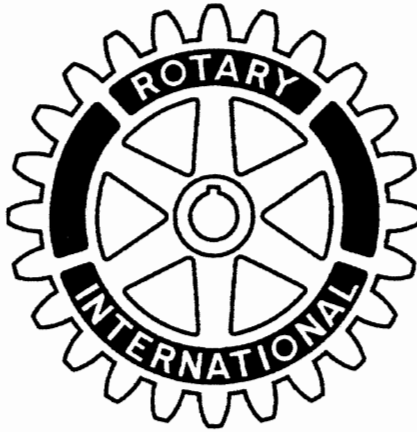


Elyia Rotary Club:
“The Next Ten Years”

A Continuation of the
Elyria Rotary Club History
July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2005

*Including a chronology of the
Crippled Children's work*

David J. Holland



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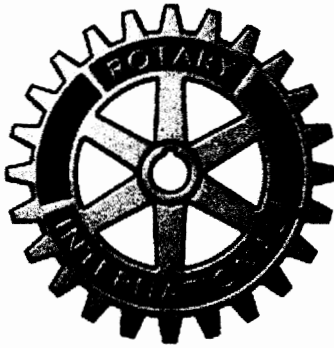
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Acknowledgement

This publication, and the one preceding it, was created through the passion and dedication of one of Elyria Rotary's most notable members, David J. Holland. Yes, he had some help along the way from others who share his interest but he is the one who made sure the work was done, and he has done it well. This is a work that epitomizes the Rotary International motto, "Service Above Self."

Through Dave's efforts the story of Elyria Rotary Club, as it traveled through time, will be with us forever. We appreciate it now and future generations can as well.



A Continuation of the Elyria Rotary Club History

From July 1, 1995 to: June 30, 2005

By David J. Holland

Including a chronology of the Crippled Children's work.

Foreword

The historical review of the Elyria Rotary Club, *The First Seventy-Five Years*, actually covered an additional two years into June 1995. It was convenient to include the extra two years in the planned book as research continued up to the time of submission to editing and printing. Between July 1995 and January 1996 a great deal of editing, computer formatting, and print preparation was done by club Secretary Bob Perry and Tim Grogan, a member of Elyria Rotary Club and owner of the Wilmot Printing Co.

Of equal importance was financing the publication, at an eventual cost of about \$7000. The generosity of twenty-two Rotarians made the Rotary story possible without using that sum from the club treasury. Past President George Worden solicited donations to fund the printing cost and Secretary Bob Perry managed the account. The names of the twenty-two Rotarians that donated remain anonymous.

Surprisingly few errors or omissions were brought to the attention of the writer, although, as in any work of the type, additional information will come to light over time. An assumption regarding the ongoing interest in the Elyria Rotary Club part in the Crippled Children's Societies led to reduced space for this historic event. Just a few paragraphs were included and it was suggested those wanting more information should visit the Elyria Rotary archives. Because of subsequent inquiries, a more in depth historical and chronological version is included here.

Two major events prompt inclusion of additional information in this segment and also a separate nine-page reprint version.

We were honored by a visit to our club by representatives of Canadian Rotary clubs requesting data for their 75th anniversary of Crippled Children's work in Ontario, the first international extension. Their celebration was to be held on November 28, 1997. As it developed, the Canadian celebration was eventually cancelled.

No official explanation of abandoning the event was forthcoming, but it was likely the lack of cooperation between Rotary clubs in the Windsor area and perhaps the indifference of the Easter Seal Societies. The Easter Seal Society did make a major contribution to the Elyria 75th anniversary, including national recognition.

Early in the proposed celebration talks, the Elyria club supplied copies of “The First Seventy Five Years”, a preliminary draft of the following chronology, and the offer of material on loan from our archives where copies could be made.

A letter dated November 26, 1997 and box of mementos from the Canadian Easter Seal Society was the final contact regarding the cancelled event. The letter and sample mementos are in the archives.

The other opportunity to share the Crippled Children’s story was the invitation to participate in an interview with National Public Radio as part of a four-hour program about people with disabilities. Elyria Rotarians Jim Frank and Dave Holland retrieved much information from our archives for use during the interview. Elyria Rotary was again in the national spot light when the program was aired in December 1997.

The twenty-minute Elyria segment focused on Daddy Allen’s pioneer work and included part of the sound track from “The Ohio Story” 1950s era TV series. That particular 30-minute program was a dramatization of the Elyria street car tragedy and the start of the Crippled Children’s Societies. Jim Frank located the original film, had copies made on videotape, and provided a tape to Elyria Rotary. NPR borrowed the tape and used excerpts for the documentary. The tape is in the club archive.

Supplement to:

THE FIRST SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS, a history of the Elyria, Ohio Rotary Club.

The purpose of this work is to consolidate in one place the information about Elyria and other Rotary Clubs' parts in the story of crippled children.

The following is taken from the day-to-day records of the Crippled Children’s story. In the interest of space, the material will be covered in diary rather than narrative style. Some duplication of information previously printed is necessary for continuity.

The records and reports are housed in the Elyria Rotary Club Archives. Other references include histories by Ben Hindman and James Thomas, past Secretaries of ERC, and the 1925 chronology by Harry H. Howett.

Information from 1925 to the present was taken from the book *THE FIRST 75 YEARS*, the Elyria Rotary Archives, Easter Seal Society publications, newspaper stories, and other sources.

It must be pointed out that Rotary International was never officially connected to any crippled children’s society. The position of RI was to encourage and help each autonomous Rotary Club to pursue projects, which helped the handicapped. In many areas of the country, significant work was also done through Kiwanis, woman’s organizations, veteran’s groups, churches, and fraternal organizations.

Abbreviations used to save space: ERC Elyria Rotary Club, OSCC Ohio Society of Crippled Children, ISCC International Society for Crippled Children, EMH Elyria Memorial Hospital. RI Rotary International.

Crippled Children Societies

Principal Participants:

EDGAR.F.ALLEN

Born 3/8/1862
Died 9/20/1937



He moved from Newton, Massachusetts to Ohio in 1887 and married Blanch Wood in 1888. They had two sons: Homer who died of injuries in the 1907 streetcar accident and Frank who became an industrialist in the Philadelphia area.

Allen founded the Cleveland Cedar Co. in 1888 for the production of railroad ties and utility poles. He sold that business in 1905, moved to Elyria and had a major interest in the Perry-Fay Co. (now a division of Parker-Hannifin), the American Lace Co., Dean Electric Co., and was on the board of a number of local industries.

He was treasurer and manager of the Elyria Memorial Hospital for 14 years, a voluntary position.

He was a leader of the YMCA campaign in 1911 and, in 1918, was one of the founders of the Community Chest that later became the model for forming the United Fund.

Allen was the first President of the Ohio Society for Crippled Children and the National Crippled Children's Society (U.S.).

He is credited with the formulation the "Ohio Plan," a plan to aid crippled children. He presented this plan to countless audiences. His addresses were entitled; "Is It Worthwhile?" and he coined the phrase, "Keep on keeping on." He led the organization of the International Society for Crippled Children and was its President from its inception until 1934. He became fondly known as "Daddy" Allen.

Two versions exist as to the origination of the name. A crippled child patient at Gates Hospital named Jimmie referred to Allen as his "Daddy" and the name was attached to Allen from then on. The other use of "Daddy" was by Ed Kelsey (a District Governor from Toledo) when introducing Allen referred to him as the "Daddy" (founding father) of the movement.

Allen was made an honorary member of the Elyria Rotary Club on 5/6/1919 and changed to active membership in 1921. His classification at first was "Capitalist," later changed to "Crippled Children's Societies."

SAMUEL SQUIRE: Born in Elyria 9/1/1873 died 4/18/1943.

He started with the First National Bank of Elyria in 1892 as a messenger boy. FNB merged with Lorain County Bank in 1922, Squire becoming Vice President and then President of the bank. In 1935, Squire was named the Superintendent of Ohio Banking. He ended his career as President of the Tiffin National Bank.

A charter member of ERC in 1918, he assumed the presidency in July when the first president was called into military service.

Squire served as Governor of Rotary District 10 from 7/1/19 to 6/30/20. There were 746 Rotary clubs in 17 countries in 1920. He was a dedicated spokesman for the Crippled Children's Societies. In 1924 he was named President Emeritus of ERC and was named an honorary member in 1935.

Squire was active in community affairs including the Community Chest, YMCA, and the Chamber of Commerce.

HARRY H. HOWETT: He came to the attention of the OSCC when he was the director of the Ohio Board of State Charities in Columbus. Howett was later appointed director of all Ohio State Welfare agencies. In December 1924 he accepted the dual responsibilities of Executive Director of the OSCC and Executive Secretary of the International Society for Crippled Children. He worked with these two organizations for many years and was a key person in the implementation of the "Ohio Plan." He joined the Elyria Rotary Club in 1924 and was a member until his death in the late 1960s.

ED KELSEY: Toledo Rotarian, District Governor, one of the spokesmen for OSCC in its formative years.

ARCH KLUMPH: Cleveland Rotarian, District Governor. He encouraged Rotary participation in OSCC. He was a power in Rotary International and a great ally of Allen. He is also known for founding the Rotary Foundation.

JOHN BENTLY: A Cleveland Rotarian and a District Governor. He was one of the first to encourage Elyria Rotary to enlist other clubs in joining the crippled children's project.

PAUL HARRIS: Founder of Rotary International. In 1921/22 he encouraged Rotary's leadership in the formation of a National (U. S.) and then international Crippled Children's Societies. He attended a number of meetings of the ISCC, including at least four in Elyria.

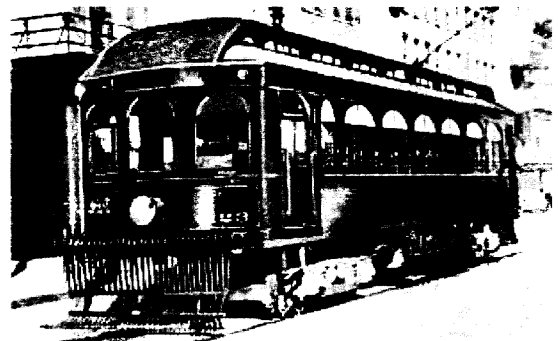
BEN HINDMAN: First ERC Secretary and charter member of ERC. Served the OSCC as Recording Secretary during its formative times.

E. J. (JAY) HOWENSTINE: ERC charter member. He was active in the formation and the programs of OSCC. He authored bulletins and made presentations for the OSCC's Children's Week promotion. And was instrumental in the production of the first Society informational magazine.

Chronology: This section also appears on the ROTARY GLOBAL HISTORY web site: <http://www.rotaryhistory.org/history/otherorganizations/easterseals/index.htm>

1905: Paul Harris founded Rotary in Chicago. The purpose was to perform community service, have business classifications, and provide fraternity and fellowship for members. An early project of Rotary Clubs for helping under privileged boys was referred to as "Boys Work."

1907: Memorial Day. A streetcar accident at Fifth St. and Middle Ave. in Elyria, Ohio. Two cars of the Inter-Urban local from Oberlin to Cleveland crashed, the rear car running over the rear ten feet of the front car. Because of



Streetcar #123 that caused the accident

the holiday, an additional car was following the regular one. The motorman of the second car failed to notice the first car making an unscheduled stop to let off passengers at Fifth Street and rammed into the stopped streetcar. Eight died of injuries including E. F. Allen's son Homer. In addition, seven lost one or both legs or feet. Ten others recovered from severe injuries. Inadequate hospital facilities were cited for some of the deaths and poor treatment of the injuries.

10/30/1908: As a result of the accident and resulting public contributions, the Elyria Memorial Hospital was opened with 36 beds.

1913: The Rotary Club of Syracuse, N. Y. established a fund for "shut in children" (invalids) of the city.

1913/17: Syracuse Rotary Club contributed about \$1200 to \$1400 each year for a crippled children's Christmas party and gifts. Additional funds were used for appliances for invalid children of the city.



GATES HOSPITAL
Elyria, Ohio

1915: After years of effort by E. F. Allen, Gates Hospital in Elyria Ohio opened. It was the first facility in the U.S. devoted exclusively to the care of crippled children. Allen spearheaded and partially financed the concept. Mrs. William Gates provided the major funding for the building.

1915: Toledo Ohio Rotary Club formed a committee to "take up crippled children's work" in that city.

1916/17: Syracuse, Toledo, and Cleveland "adopt" children of their cities. Surveys were made of the number of affected children. Some braces and hospital care were funded.

1917/18: E. F. Allen presented a plan to a number of local organizations and state officials to establish help for crippled children, with state aid. Little response was gained.

**The first banner of
the Elyria Rotary
club
Ca 1955**



April 1, 1918: Elyria, Ohio Rotary Club was chartered, the first Rotary Club in Lorain County. It was the only club between Cuyahoga County and Toledo.

Early 1919: E. F. Allen's crippled children aid plan was presented to and endorsed by the ERC. The proposition was to be expanded and encouraged through Ohio Rotary Clubs.

April 15, 1919: First anniversary meeting of ERC, a daylong affair attended by many Toledo and Cleveland Rotarians. Activities of the day included a tour of Gates and Elyria Memorial Hospitals and an evening meeting with the principal address by E. F. Allen. He outlined the need and presented a plan to promote crippled children's work as a Rotary sponsored project in Ohio. E. F. Allen spoke on the proposal at the Toledo and Cleveland Rotary Clubs the following week.

April 22, 1919 – The initial meeting of “The State Committee for an Ohio Society of Crippled Children.” was held in Elyria. Allen was appointed chairman and Sam Squire Sec/Treas. Various duties were assigned and Allen and Squire were appointed official spokesmen. (It was later proclaimed that May 8, 1919 was the founding date of the Ohio Society because that was Allen's birthday.)

May to Dec. 1919: Many meetings of committees, preparation of constitution and by-laws, visits to about 35 Rotary Clubs in District 10 (most of Ohio).

Jan. 1, 1920: First office of the OSCC opened. It was a desk and chair in the lobby of EMH.

Jan. 6, 1920: Meeting in Columbus, Ohio. The constitution of the Ohio Society of Crippled Children was adopted.

Jan. 12, 1920: The Toledo Rotary Club turned over to the Society their fund of \$1025. Prior to that, E. F. Allen had paid all expenses.

Mar. 4, 1920: Allen met with R. E. Miles, Director of Ohio welfare agencies, to discuss state institutions for crippled children. Little progress was made with legislators for state aid.

April 13, 1920: At the Rotary District 10 Convention, a resolution was passed to “Endorse the work for Crippled Children.” Clubs were to “earnestly and loyally promote, support, and cooperate (with the OSCC) so each crippled child in Ohio shall be given a fair chance and a square deal.”

April/June 1920: Word of the “Ohio Plan” spread to Michigan and Kentucky. A pamphlet titled “Our Crippled Children” was prepared by OSCC and was made available through Rotary headquarters in Chicago. Interest was being shown by Rotary Clubs in other parts of the U.S.

June 15, 1920: Records show 22 Ohio Rotary Clubs had subscribed to the \$4.00 per member dues to OSCC. There were over 100 children on the waiting list at Gates Hospital. Cincinnati and Dayton were planning to build hospitals for crippled children.

October 1920: Syracuse, N. Y. Rotary Club donated \$3500 plus material and labor for a pavilion at the Hillcrest Association as an “adjunct” to their aid for crippled children. There was an effort in Michigan to form a state society using the “Ohio Plan.”

November 1920: Clinics were now up and running in Elyria, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Toledo, Youngstown, and Akron, Ohio. The purpose of the OSCC was now more directed toward public awareness and to seeking state funds for building hospitals and to provide care and appliances for invalids. Rotarians were urged to exert pressure on legislators. Pennsylvania Rotarians were forming a society.

January/March 1921: Legislative proposals were made to Ohio agencies including the Institute for Public Safety, State Board of Charities, and the State Department of Education, and also to Ohio Governor Harry L. Davis.

April 1921: First mention of discussions by E. F. Allen, other leading Ohio Rotarians, and Rotary founder, Paul Harris, to have Rotary International take on the crippled children's plight as an international project. It was to be spearheaded by individual clubs.

April 1921: Sen. J. F. Burke of Elyria introduced Ohio Senate bill 174 for aid to the OSCC and appropriations for care of the handicapped. Rotarians sent 4000 telegrams to legislators throughout Ohio and the bill passed on April 27, 1921. As a result of Bill 174, the Ohio Departments of Welfare, Health, and Education were to be reorganized to carry out the provisions of the Bill.

August 28/29 1921: E. F. Allen, Samuel Squire, and Paul Harris presented the plan for a National Crippled Children's Society to Rotary International's Board of Directors and the International Council of Governors. The proposal was met with "enthusiasm" and work began to implement the program with Rotary Clubs' sponsorship.

August/October 1921: The OSCC authorized a re-organization to include an Executive Director and the promotion of a Crippled Children's Day to be held throughout the state on May 8, 1922.

October 14, 1921: A meeting of OSCC was held in Toledo attended by E. F. Allen, Paul Harris, District Governors of New York State and Michigan, and many other interested Rotarians. It was at this meeting that the National Crippled Children's Society was inaugurated and officers selected. Named President was E. F. Allen. It was recorded that Allen had traveled 17,000 miles and been away from his home 73 days in 1921 to promote crippled children's work.

October 28, 1921: The first meeting of the National (U.S.) Crippled Children's Society was held in Cleveland. Those attending passed a constitution and regulations.

November 17, 1921: Carl Crispin became Executive Assistant of the Societies, with headquarters in Elyria, Ohio. Crispin joined the ERC in 1922.

December 1921: E. F. Allen spoke to the Brantford, Ontario Rotary Club. It was the first official contact regarding formation of a Society in Canada.

January/March 1922: State Societies were being formed in New York, Michigan, Indiana, Kentucky and Pennsylvania. 16 Rotary clubs representing various States attended a meeting held in Elyria on February 8, 1922. Also attending was Rotary founder Paul Harris. A vote at this meeting changed the name of the organization to the International Society of Crippled Children. Sponsoring clubs were asked to contribute 50 cents per member as dues to the Society. Ohio clubs were already contributing \$4.00 per member to the OSCC.

April 26, 1922: It was reported that most Rotary District Conferences had as part of the program a section on the Crippled Children's Societies. Also reported was "Ontario is all planned." The Hamilton, Ontario club was now the center of activity in Canada.

April 1922: A revised constitution was passed to accommodate the change to an international organization and further refine the aims and goals of the Society.

May 8, 1922: Crippled Children's Week in Ohio. Nationwide publicity resulted and the movement to expand internationally was accelerated.

June 8, 1922: The 13th annual Rotary International Convention passed a resolution encouraging Rotary Clubs throughout the world to take on crippled children's work. RI was to act as a clearinghouse for information while individual clubs were to inaugurate their own projects.

June/November 1922: A time of rapid growth of U.S. and state societies. Rotary Districts and local clubs took on projects including surveys, clinics, publicity, lobbying state legislators, and enlistment of

hospitals and surgeons to join the crusade. Crippled Children's Societies were being formed in Canada and Europe.

November 28, 1922: The Ontario, Canada Society for Crippled Children was organized in Windsor, Ontario.

Jan. 1923: Because of illness, Carl Crispin resigned as Executive Director of OSCC in mid-1922. Mrs. Mary Waltermire replaced him on Jan. 1, 1923. She worked out of the Columbus, Ohio office although the International Headquarters remained in Elyria.

January/February 1923: State Societies formed officially in Kentucky, Illinois, and New Jersey. E. F. Allen relinquished the Presidency of the OSCC and was honored by being named President Emeritus.

March/ April 1923: A nationwide effort at Rotary District Conferences was in motion to form state Crippled Children's Societies, West Virginia, California, and Tennessee were added to the list during these two months. Meanwhile, many state legislators introduced bills for state aid to the handicapped through hospitals and educators. Pressure from Rotarians was being felt by government agencies even in states with no organized crippled children's societies.

June 25, 1923: A combination of Illinois Rotary Clubs and the Illinois Federated Women's' Clubs succeeded in lobbying the Illinois Legislature to allocate \$100,000 for the education of crippled children. Similar recognition of the special education needs of the handicapped was being pressed in many states.

September 25, 1923: A landmark meeting of the ISCC was held in Elyria that was attended by delegates from eleven states and provinces. Present were leaders of the highest importance including hospital administrators, surgeons, and state government officials. Paul Harris and a number of District Governors represented Rotary International. One of the national leaders attending was Jane Heil, from the Spalding School of Crippled Children in Chicago, who gave a rousing address titled, "If you don't care who gets the credit, you can do anything." Reports from individual societies indicated a great number of clinics had been established throughout the U.S. and Ontario. Government financed programs for hospitals and education were being established in most every state and Canadian province.

October 5, 1923: Mrs. Waltermire resigned as Executive Director of the OSCC and Harry Howett of the State of Ohio Department of Welfare was named to the position. In addition, Howett took on the title of Executive Secretary of the International Society. Both offices were in Elyria, with the OSCC paying all expenses.

1924: The end of the beginning of the OSCC. Now on firm footing, the Society had spread its influence across the U.S. and Canada. About that same time, the effort was beginning in England, and rapidly growing in Europe, consolidating local agencies and coming to the attention of world leaders.

1925: Countries and territories joining the work of the International Society now included England, Italy, Germany, Jugo-slavia, Australia, Norway, Sweden, Hawaii, and the Philippine Islands.

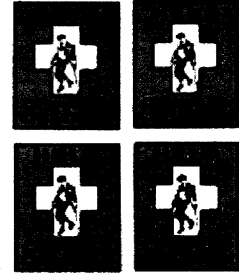
1930: Over half the states in the U.S. had official state societies. Every state had passed laws for aid of the handicapped, promoted hospital care, and had increased the educational programs of state agencies.

1930: The very first donation by the Rotary Foundation was awarded to the Crippled Children Societies. Edgar F. Allen of Elyria accepted \$500 from Rotary founder Paul Harris.

1934: Edgar F. Allen relinquished the Presidency of the ISCC on May 21, 1934. In the first six years of the Society he had traveled 300,000 miles in 17 states, three Canadian provinces, and about 400

different cities. From 1925 to 1935 his travels took him around the world spreading the work of aid for crippled children.

1934: Paul H. King was appointed President of the ISCC. He is credited with promotion of a new fund raising program for the international society, the sale of 'Easter Seals', combining the needs of the handicapped with the Easter season. The project was in place when King became President. The first "Easter Seals were printed in Elyria by the Wilmot Printing Company. The first sales were in 1934.



1935: Congress passed a comprehensive U. S. federal assistance act for the handicapped. The first European conference of the ISCC was held.

1935/38: A transition time for the U.S. society to become known as The Easter Seal Society.

1935 to 1945: Formation of national societies In many countries continued, each a separate entity within the ISCC.

1946: The headquarters for the National (US) Crippled Children's Society, The Easter Seal Society, was moved from Elyria to Springfield, Illinois and shortly after, to Chicago, Illinois.

1993: The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Elyria Rotary Club was celebrated and, as part of the event, the President of the Easter Seal Society conducted an award ceremony to honor the club. A plaque commemorating the event was presented and is now displayed at the area Easter Seal office.

Ongoing Elyria Rotary Club Contributions to Handicapped Children

- Recognized throughout the world as the founding organization for Crippled Children Societies.
- Elyria Rotary inaugurated organized help for the handicapped and needy children and provided the forum, enthusiasm, and first leaders for the movement.
- Hosted countless meetings to further the idea.
- "Adopted" the children of Gates hospital as an ongoing project.
- Provided clothing for needy patients at Gates Hospital.
- Conducted an annual Christmas party for those at Gates.
- Conducted tours of Gates for visiting dignitaries.
- Contributed substantial money to maintain the Ohio Society of Crippled Children.
- Lobbied state legislators for aid to the handicapped.
- Donated much equipment to Gates Hospital.
- Sponsored needy boys to summer camp.
- Provided transportation to polio vaccine clinics.
- Sponsored a cash advance for braces and appliances.
- Contributed over \$60,000 to the R. I. Polio Plus program.
- Present day contributions
- Conduct an annual Christmas party for the handicapped.



- Sponsor a “learn to swim” program for the handicapped.
- Support the Easter Seal Society fund raising programs.
- Sponsor handicapped children to summer camp.
- Contribute to Rotary International's needy children's projects.



- Inauguration of the infant immunization program in the county. The Ohio Health Dept used our county program as a model.
- In 1997 completed funding the \$50, 000 endowment at the Lorain County Community College for emergency use by students with disabilities.
- September 1998 Pledged \$9500 toward a new restroom at the Cascade park playground, handicapped accessible.

The Elyria Rotary Club

(Start of ERC review 7/1/95 and continuation of the 75 + 2 years covered in the club history)

CHAPTER Seventeen

July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2000

The years leading to the new millennium were again a productive time for The Elyria Rotary Club. It was also a time of change of emphases to accommodate civic needs of the community. A growing number of non-profit organizations were noted in educational, ecological, and civic areas. Agencies rather than direct help from clubs such as Rotary were administering programs such as career counseling for high school students, civic improvement projects, and children's services.

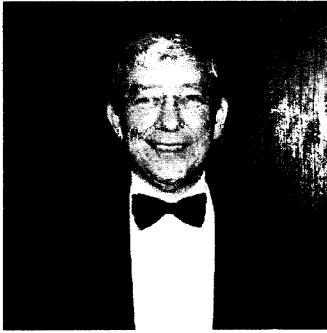
Another shift in our community makeup had affected club membership for some time and was felt by Elyria Rotary in the 1990 decade. There were fewer family owned businesses and a greater number of key executives living out of the county. Lorain County was becoming a bedroom community for those leaders of Cleveland enterprise. In addition, a growing number of local powers moved their residence to western Cuyahoga County. The result was to induct a greater percentage of key managers rather than chief executives in Elyria Rotary.

A third development also changed the membership total. Retirements and job changes, and the passing of many long time Rotarians caused a reduction in the total of members. The normal 10% turnover rose to near 20%. Even with the induction of younger people the count fell from a high of near 190 to the 170 area. However, the quality of membership and elected officers remained on a high level. The Elyria Rotary Club maintained its status as the pre-eminent service club in Lorain County.

The 1995/96-club year began on July 1 with these officers and new board members:

President	Dennis Fredriksen
President Elect	William Kaatz

Secretary	Robert Perry
Treasurer	John Tierney
Asst. Treasurer	Robert Cook
Sgt.-at-Arms	Donald Address



Newly elected directors were: Ronald Cocco, Timothy Grogan, William Kaatz, and Christie Vargo. Membership on July 1, 1995 was 180, attendance averaging 83% the first six months of 1995.

The first order of business announced by President Dennis was to establish for the year a theme of diversity. Programs would highlight differences in the religious, ethnic, and racial backgrounds of people. A speaker with a different viewpoint was featured about once each month during the year.

Dennis Fredriksen

A major undertaking of Elyria Rotary during President Dennis' year was the formation of a new Rotary Club in Elyria. The possibility of an additional, and likely an early morning meeting club, had been discussed on several occasions in the past, but this attempt succeeded. In July, past Secretary Bob Ohlemacher was appointed chairman of a feasibility study committee to gather information and report the findings to the Board.

The July 11 meeting was highlighted by a tribute to Ray Renz for his years of dedication to the continuation of the club's work with the handicapped. It was "Ray Renz Day." For the past seventeen years, Ray and his wife Becky had worked diligently to produce the annual Christmas Children's party where an average of 75 handicapped children received gifts and recognition.

Rotary International announced two rule changes; make ups are permitted two weeks before and after a missed meeting, and retirees are to be permitted to join Rotary regardless of previous eligibility. Our club accepted the changes and added a classification to cover retirees, Past Service.

Summer 1995 activities included the annual golf outing on July 31, a club assembly on August 3, and a visit by District Governor John Kurfess on August 8. Warm weather on September 12 was welcomed as the club meeting was held as a tour of the BFI facility in Oberlin. The box lunch in the pavilion was attended by ten times as many yellow jackets as there were Rotarians.

The official end of summer, at least for Elyria Rotarians, is the annual Apple Festival booth duty, and again this year, well managed and profitable. The delayed Cascade Park deck project was now nearly completed using funds provided by Elyria Rotary and a grant from the Nord Foundation. As it turned out, donations from member Doug Charles of materials and the Building Industries Association free labor lowered the eventual cost to about \$8,500 leaving a surplus of \$6,500 in the account for additional park projects.

Fall events included an afternoon and evening fellowship outing, once again held at Herb Kaatz's river front grounds in Grafton. Some 45 Rotarians enjoyed canoeing, yard games, fine food, and conversation. October 22 inaugurated the first annual fall color tour and road rallye, and as it developed, a new experience for 60 Elyria Rotarians and guests. A devious route through the Kilbuck Creek area and an awards diner following made for a unique day of fellowship. Some of the 'wrong turn' stories were priceless.

Having enlisted a committee to study the concept of extending a new morning Rotary Club, Bob Ohlemacher held frequent meetings to iron out details. Following the rules of R. I., Ohlemacher presented the project to the board, and on October 17, the resolution was passed by the club membership.

The resolution stated: *1. Our club agrees to sponsor the new club. This will require our club to assist in the formation of the new club, to help with the charter presentation ceremony, to work closely with the new club during the first year, and to report quarterly to R. I. during its first year on the progress the new club is making. 2. Our club agrees to share its territory with the new club.*

Appointed to oversee the formation of the club were: District representative Ron Farquahr, District Governor's representative Bud Deetz, and Elyria club representative Dave Holland. Also playing a major role was: Bob Ohlemacher, Secretary Bob Perry, Arch West, and Bob Bowman. Work began to enlist a core group of potential members and in turn the necessary 25 candidates to obtain a charter from R. I.

Other events of the club at the time included another Black River cleanup day in Cascade Park. As part of a county coalition of service clubs, Elyria Rotary took a leading role in the child immunization project under the primacy of George Worden. The plan was to remind and encourage parents to have every child in Lorain County to be immunized. The cooperation of service clubs, the County Health Department, and \$30,000 in funding from the Stocker and Nord Foundations led to the project being used by Ohio as a guide throughout the State.

It was announced by Jim Hunt that our club had successfully sponsored a winner for a R. I. Ambassador scholarship. Kristin Thompson of Elyria was awarded the grant for a year abroad, valued at \$22,500. The long awaited publication of the history of the Elyria Rotary Club was near, the final chore to locate photographs of all 75 past Presidents to be included in the book.

In late December 1995, having reached the goal of prospective members, actually 31 total, for the morning club, the charter application was sent to R. I. along with the \$465 initiation fee paid by the sponsoring noon club. "Sunrise" was the designation chosen by the new club and temporarily, meetings were being held at the time at the First Congregational Church hall. It should be noted the club charter membership list did not include any former noon Rotarians. Nearly all were new to Rotary.

For future reference, the names and classifications of the core group of the new club are listed here. In the order of recruitment by Bob Ohlemacher and the committee they were: Randy Holland, Mortgage Loan Banking; Matt Helfrich, Optometry; Jim Taylor, Law, Trial; Ray Rounds, Vocational School Administration; Michael Lotko III, General Insurance; and Holly Brinda, Public Education Development. Initial meetings were held in the boardroom at the Methodist Village, and starting in November they moved to the Congregational Church on Second Street. The club moved to their permanent meeting room at the Methodist Village Carriage House in May 1997.

December 1995 included the annual spouse/guest luncheon, the ringing of the bell for the Salvation Army, however, for the first time in memory, the traditional handicapped children's party was cancelled because of severe weather. More about this in the review of January 1996. It was an eventful six months for President Dennis Fredriksen.

Officers elected for the term beginning July 1, 1996 were:

William Kaatz	President
Philip Schaefer	President Elect
Robert Perry	Secretary

John Tierney	Treasurer
Donald Address	Sgt.-at-Arms

1995 ended with membership at 187. Members added from July 1 to December 31:

William D Bowdler	(Dick)	Law-Judicial
Gary M. Stair	(Gary)	Light and Power Service
Edward M. Stewart	(Ed)	Advertising-Marketing
Darrin B. Farrow	(Darrin)	Corporate Benefits
Martha C. Kelly	(Marty)	Girl Scouts
James J. Wukie	(Jim)	Stock & Bond Broker
Charles B. Cavagna	(Charlie)	Past Service (Insurance)
Paulette J. Lilly	(Paulette)	Law-Judicial
Daniel R. Mobert	(Dan)	Blower Wheel Mfg.
Malcolm L. Peel	(Mack)	Community Foundation
Ray Fuqua	(Ray)	Aviation Services (Reinstated)

The first week of January 1996 was inaugurated by a substantial blizzard, then a welcome thaw by the fifteenth, the granting of the Sunrise Club charter, and the second Cub Assembly held at Grassie's Inn on the 16th. The happy ending to the cancelled children's party was chronicled in the January 9 RAMROD; "because of food service commitments, the party could not be rescheduled. Clarence Wills, chairman, contacted Santa Claus and a special trip was made to four schools to present personalized gifts to 67 kids in the program." In addition, it was announced that \$2,500 was to be donated to the handicapped 'learn to swim' program.

Another happening in January was the printing and distribution to all members of the long awaited 186-page 75-year history of Elyria Rotary. The book includes two additional years, up to June 30, 1995, photos of all but two past Presidents, and an index of about 800 members and their induction year. The book was researched and written by Dave Holland, but required the input of many members. Countless hours of help from Past Secretaries Ray Renz, Bob Ohlemacher, Bill Standen, and Bob Perry, along with input from Bob Choate, and the computer expertise of Tim Grogan made the publication possible. An important contribution was made by over twenty members of nearly enough money for the book to be printed, only about \$400 cost to the club treasury. 500 copies were printed, about 225 going to members and District Governors.

Copies also went to THE ROTARIAN magazine library, the Elyria Library, Lorain County Historical Society, and the library of the International Rotary History collection. As an offshoot of the book, a complete as possible Elyria Rotary archives is now contained in one room. Bulging files are safely stored in a room at the Ohlemacher's Elyria Manufacturing Co. Another benefit is that every new member joining Elyria Rotary is given a copy as they are inducted.

Two social events were announced; a theater party February 21 in Cleveland to see the Miss Saigon Production, and a wine tasting party was scheduled for March 30. President Frederiksen's diversity programs continued, speakers explaining religious and ethnic customs. A 'state of the city' program by

Mayor Mike Keys and an economic outlook presentation were heard in February. A most important and pleasing new club Charter Night for the Sunrise Club was held at the Elyria Country Club on February 29 and attended by 142 Rotarians and guests.

R I Director Gary Romp was the principle speaker; the guests included representatives of District 6600, eight Past Governors, fifteen area club officers, and nearly 80 members and guests of the sponsoring noon club. It was a solemn but also glorious night for the 31 new Rotarians.

The weekly RAMROD newsletter had a change on the traditional side with the addition of a reprint of a 1919 Elyria Rotary logo with the Rotary wheel and the motto "Elyria Ohio the 100% City." The reverse side featured a review of their committee by a number of chairmen, and an occasional "Pearl from Secretary Bob Perry." Plans were also in the making to improve the membership directory for '96/97 by including member's hobbies and e-mail information. The computer age printing of the directory was being set up to use digital photos for the first time.

The March 1996 Board meeting report included a number of activities planned for the final three months of the Rotary year. A new club pennant was in the design stages while the all service clubs "Welcome to Elyria" sign on route 57 North dedication was scheduled for April 2. The District Conference, May 3 to 5 was being promoted, as were a visit to our club by the Group Study Exchange from Zambia and our exchange students' trip to the World Community Service Conference. Here in Elyria, a Cascade Park clean up on May 11 and participation in the Lorain County Community College 'Family Fest' on the 19th were scheduled. A planned return of July 4th fireworks in Cascade Park was rewarded with a \$1,000 donation from the club treasury.

In the first of a continuing but friendly rivalry with the new Sunrise Club, they issued a challenge to a softball game in early summer. Elyria Rotary took to the challenge with gusto. Team managers were selected, a contest was announced to name our team, and player tryouts were planned. In due time it was decided to offer shares in the team to buy uniforms and equipment, and also make a family picnic of the day, softball game, then a cook out and victory or defeat party. The team name was voted "Dennis's Menaces." The outcome of the game will be reported later.

The RAMROD dated April 9 but written on April 2 by Gene Bedocs was an April fool issue in which Gene did a hilariously funny lampoon of member's highjinks. For example, the student guests of the day were from the Grafton Prison Farm, Bob Choate, 87 years old, named captain of the Olympics swim team, and President Dennis resigning to lead the Sunrise club. It would be worth a trip to the archives to read the issue.

On May 21, six new Paul Harris Fellows were inducted, joining 113 other members of Elyria Rotary. Promotion of the annual fund raising Steak Fry was well under way, the date set for Friday, June 21. The day of the hyped up softball game was at hand; Sunday June 2nd, high noon!

An overnight pouring rain and a Sunday morning drizzle left the ball field at Hilltop Park a muddy quagmire so the game was played on the outfield grass. Slip and slide, blooper hits, and grass stained knees followed the first pitch by Mayor Mike Keys. Much friendly heckling and jibes were exchanged as the game progressed, scoring about even until the last inning when the Sunrise club ended the match, one run ahead. Outcome; Sunrise 11, Elyria Menaces 10. But wait a minute, our alert team captain, Dave Kaszubinski negotiated a senior citizen discount of ten percent, so the official score went into the books as a tie, 11 to 11! About 150 Rotarians, families, attended the picnic cookout following the game and guests and fellowship prevailed for another two hours.

The highly successful Rotary year of 1995/96 concluded with another outstanding Steak Fry on the grounds of the Historical Society on Washington Avenue. Nearly 900 Elyrians enjoyed the 'social event of the summer' again the weather in full co-operation. June 25 was the passing of the gavel from

Dennis Fredriksen to incoming President Bill Kaatz. Bob Choate handled the induction of Officers and Directors with his usual mix of wit and aplomb and President Bill won immediate approval by just a few remarks then rang the bell for adjournment.

President William H. Kaatz was joined in office by Phillip T. Schaefer, President Elect; Robert H. Perry, Secretary; John P. Tierney, Treasurer; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Donald F. Address. The four new members of the board were; John S. Bobel, Robert B. Demby, Thomas A. Herberger, and David J. Holland.

New members inducted from January 1 to June 30, 1996 were:

John M. Venzel	Dentistry-Pediatric	
Howard Weiss	Past Service	Reinstated
Janine Dobos-Mawson	Blood Bank	
Robert C. Warren (Chris)	Medical Service Surgery	
Frank P. DeTillio	Chamber of Commerce	
Carol Hoffman	Education Access	
Donald F. Boddy	Insurance Personal	Reinstated & Classification Change

On July 1, 1996 there were 180 members, a loss of a net seven for the six months. Resignations during the period included past presidents Carol Simonetti and Bill Standen. Carol moved to a new position in N.Y. City and Bill retired to South Carolina.

The year-end financial report by Treasurer John Tierney showed a balance on hand in the checkbook of \$282.57, a major expense of the period being \$11,093.80 for International and District dues. The Elyria Rotary Foundation endowment fund market value was \$20,482 and the pass through account contained \$6,574. Most of the latter was used to donate another \$5,000 to the Lorain County Community College Rotary scholarship fund by the end of 1996.



Bill Kaatz

President Bill Kaatz's year started fast, another canoe outing on Old Woman's Creek was set for August 7, the club Assembly August 8, the annual golf day September 9, and a full line up of noon meeting programs. The first board meeting of the year was held at the Methodist Village Board Room on 7/22/96, business included appointment of John Bobel as coordinator of the address side of the RAMROD and Tim Grogan announcing the Club Directory due by the end of August. Motions passed to incorporate the Elyria Rotary Club and to eliminate the two-tier dues structure and increase the fee to all to \$150 per year. It was also reported that trail improvements in Cascade Park were being funded with money remaining in the deck project account.

The program for August 27 was a walking tour of six downtown locations; Alltel telephone building, WEOL Radio station, Judge Thomas Janas courtroom, the Elyria Police Department, The Seventh Generation offices, and the downtown Ely Park. Plans were well on the way for the annual Apple Festival fund raising booth, the dates September 20-23. October events scheduled were a Wine Tasting Party on the 4th, District Governor Jim Smith visiting on the 8th, and the 2nd annual Road Rallye set for October 20. In another change for the better, a renewed effort was being made to introduce new members to arriving Rotarians and also a table was set up to welcome visiting Rotarians and guests. A long needed improvement for visitors.

The Elyria Rotary Club was the pioneer sponsor in District 6600 of an Interact Club for high school students, and after a few years of consolidation, the club was centered at West High. With the closing of West in 1996, the Interact Club disbanded. An attempt was made to form a club at EHS without results. At the same time, a new club was inaugurated at the JVS and soon became a favorite of students. An attempt was also made by Lorain County Rotary Clubs to form a Rotaract club of college students. In time, the JVS Interact Club prospered and grew, while the Rotaract Club failed to materialize. The County Rotary Club career information program supplied to all high schools continued to be a viable agenda for student direction.

On September 17 two Canadian Rotarians visited Elyria to gather information for the 75th anniversary celebration of the start of crippled children's work in Canada, the date of the observance set for November 28, 1997 in Windsor. The Apple Festival project was again highly successful, over 80% participation by members. The fall months of 1996 were busy, the Governor's visit, a Cascade Park clean up day, the Road Rallye, an away meeting and tour of the remodeled Elyria Memorial Hospital on October 22, and the rescheduled wine tasting party at the Women's Club on November 9. In board action, a major fund raising auction was set for February 1997, to be held at the Lorain County Community College Conferencing Center.

Governor Jim Smith's visit on October 8 was highlighted by his invitation for Elyria to introduce a new student improvement undertaking in the area. The program called STRIVE was to be an incentive for underachieving students to better themselves by improving their grades. Elyria accepted the idea and plans included active participation by the JVS Interact Club and school officials. Later we will see the positive results of the experiment.

A well-attended new member reception was held on November 13 at the Elyria Country Club where sixteen new Rotarians from the past year were introduced. A select group of Elyria Rotarians, lead by Pete Mealwitz, participated in the Lorain Rotary Club sponsored trivia contest. They were doing well until tripped by the question; the smallest country in Europe? The answer; Malta. On a sad note, past president and long time Rotarian Jay Fitch passed away.

The infant immunization project by Lorain County service clubs and health departments was progressing nicely and Elyria Rotarians took on the task of "phone buddies" to remind parents to continue their child's program. Elyria donated \$500 each to two International projects for needy children, mal-nutritioned children in India, and preventive medicine for children in the Philippines. Again, December was a month of holiday atmosphere with the guest luncheon, the bell ringing, and the annual handicapped children's party at West High School. Because Christmas and New Year eves fell on Tuesdays, there were no meetings on those days. The election of officers for 1997/98 was held in December, those elected were:

Phillip Schaefer	President
Terry S. (Pete) Shilling	President Elect
Robert H. Perry	Secretary
John P. Tierney	Treasurer
Robert S. Cook	Asst. Treasurer
Donald E. Andress	Sgt.-at-Arms

One new member joined the club from July 1 to December 30, 1996:

Anthony J. Zucco (Tony)	Light & Power Service
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A number of resignations and deaths reduced the total membership at years end to 173. The Treasurer's year end report showed a balance of \$27,593.85 with a number of sizable accounts to be paid in early January 1997 including District and International dues and the subsidized children's party and Learn to Swim Program. The Elyria Rotary Foundation endowment fund had a market value on December 30, 1996 of \$22,130.48. The pass through account from which grants are funded had a balance of \$1,587.

The first six months of 1997 included a record setting fund raising auction in February and a number of community projects during the period. On a sad note, long time Rotarian Bob Choate passed away on January 15 at the age of 91. Choate was a Rotarian for 65 years, originally at St. Mary's, Ohio and joining the Elyria club in 1952. He wrote the RAMROD for 35 years, for many of those years, all 52 issues. Choate often served the club as master of ceremonies for some event such as the induction of new officers. In earlier times he was a frequent program speaker, his topics usually regarding a good cause for his adopted "home town." With a simple nod of his head, he could have been elected President of the Elyria Rotary Club, but he chose to serve in the foreground with the RAMROD, and in the background as an inspiration to promote Elyria as a 100% city. Bob Choate originated the "moment for Rotary" with our club, giving short historical views of Rotary and Elyria. A significant contribution was 35 years of sorted and bound RAMRODS he gave to the club archives.

Elyria Rotary Club has been noted as a singing club since founding, each meeting opening with the singing of AMERICA, an invocation, then a couple of tunes often geared to the day's program. Songbooks on the table dated from the mid 1920s and were replaced or reprinted four times. In 1997 the worn out song books were discarded and replaced with projected words on the large screen. In the transition, most of the songs were altered to eliminate gender terms.

February was a time of intense promotion of the auction fund raising project. The event was held on the 15th at the Lorain County Community College Conferencing Center, the result, and a net of \$28,990. Nearly 250 Rotarians and guests participated in the combination social evening with dinner and a lively auction of donated new merchandise, use of vacation homes, and services of one sort or another. The funds raised were placed in the Elyria Rotary Foundation account and earmarked to go to the Lorain County Community College scholarship endowment fund, the Salvation Army building fund pledge, and other community projects.

The infant immunization calling committee began preparation for the next phase of the process and also announced special information for parents event was to be held at Midway Mall on April 19. Getting parents tuned in to the availability of immunization, especially for those unable to pay, was the mission and results were in a positive trend.

A cross-country ski trip planned for Punderson Park on February 22 was cancelled, No snow! Meeting programs continued to be timely and informative; Mayor Keys with the state of the city, an update of improvements at the Lorain County Airport, and the ever-popular IRS tax issues. Members were also being reminded about the District Conference, May 2-4 at Sawmill Creek and the International Convention in Glasgow, Scotland in June. A series of "Mystery Member" profiles began to appear on the address side of the RAMROD. Accomplishments and trivia were highlighted from which we were to figure out the member's name. It gave the members new insight into the mystery person's background. Some situations were quite unique!

The Interact Club at the JVS continued to grow in numbers as well as activities. The pilot program STRIVE for under achieving students was well received and in place. The Elyria Rotary Club board voted a matching grant to Interact of JVS of \$1,000 to award scholarships to the most improved students in the program. Other student recognition projects in place were: the sponsoring of five students to the World Affairs Institute at Defiance College and the annual student recognition day set for the noon meeting of May 20.

As the Rotary year moved to the finish line, a large contingent from our club attended the District Conference at Sawmill Creek, National Public Radio came to Elyria to interview two club historians about the founding of the "Crippled Children's Societies", another Cascade Park clean up day was held on May 17, volunteers were signing up for the Lorain County Community College Family Fest on May 18, and the annual Steak Fry event was scheduled for June 20.

At the District Conference, Elyria was again recognized as the leader in the student exchange program and as sponsor of an outstanding Interact Club. Secretary Bob Perry of our club was singled out as "one of the best" and awarded an "Oscar" for his nearly 20 years of service. As an aside, most every Secretary in the District is paid a stipend for the many hours required by the position. No Elyria Secretary since 1968 has accepted payment for service to the club.

The transition to the 1997/98 Rotary year included a donation of \$1,000 for the July 4th fireworks in Cascade Park, plans to use the Rotary booth in the park to sell food as a fund raiser, another challenge from the Sunrise Club for a summer softball game, and a fishing trip on June 26. Committee assignments, information for the 1997/98-club directory, plans for a July 2 club assembly, and the July 17 Governor's visit were being completed. Ten new Paul Harris fellows were inducted in a renewed effort of awareness to the R. I. Foundation.

New officers inducted on July 1 were:

Phillip Schaefer	President
Terry (Pete) Shilling	President Elect
Robert Perry	Secretary
John Tierney	Treasurer
Donald Andress	Sgt.-at-Arms



Phil Schaefer

Directors elected for a three-year term were: James Ries, Robert Scott, Terry Shilling, and Robert White. Their term would end June 30, in the year 2000.

New members added from January 1 to June 30, 1997 were:

Sean A. McNeeley	Dentistry-General
Ronald D. Dauphin	Retirement Center
Peter S. Szendry	Accounting Services
Daniel A. Abfall	Airport
Mark A. Wagner	Signs-Mfg.
Edward Imbrogno	Screw Machine Products-Brass
George E. Espy	Environmental Services

The financial picture of the club was in much better condition than the two previous years when the general fund balance was less than \$300 each year. The balance on July 1, 1997 was \$4,432.47. Contributions for the year from the general fund amounted to \$9,875.95 and from the pass through fund \$11,830. The balance in the pass through (special projects) fund was \$17,490, \$13,000 of which was earmarked to pay off the Lorain County Community College and Salvation Army commitments. The Elyria Rotary Foundation endowment fund had a market value on July 1 of \$29,100.63.

Membership on July 1, 1997 was 170 and meeting attendance for the year at about 82%.

In his President's message in the 1997/98 club directory Phil Schaefer listed his goals for the year; to continue the successful programs in place and also increase the number of new members. Phil emphasized the need to focus on district and international programs and our own handicapped children's work. When the results of his year are totaled up we will find these goals were exceeded by a long measure.

The next day after the induction meeting of 1997/98 officers, the club assembly was held at Spring Valley. Then on July 4 the Rotary booth crew sold snacks during the Cascade Park Independence Day festival, and on July 15 District Governor Jack Goodnight made his official visit to the Tuesday Meeting. A fast start for President Phil's year.

A review of the club assembly reports show most committees also moving ahead. Social and fellowship events already planned were: a rematch of the soft ball game with the Sunrise club on Sunday, August 10, a canoe river trip August 13, a dinner theater show September 18, and a new member reception on September 24.

High on the agenda was scheduling of the Apple Festival booth for September 19-21, preparation for two incoming exchange students, and continued work with the JVS Interact club and the STRIVE project. During the previous school year 42 students participated in the STRIVE "grades improvement" project and four \$500 scholarships were awarded. Elyria Rotary funded two of the four awards.

The program committee announced a schedule of interesting presentations including Betty Montgomery, Ohio Attorney General, returning Rotary Ambassador scholar Kristen Thompson, Lorain County officials, and always popular, Elyria Rotary club members with a variety of topics. Community service projects were also proceeding nicely, the child immunization calling committee set to continue their work.

The second annual softball game on August 10 ended at 15 for Phil's team and 16 for Sunrise. Again the more mature team was given a senior citizen 10% adjustment, so the official record book will show 16.5 runs for Elyria Noon, 16 for Sunrise. The canoe outing the following Wednesday also included some upsets but all paddlers were accounted for by the end of the trip. The less athletic of the club made note of the 78th annual golf outing and clambake scheduled for October 2 and the fall Road Rallye on October 19.

The membership development committee, stepping up to the challenge to increase the size of the club with qualified new people, was on track by inducting new members at a rate of one every two weeks. Biographical information about new members and "Mystery Rotarians" sketches were being printed on the address side of the RAMROD in an effort to make known more personal information about fellow members.

In late September chairman John Bobel reported another highly successful Apple Festival fund raising weekend. Some 3500 "fried ice cream" servings were sold, 1500 Rotarian hours expended, and a net of about \$9,000 was realized. Probably the best concession in the Festival. Also announced was plans for a large contingent from Elyria to attend the 1998 Rotary International convention in Indianapolis the following June.

October events included the annual Road Rallye fall color tour with 50 Rotarians and guests and a Tuesday meeting and tour of the newly expanded Salvation Army building. As part of the program, Rotary President Phil presented a check for \$3,000 to Director Ken Stahl to complete the club's \$15,000 pledge for the building campaign.

November and December programs included a number of timely topics. PDG Chuck Oswald gave a rousing talk about the Rotary Foundation after discussing his speaker's fee. He promptly turned over his check for \$100 to chairman Dan Mobert for being allowed to speak! A nice touch. The controversy about the old city hall and an update of conditions in Russia were also programs well received. December brought the annual election of officers for the new Rotary year beginning in July 1998, the annual spouse and guest luncheon, and the traditional Handicapped Children's party.

Results of the election of officers for 98/99 were announced:

Terry 'Pete' Shilling	President
Robert Cook	President Elect
Robert Perry	Secretary
John Tierney	Treasurer
Donald Andress	Sgt-at-Arms

For director terms ending June 30, 2001:

Donald Boddy, Ellen Bricmont, Robert Cook, and Daniel Mobert

New members inducted and officially published from July 1 to December 30, 1997 were:

Kenneth C. Mundorf	Public School Administration (re-instated)
Samuel C. Spicer	Convenient Food-Retail
Harinathrao R. Dacha	Medical Service-Pulmonary & Respiratory
Mark J. King	Specialty Chemicals-Peroxides
Lynn C. 'Chris' Chrimer	Medical Service-Geriatrics
William D. Ogle	Workforce Development
Timothy J. King	Electrical Supplies-Wholesale
Eric Huber	Computer Network
Ronald L. Burdick	Public Library

Membership totaled 182 at year-end. Attendance for the year averaged about 80%.

A club assembly reporting session was presented on January 20, 1998 at the noon meeting. Included was information regarding the Avenues of Service committees' progress for the last six months of 1997. Touched on were: membership and attendance concerns, Cascade Park plans, Rotary International projects, and the club's status with youth and vocational programs. Membership was again on the rise, however it was noted members falling below the 60% attendance level were being reminded to improve or resign. A new phase of the Elyria Rotary Club Cascade Park trail project was announced which would include nearly a mile long system of easily walked paths, steps, and observation decks. As it turned out, the trail project took about three years and a considerable financial outlay by Elyria Rotary. More of this as it develops.

Youth activities of the club were also on the rise. Exchange students Louis from France and Kristina from Slovakia contributed a number of short essays in the Ramrod of their experiences, high school student guests were introduced each week, and the Interact Club at LCJVS was now boasting "the largest Interact Club in the world" with 830 members.

March 1998 was an action filled month including a tour of the new city jail facility on West Avenue, participation in the district assembly held at LCCC on March 28, and the announcement of a “beer tasting committee” to be in competition with the “wine tasting committee.” All in fun, of course. Able assistant Don Boddy now joined Ted Altfeld, the mainstay of the JUG fining routine. The antics of Ted and Don were now in full bloom and proceeds from the jug were approaching \$450 each month. Some grumbles were beginning to be heard about the ‘donations’.

It was with much sadness that the passing of long time member Ray Renz was announced. Ray was a past president, past secretary, and spearheaded the Handicapped Children’s party for some twenty years.

With spring in the air April and May activities included the annual wine tasting party, hosting the Group Study Exchange from India, work at the LCCC Community Fest, Pride Day Cascade Park clean up, and continued involvement with the infant immunization project. National Public Radio personalities were in town to interview persons from our club and the Easter Seal Society for a four-hour program to be aired about people with disabilities. Elyria Rotary’s part in founding the Easter Seal Society was highlighted in a 20 minute segment of the broadcast later on in June.

The annual Steak Fry fund raising date of June 19 was a rain out at the Historical Society grounds and was moved to the Buick dealership building. It was a hot and muggy evening but the record crowd was still in a festive mood. Fund raising has almost become secondary for the project as Rotarians and guests have turned it into the early summer social event of Elyria.

The new Rotary year commenced on July 1 with the installation of officers for 1998/99:

President	Terry S. (Pete) Shilling
President-elect	Robert S. Cook
Secretary	Robert H. Perry
Treasurer	John P. Tierney
Assistant Treasurer	Robert S. Cook
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donald F. Address

Directors installed for the term ending 2000/01 were: Donald F. Boddy, Ellen Bricmont, Robert S. Cook, and Daniel R. Mobert

New members inducted from January 1 to June 30, 1998:

Kevin Martin	Hospital services
Jeff A. Hogan	Funeral Directing
Theodore E. Hicks	Boy Scouts
Lane H. Boring	Department Store
John R. Like	Natural Gas Service
Richard L. Cluck	Blood Bank
Charles T. Netkowicz	Contract Engineering
Gerald A. Thomasson	Temporary Labor Service
Michael Medders	Law Enforcement-City
Andrew R. W. Gurd	Optical Service

Robert L. Cox	Banking-Marketing
Kari A. Kolman	Junior Achievement
Samuel M. Battle	Education-Vocational School

Membership rolls increased from 170 on July 1, 1997 to a high of 186 during this six-month period. Because of resignations the total membership on July 1, 1998 was 183. Attendance for the year was a respectable 80%.

The financial condition of the club remained healthy with a year-end balance of \$5916.75. Contributions totaling about \$24,000 were made during the year including: \$10,000 to the LCCC Access to Excellence Program, 3000 to the Salvation Army Capital Campaign, about 2000 for the handicapped children learn to swim program, and 1000 each to the JVS Strive scholarship, the July 4 fireworks, and International projects. Donations were also made to the Easter Seal Society, the Historical Society, Junior Achievement and other worthy causes



Terry S. (Pete) Shilling

A trend throughout Rotary and other service clubs was felt by Elyria Rotary during the next two years. Falling membership. Aging members, retirement and relocation, and a bustling economy and busy managers all added to the declining membership rolls. At that, Elyria Rotary remained a strong club, continuing the successful goals and adding new projects during the transition to the twenty-first century. After a decline of membership to again less than 170 a steady induction of new Rotarians brought the number back up to 180 by the year 2001.

The program for July 14, 1998 was 'Plans for the future of Cascade Park' and the part Elyria Rotary was expected to play in the next few years. Parks and Recreation Director Frank Gustoff and club member John Bobel reviewed the status of the observation decks and the trail projects. For its part the Elyria Rotary Club had allocated a total of up to \$50,000 to be used for the improvements. In the works were footpaths and signage, walkways and steps, and another deck at the confluence of the two branches of the Black River.

Planned activities for the club included a summer canoe outing, the annual golf day, the annual Apple Festival fund raising booth, and the first annual Oktoberfest (beer tasting) party. Also to be emphasized during the year: the Strive scholarship for students at LCJVS, a literacy program, infant immunization, and an auction to raise funds for the Cascade Park projects.

A survey questionnaire was placed before the membership in early June and it was later reported that 80 members responded and the general indication was satisfaction with club activities. Some needs were also pointed out: review the social opportunities, integration of new members, and better committee action. The fund raising Steak Fry and Apple festival, the Ramrod newsletter, and quality of the weekly programs rated high marks. Lunch variety was a sore point and led to a much-improved menu, but rose to the cost of \$8 full meal choice or \$6 salad only.

Quality programs continued to be scheduled: Main Street Elyria progress, the CEO of First Merit Bank, Drug task force update, and the Cleveland Browns football team for example. To help get new

members into the swing of things a booklet "How to survive the First Year...and Beyond" was put together with questions and answers about the rules, customs, and general information of the club. Such topics as attendance, classification, making up at another club, and even 'where do I sit' were addressed. New members now had a number of publications to ease themselves into the survival of being the 'new guy.'

For some time Rotary International had been using Internet web pages as a source of information, club officer and meeting time data, and explanations of the various Rotary programs. The first notice of a district 6600 web page on a trial basis was in September 1998 and was followed a while later with web pages by the morning Sunrise Rotary Club. Elyria noon Rotary was to lag behind these early experiments for some time, but as we will see, in a little over a year and a half made a giant leap ahead of any other club in the district by being the first to publish an email newsletter, the E-Ramrod. More of this later.

October was another busy month for club members. Some sixty-five enjoyed the annual golf outing and about the same number attended the Oktoberfest party. It was announced that a grant of \$9,500 was made to the Cascade Park building fund for new handicapped accessible rest rooms. First announcements were also being made to tout the fundraising auction to be held in spring, 1999. An away meeting was held at the Center for Leadership in Education complex on Burns Road on November 17. Members also supported the Interact club in their food drive for the needy at Thanksgiving time.

November is Rotary Foundation month and as part of the event six members were recognized as Paul Harris Fellows or multi-level donors. The club could boast at the time of 185 fellows and sustaining members, a total of \$155,000 having been donated over the life of the program. Preparations were under way for December events: the spouse/guest luncheon, the handicapped children's party, and ringing the bell for the Salvation Army. As part of the December 8 meeting four new board members were elected for a three year term starting in July, 1999: Gene Bedocs, Fran Bostwick, Ron Dauphin, and Ron Sommer.

The December board meeting included the election of officers for 1999/2000:

President	Robert S. Cook
President-Elect	Frances E. Bostwick
Secretary	Robert H. Perry
Asst Secretary	Terry S. Shilling
Treasurer	Theodore S. Altfeld
Asst Treasurer	Robert S. Cook
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donald F. Andress

Two developments of changing responsibilities can be seen in the officer make up of the election. John Tierney would be stepping down as Treasurer and the club would have an assistant Secretary with Pete Shilling taking on the roll.

New member inducted from July 1 to December 31, 1998 were:

Scott P. Lawson	Passenger Travel Agency
Brian R. Frederick	Community Foundation
E. Jean Harper	Education-Public School Administration

Bernard Greenberg	Education Reform
Cynthia Carter-Smallwood	Community Service for Seniors
Richard B. Case	Sponge Mfg.
Donald R. Jones	Life Insurance

January 1999 was off to a fast start with a club assembly reporting session at the first meeting of the year. President Pete Shilling listed \$16,000 as having been donated to community needs in the first six months of his term. John Bobel reported on the status of the Cascade Park projects and Ed Stewart presented the results of the club survey done in June 1998: High marks for the Steak Fry and Apple Festival projects, the Jug routine, and The Ramrod Newsletter. Least favorite item on the survey was attendance rules.

A new member reception was held at the Elyria Country Club on January 28. The auction fund raising scheduled for March 13 was beginning to take shape. Solicitation of large ticket items was in high gear for the event to be held at the Avon Oaks Country Club. Invitations were sent to all Rotarians and a fairly large number of potential guests.

Rotary International President Jim Lacy addressed the Sandusky Rotary Club in January and as a side trip visited the Elyria Rotary sponsored Interact Club at JVS, touted as the 'world's largest Interact Club'. President Lacy was impressed! The program committee was also outdoing the ordinary with a schedule that included Mayor Keys, and industrialists and business executives from Continental Airlines, Nordson Corp., The Lorain Journal, The Geon Corp., and USS Kolbe Steel.

It was announced at the meeting of February 23 that our own Jim Hunt would be a candidate for District Governor for 2001/2002. Secretary Bob Perry called a special business meeting on that date where a unanimous vote of the membership was cast to sponsor Jim for the office. Later in May, a committee of the district selected Jim from a number of other club's candidates. As we shall see, the office is really a four-year commitment with Jim in the center of district activities during the time.

Results of the auction were announced: 150 gifts were auctioned off and nearly \$30,000 was gained for community projects. The proceeds would put a large dent in the cost of Cascade Park projects set for the next couple of years. Dates were also announced for the District conference, April 23-25 in Cleveland, the wine tasting party May 14 at Deluca's and the annual Steak Fry set for June 18 at the Historical Society grounds on Washington Ave.

The Group Study Exchange contingent from Columbia visited Elyria Rotary on April 20 all prepared with a video about their country only to have VCR problems. Our members stepped in to fix the problem only to make things worse. To fill the silence a couple of jokes were told, another VCR was set up, only to find that the Spanish version was playing. The English side was then presented and all ended well with the guests having another adventure to tell the folks at home.

Some notations from the March board meeting: Three students will be sponsored by our club to the World Community Service Workshop; meeting attendance has improved to 83%; President elect Bob Cook will attend the RI convention in Singapore in June; Rotary rules have no provision for a 'leave of absence'; the board revised the custom of announcements by other clubs at our noon meetings from prohibited to 'allowing a short announcement' after notifying our president of the message; committee assignments for 1999/2000 were being filled by sign up sheets at April meetings.

May 1999 was another busy month. The wine tasting party on the 14th, the noon meeting of the 18th was a tour of the Columbia Gas building on Detroit Road, photos for the new club directory were taken, and the annual student recognition luncheon was held on the 25th. Work sessions for Rotary sponsored walkway construction sites and a park clean up day Saturday May 25 was the order for those into heavy lifting. Final details were being arranged for the annual Steak Fry event on June 18.

As was noted earlier Jim Hunt was selected as the District Governor nominee and it was announced in June that Bob Perry had agreed to take on the major task of District Secretary, his term to start July 1, 2000. So, our club was heading into the new century with a new President, Bob Cook, a new Treasurer, Ted Altfeld, and secretarial duties to be shared by Bob Perry and assistant Pete Shilling. Perry indicated there is no term of office for District Secretary, but it is customary to serve for five years. The significance of all this is that Elyria will be the focal point of the district for the next few years.

At the last meeting of his term, President Pete Shilling had the honor of presenting the 'Rotarian of the Year' award to John Tierney for his long service to the club as treasurer. Changes announced included: Bob Perry, after editing the 'back page' of the Ramrod for many years, was handing off that task to Dave Holland. Two new writers will be on the Ramrod staff beginning in July, Ed Stewart and Bob White.

New members added from January 1 to June 30, 1999 were:

William A. Larchian (Bill)	Medical Service-Urology
Melinda Billings (Melinda)	Savings & Loan
Joseph Faga (Joe)	Light & Power Service
Janet Taylor (Janet)	Hotel
Michael Gillam (Mike)	Education-Public Schools

Officers inducted for 1999/2000 were:

President	Robert S. Cook
President-Elect	Frances E. Bostwick
Secretary	Robert H. Perry
Asst. Secretary	Terry S. Shilling
Treasurer	Theodore S. Altfeld
Asst. Treasurer	Robert S. Cook
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donald F. Address



Robert S. Cook

New members of the board inducted were: Gene Bedocs, Frances E. Bostwick, Ronald D. Dauphin, and Ronald A. Sommer

Membership on July 1, 1999 was 171, attendance averaging 78%.

The financial condition of the club remained positive as the new treasurer reported. For the previous year \$10,130.54 from the general fund had been used for various donations, international contributions, and student program expenses. \$18,369.80 from the Rotary Foundation special account fund was used for Cascade Park projects and additional donations, leaving a sufficient balance for

planned work in the park. A record income from the auction boosted the Foundation special account to a new high. The general fund balance on July 1, 1998 was \$5,916.75

With the start of the new Rotary year there were changes in key positions, Dan Mobert the program chairman and Don Boddy taking over the Jug duties. Secretary Bob Perry also began turning over much of this important part of club business to Pete Shilling. The club directory was distributed the first meeting in July, the earliest ever, the results of quick turn around by photographer Dan Messaros, up to date membership records by Bob Cook, and a special effort by Tim Grogan's Wilmot Printing.

President Bob Cook in his message on page 3 of the club directory outlined his goals for the year; a community needs assessment committee, additional social activities, renewed emphasis for the Elyria Rotary Foundation, and better communication of ideas. Cook also indicated the need to continue the best of Elyria Rotary past. "If it ain't broke, don't fix it."

Programs continued to spotlight local business, industry, education, and the expanding 'urban sprawl' of construction. Traditional events including the annual golf outing, Apple Festival booth, and a club assembly were accomplished during the first quarter.

At the October 26 meeting a rib and roast of retiring Secretary Bob Perry featured some of his very best friends toasting and jousting him in a half hour of banter. On Sunday December 19 an honor brunch for Perry was held at the Elyria Country Club and attended by over one hundred. A fitting tribute for over 21 years of service to the club as Secretary and a vote of confidence for his new position as District 6600 Secretary.

Activities of the last month of the old millennium included the traditional Salvation Army bell ringing, the heartwarming children's party, and the annual spouse/guest luncheon. The election of four new members of the board for a three-year term results: Maureen M. Cromling, Robert L. Cox, James D. Martin, and Gerald Skully. At the December board meeting officers for 2000/01 were elected, key positions filled were President-Elect Jerry Skully and Secretary Terry (Pete) Shilling.

New members inducted from July 1 to December 31, 1999 were:

James E. Schmittgen (Jim)	Banking-commercial
William R. Randall (Bill)	Education Admin. -Vocational School
Michael Wisnor (Mike)	Education Admin. -University

Begun as a 'visioning' committee during the previous six months the process to bring new direction to Elyria Rotary entered a second stage by inviting members to join in small group discussions. An outside 'facilitator' was engaged to lead the discussions with comments to be recorded for future study. Arrangements were under the direction of the LCCC Public Services Institute. More will be reported as this activity progresses.

It was reported that Elyria Rotarians raised \$2,041 during the Salvation Army bell ringing and a final accounting of the Apple Festival project was a record setting \$13,063.79.

A well-attended new member reception was held on Thursday evening February 3. Dates for future events were being promoted; District Assembly March 18, District Conference April 28-29-30, and the wine tasting party on May 19. Interesting programs continued and included representatives of social agencies, manufacturing executives, and a number of our members presenting ideas from their occupation or outside interest.

A renewed social calendar and activities emphasis can be seen by more dates during the first six months of 2000; a plant tour of the Beckett Gas division April 11, Indians baseball game May 30, a bicycle tour of Kelly's Island June 3, and a Phantom of the Opera theater trip on June 11. Of course, the annual Steak Fry on June 16 with 900 guests was to cap the term of Bob Cook. Cook also hosted the tour of Beckett, first spoiling the crowd with a catered steak and trimmings lunch and then a walking members through a manufacturing facility for gas fired burners that is a perfect example of modern efficiency.

The Ramrod newsletter began to show signs of change in May. Attempts to make the Ramrod more readable included the addition of more photos, graphics, and experimental layouts. The purpose of the Ramrod for nearly 80 years was to inform members of important events and recognize members for service to the community. A secondary benefit was a record of club history as it was happening. The Ramrod had many changes over time, not the least of which was about 25 different writers in the past 30 years. An ad hoc committee met and discussed the future of the newsletter, adding color, the rising cost of postage, readability, and the fast moving electronic age. We will see some of those ideas become reality in the next few months.

Results of the community needs committee visioning sessions were reported to the club on June 20; ten sessions were held with about ten members participating in each. Five themes of possible future projects listed; City beautification and land use, catalyst for a new library, youth mentoring, scholarship funding, and a new high school building program. A study of the results and periodic reports of progress were promised by the committee.

The financial condition of the club remained strong, the year-end report showing a total of all general fund income for the period at \$71,240.78. Major contributions to the community from this and the foundation account continued throughout the year. Benefiting were Cascade Park, The Salvation Army, YMCA, the Historical Society, student activities, scholarships, and other worthy causes. A separate Elyria Rotary Foundation accounting also showed a rise in activity

Induction of the officers for 2000/2001 was held on June 27:

President	Frances E. Bostwick
President-Elect	Gerald. E Skully
Secretary	Terry S. Shilling
Treasurer	Theodore S. Altfeld
Asst Treasurer	Robert S. Cook
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donald F. Andress

New members inducted from January 1 to June 30, 2000 were:

James Hopkins (Rusty)	Telephone Service
James Doughman (Jim)	Manufacturing Consultant
Robert Graham (Bob)	Real Estate
Robert Jackimowicz (Bob)	Main Street Elyria
Paul Blevins (Paul)	Real Estate Law
Daniel Humphrey (Dan)	Insurance-Professional
Michael Prokop (Mike)	Rhenium Metallurgy

Constance Reed (Connie)

YMCA

Reinstated members:

Terry Goode

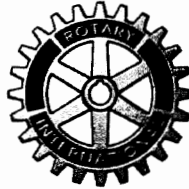
Title Service

Bruce Stevens

Commercial Banking

Club membership on June 30, 2000 was 175

This completes the five-year review of events from July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2000.



Chapter 18: July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2005

The population of Elyria city in 2000 was 56,746

Officers for 2000 - 2001

President	Frances E. Bostwick
President Elect	Gerald E. Skully
Secretary	Terry S. Shilling
Treasurer	Theodore S. Altfeld
Asst. Treasurer	Robert S. Cook
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donald F. Address

Fran Bostwick became the second woman President of the Elyria Rotary Club at the induction meeting, June 27, 2000. Carol Simonetti presided during the 75th year of the club in 1993. Although there was some fluctuation of membership between those years, both Carol and Fran started their year with 175 members. And both enjoyed milestone events during their term.

Fran's first announcement as president was "there will be no meeting next week because it falls on July 4." Cheers from the members! Also announced was the sad note of the passing of Helen Kolopus after 32 years of being the club pianist. Joan Van Wormer will take on the weekly accompaniment.



Fran Bostwick

July 11, 2000 marked the first trial email Ramrod newsletter to club members. The initial effort had the same copy as the front page of the traditional printed, mailed version, 14-inch paper, but in full color.

About 60 of the 175 members were sent the email copy. Email start up problems included incorrect addresses, some members unable to open the file as sent, and home printers not having 14-inch paper. An improved email version was tried a month later on August 8, three pages on 11-inch paper, two different program files, and a corrected and expanded address book. The email version then became a weekly issue, while the printed black and white edition continued to be mailed to every member until mid-January, 2001.

Events and projects in the works included late stages of the 'visioning' process to direct the club to new and larger projects. The results of members' input were being reviewed for action. Also high on the agenda for the year was a renewed membership development with a goal of 24 new Rotarians during 2000/2001. Summer activities ranged from a fishing trip on July 26 to a Tuesday meeting and tour of Elyria High School.

The 1999/2000 Financial report listed \$71,240.21 income and \$65,485.66 expense for the year with contributions from the general fund at \$13,448.34. One line item, which would make a substantial decrease during Fran's year, was \$6,266.44 for distribution of the Ramrod newsletter. Funding for major projects such as Cascade Park and large donations were now being funneled through the Elyria Rotary Foundation. A separate report on the Foundation will be given later.

Preparations for the annual "Fried Ice Cream" booth at the Apple Festival, the 82nd annual golf outing, a road rallye, and the Octoberfest filled the meetings with announcements. It was later reported the net proceeds from the Apple Festival was \$11,196. The weekly programs tended toward business and community topics. Fine-tuning of the email Ramrod continued and by fall, over 100 members were receiving the news by email. Exchange student Juan Milo from Ecuador arrived and the weekly high school student guest program was renewed.

The membership numbers continued to grow as the goal of two new members per month was nearly on target. The board continued to approve grants for worthy needs; \$1,000 for EHS choir gowns and tuxedos, \$1,000 for Big Brothers and Sisters, and \$1,075 for the Hunger Plus program to provide food for 500 Ethiopian people for a month. The Community Needs committee was studying three possible civic projects. The Club Assembly was well attended, the future direction of the club the main topic for the evening session. It was reported in November that Elyria Rotary has 127 Paul Harris Fellows and has contributed \$170,000 to the Rotary International Foundation Polio Plus campaign.

Year-end activities included the District Governor's visit, the annual handicapped children's party, Salvation Army bell ringing and the spouse/guest luncheon. At the district level, Jim Hunt was firming up the 2001/02 team for his term as District Governor. Many Elyria Rotarians were being included. Plans for the District Assembly, April 27, 2001 to be hosted by Elyria, were by now just about complete.

There were 179 members on December 31, 2000

New members inducted July 1 to December 31 were:

James Backs (Jim)	Pipe Tool Mfg.
Charles Baumgartner (Chuck)	Law-Corporate
Ernest Ertel (Ernie)	Human Services
Thomas Herb (Tom)	Wheel Chair Mfg.
Rodney Johnson (Rod)	Home Improvements
Mary Lou Golski	County Human Services

Mike Yanick	Banking-Trust Services
William McBride (Bill)	Banking-Trust Services
Joan Lowry	Cable Services

Mailing of the time-honored Ramrod ceased with the January 9 issue, all future copies to be sent by email or available at the Tuesday meeting. The trial period indicated those on line preferred the colorful and quickly sent email version. Members not using a computer could pickup a photocopy black and white Ramrod at the meeting. The number of members receiving the email Ramrod rose rapidly after that date to over 150. Later it was decided to mail photocopies to those requesting the option, about 20 each week.

The January 16 meeting featured the results of the nearly year long 'Visioning' process whereby 80 club members attended some ten different 'idea forums' held by the special projects committee. It was recommended Elyria Rotary participate in some substantial way to promote a new Community Learning Center. Other project considerations included; Youth mentoring, downtown beautification, Cascade Park projects, and Elyria Rotary scholarships. At the next board meeting Ellen Payner and David Loop were appointed 'Design Team' leaders to work with the school administration. The decision was later made for Elyria Rotary to sponsor bus trips to tour regional Community Resource Centers. \$3,000 was allocated for the tours.

In other events during January and February 2001 included approval to send up to six students to the World Affairs Seminar in Wisconsin, 85 people attended the new member reception, and this report by Secretary Pete Shilling; the make up of Elyria Rotary: 133 members from business and profit making, 27 from non-profits, 11 from government, and 8 from education for a total of 179.

A report of the Elyria Rotary endowed scholarship fund for students with disabilities at LCCC reached a value of \$98,000 and \$4500 was disbursed to students during the school year. Events of the balance of the year include two fireside meetings, an all out effort for the District Assembly in Toledo in support of Governor-Elect Jim Hunt, (30 of our members attended) a wine tasting party on May 18, and the date of June 24 set for the annual Steak Fry. The essay of the first place winner of the four-way test competition was printed as a supplement to the Ramrod on March 20.

As President Fran Bostwick's year wound down bus trips to area newly built high schools began, a teacher reception was held for those that worked with the four way test applicants, student recognition day and the annual fishing trip was held. The Elyria Rotary club received the Presidential Citation award from Governor Stocking. Dave Holland was the recipient of the Service Above Self award for the year along with a gift of a digital camera with the admonishment "get some better focused photos in the Ramrod."

The image of Elyria Rotary was enhanced during the year with news releases and frequent coverage of speakers by the news media. A highlight was a half hour video of the club Cascade Park projects, decks and trails, shown a number of times on cable TV.

Installation of Jim Hunt as the fifth District Governor from our club was celebrated at the June 12 meeting and at the steak fry Friday June 15. Visiting dignitaries from around the district and an overflow crowd of Elyria and area Rotarians filled the meeting hall on Tuesday. The annual Steak Fry could not be held at the Historical Society grounds because of a threatening summer storm and so moved indoors for the third year running. A record crowd though with the added highlight of District festivities.

The board at the meeting in June conducted the final business of President Fran's year; Approved grants of \$1,000 each to the Elyria July Fourth fireworks fund, Strive scholarships, and the Easter Seals summer camp for children with disabilities. Also approved was the newly formed Elyria Rotary Scholarship Foundation under the direction of Bob Cook. By the end of 2001 the fund grew to \$75,000 and five scholarships were awarded.

New members inducted January 1 to June 30, 2001 were:

Raymond Cromwell (Ray)	Athletic Equipment Reconditioning
Gregory J. Elek (Greg)	Accounting services
Virginia Hawes (Ginny)	Tool & Equipment Rental
John M. Ryan	Insurance-Commercial
Thomas D. Stuber (Tom)	Drug & Alcohol Abuse Services
Peter D. Szendrey (Pete)	Accounting Services
Bruce Ramsey	Screw Machine Mfg.
Mark Kidder	Social Residential Service
Jean Sexton	Building Industries
Debra L. Boros	Law/Judicial
Gail Stumphauzer	Leadership Training

The year-end financial report included total contributions of \$20,014.71 from the general fund and a carry over to July 1, 2001 of \$16,495.02. The Ramrod expense had been reduced from about \$540 to \$140 per month by June 2001. The Elyria Rotary Foundation account balance at year-end was \$61,600. As of June 30 there were 185 members in the club.

Officers for 2001 – 2002

President	Gerald E. Skully
President Elect	Robert White
Secretary	Terry S. Shilling
Treasurer	Theodore S. Altfeld
Assistant Secretary	Ronald A. Sommer
Assistant Treasurer	Robert S. Cook
Sergeant-at-Arms	Donald F. Andress



Jerry Skully

A new president is normally inducted at the last meeting in June but Jerry Skully was attending the Rotary International Convention on that date. By mid-July the transition was completed, the new club directory ready, the Steak Fry proceeds pegged at about \$12,000, and the Summer Fest all set for July 27, the Club Assembly on August 2. Indicating a continuation of interesting programs, August 7 was a meeting and tour at the United Methodist Village complex, not known at the time, the Cascade room to be the future regular meeting place for Tuesday noon Elyria Rotary. More later about the change. The annual financial statement for 2000/01 was included with the e-mail Ramrod on July 24. About 85% of members were now receiving the Ramrod by e-mail.

A milestone event was the establishment of a new Elyria Rotary scholarship fund to be administered through the Community Foundation and involving an endowment fund and immediate cash available for awards. The board in July approved awarding five \$1,000 scholarships from pledges already received. This program is in addition to the funds for students with disabilities endowment at LCCC Elyria Rotary established many years ago.

The annual Apple Festival, an Indians baseball game, and the annual golf outing were September activities. Bus trips to view school sites continued as a Rotary project to promote the upcoming EHS school construction issue. The semi-annual Elyria Rotary auction was also being promoted as a major fund raising event. The Date was set for November 3 at DeLuca's hall. A concerted effort was being made to enlist new members with a goal of twenty-four for the year. The new exchange student H el ene Wallemacq arrived from Belgium.

"September 11, 2001 was a day of tragedy for our nation." So headlined the Ramrod for the date when terrorism struck in New York and Washington. The regularly scheduled program was cancelled and Reverend Dennis Fredriksen led a period of interactive comments and thoughts.

By October 1 Elyria Rotary's District Governor Jim Hunt was well into his club visits. His agenda included promoting communication by e-mail and the district web site. The Governor's newsletter was now being sent electronically rather than the traditional printed method. The district web site included a variety of information for Rotarians. Another innovation by Governor Hunt was placing sixty billboards in the district with the message "Rotarians Care." High on Jim's list of district information was the Elyria hosting of the 2002 Conference, April 26 – 28, 2003 at the Maumee Bay Resort near Toledo.

The October 2 meeting was a tour of the LCCC Engineering and Development Center at the college. The newly opened center's purpose is to promote economic expansion in the area as an incubator for startup and established companies looking to move into the digital era.

A committee was formed early in Jerry Skully's term to study the new rules suggested by Rotary International. The results of the changes which Elyria Rotary accepted were: elimination of the Senior Active category, by which any member having fifteen years service was moved to Senior Active; missing four meetings in a row was automatic loss of membership, now to be decided by the board; classification rules were changed to allow 10% of the membership to hold the same classification, virtually eliminating the lack of an open category for a proposed new member. Two clubs in the area were in the news: South Amherst disbanded because of lack of interest, and Avon Lake joined with Avon as a continuing entity, moving the meetings to Avon.

A subtle change was made in the Ramrod on October 23. For some forty years the date heading the newsletter was for the next week, 7 days later. The reason the advanced date was used was to promote the upcoming program. It was always somewhat confusing to members and writers alike. With instant delivery of the Ramrod by e-mail, it seemed to be a good time to make the change.

Programs continued to be interesting and varied; Mayor Grace with a city update, the Lorain County airport Director, business and industry topics, and district speakers. The district conference in April 2002 was promoted in a three-part message in the Ramrod during November. The new scholarship committee awarded five \$1,000 grants to area students. A brochure produced by the committee included an appeal to members for major donations to the fund. The first six months of President Skully's year ended with the annual children's party, the spouse – guest luncheon, Salvation Army bell ringing, and no meetings December 25 and January 1.

New members July 1 to December 31, 2001:

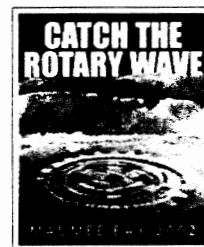
Mike Rogan (Mike)	Senior Living-Corporate
Edmond J. Skimin (Ed)	Internet Development
Kathryn C. Boylan (Kathy)	Public Health Services
Susan M. Neiding (Sue)	Banking, Financial Services
Phillip Baptiste (Phil)	Business Accounting

Nominated and elected to the board for a term starting July 2002: Paul Blevins, Mike Gebhardt, Tom Herberger, and Mark Wagner. Officers elected by the board for 2002: President, Bob White, President Elect, Tom Herberger, Secretary, Christie Vargo, Treasurer, Ted Altfeld, Sgt-at-Arms, Don Andress.



Jim Hunt

In January 2002 the April District Conference took front and center in club activities. Committees and assignment were being filled and reservations started to come in. Edward M. Stewart, conference chairman, and District Governor Jim Hunt enlisted help from all members of the club. Elyria Rotary had also guaranteed \$10,000 in expense money for the conference should that be needed. It was!



Two community projects had their beginning about this time; help with funding and manpower for the newly started Little League North field and a preliminary study of a new project in Cascade Park. More about these projects as they develop.

An effort to enlist new members was the point of a 'guest day' at the meeting of February 12. Eleven prospects were guests of the day. A new member reception was in the planning stages. Programs continued to be timely including presentations on the faltering national economy, the effects of the September 2001 tragedy, and our commitments to District 6600.

Death took its toll in February: Jack Murphy, president 1974-75 and Bob Cook, president 1999-00 passed on. Three other noted Rotarians died during the year; Doctor Ben Myers and Jack Hottenrott, active members for many years, and Herb Kaatz, president 1991-92.

Financial contributions for the first six months of President Jerry's year totaled about \$21,000 from the general fund and the Community Foundation account. Major help was given to The Easter Seals Children's Camp, The Historical Society, N.Y. Disaster fund, scholarships to LCCC, Salvation Army Christmas fund, Handicapped children 'learn to swim program' and Little League North. It was also reported the Elyria Rotary endowment fund for students with disabilities at LCCC had a value of \$78,000 and in just the last three years had awarded \$9,000 to students with special needs; from \$10 for bus tickets to \$700 for tuition.

The April 2, 2002 meeting of the club marked another milestone. The club had been meeting at the First Congregational Church hall since June 7, 1994. In April 2002 there were two major construction projects underway in downtown Elyria, The new city hall and the County Justice center. Traffic and parking congestion prompted a move from the Second Street location to the Cascade Room of the

United Methodist Village on West Avenue and Eighth Street. Ample on site parking included a reserved area for 'distinguished' Rotarians: old guys! Lunch cost remained the same \$6 salad only and \$8 full lunch. Probably for the first time in the history of the club, there were no complaints about the fare. A bountiful meal of many choices was served.

Elyria Rotary continued to support a number of projects in addition to the traditional menu of good works. A work session at the new Little League field, a \$3,500 contribution to the District MESA program for shipping costs to the Dominican Republic, and complete funding for the construction of a Community Center in Senegal, West Africa.

The Elyria Sponsored District Conference was the focus of attention during April. It was announced 420 Rotarians and guests had signed up for the three-day event, far exceeding the goal of 300 originally expected. The April 30 Ramrod included photos and a conference report by chairman Ed Stewart. The District Governor's newsletter for the month expanded on the successful conference and included many pictures. The support of club members made for a smooth running event, hailed by those attending as one of the best in memory. Elyria's District Governor Jim Hunt played the key role but was quick to show appreciation to his home club. Pictures and memorabilia from the conference have been placed in the club archives.

May 2002 included two social events, a new member reception held at the Historical Society and a Wine Tasting Party at the Spring Valley Country Club. The annual student recognition day had a different format; students were placed at tables with Rotarians rather than in a group. Rotarians made introductions, and then the students gave a summery of their accomplishments. Other notes as the year wound down; Governor Taft recognized Elyria Rotary for participation in the Ohio Reads program and a thank you from the Peace Corps for the Senegal project was received.

Don Andress was awarded the Service Above Self honor for his long and faithful service as club Sergeant-at-Arms. Don and his crew continued to have all ready for the weekly meetings and in addition saw to the move of club material from each of the previous meeting places since 1977. It was also a time for recognition of retiring Secretary Pete Shilling and the awarding of the Presidential Citation to Jerry Skully by Governor Jim Hunt.

Final activities of the year were the annual Steak Fry on June 21, rained out and held at the Ford dealership building, and the installation of new officers on June 25.

Officers for 2002 – 2003:

President	Bob White
President-Elect	Tom Herberger
Secretary	Christie Vargo
Treasurer	Ted Altfeld
Sgt-at-Arms	Don Andress

In addition, Pete Shilling was named Assistant Secretary and Phil Baptiste Assistant Treasurer

The Treasurers report for 2001 – 2002 showed an ending balance of \$1,165.02. Increased dues of \$9,301.75 to Rotary International and \$5,460 to the District were noted. Contributions from the general fund totaled \$15,197.34 and \$14,000 from the Community Foundation account. Elyria

Complete financial records and board meeting minutes are located in the club archives.

New members inducted January 1 to June 30 2002 were:

Deborah S. Mohr (Debbie)	Public Transportation
James Crawford (Jim)	Accident Reconstruction
Aaron Baaske	Appraisal- Real Estate
Edward G. Stewart (Ed)	Appliance Sales
Carrie Delewski	Special Education
Barbara Aquilla Butler	Law- Business
Steven Fleming (Steve)	Manufacturing: Plug Machine Products
Bret J. Kacher	Investment Services
Pamela Bonnell	Public Library
Stephen C. Hosler (Steve)	Printing/Promotion
Janice Haywood	Jewelry, Retail

There were 186 members on June 30, 2002



Bob White

The installation of officers for 2002-03 took place on July 2 and at that meeting President Robert White inducted a new member, presented a Paul Harris award, and announced the club assembly would be held on July 25. It was a fast start for the year. President Bob was an attorney, joining Rotary in 1994. Previous to being named president he served on a number of committees and was elected to the board.

Robert White, a partner in the law firm of Lessing, White & Roig Ltd. in Elyria, focused his practice in the areas of labor and employment law. A resident of Lorain County since early childhood, Bob grew up in New Russia Township, and was a graduate of from Oberlin High School, Cleveland State and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law. Bob was a resident of Carlisle Township, along with his wife, Anita and children, J.R., Lauren and Chris.

Bob's commitment to the community included the EMH Regional Medical Center Board of Directors, the Lorain County Rural Water Authority Board of Trustees and the Elyria Rotary Club Board of Directors. He was also a past member of the Board of Directors of the Alcohol and Drug Addiction Services Board of Lorain County, past President and Board member of Lorain County Drug Free Youth and a past member of the Elyria Schools Student Assistance Council. He was a 1994 Leadership Lorain County Graduate.

Christie Vargo became the eleventh secretary of The Elyria Rotary Club. The previous secretary, Pete Shilling, having taken on additional duties as Elyria City Solicitor moved to the Assistant Secretary slot because of his city work load. Vargo had been quite active in the club – member of the board and frequent facilitator of special meetings and events.

Christie Vargo was the Assistant Executive Director of Girl Scouts of Erie Shores, where she has been on staff for 7 years and served as a volunteer for 17 years. Her volunteer roles included the board of directors, chairing the fund development committee, and chairing the Natural Resource Management Committee. As Assistant Executive Director, Christie worked in the areas of Fund Development and Communications.



Christie Vargo

Prior to joining Girl Scouts of Erie Shores, she was Executive Director of Seventh Generation, an environmental non-profit in Lorain County. She also worked as a Program Officer for The Community Foundation of Greater Lorain County and as a naturalist for the Lorain County Metro Parks. She has a BS in zoology from the University of Wisconsin – Madison and MS in public administration from Cleveland State University. Christie enjoys nature photography and pottery.

After a year of planning, information gathering and development, Mark King created Elyria Rotary’s Family Tree. Members and their sponsors are linked together to form the club heritage.

Once again the subject of the meeting opening prayer needed clarification. The committee recommended changing the name of the “Invocation” to “Rotary Reflection” and to change the name of the “Invocation Committee” to “Reflection Committee”. Political statements, broad assumptions about values and faith, and divisive materials are not appropriate. For example, a member should not assume that all other members share the same faith beliefs.

The club archives was moved to a dedicated room at the United Methodist Village. Prior to 1994 there was no Elyria Rotary archives, just a hodgepodge of bits and pieces tucked away in attics and basements. An all out effort was made to collect in one place everything from the club’s past. With the help of many Rotarians we now have 84 years of material accessible. It is growing each year. The collection contains nearly 4,000 Ramrod newsletters and perhaps 10,000 other paper items. Also included are: the original minute book from 1918 to 1925, a photo book of all presidents, rosters and directories, a wealth of information about the Crippled Children Societies, memorabilia and artifacts from special events, financial reports, and on and on.

The club assembly was a presentation of the planned renovation of the old bathhouse in Cascade Park to a visitor and learning center. Elyria Rotary offered \$60,000 to the park department as part of the anticipated \$160,000 cost. (Later revised upward) In addition, many hours of Rotarian time was expended on architectural work and planning. As the venture develops, the task will become the Elyria Rotary centennial project to be completed by the 100th anniversary of Rotary International in 2005. More later as the project moves on.

The start of the third year of the electronic Ramrod found the email delivery to be well accepted. About 20 members continued to receive the newsletter by US mail and there were likely a few still not tuned into computer use. The large cash savings resulting from the near elimination of the printed version was now being used for community benefit. September as always a busy Rotary month – the Apple Festival – fishing trip – annual golf outing and settling into fall and winter activities. September

programs included two relating to the 9/11 tragedies of 2001. In another recognition of Elyria Rotary, President Bob announced: The story of our club and the crippled children societies is posted on the "Global History of Rotary" now being edited for the centennial of Rotary in 2005. A direct link to the "Global History" is available on the District web site. Look for: "Easter Seals and Rotary's Care for Crippled Children."

Programs continued to be varied and interesting – speakers touted local and national topics: Lorain County Community College, the Rotary International Polio Eradication project, and even a presentation on the 200th anniversary of West Point. It was announced that the Elyria Rotary Scholarship fund had awarded five \$1,000 grants to worthy students.

A number of issues were covered at the October 17, 2002 board meeting. Discussed was the Steak Fry situation of rain out for three consecutive years. Income was down; the net for the 2002 Steak Fry was \$6423. It was proposed to buy a large tent in cooperation with four partners: a bank, United Methodist Village, the City and another service club. Difficulties of where to set up, for example, a city park, liquor permit on city property and storage were to later end the idea. Attendance and classification were again discussed. Eight members had fallen below the 60% level and had been called. Three of the eight eventually resigned. It was also reported that a membership brochure was being prepared, but the scope of the work will be scaled back because of the cost.

During November, Rotary Foundation month, a renewed effort was made to have every Rotarian participate in the Polio Plus campaign by donating \$150 to the cause. Another attempt to form a STRIVE program at Elyria High School was having limited success even though \$2,500 was earmarked for scholarships.

The following is a report from the Community Foundation account for 2002 – 03

Rotary General Endowment Fund (including pass-through contributions)

2002 Gifts to the Fund \$4,003, Grants from the Fund \$14,000

2003 Gifts to the Fund \$30,430, Grants from the Fund \$10,000

12/31/03 Market Value was \$113, 941.10 (including \$75,680.75 available for grants [pass-through])

Elyria Rotary Scholarship Fund

2002 Gifts to the Fund \$570,904.62 Scholarships awarded \$5,000

2003 Gifts to the Fund \$5,607 Scholarships awarded \$6,000

12/31/03 Market Value was \$683,341.60 (including \$10,755.94 available for scholarships)

(NOTES: Anything coming into the Fund is considered a Gift whether it is from an individual donor or from a club fundraiser. Second, the club doesn't have a separate "pass-through" Fund; any pass-through gifts are designated as immediately "available for grants" and added to the annual endowment payout that can be used for charitable grant making.)

The year ended with the traditional children's party, spouse/guest luncheon, and Salvation Army bell ring. Board members for the term ending 2006 were:

Jim Canan, Greg Elek, Ellen Payner, and Jim Backs.

Officers 2003 – 04 elected at the December 19 board meeting were:

Tom Herberger President

Ellen Payner President-Elect

Ted Altfeld	Treasurer
Christie Vargo	Secretary
Don Andress	Sgt-at-Arms

In addition, Pete Shilling was named Assistant Secretary and Phil Baptiste Assistant Treasurer

New members inducted from July 1 to December 30, 2002 were:

Chris Fichtner	Insurance-general
Les Johnson	Bakery Products
Jennifer Koba	Music Instruction
Tim Koba	Molds & Dies
Shaun Stewart	Advertising
Fred Wright	Urban League

There were 176 members on January 1, 2003. Attendance reported to the district for the six months averaged about 70%.

Formatting and sending the email Ramrod was temporarily taken over by web master Ed Skimin during January and part of February. Ed also presented a program on using the Internet for business. He pointed out there were 1,400 Lorain County web sites at that time. The program was well received. Exchange student Sara Chung, as part of a trio of exchange students, presented a musical program of Asian culture and dance. February 25 was an away meeting at the Center for Leadership on the LCCC campus for a presentation of art works from children of Italy.

Major projects in the works included the Cascade Park Nature Center renovation idea that was nearing city approval. The board, as a match for the anticipated \$200,000 total cost, earmarked \$60,000. The first club project to alleviate hunger locally as well as in a needy third world area was proposed. The committee presented plans to hold a "Miles for Hunger" event, to be held on May 31 at the Burr Oak County Park. The goal was to raise \$10,000 to be equally divided between the local food bank and the international hunger effort.

Other events being promoted were the District Conference in Sandusky April 25 – 29 - a wine tasting party set for May 1 – and the annual Steak Fry on June 20.



Greg White

For only the seventh time in the 85 years of the club, an honorary membership was presented. The board approved Greg White for the honor in recognition of his service to Lorain County and the Elyria Rotary Club. Greg White had been recently named by the President of the United States as the U.S. Attorney for Northern District of Ohio. He accepted the honorary membership from Past District Governor Jim Hunt at the April 8 meeting. Greg White, and brother President Bob were also presented with Paul Harris Fellowships in recognition of their contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

The program on April 8 was devoted to 85 years of the club with a display of material from the extensive archives including a reprinted Ramrod from December 1921 at every place setting. Bob Perry, a long time former secretary, did some reminiscing followed by a video of the crippled children story and Daddy Allen. The planned full-color brochure touting the history, accomplishments and the direction of the club was published in May 2003, under the direction of ad-man Ed Stewart.

The World Community Service Committee was involved in two projects through Rotary International. The first was a donation of \$2,200 to the Yogyakarta, Indonesia Rotary Club to cover the cost of operations for 12 infants with hydrocephalus (excess fluid on the brain). The second was a donation of \$2,000 to help the Rotary Club of Vizag, India pay for 100 cataract surgeries.

The "Miles for Hunger" project was held on May 31, a rainy and cool day. A report by Greg Kruszka and Greg Elek listed donations by club members of \$9,290. The Second Harvest Food Bank and the RI food project in Africa each received \$5,000 with the board making up the difference. At the June 3 meeting, six students in the STRIVE program at JVS were awarded \$500 scholarships. A ten-page brochure was produced to promote the club and to be used as a marketing tool to recruit new members. Included were descriptions of the good works of the club as well as new member information.

June 2003 ended on the high note of a very successful steak fry – perfect weather after three previous years of rain out. A large crowd enjoyed the surroundings of the Historical Society grounds. The Interact students' did a fine job of serving. It was noted that there were many guests from around Rotary District 6600 including Governor John Weeks. The June 25 Ramrod had a full page of pictures from the evening. One photo showed departing exchange student Sara Chung with her family who were visiting from Korea. It was later reported the net proceeds from the event were \$11,108. \$1500 was donated to the Historical Society.

Contributions during President Bob White's year, in addition to those previously mentioned, included \$2,067 for the children's party, \$3,819 for community projects, \$6000 for scholarships (other than STRIVE) and \$4,200 for world community services. Major projects such as Cascade Park were funded through the Elyria Rotary Foundation account at Lorain County Community Foundation. The Elyria Rotary Club donated \$1,000 for the fireworks display on July 4th.

The late Bob Cook bequeathed a sizable donation (over \$600,000) to the Elyria Rotary Scholarship fund. Bill and Barb Wentz provided the funds to send a fifth student to the World Community Service workshop in Defiance. Bob Perry donated his dental equipment to the District 6600 MESA program (Medical Equipment and Supplies Abroad) for shipment to a Central American Clinic.

The financial statement for the year showed an ending balance of \$5,763.

Officers for 2003 – 2004 were inducted on June 25. They were:

Tom Herberger	President
Ellen Payner	President-Elect
Ted Altfeld	Treasurer
Christie Vargo	Secretary
Don Andress	Sgt-at-Arms

New members from January to June 30

Spencer Ryan	Law-Civil
James Scaffitti	YMCA
Robert Wagner (Rob)	Religion-Non-Denominational

There were 175 members on June 30. The average attendance for the period was 68%.

The Rotary year from July 1 2003 to June 30, 2004 was one of fairly smooth operation but with some unusual twists and turns along the way. One aspect of Rotary is the effect of the economy on membership. The year would see a decline from 175 to 169 members. The trend was also felt throughout District 6600. The manufacturing base of Lorain County was eroding, the loss of York International one example. Another loss to the local economy was outsourcing of production to Asian countries. The bright spots were the continued well-being of Ridge Tool and Invacare and fairly level employment in the many small manufactures in the area.



Thomas A. (Tom) Herberger joined Elyria Rotary in 1988 with the classification of Orthodontics. He served on many committees most notably the Apple Festival Fried Ice Cream project. Tom was elected to the board in 2001 and took charge of the club administration Avenue of Service. His start of the year as president was marked by a quick changeover to a full roster of committees, the printed club directory on hand July 1 and the Club Assembly scheduled for July 15. The Assembly was a regular Tuesday meeting with all members discussing Rotary topics and suggestions by those participating.

These announcements appeared in the July 29, 2003 Ramrod:

- The New Member Reception will be held on Wednesday, August 13 from 5:00 to 7:30 p.m. at Moss' Prime Rib and Spaghetti House. Tickets will be available at the reduced rate of \$5.00 at the August 5 meeting. (Tickets at the door will be \$7.00.) Contact Dale Forthofer.
- Thanks to Doug Charles for donating the poles to keep our club flags standing 'straight'.
- District Governor William E. Ruse will speak at the August 5 meeting. He will meet with the Board beginning at 10:45 a.m. All Rotarians are welcome to attend.
- The Apple Festival will be held September 19, 20, 21. President Tom's goal is 100% participation by Elyria Rotarians.
- The Rotary Auction will be held on November 8, 2003 at DeLuca's Place in the Park.

Additional activities scheduled were the annual golf outing at Cherry Ridge on September 25 and the yearly fishing trip on October 16.

September ended with a successful Apple festival report; 4000-fried ice cream sandwiches were sold, net proceeds as later reported, \$10,457, and then on to promotion of the semi-annual Rotary Auction on November 8. Needed were donated items to auction and a full house of bidders. The theme of the auction "Around the World with Rotary" and a full schedule for the evening included cocktails, a number of buffet tables, a silent auction and ending with a live auction of major items. The outcome was a fine evening of Rotary fellowship, however the resulting net of \$20,430 was below previous auctions. The cause could be laid to increased use of this type of fund raising by a number of other local organizations.

Another survey of club members as to likes and dislikes of the RAMROD newsletter: one is done about every five years or so. The consensus again was the RAMROD was well received with the delivery by email, photos and content getting high marks. A few suggestions were made such as more detail on upcoming programs and little less editorializing.

Four new board members were elected at the November 25 meeting, their term to start July 1, 2004: Joan Lowry, Bruce Ramsey, Ed Skimin and Janet Taylor-Remalius. It was announced that the Handicapped Children's Holiday party would be held at the Methodist Village instead of the administration building on Griswold Rd. The \$10 ticket price helps pay for the children's gifts.

News From Rotary International and District 6600: Clarification of Policy on Retired Rotarian Classifications. The Board amended the Rotary Code of Policies section 4.070. By adding the following: Well-Balanced Membership (Retired Persons, { XE "Membership in R.C.:students" } Retired persons being inducted into active membership in a Rotary club will use their former profession as their classification but this will not be counted towards the club's limit of members in a single classification. The classification roster in a club shall not include retired Rotarians.

December is always a busy month for Elyria Rotary; the handicapped children's party, the spouse and guest luncheon and Salvation Army bell ringing.

Right - 2003 Children's party - with teachers and children leading the singing



A review of the history of the children's party from the December 9 RAMROD; The December 2003 party for

children with Disabilities marks the twenty-fifth occasion Elyria Rotary has conducted this traditional program. But the interest in disadvantaged children really began 85 years ago with "Boys Work" through the YMCA. The first project to help 'crippled children' was a visit to the Gates Children's hospital on December 19, 1920. Gifts of clothing and toys to the shut-ins became an ongoing effort until the closing of Gates. In the following years the event moved to Crestwood School, then for over 20 years to West High School. Past President - Past Secretary Ray Renz spearheaded the renewed efforts for area Children with disabilities. The party also changed in make up, from a lunch meeting with gifts for the children to the addition of programs done by the children. Weeks of preparation by teachers working with the youngsters' results in the touching time witnessed again in 2003.

December included the spouse - guest luncheon with a holiday program by the renowned EHS A-ca-Pella choir. As always, it was a heartwarming half hour of festive tunes.

At the December board meeting new officers for the 2004/05-year were elected. They were:

President-Ellen Payner, President Elect-and secretary, Christie Vargo, Treasurer-Ted Altfeld, Assistant Treasurer-Phil Baptiste, and Sergeant-at-Arms-Donald Andress. It should be noted that Christie Vargo accepted the dual role of President Elect-and secretary. The plan was to have an assistant secretary work with Vargo during her term as president.

The Salvation Army bell ringing by Rotarians collected \$1000 for the day's effort.

New members inducted from July 1 to December 31, 2003 were:

Lesia Boytchak-Schneider	City Improvement
Freddie Springfield	Law - Criminal
Tim Donohue	Behavioral Healthcare

John Krebs	Medicine Orthopedic
Todd Willbond	Vending
Jeffrey Manning	County Prosecutor*
Skip Skolnik	Advertising
Brian Logue	Boy Scouts
Alexa Hansen	Education Development

*For the first time in the history of Elyria Rotary an elected official joined the club. Relaxed classification rules by Rotary International foretold the change.

The year-end report of the club's two endowment funds with the Community Foundation had these figures; Project fund; Market value - \$113,941 with an amount available for grants of 75,680. \$60,000 of this was pledged to the nature center project. The Scholarship fund, Market value - \$683,341 with an amount available for grants of 10,755. In addition The Lorain Count Community College was administering an endowment fund for students with disabilities. The last report of this fund indicated a balance of about \$80,000.

The Sunday, January 18 issue of the Chronicle-Telegram had a feature story of the planned remodeling of the Cascade Park nature center. Park Director Frank Gustoff provides the latest developments in the joint effort of Elyria Rotary and the Parks and Recreation Department of the city to complete the project by 2005. This will be the Centennial of Rotary International and the building will be registered with RI as our club centennial community project.

The 2004 Miles for Hunger project was set for Saturday, June 5, 2004. The first hunger project in 2003 resulted in a donation to local and international food for the needy programs – here and in Africa. A later report updated the outcome including sizable grants for a total of about \$32,000. A food delivery truck was purchased for the needy in a South African area.

Programs continued to be varied and interesting; A presentation by the Nylonge Company, local maker of sponges, included a bag full of their products for everyone in attendance. Mayor Bill Grace gave the annual "state of the city" address on February 24 and the Ramrod for the day listed two columns of the advantages of the city. The following week was a program about handicapped children riding horseback. The district conference set for October 2004 was being promoted, as was a special drawing for those donating \$100 or more towards a Paul Harris fellowship. Fining judge Don Boddy continued his whirlwind selection of wayward Rotarians for a donation to the 'Jug'. Don began adding trivia questions to fatten the take; some guesses were pretty far-fetched but added to the routine.

Once again the question of what is the proper way of presenting the invocation was causing some concern. Being a club with members from a variety of religions, it was suggested some did not want to stand and pray to another's belief. There were those that argued they would present the invocation in the manner in which they were taught. The result was to eliminate the invocation from the agenda and initiate a moment of silence. This seemed to have solved the problem.

Two away meetings were held in the spring of 2004, April 6 at the Lorain County JVS School in Oberlin and the May 11 meeting a tour of the Wagner Sign Company west of Elyria. Both were well attended and Rotarians enjoyed the hospitality of Rotarian leaders of both enterprises.

It was announced to our club that Dave Holland was named Rotarian of the Year at the District Assembly held on April 24 in Findlay. A request from the historical society to refinish the historical

marker of the founding of Easter Seals on the north side of the hospital was approved. May programs included the Group Study Exchange from Brazil and a remarkable performance by the Open Door Junior High School jazz band. About 30 young musicians, on their own time and just for the fun of it, gave a rousing half hour. Events being promoted were the second annual "Miles for Hunger" project set for June 5, and the annual Steak Fry on June 18.

A special board meeting was held on June 29 to announce secretary Christie Vargo accepted a position with the Audubon Society in Columbus and would no longer be able to continue as secretary. As she was also the president elect for 2004 – 05 this position had to be filled. The board voted to have Ed M. Stewart fill the vacancy. Tom Herberger starting July 1 would fill the important office of club secretary. The change of officers at the July 6 installation to three of the key positions in the club would cause a slow start for the new Rotary year.

The year-end financial report showed contribution from the general fund of \$18,639 and a carryover balance of \$34,946. Some expenses were yet to be paid so the amount is more than actual. A major contribution during the year was to The United Methodist Village, meeting place of our club, for \$12,000 to be used to add a kitchen in the long-term facility.

The Rotary Foundation fund report:

Fund 1 with the Community Foundation:			
	Contributions		20,569
Investment proceeds	3,190	Disbursements	5,590
Market value 4/30/04			132,110
Available for grants			94,470

Fund 1 is used for major grants. The balance includes the unpaid \$70,000 earmarked for the Centennial Nature Center in Cascade Park.

Fund 2 with the Community Foundation:			
	Contributions		\$ 00
Investment proceeds	19,067	Disbursements	3,226
Market value 4/30/04			699,182
Available for grants			28,383

Fund 2 is the Scholarship fund established by Bob Cook and contributions in 2001 - 03 by the club membership.

New members inducted from January 1, to June 30 were:

David M. Mrosko	Banking – Trust Services
Matt Bedocs	Rehabilitation Services
Chris Zeitler	Retail Floor Covering
Donald Zwilling (Don)	Accounting - CPA
Linda Bruehner	Banking
Gary Bennett	County Prosecutor

There were 169 members on June 30, 2004 – Average attendance for the year 67%

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There were 169 members on June 30, 2004 – Average attendance for the year 67%

Officers for 2004 – 2005 were inducted on July 6, 2004. They were:

Ellen Payner	President
Ed M. Stewart	President-Elect
Ted Altfeld	Treasurer
Tom Herberger	Secretary
Don Andress	Sgt-at-Arms



Ellen Payner had been the Executive Director of the Mental Health complex on Murray Ridge prior to retirement in 2003. She joined Elyria Rotary in 1992, had served on the board and was the co-chair of the first Rotary auction. Her Rotary involvement was primarily working with the auction in the following years

The combination of three new officers along with the change of board members was to cause a period of uncertainty during the first months of the new year. Another problem was a noticeable decline in attendance at the noon meetings.

Past president Tom Herberger hastily filled the all-important position of secretary. Because club records were now computerized, it would take some time to learn the procedures and make the transition. To further hinder the new Rotary year start was the delay of dues billing for three months, key committees not functioning, and a non-effective attendance committee. The bright spots were a continuation of good programs, upbeat weekly Ramrod newsletters, and growing concern by some senior members. It took the first half of the Rotary year to turn the decline into the start of a recovery. The membership officially fell from 169 to 157 during the six-month period, however as we shall see there were a number of members below the 60% attendance rule.

At the special board meeting to fill the 2004-05 officer vacancies, Ed M. Stewart was appointed President-Elect. He had joined Elyria Rotary in 1995 and immediately became energetic in a number of activities. Ed's occupation was his own advertising agency and this led to his being involved with preparations for Jim Hunt's year as District Governor. Ed was the chairman of the District Conference in 2002. As a member of the program committee he provided and introduced a number of speakers. He was a Ramrod writer for six years including the time up to being installed as president in July 2005. Ed played an important roll in revamping the club.

An indication of the lack of attendance was the tour on July 13 of the new Ross Environmental headquarters near LCCC. About 50 members lunched and toured the complex. Owners and Rotarians Maureen and Bill Cromling proudly showed a remarkable technical array of equipment. Another tour, this of the new city hall on August 10, was somewhat better attended, likely because of the location in downtown Elyria rather than a distance from the regular meeting place. A disappointment was the low turnout of officers for the August 17 visit and pre-meeting with District Governor Steve Day. A more positive occasion that day was the arrival of exchange student Shubha Surana from India.

Highly promoted was the August 22 family picnic, an event in conjunction with the Sunrise club. A challenge softball game between the two clubs turned into a rout by the noon club. No doubt the motivation for the good showing of the "old timers" was a letter from the Sunrise club prior to the event that offered concessions such as four strikes and helping the feeble off the field after each inning. The final score: 14 for Elyria Noon, 5 for Elyria Sunrise. The picnic after the game was a most enjoyable combination of friendly banter and fellowship between the two clubs.

The August board meeting was mainly a discussion of the ongoing Cascade Park Nature Center project. It was reported there was at the time a shortfall of about \$50,000 in anticipated costs of the quarter million dollar project. Elyria Rotary had previously pledged \$60,000 and members of the club were leading the planning of the project. An additional \$10,000 was offered as a match grant. In addition, the committee suggested reviewing the specifications to reduce the cost. Changes were eventually made and bids were opened on December 2, the outcome will be noted later on.

September events began with a club assembly at the first regular meeting of the month. It was round table discussions of ways to improve the club. A committee of board members reviewed the suggestions and later in the year began to make some progress in improvements. The annual Apple Festival booth fund raising took place on the weekend of September 17-19. It required considerable effort on the part of the committee to enlist needed workers for the three days. Just 47% of the members participated. Collecting for the allotted ten tickets given to each member also required some effort. All turned out well and as later reported the income amounted to over \$12,000. September ended with the annual golf outing held at Forest Hills. Forty-four members and guests came out for the day. The annual fishing trip was poorly attended.

October programs included two candidate debates, one between four County Commissioner candidates, and the other for the County Prosecutor office. Both were lively interaction. November was the onset of efforts to energize the club. A special message was printed in the Ramrod regarding attendance rules, a four page "Rules and Customs of Elyria Rotary" booklet was made available on the Ramrod web site, and an intense training session for board members was held during a closed, after hours meeting. A consolidation and reworking of the committee structure of the club was begun and reporting of resigning members was renewed in the Ramrod. In addition, the membership and scholarship committees became quite active and the financial side of the club was getting sorted out. Late dues billing, the lack of a timely budget, and misunderstandings of financial reporting of events by committees were being addressed.

The 2004 Steak Fry for example reported a net of \$7299.60 when the actual was \$8799.60. The difference was the \$1500 donation to the Historical Society paid out of the Steak Fry account rather than the usual method of a donation by the board. Other donations and grants to come to light were \$500 to the Sacred Landmarks, \$550 to handicapped students for a horseback riding program, \$500 to buy Junior Officer badges for police to give to kids the victims of an accident or domestic problem, \$550 to restore the historical marker about Easter Seals on East Broad Street at the hospital, and \$4400 sent to MESA for shipment of a fire engine and supplies to Central America. The scholarship committee arranged for six spring semester scholarships at LCCC totaling \$7000.

Sixteen members attended the District Conference at Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario and a concerted effort was made during October and November to have all members contribute to the Rotary Foundation.

November also saw efforts to energize the members - the initial revamping of the committee structure of the club. The tentative list went from six Avenue of Service committees to four, and from 50 standing committees to 32. Rearrangement of the meeting room with the tables more centralized to the head table seemed to perk up the atmosphere. An important evening session of the board was held to review the constitution and by-laws of the club. With new officers and

board members unfamiliar with club rules, the ‘training meeting’ cleared the misconceptions of some of the actions required of the board.

The November 23 included a program by Barbara Cook and member Greg Kruszka reporting on the South African hunger project of our club. Part of the miles for Hunger proceeds and other donations enabled the purchase of a non-profit food delivery truck in Durban, South Africa. At the same meeting, a check for \$5104 was presented to the Second Harvest Food Bank to feed the hungry in Lorain County. The Elyria Rotary Club sponsored Interact Club also collected food at two November meetings for donation to the needy.

Long time club secretary Bob Perry traveled with a group of twenty Rotarians from around the US to Nigeria to help vaccinate children as part of the worldwide Polio Plus campaign. A feature story of his trip was in the December 12 issue of the CT and included in the article was a recap of the Rotary effort to eradicate polio.

Traditional Elyria Rotary events were carried out in December; the annual party for children with disabilities, the Spouse –Guest luncheon and the Salvation Army bell ringing. The children’s party was an uplifting event for the kids as well as Rotarians and guests. The December 21 guest luncheon included the induction of five new Paul Harris fellows and the recognition of 50-year members Lawrence (Bud) Deetz, John Murbach and Robert Ohlemacher. It was later reported the Rotary bell ringing produced \$1,500 for the two days.

New members inducted July 1 to December 31, 2004:

Jacqueline Thomas	Correctional Services
Amber Fisher	Disabilities Services
Todd J. Walts	Community Improvement
Patricia Egan	Healthcare Fund Development
Mukund R. Moghe	City Engineering

The election of board members for 2005 – 08 was held with the following being elected; Marty Kelly, Pamela Bonnell-Mihalis, Bill Randall and Tom Stuber. The officers elected by the board for 2005-06 Were Ed Stewart, President, Greg Elek, President Elect, Tom Herberger, Secretary, Ted Altfeld, Treasurer and Don Andress, Sgt-at-Arms. Plans were also made to publish an eight-page supplement in the CT for the Centennial of Rotary, the cost to be shared by the Sunrise and noon clubs.

It was announced our club would match new Paul Harris fellow donors up to \$250. Members would then commit to at least \$100 yearly until the \$1,000 fellowship level was met. A review of donations to the Rotary Foundation for the past twenty years shows our club has a lifetime giving of \$222,369.50. We have awarded 145 Paul Harris Fellowships and have three benefactors.

A program of new member mentoring called STAR (special training for action in Rotary) was announced in January. New members would be introduced to committee work and meeting fellow members as part of the program. January also was a return to the evening format of the club assembly. Rather than round table sessions at a regular Tuesday meeting the evening meeting was devoted to committee reports and open forum discussions on a wide variety of topics. Members placed much importance on communication in the discussion, mostly on the absence of communication on the basic level. A two month recap of membership and attendance

from December 1, 2004 to January 31, 2005 list 157 members, about 100 above the 60% attendance mark, 29 attending but under 60%, and 13 at zero attendance. There were 23 members with excused attendance, a category for those with long term membership and faithful service. Included in the 23 were some with health concerns and some with winter homes in the south.

From the February Board Meeting: The Salvation Army bell ringing collected \$1500.00 (\$500.00 on Friday and \$1000.00 on Saturday).

The 2005 scholarships awards announced: The committee approved scholarships for the 2005-06 school year. They are different in that they will be for 2 semesters (double from last year) and there will be an increase in the amount given. Scholarship winners will receive \$1200 per semester (up from \$1000) and the Bob Cook scholarship will remain at \$2000 per semester. We will pay out in Sept. 05: \$18,000 for scholarships bringing the total to \$23,000 of scholarships given out for the calendar year.

The centennial project Cascade Park Nature Center was now in the final stages and this report by Co-chair Jim Backs was printed in the April 12 Ramrod: Reprinted here in full.

The unacceptably high construction bids received in the initial May 2004 bidding event forced a "value engineering" review of the project to reduce its total cost to a level in line with the original estimates. Such a review challenges all aspects of a project, evaluating the benefits of each, its cost and impact to the project should it be eliminated or revised. This effort was successful as the results of the December 2004 bid event were such that contracts could be awarded within the secured project funding, 45% of which was provided by ERC (\$70,000). In total, nine contractors submitted bids for all or some phases of the project. Three separate contractors were awarded contracts totaling \$155,196 exclusive of any bidding alternates. The Interior demolition phase of the construction got underway at the end of January and has proceeded nicely since then. Up to this point, all existing ceiling, most interior walls and the concrete floor have been removed. New plumbing has been installed, a new concrete floor poured, new windows are in, HVAC and electrical systems are being installed with new doors and other finishing aspects to follow. Completion is expected by the end of May. The building will be available for a club "walk through" shortly thereafter.

While much has been accomplished since 2002 through the many efforts of ERC, its members and Elyria Parks & Recreation Department, needs still exist to make the facility operational for Elyria's elementary school kids. The list includes landscaping, furniture, other equipment, programming and operational funding. Several ERC members have generously offered to provide some of the items. Some operational funding support could be available in the form of a grant from Rotary District 6600. An application is being prepared for a July 1 submittal (FY06).

With the physical construction completed, for the next Centennial Project Committee, educational programming and operation start-up will be the major items on the agenda. For all ERC members, future opportunities exist for "volunteers" at the facility. For the club, the ERC Board as a means to support educators and the kids has discussed busing "sponsorships". After all, they are the reason for all our fine efforts. The Centennial Project Committee wishes to thank ERC and its members for the great support, without which, this project would not have been possible. (End)

Springtime and April brought forth these committee projects announced in the Ramrod:

The Wine Tasting party will be Friday, May 6 at Northern Savings and Loan. \$30 per ticket
June 4 - Miles for Hunger – walk – run – ride a bike Registration blank for printing is on line
Steve Fleming announced the Steak Fry has been set for Friday, June 10 with committee work

about to begin. June 12 – bike tour to Chicago for the RI Convention – You are invited to join the 350-mile tour – Contact Tom Herberger or Ed Stewart

Another member survey was conducted in May with mixed outcome. Varied answers again indicated the diversity of the club and no one item in the survey results showed the need for sweeping change. As the Rotary year wound down monthly attendance numbers hovered around 60% and empty tables at the meetings were obvious to all. Few guests joined the weekly meetings. One exception was the annual student recognition day with eleven high schoolers given the spotlight. On that occasion scholarships were also presented to six LCCC students from the area. Another move to enhance the club literacy projects was the receipt of a grant of \$2500 from the district to work on a book program with our local schools. Plans were being worked out for the next school year.

The wind-down month of June included a variety of activities: the “Miles for Hunger” project was a financial success although participation was lacking. The annual Steak Fry was held at the Hickories even though a storm rushed by an hour before the event. Good turnout of partygoers as well as members of the club. About 50 members attended the meeting at Cascade Park to tour the Nature Center. Final Construction work was yet to be done, but the building would be ready for the September school year. Looking ahead, the Elyria Rotary Club was planning to include the center in future funding and likely, work projects. The stalwart bikers made it to Chicago and the RI convention site, raising some \$3500 for MESA, but headed back home, pleased but quite tired.

New members inducted from January 1 to June 30:

Kevin Rhodes	Human resources
Jeff Zink	Hospice

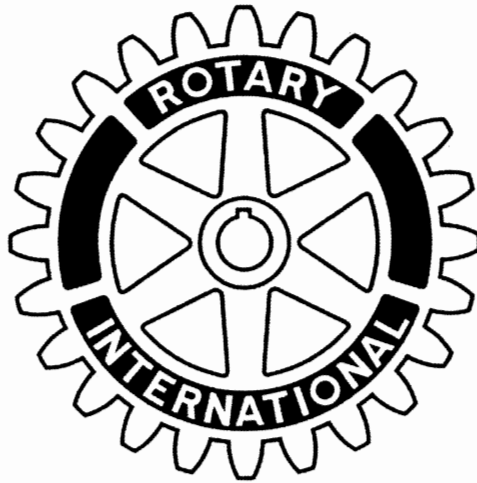
Contributions for the year from the general fund: \$17,815	From the Community Foundation	
account: \$85,764	from the scholarship fund: \$18,000	Ending balance in the
General fund \$38,339		

There were 154 members on June 30 - Average attendance for the year was about 60%.

Officers inducted at the first meeting in July 2005:

Ed M. Stewart	President
Greg Elek	President-Elect
Ted Altfeld	Treasurer
Tom Herberger	Secretary
Don Andress	Sgt-at-Arms

This ends the review of, July 1, 1995 to June 30, 2005



Elyria Rotary Club

Number 3473

District 6600

Chartered April 1, 1918

