

ROTARY CLUB OF BROWN COUNTY – THE BEGINNING

From tiny acorns mighty oaks grow. The seed for the beginning of the Rotary Club of Brown County grew from the fertile mind and yearning of a restaurant entrepreneur and business man, Delano (Del) Newkirk.

Del began selling his business holdings in 1991. That same year, he and his wife, Letty, moved to Brown County and began building a new home high in the Hills O' Brown where they "could be one with nature and enjoy the sunrises and sunsets."

Del had long envied the fellowship, community leadership and service of Rotarians but had never stayed in one place long enough to participate in Rotary. He set about to change that even though there was no Rotary club in Brown County.

With the help of people such as Past District Governor Orphie Bridges, District Governor Owen Hungerford and Brown County retiree Prof. Dick Hulet, a past president of the Normal (Illinois) Rotary Club, Del began recruiting for the county's first Rotary club.

By the fall of 1992, he and others had recruited 25 outstanding men and women, had drafted by-laws in accordance with Rotary International and District guidance, and presented themselves for chartering.

The new club was officially chartered November 2, 1992, and celebrated at a Charter Night gala Thursday, November 19, 1992, attended by more than 100 people including Rotary dignitaries from Rotary International and Rotary District 6580. Many of the District's clubs sent representatives bearing Rotary paraphernalia as gifts to help the fledgling club begin. Entertainment for the evening was provided by friends of Del -- Past Rotary District Governor John Egan and his wife Anne Marie, professors of music from St. Joseph College.

It was the first Rotary club in Southern Indiana to be named after a county. The first meetings were in Nashville's Artists Colony Inn, and the club has held its regular weekly breakfast meetings at that location every Thursday ever since.

District Governor Hungerford installed the club's first officers: Del as president; Dick Hulet, vice president; Bill Percifield, secretary; Kathryn Richardson, treasurer; Michael Chamblee, sergeant-at-arms, and Stewart Turner-Ball, chaplain. Directors were Jim Crane (community service), Yvonne Oliger (international service), Donna Stouder (vocational service) and Pamela Taylor (club service).

Del is the only club president to serve three terms, including the partial Rotary year following chartering. He is thought of as "the father of Brown County Rotary," a description well-earned with his active role in leading by example and practicing the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self."

ROTARY CLUB OF BROWN COUNTY -- HISTORY HIGHLIGHTS

Charter Members (Charter Night – Thursday, November 19, 1992)

Robert W. Barger
Jay Carter
Michael A. Chamblee
William S. Cook
James R. Crane
Scott DeDomenic
Robert C. Hale
Brian Heller
Richard E. Hulet
Steven E. Kritzer
Del Newkirk
Yvonne C. Olinger
Robert R. Ormiston

William L. Percifield
Burton R. Perdue
Jamie L. Pirtle
Kathryn M. Richardson
Martin K. Saari
Patricia D. Setser
Donna Stouder
Kathy J. Strahm
Pamela J. Taylor
Stewart Turner-Ball
Douglas E. Van Winkle
George A. Warner

Club Presidents

Del Newkirk	1992-1994
Jim Crane	1994-1995
Kathryn Richardson	1995-1996
Scott DeDomenic	1996-1997
Greg Marshall	1997-1998
Jim Allen	1998-1999
Dick Routh	1999-2000
Michelle Cohen	2000-2001
Dick Knobloch	2001-2002
Del Newkirk	2002-2003
Bob Kirlin	2003-2004
Diane Cantrell	2004-2005
Al Kosinski	2005-2006
Yvonne Olinger	2006-2007
Jaydene Laros	2007-2008
Pryde Bayliss	2008-2009
Bert Clemons	2009-2010
Sue Ann Werling	2010-2011
Richard Lawlor	2011-2012
Rod Russell	2012-2013
Richard Rhyant	2013-2014
Brandy Brandon	2014-2015
Larry Hanson	2015-2017
Al Kosinski/Jim Allen	2017-2018
Dwight Thompson	2018-2019

Club Secretaries

William L. Percifield	1992-1995
Judy Brown	1995-1997
Charlene Kowaliuk	1997-1999
Aldea Cloutier-Hartung	1999-2000
Cynthia Thompson	2000-2003
Jaydene Laros	2003-2005
Suzannah Zody	2005-2007
Jane Gore	2007-2009
Teed Howard	2009-2011
Dennis Kubal	2011-2012
Pryde Bayliss	2012-2013
Larry Hanson	2013-2015
Jaydene Laros	2015-2016
Beverly Teach	2016-2019

Rotarian of Year

Jim Simms	1994	Cindy Rose-Wolpert	2007
Greg Marshall	1995	Teed Howard	2008
Randy Snyder	1996	Sue Ann Werling	2009
Jim Allen	1997	Teed Howard/Ken Harker	2010
Kathy Strahm	1998	Wanda Jones	2011
Bob Ormison	1999	Jane Gore	2012
Bill Percifield	2000	Mike & Jaydene Laros	2013
Diane Cantrell	2001	Al Kosinski	2014
John Kipp	2002	Larry Hanson/Jaydene Laros	2015
Jim Reichert	2003	Dick Routh	2016
Howard Hughes	2004	Mike Laros	2017
Jaydene Laros	2005	Beverly Teach	2018
Dick Routh	2006		

Rotary District 6580 Officers

Yvonne Oliger, Assistant District Governor	2014-2016
Yvonne Oliger, District Secretary	2007-2010
Dick Routh, Assistant District Governor	2000-2004
Greg Marshall	
• District Governor's Advisory Council	1999-2000
• Chair, Long-Term Youth Exchange Committee	2000-2001
Bill Percifield, District Treasurer	1994-1997

Rotary District 6580 Awards

Best Small Club	2016-2017
Best Club Secretary (Teed Howard)	2010-2011
Best Small Club	2010-2011
Best Club Secretary (Jane Gore)	2008-2009
Most Outstanding Club	1999-2000
Best Club Secretary (Bill Percifield)	1993-1994
Numerous Best Club Spirit Awards	

Rotary International Awards - Numerous Presidential Citations