

ROTARY CLUBS



of MASON CITY

MASON CITY NOON ROTARY

Meets at Prime 'N' Wine • Monday Noons

P. O. Box 1802 • Mason City, Iowa 50401

In 1983 a community was formed and was tentatively named Masonville. When postal service was initiated, it was discovered that this name was used by another community, therefore the leaders of the community chose the name Mason City in 1855. By the year 1914, Mason City had grown to approximately 17,00 people including 400 business and professional offices.

At the close of 1914 Hugh Shepard, a Mason City attorney, had a desire to form a Rotary Club in his town. He contacted a long time friend, E.J. Carroll of the Davenport Rotary Club for information. He was referred to Chesley R. Perry, Secretary of the International Association of Rotary Clubs. After much correspondence, Mr. Perry advised that Mason City was too small of a town to have a Rotary Club so the matter was dropped.

Mr. Shephard kept in touch with John O. Knutson of Sioux City, who was the District Governor of the 10th District of Rotary. He eventually was invited to attend a meeting of the Cedar Rapids Rotary Club. On May 5, 1916, John Gordon, Jr. of the Cedar Rapids Rotary Club came to Mason City for the organizational meeting held at the Cerro Gordo Hotel. This meeting was attended by leaders of businesses and professional people. There were 22 men who agreed to join the new club. Officers were elected and an application was submitted to the parent organization, which at that time was known as the International Association of Rotary Clubs. Today it is known as Rotary International and the Mason City Noon Rotary Club has 130 members.

The new club choose the Cerro Gordo Hotel as its first meeting place. Over the years other luncheon meeting places were the Soda Grill, the Mason City Chamber of Commerce, the Globe-Gazette, the Hanford Hotel, the Sheraton Motor Inn, the Prime N' Wine, and now meets at the Hanford Inn.

Rotary, the world's first service club organization, can be described in many ways. Officially, Rotary is defined as "an organization of business and professional people united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service,

encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world". Rotary is people in a community having accepted the ideal of Service as a basic of attaining fulfillment in their personal, vocational and community lives. In fact, the Ideal of Service, exemplified in the motto "SERVICE ABOVE SELF" is the thread that runs throughout the Rotary world and unites like-minded people in thought and action, no matter what part of the world they live in.

Now, over one million service-minded people belong to more than 25,000 Rotary Clubs in 172 lands. Clubs must meet weekly so that all members may enjoy each other's fellowship before they get down to the business of running the club and discussing its service goals. Membership is by invitation only. Each member, when inducted, is given a classification. This purpose of this classification system is to ensure that the members of each club comprise a true cross section of their community's business and professional life or endeavor.

Rotarians strive to create order where there is chaos, beauty where there is ugliness, fellowship where there is loneliness and health and happiness where there is poverty and disease.

Besides their work in their club, a Rotarian is encouraged to serve as an individual in whatever ways and places they find opportunity. For example, because each Rotarian is a business or professional person, they are urged to make their business not merely the basis of their livelihood but also their way of living a good life of serving their fellow people competently and unselfishly.

Moreover, one strives to make use of their opportunities for service in their business or residential community. Since business is independent, they have an opportunity, in cooperation with other Rotarians in their vocation, to improve conditions through advancement of understanding and goodwill and the creation of higher ethical standards, where necessary, in business. Likewise, they have their opportunity as a member of an international fellowship to see to better conditions in general for all mankind.

The Rotary Radio Auction has been a fund raiser for over 30 years. Each year the money that is raised is given back to the community. In four hours last year the club raised \$12,600.

Rotarians are always trying to help the community that they live and help support international Rotary project. Throughout the years, the membership and the locations of the meetings have changed. However, one thing remains the same, "SERVICE ABOVE SELF".