

# **ROTARY CLUB OF THE TRIAD**

## **THE EARLY YEARS TO 1980**

The first planning meeting on record was held on March 27, 1977. By January, 1978 officers had been chosen. Another meeting was held on March 13, 1978 with Calvin Rice, Secretary of the High Point Rotary Club, to discuss further details on the formation of a new club with the newly elected officers. Names that were proposed were Rotary Club of Oakview, Rotary Club of Eastchester-Westchester, Rotary Club of North High Point, and Rotary Club of the Old Plank Road. Rotary Club of North High Point was chosen as the name of the club. Tuesday was chosen as the meeting day with the time set up as 12:30 PM to 1:30 PM.

The first club member was Stewart Hartley. A meeting was held on April 18, 1978 for the election of the board of directors. The directors elected were Claude Hedgecock, Eddie Sams, Dick Culler, and Bill Wyche. The committee assignments were also made at this meeting.

Application for the approval of an additional club was submitted on May 18, 1978. The High Point Club amended their territorial limits to accommodate another additional club in High Point. This approval was verbally granted by the board of directors of Rotary International on June 1, 1978. The club was chartered on June 6, 1978 with twenty four charter members and admitted to Rotary International. The club number assigned was 01-769-537570. Yogi Yarborough was the first president.

The Charter Night was held on Tuesday, June 27, 1978 at Emerywood Country Club with Patrick Meisky acting as Master of Ceremonies. Frank Wood presented the charter and Past Rotary International Director, James Lambeth, presented the evening address. The Rotary Club of North High Point was sponsored by the High Point and Furnitureland Rotary Clubs with Patrick Meisky and Dean Spinks acting as special representatives. At a board meeting on July 19, 1978 the board approved the use of Holiday Inn - Downtown as the club meeting place. The first meeting was held there on September 5, 1978 with Bill Wyche presenting the program. The first club bulletin was prepared by the bulletin editor, Chuck Edwards in October, 1978.

In December, 1978, pursuant to the requirements of Rotary international, a new slate of officers and directors were chosen. Jim Sloop was elected president for 1979-1980. A first anniversary gathering was held with Jim Sloop providing an anniversary cake. The date of the event was June 29, 1979 and it was held at Willow Creek Country Club.

The first club project was a fashion show held in November, 1979, at the Holiday Inn with Lenny Samet serving as chairman. This event was open only to Rotarians and their wives. Proceeds were donated to the Rotary Foundation. This event was so successful that Dick Culler was to chair a committee to look into the idea of making this event a public event.

Other important happenings of the year included a Christmas Party held on Tuesday, December 4, 1979 at the Women's Club in Thomasville. The evening included a social hour, meal and comments by District Governor, Tom McKnight. Jim Sloop, also, came up with the idea of putting the Four Way Test on business cards to be given to members, visiting Rotarians, and guest as a way to promote Rotary.

On March 11, 1980 Bill Blue, the bulletin editor, was honored by being presented a plaque for the best bulletin for clubs under fifty members. Jim Honeycutt, who had been part of the District 769 International Exchange Team to Austria, joined the club after being sponsored by Stewart Hartley.

All three High Point clubs held a 75th Anniversary Rotary International Celebration on February 21, 1980 at Emery wood Country Club. The High Point Enterprise had just the day before printed a special supplement for the 75th Anniversary of Rotary.

The second anniversary ladies night and installation of officers was held on June 17, 1980 at Willow Creek Country Club. Dick Culler was installed as the club's third president. There were thirty members in the club at this point.

(Some of the above information was taken from the first history of the club done by Don Holtzler. For his effort,

he was made Rotarian of the Year. This is done in his memory as he died shortly after completing the first club history.)

## **THE MIDDLE YEARS 1980-1985**

Under the leadership of Dick Culler, the club continued to meet on Tuesday at 12:30 PM at the Holiday Inn - Downtown. The club received recognition for its contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Mark Crotts, District Governor, came for his club visit on September 30, 1980 and his letter about his visit was very complimentary of the club. The club membership stood at thirty-two.

The Second Annual Fashion Show Luncheon was held on Tuesday, March 24, 1981 at the Top of the Mart. This event was hosted by Max Meeks and the project was assisted by Sylvia Samet. The event was open to the public. Several local stores provided fashions for the show.

Jim Sloop gave a program on his attendance at the 75th Anniversary Convention held in Chicago. He had previously been chosen as the recipient of the club's first Paul Harris Fellowship beginning a tradition of the club using this as a award for outstanding contributions to the club. The time of the meeting was changed to 12:00 noon. The annual ladies night was held at Willow Creek Country Club on Tuesday, June 9, 1981 with Stewart Hartley being installed as president.

During this new club year, the club began its volunteer work with the Henredon Classic under the guidance of Chairman Dick Culler. The Third Annual Fashion Show Luncheon was held on Tuesday, March 30, 1982 at the Top of the Mart. Max Meeks and Sylvia Samet again assisted in the project in which Mark Craven had acted as coordinator.

After moving their meeting place location to the YWCA on Gatewood Avenue, the club helped sponsor Ann Morris, a French teacher from High Point Central High School, to a workshop at Chateau Lafayette in France from July 11 to August 1. After her return, she presented a program at the club meeting on her experiences on November 2.

The annual ladies night was held on Tuesday, June 22, 1982 at the High Point Woman's Club with Ron Ashby being installed as the club's fifth president. Nido Quebein was the featured speaker and Howard Hauser provided the vocal part of the program with a repertoire of songs. Past District Governor, Frank Wood, installed the new officers.

New president Ron Ashby set about organizing the club in the manner of an IRS agent doing an audit. Many club committees were set up and everyone seemed to have a job. Yogi Yarborough was honored as the club's second Paul Harris Fellow on September 7, 1982. Dennis Musser redesigned the club bulletin and give it the new name, "The North Wind."

A great emphasis was put on attendance and during the month of September the club attendance was at an all time high of 99%. One of the club's most important traditions was started when a club assembly was held at Crescent Ford in the body shop. Steaks and all the fixings were served courtesy of Owen Bertschi. Bill Wyche returned to the club after a long recuperation period after his second bout with arterial surgery following his stroke.

In March, 1983 several club members went to the Regional Airport to welcome an exchange student for our club, Oscar Vieira, from Sao Paulo, Brazil. Oscar spent several months with Howard and Debra Mauser. The entire experience with Oscar was very meaningful for the entire club. The Fourth Annual Fashion Show entitled "Spring Dreams" was at the Top of the Mart on March 22, 1983. Under the direction of Howard Mauser, the fashion show was a real success. For his work on the show and with our exchange student, Howard received the Rotarian of the Year Award.

The annual ladies night was held at the High Point Woman's Club on Monday, June 27, 1983. Owen Bertschi was installed as the club's sixth president.

The 1983-84 club year was a critical year for the club. Several steps were taken by club president, Owen Bertschi, to stop a declining membership and put the club on sound financial footing. Several past district governors acted as an advisory group to assist Owen in this rebuilding year which had started with twenty-four members. To spur attendance, Owen offered the use of a new Thunderbird automobile for personal use to a member whose name was drawn. Weekly door prizes were also established.

On November 20, 1983 Jim Sloop was honored by an article in the High Point Enterprise. He was the newly elected president of the Retail Bakers of America. With the monies from the previous fashion show, the club assisted the YWCA in purchasing of an exercise machine as a joint project with the Kiwanis Club. Bill Wyche was honored for his work in the club by being named a Paul Harris Fellow.

The First Annual Beach Bash was held on March 2, 1984 and a Nassau vacation was awarded the winner of the raffle. This event replaced the fashion show as the annual fundraising event for the club. Owen Bertschi hosted one of the members of the Italian Group Study exchange in April, 1984. Club members assisted with a Red Cross Bloodmobile held in June, 1984 at the Moose Lodge.

The annual ladies night was held in June with District Governor Dick Meisky serving as the guest speaker. Howard Hauser was installed as the club's seventh president. Club emphasis continued in the area of contributions to Rotary Foundation. The area of club service was another area of great emphasis. The club continued its volunteer work with the Henredon Classic Golf Tournament.

The annual district governor's visit was held at Crescent Ford on September 19, 1984 with District Governor Dick Meisky. The Second Annual Beach Bash was held on March 3, 1985 with much improved attendance. Cut Glass provided the music for the event which was held at the High Point Elk's Club on Old Mill Road. The annual ladies night was held on June 24, 1985 with District Governor, Dick Meisky, acting as the keynote speaker. The meeting was highlighted by the introduction of seven new club members. Don Nichols received the Rotarian of the Year Award. Ken Hucks and Everett Padgett were honored for their perfect attendance. Ken Hucks was installed as the club's eighth president.

The club again assisted in the Henredon Golf Tournament by providing marshals for hole number sixteen. This project was chaired by Kirk Wilson. District Governor Philip Brown visited the club by attending the club assembly on Monday, October 20, 1985 at Crescent Ford. His comments at the regular meeting on Tuesday showed that he was very impressed by the club spirit in the North High Point Club.

A telephone calling network was set up for giving some immediate follow up for club information. This program increased member participation by maintaining better member contact. President Ken Hucks hosted a Christmas social at his home to bring club members and their wives together on a social basis. This increased club spirit which was a main objective for the club year.

Club assemblies were hosted by Owen Bertschi, Dick Culler and Jim Lester. Jim had been a District Governor in District 755 in West Virginia and also served as club president of the Oceana Rotary Club.

The Third Annual Beach Bash was held in March, 1986 and a cruise to the Bahamas and \$500 cash were given away. The two major benefactors of the event were the High Point YWCA and Crimestoppers of High Point. Bryant Aldridge was honored by being the "Personality Profile" person in the Sunday, April 20, 1986 edition of the High Point Enterprise. A club assembly was held at the home of Jim Lester on June 2, 1986 as a kick-off for the upcoming Rotary Club year.

The annual ladies night was held on Tuesday, June 24, 1986 at the Willow Creek Country where Everett Padgett was installed as the club's ninth president. Ms. Bobbi Martin received the 1986 Club Community Service Award for her reporting work with the furniture industry. Coverage of the event was done by Channel 12 WXII and appeared that evening on the eleven o'clock news. The invocation which had been used at the first ladies night by Bill Wyche was read by Lonnie Hoffpauir as the invocation for the evening. Two Paul Harris Fellowships were presented that evening to Dick Culler and Ken Hucks. Jerry Streetman was chosen Rotarian of the Year for his contribution to the Beach Bash effort.