

30 years after Rotary International was founded, the Newberg Rotary Club was organized. It received its charter on January 14, 1936 becoming the first service club in Newberg. Over the years the members and certain aspects of the club have changed but its mission has remained the same. Beginning with the charter members and continuing through today, Newberg Rotarians have consistently put service above self to help better the community of Newberg and make a difference throughout the world.

Newberg Rotary began with 22 charter members and was the 3,910th club in the world. By 1936 Rotary existed in 79 different countries. The Rotary Club of Portland sponsored the charter presentation which was presided over by District Governor Stanley Long of Seattle. After the Charter presentation, the club busied itself with weekly meetings and service projects. Weekly club meetings in the 1930s were conducted in quite nearly the same way as they were in 2016. Various speakers presented at meetings including Bill Stephenson, Vice President of the First National Bank of Portland who spoke about "The Changing Scene in Banking." One of the club's first service projects was a joint effort with The Rotary Club of Mercer, Pennsylvania. The two clubs put together a list of forty four vocational books that was presented to the high school in Newberg. The Newberg Rotary Club also assisted the high school by helping with the Student Body Dance. The club offered other acts of service including a Student Athletes Health Project, which provided physical examinations for all student athletes, and the sponsorship of both a Sea Scout Ship and a Boy Scout Troop. Rotarians started to build a relationship with Pacific College, now George Fox University, as it helped fund the

building of a new dormitory. Community outreach continued through the Christmas season as the club sponsored both the financial and physical aspects of various Christmas light displays throughout the community.

Fellowship was also an important objective of the new club. To help cultivate genuine friendships the club held many social events. Some picnics and other social gatherings were held jointly with the McMinnville club. Bi-monthly dances also became a tradition with the first one taking place in October, 1937. In that same year the club raised funds to assemble a picture album which contained pictures of all the members and listed their occupations.

On the international level Newberg Rotarians discussed topics such as the Japanese invasion of China in the late 1930s. They heard from Dr. Elam J. Anderson of Linfield College as he spoke about the conflict. They also began the long held tradition of visiting a club in Canada. Newberg Rotarians traveled to Vancouver in May of 1936. Art Strickland served as the first president from 1935 to 1937. He was followed by Norm Riley, Eddie Ricker, Wally Larkin, Ralph Van Valin, Daisy Renne, and Scott Leavitt between 1937 and 1944.

Scott Leavitt was a congressman and teacher who had a significant impact on Newberg. He served as the Rotary District Governor and eventually had a park named

after him which is located on 10th and Columbia in Newberg. He was known as "Mr. Rotary" and a "Scott Leavitt Day" was celebrated in his honor.

During Scott's time as president, the club helped Pacific College, now George Fox University, raise money to purchase the house of John Minthorn where Herbert Hoover spent part of his childhood. Vinnie Vincent sat on the Hoover House Committee along with employees of the college and members of other service clubs to help raise the funds for this project.<sup>1</sup> After Scott, Lou Rygg, Mel Dunston, Ed Strothers, Hubert Armstrong, Frank Colcord, and Ed Drews were the presidents between 1944 and 1950. While Ed Drews was president the club sponsored a banquet at George Fox College. On March 8, 1950 the world famous explorer. Amos Berg, spoke to the club. The event was surely fascinating as Amos shared some of his experiences from various explorations. At the time, he was the only Rotarian in the world to hold the classification of Explorer.<sup>2</sup>

As the club moved into the 1950s, Bob Blodgett became the president. His first job was with a casket company where he was fired for oversleeping in a casket. He then worked with Union Pacific Railroad, at shipyards on Swan Island and had an

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<sup>1</sup> George Fox University Archives, "The Crescent - April 10, 1944" (1944). "The Crescent" Student Newspaper. Book 461. [http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the\\_crescent/461](http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the_crescent/461)

<sup>2</sup> George Fox University Archives, "The Crescent - March 3, 1950" (1950). "The Crescent" Student Newspaper. Book 553. [http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the\\_crescent/553](http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the_crescent/553)

importing-exporting business with his father. By the time Bob had joined Rotary he was working with Northwest Natural Gas. Tyler Soine and Joe Moore each had a term in office until Homer Hester took over. Homer was active community member and devoted much of his time to the Newberg Monthly Meeting. He also served on the Board of Trustees at George Fox College. During his time as president the club was able to hear from the Oregon State Governor, Paul Patterson when he spoke at the joint Thanksgiving meeting for Rotary and the Kiwanis club. One act of service to the community was the donation of Thanksgiving meals. A group of Rotarians got together on Thanksgiving morning and distributed dinner rolls, pastry cakes, and pumpkin pies to needy families in the area.

After Homer, Sam Scott was president of the club from 1954 to 1955. While he was president of Newberg Rotary the club sponsored a concert by the Forest Grove Gleemen. This was a men's civic group who usually performed concerts where the proceeds went to the group who sponsored them or to a local charity. The proceeds from this performance at Newberg High School were given to the local Hospital Fund. Another group, known as The Rhythmaires, performed at intermission. They were also a group from Forest Grove and had performed on TV and the radio.<sup>3</sup>

From November 24, 1954 to January 24, 1955 the Newberg Club and the McMinnville Club competed to see which could have better attendance. The Newberg Club really

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<sup>3</sup> George Fox University Archives, "The Crescent - March 4, 1955" (1955). "The Crescent" Student Newspaper. Book 626. [http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the\\_crescent/626](http://digitalcommons.georgefox.edu/the_crescent/626)

gave this competition everything it had and broke many attendance records. The Newberg Rotarians were able to maintain 100 percent attendance throughout the duration of the contest.

Earl Sandager, Wilbur Robb, Dick Rentfro, Walt Tucker, and Tom Beatty were the presidents of the second half of the 1950s.

Jon Patten, who was a State Farm Insurance Agent, started off the 1960s. The 1960-1961 year marked the 25th anniversary of the Newberg Club. During this year the weekly meeting place of the club changed. Since its charter, the club had met in the Chamber of Commerce building. However on Wednesday, May 31, 1961 the club held its first meeting in Bowman's Restaurant. The meeting would be held here for many years to come. Other club activities included sending the sponsored Boy Scout troop on a trip to Alaska and participation in a district wide attendance contest.

Del Stoll served from 1961 to 1962 and was followed by Ken Johnson who worked at the First Interstate Bank. Ken's presidency was cut short by his appointment to a new position at the main branch of his bank in Portland. He served as president from July of 1962 to January 1963. His vice president, Russ Gainer, assumed the job of president after Ken's resignation.

Russ worked as a grocer and started the Past Presidents History Book for the Newberg Rotary Club. This book was supposed to be updated by each president and filled with club highlights from their term in office. This tradition lasted for many years but

eventually discontinued in the 1980s. During his time as president, the club visited Victoria, Canada to meet with the Rotarians there. Newberg members received tours of Victoria and visited the Victoria member's homes.

The international president at this time was Carl Miller. He began a program which paired clubs from Scotland with clubs in the United States in order to further world understanding. The Newberg club was matched with a club in Crieff. Newberg Rotarians sent a scrapbook about club activities along with slides of the Northwest and a box of walnuts to the Crieff Club. The Newberg Club seemed to develop a real interest in Scottish culture and traditions. A genuine friendship developed between the Scottish and American clubs as they kept in contact.

Lonny Fendall helped improve international relations in other parts of the world. Lonny was chosen to be a Rotary Foundation Fellow and study in Ghana. He was a senior at George Fox College when he was chosen.

Locally, Newberg Rotary was involved with the foundation of the Tigard Rotary Club. Newberg donated songbooks to the new club on its charter night.

Herb Hawkins was the Chief of Police and served as the Newberg Rotary President from 1964 to 1965. This year marked Rotary International's 60th birthday. To celebrate, Newberg Rotary presented a special float in the Berrian Festival, which is now known as the Newberg Old Fashioned Festival. Under Hawkins, Newberg Rotary achieved the challenge presented to all clubs to fill three new classifications. Some members of the club also visited the Rotarians in Vancouver, B.C.

From July 1964 to July 1965 Ron Gleason worked with insurance and investments in addition to hosting some special visitors during his time as Newberg Rotary President. Some of the club's goals for this year included getting more vocational involvement in various programs and stressing international relations. To help reach these goals Newberg Rotary had many events both locally and internationally. One event was a trip to Mission City Canada where the Newberg Rotarians inducted a new member to the Canadian Club.

Newberg hosted many visitors, beginning with Mafia Salteau, an exchange student from Tonga Island. Mafia requested some school books for the island which Newberg Rotary donated. The club also hosted a visit from Peter Hole, a Rotary Fellow from England. Hole was attending the University of Oregon at the time and came to Newberg to give a talk about his hometown of Chesterfield England, the clubs in the area, and the political standing at the time. One of the most outstanding visits was from Oregon Governor Mark Hatfield. He spoke to the club on May 11, 1966, this event was considered one of the highlights of the year. There was record attendance at this meeting as community members joined the Rotarians. Another outstanding event was the celebration of "Scott Leavitt Day." The event honored Scott Leavitt as a distinguished Rotarian and community member. The event was a success with attendance from eleven past district governors.

Joe Schneider was the co-owner of the Newberg Garbage Service and became president of Newberg Rotary in 1966. This was a year filled with fun and serious challenges. The President started the Rotary Pumpkin contest by challenging other Rotarians to see who could grow the largest pumpkin. A more serious challenge undertaken by the club was the Rota-Dent Project. Newberg Rotary began sending portable dental units to other countries with the first unit being sent to Africa. The annual pancake feed also saw its beginnings during Schneider's presidency. This was a great event for community involvement. Joe would donate the eggs that were used and the Rotary sponsored Boy Scout Troop would crack them. Even though the Scouts did a fine job, the eggs would have to be checked to make sure there weren't any shells left. The pancake feed became an annual tradition at the Newberg Old Fashioned Festival with the proceeds going to youth programs.

Even with all that was happening in Newberg, the Rotarians found time for a trip British Columbia. About 15 members visited the city of Hope. Some members brought their wives and all who went enjoyed the trip.

Among all the positive events and challenges of this year the Newberg Rotary Club suffered a sorrowful loss. Scott Leavett, known as Mr. Rotary, passed away on October 20, 1966. He was greatly missed by the club.



From 1967 to 1968, under the leadership of Russel Lehman, the Newberg club hosted a visit from the Rotary Club of Hope, British Columbia as they returned a visit from the Newberg Rotarians. The pumpkin contest continued with Russ Gainer as the winner; he brought in a 102 pound pumpkin. One of the biggest accomplishments of this year was the building of the rest rooms at Memorial Park. This project was started by Scott Leavitt and completed by Earl Sandager. Scott Leavitt park was also dedicated with a plaque that stands in his honor.

Stan Watt was the Newberg Rotary President in 1968 and 1967, but before becoming a member of Newberg Rotary, he grew up in Tillamook, Oregon. He attended the University of Oregon and served in the Navy during World War II and in the Korean War. He owned Watt Welding Supply and seemed to enjoy his time as the president of Newberg Rotary. The pumpkin contest was held with winners in the categories of best color, weight, height, biggest around, and best carved. The club also held a Valentine party where many prizes were awarded. The pancake feed was especially successful and raised 125 dollars. While writing about his time as president Watt said, "we laughed a lot, did not accomplish a great deal of earth-shaking things, but learned what noontime fellowship was all about."

In addition to his Rotary presidency in 1969 and 1970, Ted Reschke worked at Reschke Shoe Store. During his time as president of Newberg Rotary, the club sponsored a safety auto inspection project and a bicycle safety rodeo contest. Some Rotarians

participated in the Vacaville Fly-In. The Rotary Club in Vacaville, California sponsored this event which was an opportunity for Rotarians from all over the country to meet up in Reno, Nevada. Many Newberg Rotarians enjoyed this event for years to come.

Other travels brought the club to Canada for the 7th consecutive year. The trip emphasized international understanding and friendship. Another trip was made to the Rotary International Convention which was held in Hawaii. Upon their return, members who made this journey shared slides and videos of their experiences with the club in Newberg.

The club's major accomplishment for the year was the donation of another dental unit to Cameroon. An annual fruitcake sale was held and the proceeds from this event helped pay for the dental unit.

Stew Harris worked at Sunshine Cleaners and led Newberg Rotary from 1970 to 1971. He was president as the club began its youth exchange program. The first student to participate in this program was Chris Jordan from Sydney, Australia. He stayed with Stew Harris and his family for a portion of his time in Newberg as well as in the homes of two other Rotarians. Debbie LaShana and Liz Bartell were chosen to participate in the youth exchange program in the following year. They planned on traveling to Quebec and Argentina. Other visitors to the Newberg club included a group of six young men from Finland. These business and professional men came to the US through the Rotary

Foundation Group Study Exchange project which the Newberg club would participate in for many years. The Newberg club was responsible for housing and entertainment, as well as business and industry tours. The men from Finland were in the US for two months and spent two days in Newberg. The relationship with Canadian Rotarians continued as Newberg hosted a group from Vancouver, British Columbia.

Charitable donations for this year included three more dental units which were sent throughout the world and participation in a blood drive in which the club gave a total of 125 pints of blood.

As usual, the club was able to hear from some interesting speakers. One of these speakers was Harry Glickman. He was responsible for bringing the Buckaroos, a professional hockey team to Portland. He presented to the Newberg Rotary club in September before his new basketball team, the Portland Trailblazers, played their first game that fall.

Moving into 1971 and 1972, Ken Austin, who worked A-Dec Dental Manufacturing, was the president of the club. Ken and A-dec produced the Rota-Dent units that have been sent throughout the world. In addition to the advancements of the dental program, while Ken was president, Newberg Rotary also exchanged groups of Rotarians with a club in Canada, hosted a student from the Philippines, and carried on with the pancake feed, fruitcake sale, and other traditions such as the joint meetings with the Kiwanis club

for Thanksgiving and Christmas. Rotary supported several young men as they traveled to Finland to exchange business ideas. Other exchanges included David LeShana who went to Bangladesh to study the needs of the people there with a group of 50 others.

Newberg Rotary assisted the community as it helped with Operation Crime Stop. The Newberg Police instated the program in an effort to decrease crime. The goal was to educate people about what they could do to prevent burglaries and thefts. Multiple clinics were held in Newberg and McMinnville. The Newberg High School Key Club held a canned food drive to help local families and invited Newberg Rotary to help.

Rotarians, along with other service clubs in the area, participated by donating various food items. It was also during Ken's presidency that the Newberg Rotary Foundation was established. This foundation is separate from the Rotary International Foundation. The Newberg non-profit raises money that primarily helps the youth of the community.

Ken's commitment to Rotary continued even after his presidency. His devotion to the club would eventually lead him to assist in the formation of the Newberg Early Bird Club, a Rotary Club that meets in the morning instead of at lunch.

Ken credits Rotary with much of his business and personal success. The Four Way Test influenced him to create a method for making ethical business decisions. Known as the A-dec Way, Ken's method included 15 principals and ends in a six way test.

Ray Simonsen, who worked as a vice principle and principle at various schools, became president of the Newberg club in 1972. While he was serving as principal he was encouraged by Stew Harris to join Rotary. He was introduced to the club by bringing the school's student of the month to Wednesday meetings. When he was asked to help with the March of Dimes event he ended up joining the club.

There were many exchange students during Ray's presidency including Dorothy Weber who came to Newberg from Altdorf, Switzerland. John Belanger and Hans Matchukat were the exchange students from Newberg who traveled to Mt. Isa, Queensland, Australia and Altdorf, Switzerland. The Newberg Rotary club assisted in sponsoring Paul Keinenon as he participated in the Cultural Exchange Wrestling Program in Japan. The club also assisted George Fox College as it helped with the research Dr. George Moore who designed a program to teach vocabulary and linguistic concepts to pre-linguistically hearing impaired children. While keeping up the relations with Canadian clubs, Newberg Rotary conducted the installation of the 1973-1974 officers in Nanimo, Canada.

The club held two sales activities this year including the fruitcake sale. For some reason this sale did not seem to be very popular with the club. Some members thought the cakes made good doorstops. Even if the cakes were not very good, the fundraiser was still a success. Enough money was raised to offer a student 350 dollars for a scholarship.

Club fun continued as the Rotarians engaged in another pumpkin contest. Certain Rotarians always seemed to win these contests, causing other members wondered if they were honestly growing them or somehow enhancing them. Pumpkins grew to enormous sizes and since the club was meeting at Bowman's Restaurant, they had to be carried all the way to the basement. Another event enjoyed by all was the Valentine Party. The Rotary Annes joined for this one.

Outside of his time as president Ray helped his oldest granddaughter start the interact club at the high school. This gave students an opportunity to learn how to serve.

While Wyn Stuckey was president from 1973 to 1974, the youth exchange program continued with Jan Erickson traveling to Celaya, Mexico and Jose Hernan Dorado visiting from Trinidad, Bolivia. Newberg Rotary raised quite a lot of money this year with funds coming in from the pancake feed, the sale of Christmas fruitcakes, and a new rose sale. The rose sale alone brought in \$495 and the total amount of money raised was \$1,555. The club was able donate money and made contributions to both the Levi Pennington Scholarship Fund and the George Fox College Student Help Investment Program. In honor of Levi Pennington Newberg Rotary held a Community Recognition Banquet. The dinner was quite a success with excellent speakers and attendance from many of Dr. Pennington's friends. Senator Mark Hatfield joined the celebration along with past presidents of Pacific College and Rotarians and community members from McMinnville, Vancouver, and Portland.

International travels brought a group of non-Rotarian men to Japan through the Group Study Exchange program. The club presented an anomaly this year and did not hold the annual pumpkin growing contest.

Milt Robins became the president of the Newberg Club in 1974 after another president had to resign. Archie Mathias had been elected president for the 1974-1975 year but shortly after stepping up to his duties he was informed of a work related transfer. On August 7, 1974 Milt was elected president along with Ted Reschke who took the place of secretary.

The meeting place of Newberg Rotary moved this year. The club had been meeting at Bowman's Restaurant, but began to gather at the Riverwood Golf Course clubhouse in January. This move seemed to cause a drop in attendance. As members tried to keep attendance up they made up meetings at various locations throughout the world. The Newberg club kept up long running traditions such as the fruitcake sale, club auction, rose sale, the pancake feed, and the youth exchange program. The club also became involved with a local program called Three Squares which provided meals and a social outlet for people over 60 years of age. The meals were free with a suggested donation. Since there was no set price the organization was running low on funds and asked Rotary for help. Newberg Rotary donated a new freezer to the organization and helped serve and prepare some meals.

Times of celebration and sorrow came to club this year. In February, 1975 the club celebrated the 70th anniversary of Rotary International. In March, Rotarians and the community mourned the loss of Levi Pennington.

In 1975, Stan Kern's presidency started off with an installation dinner that did not go exactly as planned. Stan had planned on an outdoor barbecue dinner but since the event was to be held in Oregon, there was plenty of rain which forced everyone indoors. There were about 80 people in attendance and all of them had to gather in Stan's home. Stan said that there were people in nearly every room of the house and on the covered porch. Even with the rain and less than adequate space everyone still seemed to have a good time.

Other meetings were also moved as the decision was made in July to hold regular club gatherings at J's Restaurant. Even after this decision, the problem of finding an adequate meeting space was still debated and the club eventually moved to the Park and Rec District Hall in March of 1976.

Even though finding adequate meeting space was sometimes difficult, finding adequate speakers and fellowship at meetings wasn't usually a problem. The club was able to hear from Oregon Senator Edith Green and had fun presenting pumpkins from the pumpkin contest.



Another club tradition at meetings was singing. Stan said that the club prided itself on its singing and that men would even sing different parts. On one occasion in March of 1982, while the club was singing the National Anthem, a Rotarian passed out. Stan was able to perform CPR and transport him to the hospital. Fortunately this Rotarian survived this surprising event.

As the club persevered with its fundraising endeavors, the fruitcake sale saw some changes. It had been recommended that the sale be discontinued but instead its structure was changed. Members had previously been required to purchase or sell a certain number of cakes each. This year the club as a whole purchased a minimum of 100 cakes. All of them had to be sold by the end of the fundraiser but it did not matter who sold them. Other changes to the club included the introduction of Fireside meetings. Everyone was encouraged to attend at least one during the year. In addition to the fruitcake sale, the pancake breakfast was held to help raise money for the club. In order to raise some money, the club held a small auction at a Wednesday lunch meeting. This idea grew and eventually became the successful auction that is held at the Allison today. Other community service projects included work in local parks. Time was spent cleaning and improving Hoover Park specifically.

Rotary's international focus was seen in Newberg as the club hosted youth exchange students and a Group Study Exchange from England. The club also sponsored a young

Vietnamese girl so she could attend kindergarten. A portable dental unit was also sent to the Fiji Islands.

In the year before his presidency, Stan and his family had the pleasure of hosting the youth exchange student for part of her time in Newberg. Maria Ines DeAguirre was from Argentina and developed a wonderful lasting relationship with the Kern family. Stan's family is still in contact with Maria today and they have even visited each other recently. This is just one example of how significant Rotary's international relationships can be.

As George Alexander took office in 1976, he had some specific goals for this year. At the first club assembly of his presidency he made it known that he wanted to greatly improve attendance this year. Throughout the 1970s the club seemed to struggle with attendance, at one point in 1975 the Newberg Rotarians had the lowest attendance record in the district. The overall goal for the club in 1976-1977 was to have an average attendance of 85 percent for the whole year. An attendance committee became responsible for making sure Rotarians showed up to weekly meetings. Fines were implemented for missing meetings and if enough were missed consecutively the committee could cite the guilty party before the board of directors and recommend his removal from the club. As the 1976-1977 year progressed, attendance did greatly improve. President George also wanted more club members to participate in various projects. He wanted to plan a project which required participation from the entire club in order for it to be a success.

As regular projects such as the pancake feed and the auction continued to be successful the amount of money given to the scholarship program was increased. Other club donations included a dental unit and chair that were sent to the Simla India Rotary Club. This donation to India not only provided dental care but also helped build a relationship between the Simla and Newberg Clubs. Money was also given to the Chehalem House for the purchase of a new refrigerator, to the high school for a new speaker system at the football field, as well as to the Junior High Music Department and the Hoover Boy's Club. Rotarians showed their appreciation for teachers as they served them coffee and donuts at the beginning of the school year. Another accomplishment of this year was the naming of Ken Austin as the club's first Paul Harris Fellow. The club's major fundraising project for the year was the St. Paul Rodeo Barbecue Stand. This project seemed to fulfill the goals of the club this year because it required effort from every member to complete. The stand was ready to go for the Fourth of July Celebration after six months of preliminary work. Beef sandwiches were sold at the rodeo as a fundraiser for Newberg Rotary.

In the 1976-1977 year the Newberg Rotary club was able to hear from some notable speakers. The Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, the Secretary of State, and the Governor were just a few of the outstanding people who spoke at the club.

Bank manager Art Moffatt held the first barbecue at St. Paul at the beginning of the 1977-1978 Rotary year. . He also presented a display of the A-dec dental unit at the District Conference.

Local contributions included a recycling center that was set up the Publishers Paper building. The center collected newspapers and used bottles. The pancake breakfast was continued along with other ongoing projects.

While Bruce Huffman was president in 1978 and 1979, Walt Tucker became the club's second Paul Harris Fellow. Club members spent the Fourth of July weekend working at the St. Paul Rodeo. Other traditions such as the pancake feed and the youth exchange program continued. The club also made a generous pledge of \$5005.00 to the Newberg Community Hospital. Some smaller projects included the support of a Babe Ruth baseball team and a carnation sale.

Newberg Rotarians joined in some fun with other nearby clubs as they passed a trophy from club to club. The Southwest Portland Rotary club designed and donated a trophy which was first passed to the Tigard Club, then to Lake Oswego, and then to Newberg. Each club had twelve days to pass the trophy on or they faced a fine of ten dollars a day for each extra day the trophy was held. If a club lost the trophy they faced a 100 dollar fine. Newberg Rotary planned to pass the trophy to a club that was as far away as possible.

More international connections were made as the club hosted an exchange student from the Philippines and six Indian businessmen through the Group Study Exchange Program.

The club had to say goodbye to one of its charter members this year as Doug Dickie moved to Deerfield, Florida. Doug was the last charter member who was still active in the club. He had a record of 37 years of perfect attendance and was awarded a plaque when he left the club.

Martin Bleifernich led a fun filled year from 1979 to 1980 that included a Christmas party with the local Kiwanis club and a Valentine's day party in addition to other traditional Rotary activities. Some of his goals for the year were to increase membership by ten percent and to install a program that would meet the club's expanding financial expectations. By the end of his presidency, enough new members had joined Newberg Rotary to meet the goal of an additional ten percent.

Newberg Rotarians joined with the Southwest Portland Club to celebrate Rotary International's 75th anniversary. Other fun events included a Road Run and Racquetball challenge between the SW Portland and Newberg clubs. The annual Fireman/Police basketball game was sponsored by Newberg Rotary. The proceeds

from the event were donated to a local charity. This event was quite a success with a victory by the Firemen.

At the international level this year, District 510 was matched with District 417 in Mexico. The Newberg club was then matched with a specific club from District 417 which gave Rotarians the opportunity to help clubs in other parts of the world. The club in Mexico was in need of athletic equipment in order to start start youth sports programs.

The Newberg Club supported the local community through projects like the pancake feed and by deciding to give 500 dollars annually to the Herbert Hoover Boys Club.

Stan Bunn worked as an attorney and a State Senator from Yamhill county and also served as Newberg Rotary President from 1980 to 1981. During his year as president the club faced a budget deficit of more than 3,000 dollars. To help close this gap the club decided to hold a wine festival and a flea market.

The club hosted exchange students from various countries and a group of businessmen from Argentina. Rotary District 510, which included Newberg, was paired with District 511 for a joint effort in collecting used farm equipment. The equipment was repaired by the Future Farmers of America and donated to Rotary District 417 in Mexico.

On May 6, 1981 the club achieved 100 percent attendance for the first time since January 28, 1970. There had been many days set aside as 100 percent days before but this was the one that got everybody to a meeting.

Bert Miller served the Newberg Rotary Club as president from 1981 to 1982. Among the many firsts of 1982 were scholarship grants from the Newberg Rotary Fund and the annual auction. The club made a donation of 500 dollars to George Fox College to help fund the auditorium. The club moved again in 1982, holding its first meeting at the hospital on July 7.

The Rotary International President's Theme for 1982-1983 was, "Mankind is one - build bridges of friendship throughout the world." Floyd Aylor was the president of the Newberg Club and for the first time Newberg Rotary acknowledged a couple of the year. This distinction was awarded to Stewart and Jean Harris. Another first was the Service on Parade event. Held at George Fox College, the luncheon recognized the service organizations that made Newberg and Dundee a better place to live. 19 service organizations received certificates of Merit and Recognition. In addition to these new events, the president revived the Fireside Program for new members and three of them were held throughout the year. To combat low attendance, a large wheel was spun to establish fines. The wheel helped attendance increase from 60 percent at the beginning of the year to 81 percent at the end.

Between 1983 and 1985, Bruce Breitling and Jere Jackson were the Newberg Rotary presidents. Bruce worked as a bank manager and Jere worked with the Chehalem Parks and Recreation District.

The Rotary year of 1985 to 1986 marked the 50th anniversary the the Newberg club's charter. Jerry Gerke was the president and helped the club celebrate this event at the Valentine's Day party. This was also the first year for the annual family picnic which was held at Jacquith Park.

Not only were there fun events this year but there were also ongoing service projects. The club helped with library renovations which they were committed to for six years. The pancake feed and the auction were also held this year. In addition to these projects the club reinstated an old tradition of recognizing the high school student of the month.

By this time weekly meetings were being held at George Fox in the Cap and Gown Room.

Leonard Attrell was the president from 1986 to 1987. Leonard was born in Canada and moved to Newberg in 1937 with his parents where he served the community for many years. He had a lifelong love for music and worked in multiple occupations throughout the years. He earned many awards in Newberg including the Junior Citizen of the Year Award in 1956, the George Fox College Community Leadership Award in 1975, the City



of Newberg Award in 1984, the Newberg Rotary Couple of the Year Award in 1988 as well as a Rotary International District 5100 Governor's Citation, and the Gold Service Award from the International Order of the Golden Rule for excellence in Funeral Service in 1990. Clearly his service to Newberg was greatly appreciated.

There were many great speakers this year including the mayor of Tigard, Tom Brian; Senator Tony Meeker, Governor Vic Atiyeh, as well as District Governor Richard Harris. In March of 1987, Newberg Rotary announced that it would follow district and national plans to promote women in Rotary. Many Newberg Rotarians became Paul Harris Fellows or Sustaining Paul Harris Fellows in this year. The Newberg club also became more involved with Rotary International's Polio Plus Program in order to help eradicate polio. Nearly \$24,000 were given to the cause by club members. Another accomplishment of the club was an increase in membership. The year started with 47 members and ended with 52.

After Dan Ebert in 1987 and 1988, Philip Westover was elected president in 1988. This year's auction and pancake feed helped the Newberg Rotary Foundation grow from about \$8,000 to \$15,000. The rota-dent program continued this year and even expanded as units were sent to Kenya, Nigeria, Nepal, Jamaica, New Guinea, and Madagascar. Another medical program included a partnership with the McMinnville club and Newberg Community Hospital Foundation to sponsor the Lifeline program. This

program provided people who lived alone a device to wear that could be used to call for help in the case of an emergency

During Westover's presidency, the club started the 4-Way Test Essay Contest. This would become an annual event. In addition to exchange student Eric Sucksdorf of Finland, the club hosted a group of people from the Soviet Union. This group spoke to the club about peaceful coexistence.

While Don Stram was president in 1989 and 1990, Rotarians celebrated the Newberg Centennial with a beard growing contest. This year also brought the mysterious introduction of the duck which replaced the pumpkin as the fine collection container. Even though the club did not realize it at first, it was eventually discovered that Spike Sumner and Mark Meinert made the switch. This switch was secretly made by Spike Sumner and Mark Meinert.

The International Convention took place in Portland for the first time in 79 years and the Newberg club helped make it a success. Another advancement for the club took place in November when the local TCI cable TV network began releasing the Rotary News Network complete with an introduction from the President and Vice President of the club. Many women became members of Newberg Rotary this year and were said to have made notable contributions.

Newberg Rotary had some notable achievements in 1990 and 1991 while Bob Weaver was president. At the local level the club acquired its own office in the Chamber of Commerce building. Most Rotary materials were stored here except the things needed for weekly meetings. The fundraising goal for the Lifeline program was exceeded by \$1,650. This excess contributed to a total amount of \$19,150. The youth exchange program continued to thrive. Rotary International requested all the materials that the Newberg club used for this program in order to use Newberg as a model for other club's exchange programs.

During Don Tarlow's time as president in 1991 and 1992, the club really focused on the Rota-Dent project. At this point A-dec was able to let the club purchase units at cost. This enabled the club to sell them at a small markup to other clubs and raise money for the donation of a unit. For every ten units that were sold, one was completely donated. Don fondly remembered attending assembly parties with his family and other Rotarians as they worked to build dental units. These building parties helped keep the price of the units down and provided a great opportunity for fellowship.

Don also contributed to the publicity of the Rota-Dent program. Recognizing the importance of the program, Don wrote a letter to the *Rotarian* magazine to help spread the word about Newberg's efforts with the dental units. The *Rotarian* responded by writing an article which allowed Rotarians all over the world to become familiar with the

Rota-Dent project. This magazine feature was undoubtedly a boost to the club and the dental project.

In addition to the Rota-Dent project, the pancake feed continued. This year a record breaking number of people were served. Over 4,000 meals were eaten during the Old Fashioned Festival.

Since the beginning of the club, Newberg Rotary has sponsored a Boy Scout Troop. In 1992, while Mark Meinert was president, Troop #265 celebrated its 50th year. The Rotarians joined in a picnic for this celebration. The Newberg Human Resource Center, along with the Rotary Club and school district, collaborated to build a handicap ramp at the Great Expectations Teen Parent Child Care Center. The Lifeline project remained and had 125 units available for placement. Within Newberg, the club participated in a community cleanup day.

Rotary continued the push to eradicate polio. By 1991, 118 countries reported having zero cases of the disease. By September 23, 1992 the American Physical Therapy Association announced the the western hemisphere was free of polio. However, only 52 percent of children under the age of two in Oregon had received a polio vaccine. Rotary district 5100 launched plans to increase polio vaccination statewide.

Inside the Newberg Club, Past President Russ Gainer was recognized for 38 years of service in Rotary and 34 years of perfect attendance. Another Past President, Milt Robins was also recognized for 34 years of perfect attendance and 46 years of service. Another individual accomplishment was by Joe Schneider who celebrated his 40th year as a Rotarian in the Newberg Club. He had been a member of Rotary longer than anyone else in the club at the time.

When LeRoy Benham became president in 1993, his goal for the year was to have fun. He said that meetings were jovial and lighthearted. Both membership and attendance increased this year. Even with all the fun, the club was still able to have a serious impact on the community.

The Newberg Community Hospital underwent an addition in the 1990s. They required 1.4 million dollars for the remodeling. Newberg Rotary helped with fundraising for the project and after its second annual drive had raised a total of \$650,000. In addition to the pancake feed and other large community projects, Newberg Rotary was involved in more specific acts of service as well. When a family lost all of their belongings in a house fire in 1993, the Rotary Club was there to support them with contributions that included clothing, kitchen items, furniture, and various other items. Another individual act included the donation of a pair of glasses to a student of Newberg High School.

LeRoy has been dedicated to Rotary even outside his time as president. Shortly after his presidency he became the manager for the Rota-Dent program. He held this position for nine years. Directing this program allowed him to travel and have contact with people all over the world. He was able to go to Australia, Chicago, Salt Lake City, and Los Angeles to show the Rota-Dent units at Rotary International conventions. He also traveled on multiple dental trips, going to Guatemala and Siberia. LeRoy was also active in the establishment of the Newberg Rotary Foundation while Ken Austin was president.

Spike Sumner had been a member of other service organizations but joined Rotary in 1985 at the invitation of Don Tarlow. He became president in 1994.

The major service project of Spike's presidency was the planting of trees throughout the city of Newberg. PGE approached the club for help with this project. Trees were planted on 2nd street and many can still be seen today located between Nap's Thriftway and Hoover Park.

Among Spike's favorite memories from his time with the club are those of the pancake breakfast, auctions, and time with other Rotarians. Spike teamed up with another Rotarian, Mark Meinert, to switch the pumpkin to the duck. Spike cut the back out of a duck decoy and it showed up at the club just as the pumpkin mysteriously went missing. Weeks passed while the club was uncertain of how the switch was made even though

Spike and Mark had placed their initials on the bottom of the duck. The duo eventually came clean when they were found out. The switch to the duck took place while Don Stram was president but this event, and the trees planted on 2nd street, show that Spike has left a lasting impact on Newberg Rotary and the community.

When Don Skei became president in 1995, he was able to travel to Nice, France for the Rotary International Convention. He had a great time there while he met people from all over the world. He enjoyed visiting a bunker from World War II that was used a meeting place for one of the French clubs. Another highlight from the beginning of Don's presidency was the installation banquet. The club enjoyed the entertainment which was provided by a barbershop quartet.

Throughout his time with the club, Don has enjoyed the many social events that he's been able to be involved in. He happily remembered Valentine parties for the Rotaryannes as well as great installation banquets.

Another aspect of Rotary that Don enjoyed was the programs. He said that programs, and the club in general, help people come in contact with people and professions that they would otherwise not be involved in. He especially enjoyed a series of programs organized by a Rotarian who was a retired FBI agent. He would ask the Agent in Charge from the Portland branch to come speak to the club. These presentations by various agents were surely informative and interesting for all who heard them.

Travels and service took members of the Newberg Club to Honduras in 1995 to help improve school and clinic buildings there. The Rota-Dent program was still going strong with regular assembly parties scheduled. The goal for this year was to ship 44 units. The club continued to donate a unit after a certain number of units had been sold. The yearly auction was held in January with a Medieval Feast theme. Over 200 people attended the feast which was held at the St. Paul Community Center. The event was considered a "Royal Success" with the money raised going to the Rotary Foundation.

This was the first year that the weekly newsletter *The Rotator* was sent out by fax. The entirety of district 5100 was also impacted by technological advancements as a new district web page was set up. Through the page, members could access news and information about the district. The Rotary Club continued its relationship with George Fox and was able to see it merge with Western Evangelical Seminary this year.

Newberg Rotary celebrated its 60th anniversary this year. A celebration was held with twenty seven of the past presidents or their wives in attendance. Past and present members of the club gathered to reminisce about the good times that had been had over the years and the clubs accomplishments. In addition to the celebrations throughout the year, the club suffered the loss of Past President Joe Schneider. Joe was a great Rotarian who was dedicated to serving others.



Fundraising continued and really impacted the local community in 1996 and 1997 while Bill Dolan was president. The club came together to raise money for a local boy who needed school clothes in addition to over \$1,200 that were raised for a local woman who needed a bone marrow transplant. During the Christmas Season the club also donated time and money to bring poinsettias to seniors participating in the Meals on Wheels program. The Rota-Dent program grew and the club began to seek new ways to publicize the project. They wanted more clubs in the area to know that it existed and how meaningful the project really is. The Newberg project brought in about \$46,791.31 this year which was close to double the amount that had been earned the previous year.

One of the biggest accomplishments of Bill's presidency was the foundation of a morning club. Some members felt that an early morning Rotary Club would be easier for many to attend. So, with the help of Ken Austin and other interested Rotarians, the morning club was formed. The new club became known as the Early Birds by December of 1996. This new club originally held their meetings at J's Restaurant but eventually moved to Providence Newberg Hospital. The Early Birds have become so successful that they now have more members than the Noon Club.

From 1997 to 1998 Phil Edin served as president of the club.

In 1998, Sherrie Matheson was the first female to serve as president of the Newberg Rotary Club. Club traditions and projects continued and the auction was held with a

"Hats Off" theme. The club also held a membership drive that was organized by Larry Bohnsack and Stan Kern.

While Michael Sherman was president from 1990 to 2000, he was able to attend the Rotary International Convention in Singapore. Community service continued as he challenged the local Kiwanis Club to a Salvation Army bell ringing challenge at Fred Meyer during the Christmas season.

In 2000 Auggie Gonzales set many goals for his year as president and was able to accomplish them all. He even received a Presidential Citation from Rotary International for being able to do so. Some of these goals included having fun and making sure all members were engaged.

One of the biggest accomplishments of Auggie's presidency was the celebration of the club's 65th anniversary. Invitations were extended to all the past presidents who were living at the time, making this a first of its kind celebration and quite a success.

Auggie was also quite involved with starting the Guatemala project. He, Leroy Benham, and other Rotarians explored other international projects including a possible project in Mexico but finally decided to work with Guatemala. The plan was to help the same villages for at least five years. The project became such a success the relationships with

the villages of El Hato and Vuelta Grande have lasted for 15 years and will continue for many more.

The club was busy with international work while Bob Tardiff was president from 2001 to 2002. Scholarships and other various monetary donations were given to Guatemala, Brazil, and other countries. The club also provided about 90 portable dental units which were distributed throughout the world.

During Teresa Smith's year as president from 2002 to 2003, the Rotaract Club, which met at George Fox University received its charter on November 20th.

In January of 2004, while Larry Bohnsack was president, Newberg Rotary began a project in Guatemala which continued for many years. Some members of the club traveled to El Hato, Guatemala. The purpose of the trip was to have dental clinic. Most of the dental work performed was extractions. At this time there was no electricity in El Hato. A dental unit was donated to a dentist in San Jose who planned to use the unit for dental care in a federal prison. The club also matched grants for a medical and dental clinic in Frijanes, Guatemala and for a therapeutic pool in Brazil.

Jim Hirte became a member of Rotary after he was asked to speak to the club about his profession. After attending a meeting he realized that he liked the organization and what it was about.

After joining Rotary, Jim became an influential member of the club and served as president from 2004 to 2005. He was very influential in starting the dental project in Guatemala. The first trip took place in the year before his presidency but in 2005 the club returned to El Hato in February. By this time the community had electricity and Rotary was able to hold a medical clinic.

While president, Jim enjoyed traveling to Chicago for the Rotary International Conference. While there, he was able to meet people from all over the world since representatives were sent from nearly every country.

After becoming a member around 2001 when his daughter invited him to a lunch meeting, Mike Caruso became quite involved in Rotary. He served as president from 2005 to 2006 and afterwards took on the roles of assistant governor, administrative assistant governor, and eventually district governor in 2011.

In addition to continuing projects such as the pancake feed, auction, and Guatemala project, the club began the dictionary program while Mike was president. This program donates a dictionary to every third grader in the Newberg, St. Paul, and Dundee areas.

After his time as president, Mike was involved with the Four Way Test Program. This was a contest for which seventh and eighth graders write essays, give speeches, or make videos about what the Four Way Test means.

In 2006 Jan Winder began her Rotary year by attending the International Convention in Copenhagen. She enjoyed this trip along with the training for incoming presidents. These experiences allowed her to become involved with the larger Rotary community that extends beyond Newberg.

Throughout her time with the club, Jan has been involved with annual events such as the auction and the Guatemala project as well as local service projects including the Hess Creek cleanup and the building of various parks. Jan has enjoyed the international aspect of Rotary and has been able to watch the club grow. She has said that the club feels more youthful now and that more people are able to understand how huge the organization is and what it does.

When John Kerekanich became president in 2007, his goal was to narrow the focus of the club. While Newberg Rotary had been involved with many projects, he wanted to

make sure that the club wasn't taking on too much and that projects were being completed to the best of the Club's ability. John's three main areas of focus for the year were membership, fundraising, and the Hess Creek reclamation project.

The goal for membership was to grow the club to 75 members. This goal was achieved for the year.

For the fundraising goal John's main focus was the auction. The Newberg Rotary Club began giving money raised at the auction to a local charity known as Thugz off Drugz. This organization helps convicted drug felons after their release from jail. This program is now know as Helping Hands but works for the same purpose and is funded in large part by the money raised at the annual auction.

John's third goal was the Hess Creek Reclamation project. Jim Hirte had committed the club to help with this but it was under John's presidency that the project was completed. This project brought Rotarians to Hess Creek where they helped clear away unwanted foliage. The effects of the Club's efforts in this area have been long lasting and appreciated.

In 2008, while Kathi Futornick was president, the Newberg Rotary club partnered with the EarlyBirds to purchase playground equipment for Herbert Hoover Park. Newberg

also gained a sister-club in South Korea. In January of 2009, members of the Korean Club came and visited Newberg.

During Nicole McIntyre's time as president from 2009 to 2010, the club not only hosted a group from Norway but also traveled to meet their sister-club in South Korea. A Rota-Dent unit was given to the South Korean Club as a gift. The club decided to take a break from the youth exchange program this year.

Much of the Club's focus this year was dedicated to helping the Thugz off Drugz program and working with the morning club. The Noon Club wanted to cooperate with the Early Birds so that Rotary would have a bigger impact on the community. They focused on working together on large continuing projects such as the pancake breakfast, the dictionary program, and the Guatemala project, as well as on smaller projects within the community.

Jack Czarnecki became president in 2001 after a mishap had left the club in search of a president. Due to previous commitments, two people on track to be president before Jack had to decline the position. Even though there were other options, Jack stepped up and took on the job.

In spite of the shaky start, Jack's presidency ended up being quite successful. One of the biggest successes was moving the annual auction from the armory to the Allison.

The auction had brought in 20-30 thousand dollars in previous years but when the location was moved to the Allison, the Club earned about 125,000 dollars.

Jack was also involved with the dental and medical trips to Guatemala. He really stressed the importance of service and compassion. Trips like the many made to Guatemala and other projects give people the tools to serve and be compassionate.

Grant Gerke became president of the club in 2011. He has worked at A-dec and been involved with the Rota-Dent program. His father was a Rotarian before him and Grant actually became a member of the Early Birds before joining the Noon Club to help with the Rota-Dent project. While he was president, one of the biggest events was the club's 75th anniversary. This was special for Grant because while his father was president, the club celebrated its 50th anniversary. Both Grant and his father were happy to be president in such special years for the club.

In 2011 the Newberg Club became a member of the International Peace Committee. This committee allows Rotarians to take "an active role in addressing root causes of conflict and ways to address and eliminate them." The hope of this program was that a non-governmental organization could bring countries together and ultimately move towards world peace.



Other highlights of Grant's year as president include a successful pancake breakfast and auction. Grant was also quite proud of the success and philanthropic capabilities of the Newberg Rotary Foundation.

For the 2012 to 2013 year, Sheryl Kelsh was president. During Sheryl's year as president the club focused on fiscal management and working on an overall vision of the club. A professional fiscal management firm was hired to help with the responsibility of the club's money. In order to have a clear and concise mission, Newberg Rotarians held a visioning session and in December of 2012 the board wrote a new mission statement. It was decided that the mission of the club would be "Service above self: dedicated to the youth in our community and worldwide." The club also tried to focus on gaining new members and getting them involved in the club as soon as possible. Part of this was done by making sure new members were involved in existing committees. Another major accomplishment of the club this year was becoming a 100% Paul Harris Club.

Since Sheryl has been a member of Newberg Rotary she has seen the club become less focused on the rules and more passionate about community involvement. Between the ongoing projects such as the pancake breakfast and the Guatemala project, and smaller projects such as work days at local parks, there seems to be a way for everyone to give their time helping others.

In 2013, Geoff Gilmore was another Rotarian who came to be president of the club in a non-traditional way. He became a member of the club after he was asked to come to a lunch meeting by some friends. They strongly encouraged him to join and within two months of becoming a member he was asked to be a future president. The oddities continued as he traveled to Lisbon, Portugal for the Rotary International Convention. He encountered plane troubles and after arriving discovered that the Rotarians had been asked to leave early due to security issues.

Thankfully his presidency went much more smoothly than his trip to the international convention. Some of his goals for the year included making operational improvements such as setting up a budgeting process and simplifying fundraising; improving membership, reviewing the club's ethical standards, and carrying out joint projects with the morning club.

One unfortunate event of Geoff's presidency was the loss of Ken Austin's wife Joan. To honor her, the club had an heirloom rose named after her.

As an energetic member of the club, Jeff Lane brought some positive changes to Newberg Rotary while he was president from 2014 to 2015. He was invited to Rotary while attending an awards banquet and became a member shortly afterwards.

Attendance greatly improved while he was president. For 11 months out of the year the club beat the previous year's attendance records. This increase may have been caused by the shortened time of the lunch meetings. Instead of running for an hour and fifteen minutes to an hour and a half, Wednesday lunches were shortened to just an hour.

People could come early or stay late but this made it easier for people who did not have that option to attend. Jeff also changed how attendance was monitored. A participation tracking spreadsheet was developed so people could track their hours involved with the club outside of lunch meetings. This spreadsheet also served as a nice reminder of what activities were available for members to participate in.

Another improvement came to the budget. The club had been keeping track of income and expenditures but not in a way that made them easy to compare. The reorganized budget lined these two figures up so it was more simple to see what was being spent compared to what was being made.

To be more inviting to visitors, the club eliminated the fee for guest lunches. The fees for member lunches brought in enough money to cover those of guests too. Overall this helped the club feel more welcoming toward guest and encouraged Rotarians to bring them along.

At the international level Laura Tilrico was quite influential. In addition to the Guatemala project, another program was set up in Kathmandu, Nepal. Fundraising efforts throughout the year brought in 40,000 dollars for this project.

Jim McMaster's presidency from 2015 to 2016 also marked the Club's 80th anniversary. A celebration was held to honor the past presidents and some of the members who served with the club for 50 years or more.

Other accomplishments of the year included a fireside meeting and the 42,000 dollars which were given out as scholarships to high school students.

Jim also traveled to Guatemala with his family this year to help with the dental project. Other projects included the cleanup of Newberg parks in preparation for Memorial Day gatherings. Projects and meetings outside the normal Wednesday lunches helped the club grow closer together and encouraged new members to join.

Overall the Newberg Rotary Club has had 80 quite successful years. It has been involved in countless projects locally and internationally. As the club works together they are able to make a lasting impact on the community in addition to the lives that are touched by individual Rotarians. The club's efforts to live up to the Four Way Test have surely been proven throughout the past 80 years. As Newberg Rotary continues to grow

and change the idea of service above self will surely remain and impact Rotarians and communities worldwide.

