

ROTARY INFORMATION

ROTARY is an organization of business and professional persons, united world wide, who provide humanitarian service and encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and build goodwill and peace in the world.

ORGANIZATION

The Odessa Rotary Club was organized on March 03, 1938 and admitted to Rotary International on March 09, 1938. There were twenty charter members with Joe W. Pryon being elected President, Thomas D. Murphy, Vice President, and Morris Bendix, Club Secretary-Treasurer. The formation of the Odessa Club was sponsored by the Big Spring Rotary Club, and in the beginning, the regular luncheon meetings of the Club were held on Friday of each week in the Elliott Hotel. In later years, the meeting date was changed to Wednesdays, with the weekly luncheons being held in the Inn of the Golden West. Several years ago, the Club moved its meetings to Odessa College.

When the Club received its charter from Rotary International, J. Edd McLaughlin, District Governor and later President of Rotary International, was present. Elmo Wasson, later President, was instrumental in the organization of the Club. The meeting was held in the Odessa High School auditorium.

The Club leadership consists of five officers, six directors and the immediate past president. Under each director are committees that carry out the work and programs of the Club.

MEETINGS

The Club is a member of Rotary International and of District 5730. The meeting time and place is 12:00 noon on Wednesday in the 2nd floor of the Student Union Building at Odessa College.

Usually, there will be two luncheons during the year to which your spouse will be invited. These will be the Valentines Day and Christmas Programs. Also, there may be one or more evening socials during the year for fellowship and Rotary information.

There are one or two day District Assembly meetings held in different locations within the district to brief incoming officers and inform members about the activities of Rotary.

There is an annual District Conference in our district attended by members from the 55 clubs, which make up the District. The District Governor holds the annual District Conference at a different city each year. All new members are urged and encouraged to attend a District Conference as soon as possible in order to learn what other rotary clubs are doing.

There is also an International Conference. This conference is held annually in countries all over the world. The incoming President of the Odessa Rotary Club attends the annual International Conference on behalf of the Club. However, all members are encouraged to attend.

DUES AND FUND RAISING

The Rotary Club has two main fundraisers. The Club sponsors a Mexican Dinner at both high schools on the night of the PHS vs. OHS football game. Each member of the Club is billed \$75.00 for ten (10) \$7.50 tickets, which the member can either sell or give away. The second main fundraiser is a car raffle, which provides funding to the Club and the Permian Basin Rehabilitation Center. Each member is encouraged to sell the car raffle tickets at \$100.00 each, but there is no commitment.

The initiation fee for the Odessa Rotary Club is \$50.00. This fee is used to help defray the expense of the Rotary lapel pin, name badges and publications that are made available to members.

Dues are \$150.00 per quarter, which includes the cost of the meals, dues to the Club, District and International Dues, and a subscription to The Rotarian, a monthly publication of Rotary International with stories about the world of Rotary. Members are encouraged to bring guests to the Rotary Meetings and will be billed for the meals of guests at \$8.00 per meal. If your guest joins Rotary, you will be reimbursed for one guest meal.

ATTENDANCE

Members are billed for dues regardless of attendance at the weekly meetings. Rotary International requires regular attendance. Members failing to maintain a minimum 60% attendance may be removed from the membership. A make-up will maintain the attendance requirement and can be done within 14 days before or after the meeting missed. There are two other Rotary Clubs in Odessa where make-ups can be made. All Rotary Clubs welcome guest Rotarians. The Club Secretary has a directory of the meeting day and time for every Rotary Club in the world. In addition, participation in Club committee meetings and activities count as make-ups. Rotary International also provides members with a make-up option on the Rotary website.