

# Oak Ridge Rotary Club

## *History 2005 – 2006*

### Officers:

President – J. Fred Heitman  
President – elect – Bonnie Clark  
Vice President -Club Service– Frank Robinson  
Secretary – Bob Craig  
Treasurer – Connor Matthews  
International Director – Jenifer Hackett  
Community Services Director – Devrin Kuipers  
Vocational Services Director – Wayne Hope  
Past President – Tom Row



### **District Governor's Representative**-Tom Row

The club held elections on December 22, 2005. The following slate was elected unanimously to serve for 2006-2007:

President elect- Bob Craig

Secretary – Devrin Kuipers

Treasurer – Kelly Dagenhart

Vice President – David Beams

### **New Members:**

Membership started at 146, dropped to 137 but ended the year with 150.

New Members: Jack Bailey, Russ Shubert, Katy Brown, Lisa Hurt, Gina Grub, Charlie Jernigan, Craig Roma, Denise Roma, Chuck Hope, Mary Jane White, Liz Clary, Stephen Cate, David Carr, Tim Forde, Mary Ann Damos, Dave Mason, Nancy Harrison, Carol Mullane, Patti Loch Shelton, Ed Schneider and Adolph King.

### **Members Lost:**

Ralph Best, Ed White, Gene Pack, Ruth Pardue, Jack Richard, Mike Anderson, Bill Furig, Christy Foy, Patti Shelton, Harold Mann, Joe Valentino, Lynn Burchell, and Liz Clary. We were saddened by the passing of long time members Dr. Lewis Preston and Jeff Gleason.

### **Attendance:**

Our goal was 80%. Our attendance ranged from a low of 70% in February to a high of 80% in March and April but usually was 72-74%. A few people with poor attendance brought down the club average.

### **Club Honors Received:**

Our club was recognized with more awards this year, possibly, than at any time in its history. These included:

#### **Rotary International Presidential Citation**

**Rotary International Best Cooperative Project Award** -Dogwood Tree Planting.

**Rotary International Recognition of Membership Development Initiatives**

**District 6780 Award for Club Bulletin – Print – Third Place**

**District 678- Two Governor’s Exceptional Achievement Awards** -Katrina Relief: 80,000 Pounds in 80 Hours(Joint with Breakfast Club); Secret City Commemorative Walk

**District 6780 Governor’s Club of Distinction**

**Star Club** (2<sup>nd</sup> consecutive year)

**Globe Club**

**Rotary Foundation Awards** -presented at the District Conference to Bill Sergeant and Hank Stoner for their years of service.

**East Tennessee Historical Society Awards:** Bill Wilcox and Bonnie Bruton for the Secret City Commemorative Walk.

### **International Activities**

We supported a Guatemala literacy project with a \$500 contribution and the drilling of two water wells in Nigeria with a \$1000 contribution. We donated \$1000 to the Rotary Foundation in honor of Bill Sergeant to buy 35 sewing machines as part of an NID in India.

### **District Activities**

Our club members participated in the district Rotary Foundation and Membership Seminars held in Knoxville. We attended the Charter nights for the Tellico Lake and Mt.Juliet clubs. We had excellent turnout to the District conference.

We hosted the District Governor and her husband for a dinner on the night before her official visit. We hosted the GSE team from Nigeria at our club meeting. President Fred and Bill Sergeant attended the funeral of PDG Don Hinch, a man admired greatly for his dedication to the Rotary Foundation. At least 18 members attended the Awards Luncheon of the District Conference in Knoxville April 27-28..

District Governor Karen Wentz made her official visit to the club on October 20, 2005. During her talk her cell phone rang and it was a call from none other than Paul Harris. Prior to the club meeting DG Wentz met with the club BOD and President Heitman made a Power Point presentation of the club goals and objectives and activities for the year District Rotary Foundation Chair Carol LaRue spoke to our club on January 12, 2006. Carol would later become District Governor in 2008-09. Charlie Samuels became a Major Donor of the Rotary Foundation

### **Paul Harris Fellows:**

The following are some of the Paul Harris Fellows named in 05-06: John Orrison, Bill Lenihan, Don Gardiner, Jane Miller, Terry Payne, John Waggoner. Jesse Hood was made a Paul Harris Fellow by his grandfather Bill Sergeant, and Len Hart made his father, Len Hart, Sr, a Paul Harris Fellow.

**Paul Harris Sustaining Members:** We did not track sustaining members.

### **Highlights**

The incoming BOD gathered in advance at Fall Creek Falls to develop goals and objectives and to create a budget, for the first time in recent memory. At least 18 members attended the Awards Luncheon of the District Conference in Knoxville April 27-28. We won nine awards as noted above.

Throughout the year, our Program Chair Jane Miller and her committee did an outstanding job of providing us with wonderful speakers.

We supported local children's groups with proceeds from the GALA. August 4, 2005 we presented checks for \$1500 each to Girls, Inc., the Boys Club and the Children's Museum.

An unpleasant event occurred August 6, 2005 when the Secret City Commemorative Walk was defaced during a peace rally. Tom and Pat Row noticed that signs and banners were hung from the monuments. They called several club members who hurried to the site and cleaned up the mess. There was no permanent damage to the SSCW.

Sometimes things come up that are not planned. Such is the case with Hurricane Katrina that struck Mississippi, Alabama, and Louisiana with such devastating force. A day later, the levies broke and New Orleans was flooded. Later, Hurricane Rita ravaged the part of Louisiana that was not hurt by Katrina. Never in recorded history have we seen the total devastation and destruction over such a large area. People in the affected areas were without homes, food, water, or any of the basics necessities of life. Rotarians in Oak Ridge quickly rose to the occasion and began an effort that was later called "80,000 Pounds in 80 Hours."

This effort started when Rotarian Tom Row called club President Fred Heitman and said "Let's get a truck load of supplies and send them to those folks." A mere 80 hours later it was done. Fred contacted Morristown Drivers Service, Inc., a trucking firm in Morristown, TN, who donated a tractor/trailer and driver for the ride to a destination yet to be determined. Tom started marshalling local resources. The trailer was parked in

the Wal-Mart parking lot. Rotarians and other oak Ridge citizens manned the trailer. We procured a large banner which screamed that we were accepting donations for Katrina victims. Announcements were made on area radio and television. Soon, donations of cash and kind began pouring into the trailer area. Dozens of Rotarians from both Oak Ridge Clubs worked for two days, Saturday and Sunday of Labor Day weekend, to accept, sort and load the donations. Our club members were either helping to load the trailer or donating supplies. It was gratifying to see how we all worked together on this project that "just came up."

People would drive to the trailer and drop off what they wanted to donate. We would sort the items into like materials and place those onto shipping pallets, wrap the contents with shrink wrap and then load the pallets onto the trailer. Often people would drive up and hand us cash and ask us to buy what was needed. We gathered over \$17,000 in cash in addition to the trailer load of supplies. At one point several of the women who were working at the trailer came to Tom and Fred and said that there was one thing sorely missing from what they were collecting and could they have some of the money to go buy it. Tom and Fred were perplexed until they learned that the items were feminine hygiene products. The women took some money and came back with a goodly supply. DG Karen Wentz and her husband joined with us as we loaded the trailer.

On Sunday the OR Fire Department brought one of their ladder trucks to the site

and extended an American flag to the top of the ladder as a way to help folks locate us. Donations continued to pour into the site as Oak Ridgers rose to the challenge to help their fellow Americans in need. It became apparent that we were going to fill the trailer that day but where were we going to take the supply, we had no idea!

Fred and Tom were working the cell phones looking for a place that needed all of the supplies that were being gathered. The problem was that the places that needed the supplies could not be contacted because all of their communications were down due to the storm. Through a Rotary District Governor in Louisiana contact that we obtained from our DG Karen Wentz we talked with the newly appointed District Disaster Coordinator in Shreveport, LA. They were desperate for the supplies that we had. They were overrun with people who had evacuated from the storms. They had the equipment to unload and store the supplies we were sending. We made arrangements for the truck to go there. However, because of the storm the truck would need credentials and a manifest to get through police road blocks. President Fred Heitman wrote a Letter of Authorization for the truck to be wherever it was that it was stopped, and they made a manifest and sent the truck to Shreveport. It arrived safely and the supplies were put to good use.

By this time the entire community was engaged in bringing items to the site. After the massive efforts all of the Rotarians were worn out and too tired to continue. The Oak Ridge fire department wanted to continue the effort, and they filled three more trucks and sent them to various places down south.

As people dropped their supplies some also gave us cash. As we were looking for places to send a truck we found several other places that were at the edge of the devastated areas that served as local distribution points for supplies. We quickly learned that we could not quickly send people what they needed so, instead, we went these distribution centers money. This allowed them to buy the items that they needed at the time. We sent money to Baton Rouge, LA; Lake Charles, LA; Francisville, LA; and Laurel, MS. All of these places used the money to buy locally the supplies that they needed for their local people. There were evacuees arriving in Knoxville too so we made a small donation to the Central Baptist Church in Bearden that was serving as a local distribution center.

In October we teamed with the OR Breakfast club to sponsor a Hurricane Disaster Luncheon. Knoxville Mayor Mike Ragsdale was our speaker. We raised about \$18,500 from this effort. Presidents Fred Heitman, RCOR, and Ben Andrews, RCORB, auctioned the opportunity to hit them in the face with a pie, for \$100 each. Four sponsors and 20 corporations sponsored tables at the event. Jane Miller and Marilyn McLaughlin were the organizers and they did a GREAT job!

As a final project regarding Hurricanes Katrina and Rita we teamed with clubs from Birmingham. With John Germ's assistance we received a \$50,000 grant from the Disaster Relief Fund. We provided about \$18,000 from the hurricane lunch that we held in October. The Alabama clubs also provided about \$3000 in direct funds. All of the monies were used to fund a community septic system for a Habitat for Humanity product in south Alabama that had been affected the storm. By installing a community septic system it took less area than individual septic systems and the project was to build an additional three homes on the site that otherwise would have required the land for drain fields.

In total, we provided over \$85,000 in cash and a trailer of supplies to people in LA and MS as well as helping the fire department get started with their three truck loads of supplies

The Street Painting Festival, chaired by Loretta Friend was held October 7 – 9, 2005. Over \$17,000 was raised this year for scholarships to RSCC. This year, 164 artists

participated. The many winners in various categories were recognized at a club meeting by President Fred Heitman, and District Governor Karen Wentz congratulated them.

On a cold and sunny morning, December 10, 2005 club members gathered with members of the OR Garden Club for our Oak Ridge Beautification Day Project. We planted more than 200 bare root sapling dogwood trees all around the city. We also planted about 1000 daffodils in the flower beds at the SCCW with able assistance from Devrin Kuiper's children, Amanda and Michael. Later, we received a District Simplified Grant of \$2000 and purchased ten large dogwoods that were planted at the west end of Bissell Park. .

We celebrated Police and Fire Appreciation Day January 5, 2006. There were 34 police officers and two firemen in attendance.

On March 9, 2006 we held the 711 Club drawings. Kim Denton, Dave Mason, Bob Hightower, Devrin Kuipers, Leonard Abbatiello and Charlie Samuels were selected to name others as Paul Harris Fellows.

Rotary College, led by Deans Charlie Kuykendall and Larry Beeman, started March 30, 2006 and had 14 students this year; 13 graduated.

We held the GALA on April 1, 2006 in the Double Tree Hotel. We sold 132 tickets and raised a net of \$9300 for community service projects for the next year's BOD.

Local Educator Appreciation Day was held April 20, 2006. Tom Bailey recognized several of his outstanding teachers and provided an update of the status of the school system.

On April 27, 2006 Bill Wilcox, a member of our club, was awarded our club's highest honor the Vocational Service Award.

On April 29, 2006 Bill Sergeant was recognized by The Rotary Foundation at a special ceremony at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC for his service as Chair of the International Polio Plus Committee. RI President Carl Wilhelm-Stenhammar, Trustee Chair Frank Devlin, leaders from the Centers for Disease Control, WHO, UNICEF, and leaders from other organizations spoke about Bill's leadership of the RI polio program. There was a grand opening of a polio display in the Museum of American History. Bill's accomplishments were recognized with an entry in the Congressional Record on April 25, 2006.

The Nigerian GSE Team visited our club on May 25, 2006.

4- Way Test Awards were presented on June 1, 2006

June 8, 2006 was the Business Appreciation Awards day. Kim Denton chaired the effort to arrange the Business Appreciation Awards. The winners were Materials & Chemistry Laboratory, Inc., represented by Barry Stevenson; TN Bank of Oak Ridge, represented by Tom Tuck and Pro2Serve, represented by Barry Goss. All three were examples of well run successful businesses that were started in Oak Ridge.

At the Secret City Festival in June, Tom Row and his merry band gave away over 1200 bottles of water. Between 10 AM and 2 PM that was a rate of 5 bottles per minute!

We shared the cost of a stained glass window at the Oak Ridge library with the Breakfast club. Bonnie Bruton was our representative during the dedication of the window.

Our club installed drinking two fountains in Oak Ridge. The first was at the SCCW and the other was at Highland View Park.

Secretary Bob Craig produced the first electronic version of the photo directory in club history.

Our club donated \$1,000 to the International Relations Club of Oak Ridge High School to support its participation in the Model United Nations (NAIMUN) affair.

Rotary Year 2005 – 06 was a very good year. At the last meeting, all of the Rotarians who had participated in any project were asked to stand; all but two stood.