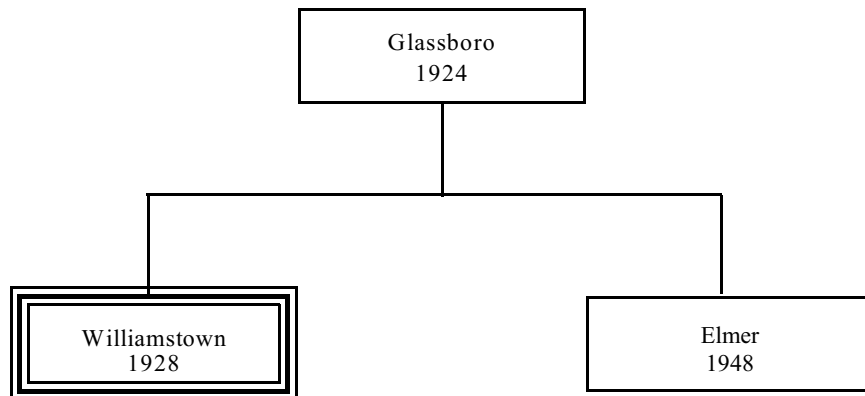


Chapter 19

Rotary Club of Williamstown, N.J.



75th Anniversary History of District 764

Williamstown, NJ

Chapter 19

Chartered	October 10, 1928	Meets :	Mondays at 7:00 pm at Monroe Country Inn 1741 S. Black Horse Pike, Williamstown, NJ 08094 (609) 629-8358
	Charter No. - 2966		
Sponsored By	Glassboro		

Presidents

1928-29	Charles Raab	1959-60	William A. Simon
1929-30	Earl Johnson	1960-61	H. Emil Paarz, Jr.
1930-31	Edwin R. Buck	1961-62	Nicholas Acciola
1931-32	Howard Tombleson	1962-63	Richard Sharp
1932-33	John A. Vernon	1963-64	William Haines
1933-34	Harry Simmermon	1964-65	Charles Abel
1934-35	Frank Crawford	1965-66	Lawrence Nightlinger
1935-36	Theodore Housmann	1966-67	Sampson N. Miller, Jr.
1936-37	Ralph Sickler	1967-68	Cliff Evans
1937-38	Alburtus Simmermon	1968-69	Robert F. Ormsby
1938-39	Edward Campbell	1969-70	James V. Sclafani
1939-40	Burton Sickler	1970-71	Walter Lozovski
1940-41	Norman C. Thompson	1971-72	Edward Aleksandrowicz
1941-42	Hampton Kalyn	1972-73	Peter Lanzalotti
1942-43	Lyle Marmon	1973-74	Harry Sonner
1943-44	Peter Esposito	1974-75	John R. Vernon
1944-45	John S. Bell	1975-76	Henry J. Faller
1945-46	James Dinovi	1976-77	Leopold Mirarchi
1946-47	Frank Herr	1977-78	Peter Saber
1947-48	Gilbert Miller, Jr.	1978-79	Gordon Compton
1948-49	Thomas McCullough	1979-80	Benjamin Stanley
1949-50	Eugene Haag,	1980-81	William D. Westcott
1950-51	Maurice Snellbaker	1981-82	Peter V. Demitri
1951-52	Emmerson Tombleson	1982-83	Charles Young
1952-53	James Bellino	1983-84	Carl Hancock
1953-54	Melvin Sickler	1984-85	Nick Balestriere
1954-55	Allen Tweed	1985-86	Bill O'Brien
1955-56	John Pflugfelder, Sr.	1986-87	Harry Plum
1956-57	Leon Rennebaum	1987-88	Bob Hennessy
1957-58	Peter Canino	1988-89	Jack Pflugfelder
1958-59	W. Oswald	1989-90	Michael Gabbianelli
1958-59	John A. Vernon		

Williamstown Overcame Problems to be a Beacon in District

The spirit of the Williamstown Rotary Club was perhaps best exemplified by a bizarre attendance challenge which was initiated by Melvin Sickler during his year as president in 1953, the club's 25th anniversary.

Sickler was concerned about club attendance to the extreme he promised members he would keep a young heifer at his home for an entire year if all posted perfect attendance marks. However, the flip side was that any member who missed a weekly meeting, and did not make it up at another club, was responsible to be the "calf-sitter" for a week.

The project seemed to work. Attendance climbed sharply during Sickler's year. The old Williamstown Plain Dealer newspaper carried on Oct. 8, 1953 a photograph of Sickler and club member Albert White, a florist who was absent from a meeting and had to care for the calf for a week. In the photo, the calf hung its head in shame.

After Sickler passed the gavel - much to the relief of some members whose neighbors were getting a little edgy -the calf was sold to support a club project.

Sponsored by the nearby Glassboro club, Williamstown Rotary was chartered on Oct. 10, 1928, as the 19th club in District 764. Charter officers were Charles Raab, president; Alfred Zimmerman, vice president; Raymond E. Tice, treasurer; and Richard E. Buck, secretary. There were 17 charter members.

When the club celebrated its 25th anniversary Nov- 1, 1953 at the Madison Hotel in Atlantic City, District Governor Hartley Gove was the guest speaker. He presented a 25-year perfect attendance award to charter member John A. Vernon. Vernon served two years as president (1932-33 and 1958-59) and was active until his death in 1978, a full half-century. He was Williamstown's last surviving charter member.

Williamstown's 50th anniversary was celebrated November 1978 at Gordon Compton's Restaurant in Turnersville. The location seemed appropriate. That happened to be the year Gordon Compton served as club president.

Williamstown struggled with its attendance in the early years and once dropped to eight members. According to club records, it was "a constant worry to the district governors-" But the eight survivors held firm in their resolve to keep the club intact. And in 1939, during Burton Sickler's reign as president, Williamstown began making sharp strides upwards.

As of Dec. 31, 1988, Williamstown had 34 members, 16 of whom are Paul Harris Fellows and 18 of whom are sustaining members.

Williamstown since its inception has been actively involved in its community and in a wide gamut of fund-raising activities.

During the club's first 25 years, projects included: The purchase of an artificial foot for a local man; an annual Christmas dinner for the children of poor families; Christmas baskets for the poor; sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 34, which remains active today; establishment of the town Youth Center; assistance with the establishment of Community Park; purchase of materials for Christmas lights on Main Street; donation of cash awards for top high school students; and the purchase of the first Williamstown ambulance.

New projects supported during the club's second quarter century included: Charity auctions; a wheelchair for the ambulance association; flags and banners for Memorial Day and the Fourth of July Parade on Main Street; folding chairs, a flagpole and landscaping for Pfeiffer Community Center; the commission of six local historical paintings for the national bicentennial; donation of books and fixtures for the public library; spearheading of the community effort for the Murray Kessler Kidney Machine Foundation, proceeds from which purchased a dialysis machine for the young man; hosting of visiting international exchange students; and the K-0 Boxing Club.

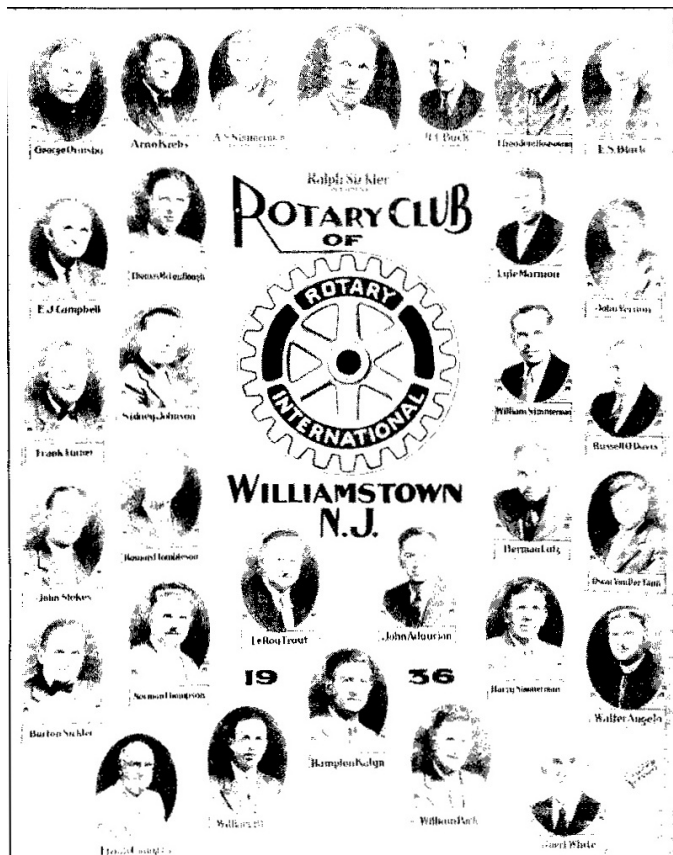
Today's ongoing Williamstown Rotary projects include a charity softball marathon; Student Government Day at Williamstown High School; annual Citizen of the Year Award; cash award for top business students who go on to college; donations to numerous local charities and projects; and, of course, Troop 34 sponsorship.

The club's current roster includes John Pflugfelder Sr. and Leon Rennebaum, both past presidents and both active since 1947. Of the club's current membership of 34, almost half are past presidents, a strong indication of unbending member commitment.

Charter Members

President
 Vice President
 Secretary
 Treasurer

Charles Raab
 Alfred Zimmerman
 Richard E. Buck
 Raymond E. Tice
 Edward J. Campbell
 Frank Crawford
 W.G. Flexon
 J. William Park
 George L. Pfeiffer
 Harry H. Simmermon
 J.W. Stokes
 S.E. Tombleson
 Howard J. Tombleson
 D. Earling Tweed
 John A. Vernon
 M.C. Wise



Williamstown Rotary Club members in 1936