

Rotary History & Growth of Rotary

(Part One upto 1911-12)

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YEAR	RI President	Important Highlights & Events During The Year	Clubs	Rotarians
1868		19 th April- Paul P. Harris was born in Racine, Wisconsin USA		
1896		Paul Harris settled in Chicago, Illinois, USA		
1900		Paul Harris conceived the idea - to have a club of professional & business people for friendship.		
1905		❖ 23rd February- (Thursday): Paul Harris (Lawyer 37 years) met three young business companions- Silvester Schiele (Coal Merchant), Gustavus Loehr (Mining Engineer) and Hiram Shorey (Merchant Tailor) – in Loehr's office at 711, Unity Building, 127, Dearborn Street, Chicago, USA and explained his idea of a unique service and fellowship club, one in which the various businesses and professions of a community are represented. Rotary was born from this meeting on 23rd Feb, thus starting a movement destined to spread around the world. ❖ Harry Ruggles joined as the 5th Rotarian of the club. ❖ The second meeting of the club was at Paul Harris's office at the Wolff Building on 9th March and had 7 members, the sixth and seventh being William Jenson and A.L. White ❖ The Rotary name was derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices ❖ Silvester Schiele was the first club president of the first Rotary Club. ❖ Bill Jenson was the first secretary of the first Rotary Club.	1	12
1906		❖ "Wagon wheel" design of Montague M. Bear adopted as emblem of the new Rotary Club ❖ Albert L. White, served as second president of the club		
1907		❖ Rotary Club Chicago installs "public restroom" in City Hall- probably first example of Rotary Community Service ❖ Paul Harris became President of Rotary Club Chicago.		
1908		❖ 2nd Rotary Club organized in San Francisco (California) USA ❖ Rotary Emblem design was modified. ❖ Harry Ruggles introduced Chesley R. Perry as prospective member to the Rotary Club of Chicago.	2	200
1909		❖ 3rd Rotary Club organized in – Oakland (California) USA ❖ 4th Rotary Club organized in - Seattle (Washington) USA ❖ 5th Rotary Club organized in – Los Angeles (California) USA ❖ 6th Rotary Club organized in – New York (New York) USA ❖ Rotary extended from pacific coast to Atlantic Coast of USA, with organization of clubs in New York City & Boston	6	510
1910		❖ Paul Harris married Jean Thompson, a young woman (who had migrated from Scotland) , on 2nd July 2010 in Chicago.		
1910-11	Paul P Harris	❖ RI Convention : Chicago , Illinois, USA (60) ❖ Establishment of Rotary Year from 1st July to 30th June ❖ 1st R.I. Convention was held at Chicago Aug 15-17, 1910 (60 registrations.)	16	1500

YEAR	RI President	Important Highlights & Events During The Year	Clubs	Rotarians
		❖ Founder Paul Harris was elected as first President of this new Association. ❖ Chesley R Perry, who presided over the sessions, was elected as first Secretary of the Association at a salary of US\$100/- per month and US\$25 office allowance. The Secretariat was established on 18th August. ❖ At this convention, the National Association of Rotary Clubs is created from the 16 clubs of the United States. Rtn. Chesley Perry was mainly responsible for this formation. ❖ The figures of clubs and membership of Rotary represents clubs and members for the beginning of the year i.e. on 1st July of 1910, there were 16 clubs & 1500 members. ❖ Five (05) Objects of Rotary formulated at this convention. ❖ Constitution & Bye-laws of the association were adopted at the convention. ❖ In the Convention a Chicago business man & Rotarian Arthur F. Sheldon gave an idea for business principals & suggested "he profits most who serves his fellow best". ❖ Rotary becomes INTERNATIONAL, with organization of first club outside USA in Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA. ❖ (1911 January) first Newspaper issue of "The National Rotarian" was published. It has 12 pages and its editor was – Chesley Perry. It contained an article "Rational Rotarianism" by Paul Harris. 4000 copies were printed in a press owned by Rtn Harry Ruggles. Circulation price was 25 cents year		
1911-12	Paul P. Harris	❖ RI Convention : Portland , Oregon USA (149) ❖ Second Issue of Magazine "The National Rotarian" published in July 1911 ❖ Paul P Harris elected as President of the Association, for a second term. ❖ Rotary crossed Atlantic with forming of clubs in London (England), Dublin (Ireland) and Belfast (Northern Ireland). Although these clubs were not admitted to Rotary until 1912-13. ❖ "Service Above Self" and "He profits Most Who Serves Best" formulated as Rotary Mottoes. ❖ Constitution of the Association was revived. ❖ Rotary world aligned into 8 divisions- 5 in USA, 2 in Canada & 1 in Great Britain.	28	2500
E&OE				

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