

## Rotary Club of Lancaster Timeline

- 1868: Paul Harris** Paul Harris is born on April 19, 1868 in Racine, WI.
- 1905: Paul Harris Starts Rotary** Paul Harris and 3 friends start a club in Chicago called Rotary.
- 1915: Lancaster Rotary Club** The Rotary Club of Lancaster was started in July of 1915.
- 1917: Field Day in Harrisburg** 21 Members of the RCoL motored to Harrisburg for a 4-club intercity meeting with Harrisburg, Reading, and York.
- 1919: Rotary Boys Home** Opened and operated by RCoL in cooperation with the County Court from 1919 to 1963. It closed due to mandated safety regulations it couldn't fund. Over 2,000 boys passed through the Rotary Boys Home. The Home sold in 1965 for \$56,000.
- 1922: Rotary Wheel is adopted** RI adopted the 24-tooth wheel with 6 spokes as the Rotary logo. In 1929 the blue & gold wheel was adopted.
- 1923: The Transmitter** The Transmitter became the club's weekly newsletter in 1923.
- 1924: Rotarians perform song** RI President Guy Gundaker was originally from Lancaster. "Lancaster is the home of Guy Gundaker, the place of his birth, and the home folks honored him by having a rousing meeting; at that time a song was written by one of the members of the Lancaster Club; it was set to music by another member and sung by a third member. We are going to present this song for you at this time in Guy's honor."
- 1926: Crippled Children's Clinic** The RCoL opened the Crippled Children's Clinic in 1925. In 1932 the County took over the Clinic.
- 1929: Student Loan Fund** The Student Loan Fund for men was started in 1929 with a \$1,000 donation by Sylvester Moore. By 1937 the Student Loan fund was being funded by \$1-donations at the Birthday Table each month. In 1951, women were included. In 1989 RCoL turned the program over to the Citizens Scholarship Foundation. Today there are no loans, just scholarships.
- 1937: The Birthday Table** During the 1937-38 year, RCoL started the monthly birthday table.
- 1938: 1938 District Conference** The 1938 District Conference was held in the beautiful auditorium at McCaskey and the Hotel Brunswick Ballroom.
- 1938: Rotary Buddy Club** RCoL sponsored a Boys Club at YMCA and helped create the Rotary Buddy Club for underprivileged boys. RCoL continued supporting programs at the Lancaster Boys Club and after 1989, supported the new Boys & Girls Club. Major support was given to the Camp Hogan summer camp program.
- 1943: Four-Way Test** RI adopted the Four-Way Test officially in January 1943.
- 1945: Lancaster Cleft Palate Clinic** The Lancaster Rotary Club Cleft Palate Speech Clinic was established in the 1942-43 year.
- 1951: Wednesday Meetings** The club began Wednesday Meetings on January 1, 1951.
- 1952: Lancaster General Hospital** RCoL toured the new Lancaster General Hospital.

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- 1953: Snakes Alive** In 1953 a RCoL program was Snake Alive with live snakes.
- 1954: Retired Citizens Association** RCoL started the Association for Retired Citizens. It became a separate entity in 1957 with 162 members. The Association of Retired Citizens returned all seed money provided by RCoL in 1972.
- 1956: Strawberry Roundup** RCoL sponsored the 4-H Strawberry Contest. It has continued and incorporated an auction which provides funds for those with winning entries.
- 1958: International Living** RCoL started participating in the summer youth exchange program. This continued until 1980.
- 1959: Fulton Opera House** RCoL was enlisted to emphasize the importance of the former movie theater, The Fulton, as the Fulton Operas House as a playhouse.
- 1960: Youth Leadership Camp** The Leaders Rotary Camp at Camp Carson in Lebanon County has morphed into Rotary Youth Leadership Awards 5-day Conference held each year at Messiah College.
- 1960: Wild Vest Contest** RCoL held a Wild Vest Contest.
- 1960: Crippled Children** RCoL held a fund raiser for Easter Seal Society's Camp Harmony Hall. Such targeted fund raisers were repeated as necessary.
- 1962: Meet in the Jail** RCoL held its Valentine's Day meeting in the Jail. Lunch cost \$1.
- 1963: Japanese Commander** On Nov. 20, 1963, Mitsuo Fuchido, the commander of the squadron that bombed Pearl Harbor in 1914 spoke at RCoL.
- 1965: Met at Holiday Inn** Meetings moved from the Brunswick Hotel to Odd Fellows Hall and then to the Holiday Inn on Lititz Pike.
- 1970: Farm & Home Center** On June 24, 1970, RCoL moved its meeting to the Farm & Home Center.
- 1970: Second Oldest Profession** Rotarian Ray Horning informed the club that the World's Second Oldest Profession is brick making.
- 1972: F&M North Museum** RCoL overwhelmingly endorsed the "Lancaster Rotary Club Public School Program of the North Museum." This was a 5-year program.
- 1973: Service Awards** RCoL Service Awards began in 1973. In 2011, the Community Service Awards for youth were created.
- 1974: Youth Exchange Program** This was the first year the RCoL participated in the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program. Since then inbound and outbound student have been sponsored most years.
- 1975: Oral History Project** RCoL adopted the Oral History Project in conjunction with the Lancaster Library as its bicentennial project.

## Rotary Club of Lancaster Timeline -continued

- 1977: F&M Rotaract Club** RCoL organized the F&M Rotaract Club. It was chartered in 1978.
- 1979: Mounted Police Barn** RCoL contributed to building a horse barn for Lancaster Mounted Police in Long Park.
- 1980: Graduate House** RCoL started funding Graduate House for the Boys Club of America to accommodate boys ages 17-19 for up to a year. The boys did charity work and were provided help in finding jobs.
- 1981: 'Ah Variety' show** The first Ah Variety show at the Fulton Opera House featured some with talent and some with guts, but raised \$8,100. Cooperation between Fulton Opera House and RCoL has continued.
- 1982: District Conference** RCoL hosted the District Conference in Williamsburg, VA. Ninety people from Lancaster attended.
- 1985: Group Study Exchange** RCoL hosted Rotary Foundation GSE Teams from South Africa and fielded a GSE Team to South Africa. Subsequently teams were hosted from Chile, Denmark, France, Brazil, Greece, Mexico, India, Singapore, Malaysia, Pakistan, Argentina, Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Australia. Teams were fielded to Brazil and Denmark.
- 1985: 50 years perfect attendance** Michael "Mike" Moore was recognized for 50 years of perfect attendance, all in Lancaster.
- 1987: \$260,000 for Polio** RCoL raised \$260,000 for Rotary's new Polio program.
- 1987: Rotary Admits Women** The Supreme Court declared on May 4, 1987, that Rotary Clubs may not exclude women as members. The Transmitter said from that day forward, "Membership Looked Better and Smelled Better".
- 1988: Rotary & UN Stop Polio** Since 1945, Rotary has been invited to serve as consultants to the UN. When Rotary started its worldwide PolioPlus program in 1988, it worked in partnership with UNICEF, the WHO, and UNESCO. This partnership continues today. A day is declared Rotary Day each year and Rotarians are invited to visit the UN. It also included a program for youth.
- 1990: Boys & Girls Club** RCoL raised \$88,000 for the Boys & Girls Club and pledged another \$50,000.
- 1990: Meritorious Service** RCoL's Roger Gorce received RI Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service for his Nigerian Neurosurgery Mission.
- 1990: Preserve Planet Earth** When RI launched its Preserve Planet Earth focus, RCoL responded by planting 250 trees, working at Camp Hogan, and continued to have a Planet Earth Committee that planted flowers in Rotary park in 2005, and in 2013 completed a Nature Observation Deck at Elizabeth R. Martin Elementary School.

## Rotary Club of Lancaster Timeline -continued

- 1991: Neurosurgery for Felix** RCoL Rotarian Dick Witmer met a Rotarian in Nigeria whose son Felix needed surgery to repair a severe head injury sustained when hit by a car. When Dick returned home to Lancaster, physicians at LGH volunteered services to perform a 5-hour operation. Felix and his father were guests of the Witmer family during this period.
- 1992: Fulton Opera House** RCoL had a luncheon on stage at the Fulton Opera House.
- 1992: Annual Bicycle Race** RCoL Annual Amateur Bicycle Races were held from 1992 to 1997.
- 1993: Tip-Off Tournament** Bill 'Doc' Marshall chaired the Tip-Off Basketball Tournaments at F&M College until 2019. Over the 40 years the event ran, it raised over \$700,000. In 2019, its last year it raised \$33,387. That year 'Doc' was moving away.
- 1994: McCaskey Student Project** This long-term program started in 1994 with a grant for string instruments, college incentives for freshmen, and extending library hours. Then, in 1997, the first scholarships were granted. In 2008, an Interact Club was Chartered at McCaskey. In 2009, RCoL had a School Uniform Drive for McCaskey. In 2012, the Mentoring Project started. This program has been very successful.
- 1997: Chicken Bar B-Q** A Chicken Barbecue was added to the annual Family Fun Day in September at County Park. It ran until 2010. That year it was decided to concentrate on the Tip-Off Tournament.
- 1998: First Woman President** RCoL's first woman president was Kathy McElliott.
- 1999: Hess's Caters** Hess's became the RCoL caterer.
- 2001: Salvation Army Bell Ringers** Club members started serving as Salvation Army Bell Ringers.
- 2002: Book Challenge** RCoL started donating a book each week to Lancaster School District signed by the meeting's speaker.
- 2004: Power Packs Project** RCoL started designating funds and providing volunteers for the Power Packs Project to provide food to families with food insecurity.
- 2005: Rotary Park Dedicated** RCoL established Rotary Park as part of Rotary's Centennial.
- 2005: Teacher Impact Awards** RCoL and WGAL jointly sponsored the Lancaster School District's Teacher Impact Awards.
- 2005: Summer Youth Initiative** Starting in 2005, RCoL started giving \$10,000 to United Way each year which it matched for the Summer Activities Initiative for at risk youth ages 5 to 17.
- 2006: Four-Way Test** RCoL started reciting the Rotary "Four-Way" at the beginning of each meeting.
- 2006: LancasterRotary.org** The club's website was made its debut.

## Rotary Club of Lancaster Timeline -continued

<b>2008: McCaskey Interact Club</b>	The Interact Club at McCaskey was restarted.
<b>2011: Basketball Extravaganza</b>	RCoL focused its efforts on the Tip-Off Tournament at F&M and renamed it the Basketball Extravaganza. It earned \$30,000 for Rotary and \$15,000 for F&M. It ran until 2019.
<b>2011: Shelter Box</b>	RCoL was introduced to Rotary's Shelter Box program for providing shelter and cooking supplies to disaster areas.
<b>2013: Guest Reader Program</b>	RCoL members started participating in the Guest Reader Program at Lancaster's Washington Elementary School. It was subsequently expanded to Burrowes Elementary School.
<b>2015: Refugee Center</b>	RCoL's Club Centennial Project was the Refugee Center and Community School at Reynolds Middle School. This program is carried out in cooperation with the US State Department.
<b>2015: Centennial Year Program</b>	A visit by RI President Ravindran from Sri Lanka was the highlight in RCoL's centennial year.
<b>2016: 'Rollicking Ronketts'</b>	The fictitious Greater Ronks Rotary Club provided entertainment at the RCoL's Christmas Party. A 'vunderful' time was had by all.
<b>2017: Rotary Rendezvous</b>	RCoL's Rotary Rendezvous began with two alternative evening meetings each month to encourage new membership, attendance and makeups.
<b>2017: Wheels &amp; Wings Festival</b>	RCoL announced the first annual Wheels, Wings and 5K Festival at the Lancaster Airport. This festival has proven so successful, that it is RCoL's only major fundraiser.
<b>2017: Tiny Houses</b>	RCoL took on a project to build tiny houses. They built two tiny homes and had to fight a tangle of regulations.
<b>2017: Rotary Means Business</b>	Rotary District 7390 started an activity hosted by the different Clubs in each area of District 7390 to host networking mixers with Rotarians, potential Rotarians, and families of Rotarians.
<b>2020: The COVID-19 Pandemic</b>	After 50 years of meeting at the Farm & Home center, in-person meetings were suspended. First YouTube meetings were used, then Zoom meetings became the norm.
<b>2021: Hybrid meetings begin</b>	Hybrid in-person & Zoom meeting started.
<b>2022: In-person meetings begin</b>	In mid-2022, in-person meetings resumed.

For more on these and other moments in the history of the Rotary Club of Lancaster, visit the

[Rotary Club of Lancaster History Project](#)

