
1985-1986	Japan [D-256]	2000-2001	Japan [D-2690]
1986-1987	South Africa [D-932]	2001-2002	Brazil [D-4640 ]
1987-1988	Netherlands [D-157]	2002-2003	<cancelled, SARS and war>
1988-1989	Central America [D-424]	2003-2004	So.Korea [D-3610]
		2004-2005	Barbados [D-7030]
1989-1990	Germany [D-185]	2005-2006	Brazil [D-4590]
1990-1991	India [D-313]	2006-2007	
1992-1993	Turkey [D-2420]		
1993-1994	Brazil [D-4650]		

In the spring of 1974 the Rotary Club of the Research Triangle Park initiated a Student Intern Program at the Park. The industrial laboratories at the Park agreed to employ rising high school seniors for a six week summer period. Because the program was available to all high schools in the district, District 7710 endorsed the program and provides some financial support for it. Between 1974 and 1991, more than 210 young people from towns and cities in District 7710 have received “hands-on” experience in the non-academic world.

Initiated in 1982 and chartered in 1983, the District 7710 Foundation provided a new tool for Rotarians to serve their communities. The first major project provided \$7,000 for victims of a hurricane which struck communities in District 7710 during 1984. Today, the Foundation includes the Charles and Margaret McCullers Scholarship Fund for the Boys & Girls Home at Lake Waccamaw and another fund from which proceeds are used for maintenance of the Rotary Cottage at Boys & Girls Home.

In 1985, District 7710 conducted its first Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference for high school students. Currently, we invite district 7720 (most of which was formerly part of 7710) to participate with us in our RYLA event.

Beginning in 1984, District 7710 joined with three other districts to conduct a President’s-Elect Training Seminar (PETS). This event has now become known as Carolinas’ PETS and provides training to the incoming club presidents in all of the clubs in North Carolina and those in the western half of South Carolina. These seven districts are: 7670, 7680, 7690, 7710, 7720, 7730, and 7750.

Since 1914 there have been thousands of Rotary meetings in the district, stimulating friendships and fellowships among Rotarians and encouraging service by Rotarians to clubs, communities, professions, and the world. Fund-raising activities have been numerous and service projects have filled many needs.

During recent years, an effort has been made to recover Rotary documents, both old and current, in order that a history of Rotary might be written. A volume entitled “Rotary in Northeastern North Carolina” has been produced. Original documents and papers have been deposited in the Duke University Library for safe-keeping, so that they may be available in the years to come.