

Trivia

No Club president has died in office.

The Club has had two father-son's presidencies: John Paul Lucas, Sr. (1929-1930) and son, Paul, Jr. (1947-1948); Edgar A. (Turk) Terrell, Sr. (1932-1933) and son, Edgar, Jr. (1960-1961).

First African-American member: Lionel H. Newsome, president, Johnson C. Smith University, January 20, 1970. Introduced by Jack Smylie.

First female active member: Ruth (Mrs. Colin) Shaw, president, Central Piedmont Community College, July 12, 1988. Introduced by Powell Majors.

Tom Burgess has "made-up" attendance in 23 countries — from Austria to New Zealand. In August (1995) he expects to add Russia and Finland. He has a 17-year perfect attendance record (1995).

David Clark (1877-1955), second president of our Club (1918-1919) played a major part in organizing 30 Rotary clubs in North and South Carolina and Georgia.

In the beginning meetings were held on the second and fourth Tuesdays of the month.

The lighter side: Ben Hood, remarried in his 90s, said he was looking for a house near a school. Ben died at 103, the record for our Club. Norman Pease at 101 said he never bought any green bananas.

E. H. Little, native Mecklenburger, started out selling soap from a horse and buggy — and went on to become head of Colgate Palmolive Company. The Club named him an honorary member in 1972.

Jim Van Ness, president in 1934-1935, was given \$100 for expenses to the RI Convention in Detroit in 1934. He told of finding a room without air conditioning for \$2.50 a day. Jim introduced name badges for members. His stamp collection of Rotary commemorative issues from countries the world over was bequeathed to the Club and is kept at the public library.

At a meeting in the 1930s a Scotsman offered to tell a joke about any profession named by a member. After 20 or more, one member called out "real estate," whereupon the speaker replied, "Sorry, I stopped telling dirty jokes."

Average age of our members at time of publication of this volume is 68.5 years.

Oldest person to attend one of our meetings: Rotarian Benjamin O. Hood at 102; youngest: infant grandson of Rotarian James F. Alexander.

The In Memoriam section of the Roster for our 75th Anniversary contained the names of 223 members who died while members of our Club.

Shortest meeting: July 18, 1989. Electric service to our meeting place, Howard Johnson City Center, had been turned off by Duke Power for failure of the management to pay bills. A member, Doug Booth, was president of Duke Power at the time; also, executive vice president Warren Owen and distribution manager Fred West.

Longest meeting: March 17, 1987. Fellow member David M. McConnell, the speaker, was introduced at 1:20 p.m.

Luther Hodges, Jr., son of Governor and RI President Luther, Sr., president of North Carolina National Bank (predecessor of NationsBank) at one time, lays claim to being the only Paul Harris Fellow to be kicked out of Rotary (for attendance).

The entire graduating class and faculty of Central High School — 160 strong — were entertained at dinner on May 15, 1923.

In 1952, following talks on separate occasions by Past President Hamilton C. Jones, incumbent congressman seeking a fourth term, and Charles Raper Jonas, a first-time candidate, a straw vote favored Mr. Jonas, who went on to serve as representative of our district for 20 years.

In our 75th year there were 32 past presidents living — all in Charlotte — and most attending our meetings. The oldest living past president was R. Powell Majors, president 1946-1947 — 45 years earlier. When Charles H. Stone compiled our 40th Anniversary history in 1956, 39 of the 40 past presidents were living (Rogers W. Davis, our first president, was deceased); 37 of the 39 still citizens of Charlotte.

Ralston M. (Gus) Pound, Sr., was the last charter member to die — in our 50th year, 1966.

Powell Majors, president 1946-1947, knew it was time to start meetings when everyone started to light up cigars and cigarettes.

Two members reached the century mark while still active members: Benjamin O. Hood was 103 at the time of his death in 1983 and J. Norman Pease was 101 in 1987 at the time he died.

In 1976 our roll included five college presidents: Richard H. Hagemeyer, Central Piedmont Commu-

nity College; Samuel R. Spencer, Jr., Davidson College; Alfred O. Cannon, Jr., Queens College; Wilbert Greenfield, Johnson C. Smith University; and Dean W. Colvard, University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Oldest president at time of holding office: E. K. Fretwell (1994–1995), 71. Youngest president: Jim Van Ness (1934–1935), 28.

At our Club Assembly on June 17, 1975, aboard The Outrigger on Lake Norman, President-elect Tom Garrett, was “arrested” by the Lake Norman Patrol, charged with an offense (failure to provide child support) against the peace and dignity of the State. A \$2,000 bond was posted and Tom was handcuffed. It turned out to be a case of mistaken identity.

Paul Harris, founder of Rotary, was not the first, but the third president of Rotary International.

The famed Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, our speaker during Dave Welton’s tenure as president, arrived at 1:10 after taking over a flight from Washington, D.C. and ordering it to make an unscheduled stop at Charlotte. (He was president of Eastern Airlines!)

First four Rotarians were a lawyer, a tailor, a coal dealer and an engineer. A fifth, Harry Bridges, a printer, joined the group a day later (!). It was Bridges who introduced singing to Rotary.

Included among the thousand or more members who have joined over the past 75 years are four with a direct link with the charter membership: Tom Lane’s father was the first secretary of the Club; Ralston Pound’s father was president, 1928–1929; Charlie Williams’ and John Dabbs III’s grandfathers.

Our program feature “How I Got Where I’m At” originated in 1945 during the presidency of John Pender.

The annual budget for 1932–1933 totaled \$3,000, including \$700 for the Crippled Children’s Clinic. Today, our budget is \$226,000.

Dues: 1921, \$20.00; 1995, \$284.00.

Meals: 1921, \$40.00; 1995, \$520.00.

MEMBERSHIP

1916 (charter)	47
1926	133
1929	157
1933	85
1935	105
1944	171
1956	232
1966	271
1979	264
1991	283

TOLERATION

STABILITY

HELPFULNESS

NATURE

PARTICIPATE

WORK

SERVICE

FELLOWSHIP

The National Rotarian, Volume 1, Number 1, headlined an article by Rotary founder Paul Harris. It begins: "If by interposition of Providence I some day were to find myself standing on a platform in some great Coliseum looking into the eyes of every living Rotarian, and were to be told that I could have one word to say, without an instant's hesitation and at the top of my voice, I would shout 'Toleration!'" In December, 1972, Past District Governor Mark C. Hollis of Lakeland, Florida, asked every living Past President of Rotary International: "What would be your one word, if you had the opportunity to address every living Rotarian?" Their responses — each man's word and his reason for choosing that word — bespeak the continuing tradition of the dynamic leaders of Rotary International. As we mark the 75th Anniversary of The Rotary Club of Charlotte, we should be reminded by these words of all that can ennoble human behavior. What would be your one word?

Note: Three past presidents chose the word "LOVE," hence, only 23 words are shown here.