



# **The Rotary Club of Green Bay**

**A Celebration of A Century of Service**

**March 17, 2017**

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March 17,2017

Dear Attendees,

Thank you for attending the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Rotary Club of Green Bay. One hundred consecutive years as a successful organization is remarkable. It is our honor to have you participate in our celebration. Life in our area was quite a bit different in 1917; the City of Green Bay was considered little more than an outpost as an exporter of lumber and lumber products., Today Green Bay is a more diversified business community which includes food processors, paper manufacturers, machinery building and transportation. Rotary has changed as well.

In 1917, the club was formed by thirteen businessmen. One hundred years later the club is much more diversified, including not only businessmen, but also businesswomen, a variety of non-profit organizations, and has reached into communities previously beyond our membership. Today the Rotary Club of Green Bay spans the entire community, including membership and service. We know there is more to do and are ready to do it. The next five, fifty and one hundred years will see further diversity of membership and community service.

We are proud to be one of the first 300 Rotary clubs out of a worldwide total of 32,000 clubs. Rotary International will have many additional clubs around the world that will share this milestone. We invite you to spend this evening getting to know those in attendance, whether Rotarians, their spouses, partners or friends. Our hope is that the efforts made by the Rotary Club of Green Bay in the community will encourage you to consider Rotary membership. Together we can continue to serve the local and international communities for the next 100 years.

Many thanks for your participation in our Centennial Event.

Sincerely,

*Mary Kay Orr*

Mary Kay Orr, Club President 2016-2017  
Rotary Club of Green Bay  
P.O. Box 5  
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[www.greenbayrotary.com](http://www.greenbayrotary.com)

## Agenda

Date	Friday, March 17, 2017
Time	5:30 P.M.
Place	Hyatt Regency Riverview (2 <sup>nd</sup> level) Grand Ballrooms F, G & H Green Bay, Wisconsin
Event	100 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the Rotary Club of Green Bay
4 Way Test	Of the things we Think, Say, or Do . . . <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- is it the <b>TRUTH</b>?</li><li>- is it <b>FAIR</b> to all concerned?</li><li>- will it build <b>GOODWILL</b> and <b>BETTER FRIENDSHIPS</b>?</li><li>- will it be <b>BENEFICIAL</b> to all concerned?</li></ul>
Speaker	Ray Klinginsmith Past President of Rotary International (2010-2011 year)

## **Green Bay's Second Fifty Years in Rotary**

First, a look back. The Rotary Club of Green Bay was formally recognized by Rotary International in March of 1917 as Club number 279. Today we celebrate 100 years among more than 32,000 clubs worldwide. The genesis of the Green Bay club started years earlier, when a group of German immigrants formed a swim club. They would gather weekly and take a cruise on the river to swim, picnic, enjoy the day, etc. As this club morphed into the Thursday Swim Club, additional citizens, especially those not of German heritage, joined for the weekly cruise, swim and party. The cruise began and ended near the Walnut Street Bridge. Several of the thirteen founding members were a part of this club. It was through connections to that group of swimmers and through their common business interactions that the original Founders got to know one another.

Hopefully you will take a moment to read Leo Gannon's 'Green Bay's Fifty Years in Rotary' which appears later in this pamphlet. That will tell you some of the history of the first 50 years of the club. Along with a history of the second 50 years of Rotary in Green Bay, in this book we are also recognizing the 13 Founders of the club, as listed with Rotary International. Initiated as a Male Only club, today the club consists of a wide variety of men and women across a broad spectrum of industries and organizations.

Back to Leo's history. Fellowship among Rotarian's takes several forms. Imagine having to lead a goat, from the weekly meeting, through the streets, back to your office. That is not very likely to happen in today's day and age. More of us drive to the meeting and this means walking a goat back to our office isn't going to happen. But the ideals of service, the ideals of camaraderie and fellowship that existed 50 and 100 years ago continue today.

Now fast forward to our second fifty years. What successes and stories can we share? Consider the following:

### **A Story**

Max Johnson had been a long time member of the club, had served as President in our Golden Anniversary year of 1967 and was liked by all. Unfortunately for Max, he suffered serious medical issues. These issues progressed until Max had to consider moving out of Green Bay in the late 80's, to southern Wisconsin, in order to be nearer to his family so they could assist in his care. At one of the last meetings he attended in Green Bay, he stood up and asked Dave Denil, from Denil Cadillac, if Dave would make sure he (Max) could return to Green Bay in a Cadillac. Dave promised to make it happen. There was not a dry eye in the house. Max did return to Green Bay and it was in a Cadillac. Way to go Dave!

### **A Success**

Like our predecessors in the first 50 years, in the second 50 years, the club has conducted fund raising events to support worthy causes. Using the Rotary Foundation of Green Bay, Inc, which had been founded in 1960 under the direction of former long time club Secretary, and former club President, Karl Feldhausen, the club had a vehicle for fund raising. From the late 60's and into the early 80's the Foundation recognized

teachers on a regular basis for their efforts in educating the youth of Green Bay. It was, during the "depression" of the early 1980's that the club, through the Foundation, started the Free Enterprise Award, to recognize a local businessman (later, businessperson) based on select criteria. Initially, it was felt this award would be successful for ten years and then end. The first Free Enterprise Award (FEA) was bestowed in 1983 to James Kress of Green Bay Packaging.. There have been 35 recipients in the ensuing years with the most recent recipient, Will Kress, in 2016, the grandson of the original recipient. In the past five years the Foundation, through the FEA, has raised and distributed in excess of \$500,000 to partner organizations. Additionally, the Foundation distributes between \$30-\$40,000 per year in smaller donations to a wide variety of needs.

### **A Story**

Fellowship is a large part of Rotary. Through fellowship we get to know one another and share stories. In the middle 80's, at the end of one President's year, it was found that there were excess funds available in the club treasury. The 'powers that be' decided that a 'Changing of the Guard' celebration would be initiated. The club would host a party to celebrate the end of the year for the outgoing President and to welcome the incoming President. These parties have been held at members homes, at area establishments, at sporting events and at members businesses. So imagine if you were to arrive at a Changing of the Guard party, only to come upon a scene filled with flashing red police lights. Such was the situation outside Dick Martin's 'aerodrome' that year. One of the members, Dave Denil, had decided to fly his home-built plane to the meeting. He was doing a snap roll for the enjoyment of those on the ground when he noticed a wasp inside the windshield. You can guess what happened. As he rolled the plane back to horizontal, while keeping a wary eye on the wasp, lest he be stung, Dave let the plane drift toward a dual strung power line. The landing gear rubbed the lower line, instantly grabbing Dave's attention. With one power line above the wing and another below, a 3/8 inch steel cable supporting a telephone line devoured the wooden propeller causing the plane to lose forward momentum. As luck would have it, the plane's tail got tangled in the power lines, and while the plane fell like a brick, it did not crash because the tangled wires held it about two feet above the ground. Suspended nose down, Dave unfastened his seatbelt, wiggled his way out, and, as he put it, 'decided to put some distance between me and a possible fire'. There were no injuries, other than to the propeller and Dave's pride. He salvaged the propeller, the plane and his pride. Oddly, he has never been called by the DNR to lead migrating sandhill cranes to Florida. Nevertheless, that party is one remembered by everyone who attended. And, says Dave, "any landing you walk away from is a good one".

### **A Success**

The year was 2003. The club was looking for a way to provide gently used business clothing to men of need for such things as job interviews, to help those in the community that may be in need, etc. Through a partnership between the Salvation Army and the Club, the Men's Closet was formed and was officially opened in 2004. Members Tom Hamilton and Jack Wahr parlayed excess clothing racks and hangers from Yonkers, along with cash and clothing donations from members and the community

into the start of 'The Closet'. In its initial year the club served 218 men. The last full year (2016) showed nearly 800 men served. Today the project can be considered an on-going success. Donations of clothing come from many sources and keep the store filled with business wear. Tom and Jack led the initial push, but members volunteered to work the store as well. Today Jim DeCoster leads the efforts, coordinating volunteers and spending a fair amount of his own time at 'The Closet'. The Men's Closet is located at 1125 West Mason Street, adjacent to the Salvation Army store at that location.

### **A Story**

Following a long tradition by members to meet and play a round, this continued during the Presidency of Jim DeCoster (1988-1989). The outing was to occur early in Jim's year, and by his own admission, Jim had never been much of a golfer, not then and not now. However, in anticipation of the outing he took lessons to try to improve his game from atrocious to merely "a hack". Try as he might, Jim could not improve. Because he felt his participation would slow down play to the point the more-able golfers would find it bothersome, Jim was willing to sit it out. Faced with the prospect of sitting in the club house, waving everyone off as they started their round, then sitting alone until they finished their rounds, Jim tried to come up with another way to participate. His answer was to RENT a golf cart, stock it with beer, liquor, ice, soda and chips and ride around the course making sure the golfers remained "hydrated". By all accounts Jim was the most popular person on the course that day. And his action set a trend that continues to this day. At every golf outing, or on any weekend, the course owners will likely have a cart or two traveling the course with coolers full of beer, soda, ice, snacks and perhaps some liquor. Well done Jim, well done!

### **A Success**

To celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary's 1905 founding, the Rotary Club of Green Bay chose a centennial project to be completed during Rotary's Centennial year, 2005. A committee was formed, requests for ideas were sent out, and discussion was held to determine the ultimate project and recipient. A project was chosen that became known as the "Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids Program" (HTHK). From research, it was determined that 11,000 students in the Green Bay School System suffered from poor dental health. The research showed that poor dental hygiene was having a derogatory effect on attendance thus grades of those children because they were in too much pain to concentrate on their studies. HTHK was formed to bring dentists and hygienists into those schools where the problem was most prevalent. The club raised \$300,000 with a matching grant from Delta Dental and a bonus of \$75,000 to additional amount \$375,000. Coupled with further grants and donations, the total funding for this project exceeded \$4,100,000 in cash plus another \$1,000,000 in kind donations. Dentists and hygienists were lined up to provide the service, equipment was acquired, along with a van to allow the dental students and personnel to move to and from the dental facility. And the program was launched. Over 50,000 dental visits later, to more than 16,000 students, the Brown County Oral Health Partnership, Inc (OHP) remains a strong and viable force within the Green Bay School District. In 2016 OHP opened its fourth full time location, in addition to an in-hospital site, and the mobile school-based program. The model used

by the Rotary Club of Green Bay has been shared with others to duplicate efforts in other communities with a similar need. Smiles all around to students, dentists and their assistants, to Rotary and to its partners.

### **A Story**

Any number of guests, attending one of our club meetings, will chuckle about our songs, the clubs singing ability, and, why we sing at the meeting. Singing has long been a part of Rotary meetings, at our club and others. A review of past issues of the club newsletter, "The Rotattler" indicates the singing in the first fifty years was often joked about as well. During the 70's and 80's the club had the use of a piano to provide accompaniment. The club, during those decades, relied heavily on pianist R. A. 'Swanie' Swanson to lead us in song. The piano, it is reported, was rarely in tune. One of the stories that appeared in one issue of "The Rotattler" was that the piano was purposely kept out of tune to make the singing sound better, or, perhaps less bad. The weekly meetings will continue as an a capella rendition until we can find a player and a piano. If you are so inclined, please talk to our club President. Members will continue to sing up to, or down to, their level of ability.

### **A Success**

A request for thoughts and recollections from members garnered the following from Gus Swoboda. Gus's recollection was "Presentations at Rotary used to have an emphasis on business. Programs at each meeting kept us aware of how business and industry was conducted around here, what type of issues the businesses faced, how was the state of the economy affecting that business, etc. Since the late 80's, the emphasis has been away from just business to concentrating more on people and what Rotary can do to serve the community and the world." Gus went on to say that this change was perhaps brought on by a more socially conscious attitude among members, by the inclusion of women as members and by the internationalization of the fight against polio, all things that happened in the 1970's. All of these things had an influence on the mindset of Rotary, both locally and around the world. Further, Gus said that the process we now use to find our charity partners has become a great example of improved teamwork. He said our approach when selecting Healthy Teeth, Healthy Kids invited member comment, input and ideas, a sharing of opinions and options and garnering club support for the end goal. Our commitment to Healthy Teeth and the charity partners with whom we have worked since then is very similar to the commitment Rotary made to the YMCA during the first 50 years. The tradition of going big continues.

### **A Story**

The club supports the efforts of Rotary International to help teach our youth. The club's involvement in the Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Camp in Manitowish Waters is an example of member commitment. Members participate in this camp with students. On the way to one year camp, local Rotarians and students were in a multi-vehicle caravan. Enroute, one of the students had a flat tire. The weather was chilly and wet so Rotarians Thom Cody, Spencer Bonnie and Steve Mastalir got into their outdoor gear and toiled in the sleet and cold weather to change the tire while Rotarian Jeff Kerschner stayed inside the warm, comfortable vehicle, "to keep the students calm and focused on the

weekend ahead." Okay, Jeff. If you say so. With the tire replaced the caravan got restarted. It was decided to stop and get the tire replaced in the event another spare might be needed. While at the tire store, Rotarians chipped in to cover the cost of the replacement tire before continuing on. While at the store, Spencer took off his cold weather pants to let them dry. After leaving and then several miles down the road it was discovered that those pants had been left at the tire store. Unable to immediately return, a phone call was made and the tire dealer agreed to hide the pants behind one of the bushes in front of the building on Sunday morning so we could pick them up on the return trip to Green Bay. There was plenty of kidding and joking between the Rotarians and the students during camp. When something needed to be done, Spencer was told untold times that we'd get to it, to just 'keep your pants on'.

### A Success

In 2011 the Rotary Club of Green Bay sent out requests to area organizations for another partnership opportunity. Respondent groups presented their program to the club, after which the club chose a partner cause. In this instance partnered with Ben's Wish Project Fund, a Green Bay organization that was looking to fight student hunger at the elementary school level. It was felt this organizations goals were in line with the Rotary goals of improving life in the community and service to youth and young adults. The Ben's Wish organization had reported that many students were dependent on school lunch programs for a large part of their nutrition needs. The Ben's Wish goal was to provide a backpack of food to assure the child had food for the weekend. The first backpacks were delivered to Jefferson School in January 2012. The program continues at Jefferson and has since been expanded to Tank, Danz, Nicolet, Fort Howard and Keller schools. The latest totals reveal that 51,000 backpacks of food have been delivered, supplying students, and families, with much needed supplies. Rotarians helped lead fundraising efforts, pack backpacks and assist in the distribution of those backpacks at the school level.

Like the first Fifty Years of Rotary in Green Bay, the Second Fifty Years of Rotary in Green Bay saw a continued commitment to needs, at both the local and international levels. Our Founders started us down a wonderful path. The past 100 years have seen many changes. We are able to celebrate a good number of successes while we continue create stories.

Today, Rotary's ideals and avenues of service continue to be the measuring stick for ways in which club members can help, to assure that what we do is **Beneficial to All**. And members continue to use fellowship to build **Friendships**, among both members and those we serve. The **Truth** is, it has been a wonderful ride that needs to continue for 100 more years.

**Steve Mastalir, Club Historian of the Rotary Club of Green Bay, 2016-2017**

## **Green Bay's Fifty Years in Rotary**

In 1917 most well-to-do families in Green Bay employed a maid. Thursday was the Maid's Day Off in most instances and so a group of the city's businesses and professional men developed the practice of meeting for lunch on Thursdays in the rear of Ed Barth's saloon on Washington Street. Early that year word reached Green Bay of the new businessman's club called Rotary which had been organized in Chicago by Paul Harris in 1905.

Whether the word came to the group at Barth's through James H. McGillan, an attorney, or through O. F. Brandt, an insurance man, is in dispute. However, there is little doubt that once the idea was proposed, McGillan, an accomplished speaker and enthusiastic organizer, took the lead in pushing the formation of the club and getting the charter. Nevertheless, the records show that Brandt had an important part in the work and continued to carry on as a devoted Rotarian and as an organizer of other clubs in the district.

There were thirteen in attendance, at the first meeting of the club at the Beaumont Hotel, January 29, 1917. They were: McGillan, attorney; Brandt, life and accident insurance; Joseph P. Nugent, brewer's representative; A. E. Winter, wholesale hardware; Ralph L. Joannes, wholesale grocer; Wallace D. Fisk, fire and general liability insurance; George F. Reeke, plumbing contractor; C. B. Phenicie, public utility; Frank H. Smith, Association of Commerce secretary; George H. Richardson, banking; Ludolph M. Hansen, building contractor; Alfred Witteborg, hotel manager; and John K. Kline, newspaper publisher.

Temporary officers chosen were: McGillan, President; Brandt, Vice President; Nugent, Secretary; and Winter, Treasurer. Brandt, Richardson and Kline were named directors.

The application for a charter was approved February 9, 1917 and Green Bay began its relationship with Rotary Club No. 279, which has now extended to a period of fifty years.

It should be noted that the charter members were chosen to meet the Rotary rule of one member from each business classification. The club decided to meet at noon on Thursdays again because that was the maid's day off. The Thursday meeting rule continued until 1965, although Housemaids and their days off had long ceased to be a problem. The Beaumont has continued to be the official meeting place of the club throughout its history, although meetings were held at the Elks Club for a period while the old hotel building was razed and the new one built.

The early days of Rotary in Green Bay were largely devoted to the organization of new clubs. This was natural since the Rotary idea was spreading rapidly and the national office in Chicago which later became the International office, was encouraging existing clubs to sponsor additional clubs in their respective districts. Green Bay was in the Tenth Rotary District, which then included all of Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, west of the 85<sup>th</sup> meridian.

Brandt, the second president of Green Bay Rotary, and Austin O. Olmsted, who became a member shortly after the charter meeting, were accredited with having assisted in the organization of ten new clubs. Because of their enthusiasm, Dr. Olmsted was elected governor of the Tenth District for the Rotary year 1922-1923. The Tenth District has been divided several times during the past fifty years. Only four of the clubs organized by Olmsted and Brandt in the early days are in district 266 which now includes Green Bay.

These clubs include

- Antigo, chartered February 10, 1922,
- Marinette, chartered October 1, 1918,
- Shawano, chartered November 3, 1923, and,
- Sturgeon Bay, chartered May 1, 1920

The De Pere club was organized March 24, 1926 under the sponsorship of Roland H. Risdon. The Manitowoc club was chartered June 17, 1919 with Brandt as the sponsoring officer. Four other clubs, now outside the district were organized during Dr. Olmsted's term as governor. They are Delavan, Waupun, Two Rivers and Beaver Dam.

Rotary prospered in Green Bay from the beginning and its members quickly found that they could make important contributions to the welfare of the community through the direct sponsorship of various projects. Rotary members have never lost interest in community work although in recent years to avoid competition for credit of publicity with other organizations, the club has encouraged its members to engage in civic work as individuals rather than as club representatives. A result is that Rotarians are found as active leaders and workers in all civic projects although club sponsorship of such projects is now rare.

During World Wars I and II and the various conflicts since, Rotarians have been active in bond drives and as workers in campaigns to support the Red Cross. Throughout its history the Green Bay Club has given liberally to such activities as Boy Scouts, Boys Camps, the Y. M. C. A., Little League, Schools for Retarded Children, Scholarships and others of like nature. It is estimated that such contributions over the years have totaled more than \$50,000 (1917 through 1967).

Perhaps the outstanding effort of the Green Bay Club over the years was its support of the Y.M.C.A. This support began with the drive for funds and has continued during the 45 years since. Green Bay had been without a Y.M.C.A. building for several years until 1922 when Mitchell Joannes, a Green Bay wholesale grocer, decided to make a large contribution toward providing such a facility for the community. Mr. Joannes's son, Harold, was president of Rotary at the time and for this reason the official announcement of the gift was made at a Rotary meeting. Rotarian's seized upon the opportunity to insure this needed service for the city. Although the Y. M. C. A. campaign was never in the usual sense a Rotary project, Rotarians were active in it from the beginning. Many years after the work had been completed, Norman Smith, a Rotarian, and a leader both locally and internationally in Y.M.C.A. work, reviewed the campaign which raised \$400,000 for the "Y" in 1923.

His study showed that the Rotarians had really carried the load in this community effort.

On the 25 man advisory committee set up to handle the campaign, 15 were Rotarians. The original board of directors elected in 1925 numbered 15 of which 12 were Rotarians. During the first 30 years of Y. M. C. A. history, 8 of the 14 who served as president were Rotarians.

Rotary Club 279 had been in existence for twelve happy and prosperous years when disaster struck. The first sign of trouble was the stock market crash on November 29, 1929. That Black Friday wiped out fortunes and brought business failures and suicides in great numbers to the financial centers of the nation. In Green Bay the crash was painful and punishing for many who had built paper profits in the market but it was not immediately ruinous. There were worse things to come. The depression had set in and was to reach its lowest point for the Green Bay Rotary Club about three years later.

The membership count remained in the 40's until 1938 when it finally crept up to 50. The count remained close to the 50 mark until 1944 when it suddenly jumped to 64. From then on the trend has been generally upward. The magic number of 100 was reached in 1951. Gain has been constant since, with the present roster showing a count of 116. Membership campaigns are unknown in the Green Bay Club. Thus some of the low points may have been due in part to failure of club members to invite others to join.

There has never been a time in the past fifty years when Green Bay Rotarians were not actively engaged in important civic affairs. Further there has not been an important civic project publicly administered in Green Bay in the past fifty years which did not have important support from members of Rotary. The club has a record of public service to be proud of, but it is more proud of the fellowship and entertainment it has provided for its members.

It is difficult to describe what is meant by fellowship in the Green Bay Club. A very successful effort to tell about the fun in Rotary came in a letter in 1955 to secretary Karl (Feldhausen) from the late George F. Reeke, a charter member who was then 85 years old and in retirement in Florida. He had evidently been asked for some historical data on the club and he replied in part as follows:

"One of the funniest annual shows put on was the time Vic Minahan was given a live goat with the understanding that it was to be led down Washington Street to Vic's office. I can still see Vic wrestling with that goat . . . Another, the publicity given the club at the park when we put on a show of circus acts. I played the bearded lady . . . Another, I played Diogenes, a weak character which reminds me of my present condition at my approaching 86.

We always had a lot of fun at our meetings all of which assisted a great deal in a companionship that served the club so well throughout its many years . . . "

Rotary will surely be a success if the present members at 86 look back on their days in Rotary with such obvious pleasure and there is every reason to believe that men joining Rotary today will enjoy the fellowship and entertainment as much as did the charter members of 1917.

Leo V. Gannon

**Reprinted from the pamphlet for the April 20, 1967 Golden Anniversary Dinner of the Rotary Club of Green Bay**

**The Founders**  
(alphabetical order)

**1) Brandt, Otto Frederick – Insurance, Life - O. F. Brandt Insurance Agency**

Born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, Mr. Brandt moved to Green Bay in 1915. He was self employed at the O. F. Brandt Insurance Agency. Mr. Brandt acted as an agent for The Travelers Insurance Company. His business took him to Milwaukee on numerous occasions, where he was introduced to the idea of Rotary. His business dealings with associates many of the business leaders in Green Bay opened doors for him to spread this idea. His inspiration, combined with the out-going James McGillan, was the nexus of Rotary in Green Bay. Mr. Brandt and Mr. McGillan were both members of the Green Bay Swim Club, a group that met weekly for a cruise and/or a swim. Several other of the original members were also a part of this social club.

When the Rotary Club was formed in 1917 it was thought that Mr. Brandt should be the first President. He declined as he felt his time in Green Bay (two years) had not long enough to merit his taking that position. He did agree to serve as the first Secretary of the club. When Mr. McGillan resigned from the Club in 1917 to enlist in the Navy, Mr. Brandt agreed to serve the remainder if Mr. McGillan's term as Club President.

While in Green Bay, Mr. Brandt remained active in a number of organizations. He remained a Green Bay Rotarian from 1917 to 1925, when he moved his business to Milwaukee. He continued his Rotary ways in Milwaukee until his retirement in the mid 1950's. While in Green Bay in addition to his Rotary involvement, Mr. Brandt served as President for one year of the Associated Charties (later to become The Community Chest). He became a member of the Mason's and continued service to that organization following his move to Milwaukee. He supported the Boy Scouts of America, both here and in Milwaukee. He, like Jim McGillan, volunteered for military service during both the First and Second World Wars.

Following retirement in 1954, Mr. Brandt moved to his vacation home in Westfield, Wisconsin. Five years later, Mr. Brandt died at the age of 78, following a short illness. At the time of his death he was survived by his second wife, Margaret, a daughter Elizabeth (Mrs. Lawson Adams), and a son Robert. Florence, his first wife, preceded him in 1944. He also had two grandchildren.

Mr. Brandt was the first Founder to resign from the club, due to his moving to Milwaukee. His remaining a member of Rotary in Milwaukee until 1954 made him the second last of the Founders to pass.

## **2) Fisk, George W - Insurance, Fire and General Liability – Fisk Insurance Company**

George Wallace Fisk was born the youngest of four Fisk brothers in 1868 in Green Bay. This 'native son', having grown up in Green Bay and having attended schools in Green Bay, met and married Margaret Doty in Green Lake, Wisconsin in 1889. They had two children, Earl and Ruth.

Being the son of a local bank President, Mr. Fisk followed his father into banking at Kellogg National Bank for 17 years. Following his time at Kellogg National, Mr. Fisk left to become more actively involved in two family owned companies, The Fisk Land & Lumber Company and The Fisk Insurance Agency. He served as an officer in each of these businesses but concentrated more of his time in the Fisk Insurance Company.

Following the death of one of his brothers, George Fisk and his two surviving brothers, in addition to running the lumber and insurance companies, started a business that dealt extensively in creating real estate mortgages. This company grew to become one of the most prominent of its type in northeast and northern Wisconsin. It was appropriate that the brothers were involved in real estate and land in Green Bay and the surrounding area as their grandfather, Toll Fisk, was the man to plot the original site for the Village of Fort Howard. The Fisk name continues to be well known in Green Bay and throughout northeast and northern Wisconsin.

Following an extended illness, Mr. Fisk died in 1954 at the age of 86. He was survived by his wife Margaret and son Earl, Ruth having died as a child.

Mr. Fisk, at the founding of the Rotary Club of Green Bay, was the oldest Founder, being 49.

### **3) Hansen, Ludolph M. - Construction – Hansen Construction Company**

Born in Flensburg, Schleswig-Holstein, Germany on June 11, 1875, Mr. Hansen moved to the U.S. with his parents, settling in Green Bay in 1895. He took a job in the carpentry trade for a time, the career he had trained for in Germany. Shortly thereafter he accepted a position at a local furniture manufacturer before starting his own construction company to build homes.

On August 20, 1901 he was married to Ms. Inger Selmer. They had three children.

In 1911, with two partners, Messrs Wilson and Walter, the three men formed the Wilson-Walter-Hansen Hardware Company. The company had two stores in the area, at 406-410 Dousman, Green Bay (today, occupied by the House of Homebrew) and 115 North Broadway, De Pere (today, home of Bilotti's Pizza).

While working at Wilson-Walter-Hansen, Mr. Hansen continued his interest in real estate and home building, his first interest. He was considered a success in the real estate and home construction fields, building 20-30 homes per year (this in the early part of the 1900's). According to the "History of Brown County", 'Mr. Hansen had built over 250 of the finest residences in Green Bay'. In addition to his hardware, home building and real estate interests, Ludolph was half owner and Treasurer of the Akin Laundry Company, one of the largest businesses of its kind in the county. Akin provided laundry services area hospitals and hotels. At the time of his death he was also affiliated with the General Contracting Company, another Green Bay building contractor.

In addition to Rotary, Mr. Hansen held membership in the Green Bay Commercial Club, the Modern Woodmen of America, and, the Ausger Society. He was a 22<sup>nd</sup> degree Mason, a member of the Washington Lodge, No. 21, F. & A.M. He was a member of the Tripoli Shrine and the Green Bay Shrine Club.

He was also known to have a musical ear, being known for proficiency on the violin and trombone. He often played for parties, and, in the evening at his home, until his business interests took up too much of his time.

He died in Rochester, MN at the Mayo Clinic in December 1951. He was survived by his wife, daughters Mrs. Clifford Swanson and Mrs. Gus Klaus, and son, Ludolf. At the time of his death, he was 76 years of age.

#### **4) Joannes, Ralph L. - Wholesale Grocer – Joannes Brothers Wholesale Company**

Ralph L. Joannes was born in Green Bay in 1877, another 'native son' of Green Bay. He started his adult life working for Joannes Brothers Wholesale Company, a business started by his father and two uncles. Johannes Brothers Wholesale Company was a supplier of foodstuffs and a line of grocery stores that remained a linchpin business in Green Bay. The grocery stores were sold in the 1950's to the Super Valu chain from Minneapolis and the wholesale business continued into the 1960's. They wholesaled such names as Champion Coffee, Martha Washington Rolled Oats and Bako-Van Flavoring Extracts. The business was located at 116-128 So. Washington Street (directly south of the Bellin Building - current site of the Riverside Place Condos - formerly Washington Square Apartments). Ralph served as Secretary, Director and Buyer at Joannes Brothers Wholesale Company until 1924, at which time he moved to California to take a position with two other brothers in yet another business started by their father. That business, Coffee Products Company of America (CPCA), specialized in coffee, tea and spices. Coffee was roasted at 300 degrees for 16 minutes, cut and packed in tins for distribution. Ben-Hur Coffee, a strong regional brand, was also processed here. That brand was eventually acquired by McCormick Spices. Today the building remains as 'Artist In Residence' residential lofts at 800 Traction Avenue. Following his move, Mr. Joannes joined a local California Rotary club and remained a member until his death.

Ralph worked at CPCA until his death in 1934, at the age of 57, following an illness that had troubled him for four years. He was known in social and musical circles as well as in the business world.

Mr. Joannes married Charlotte Greer in Green Bay and they resided at 500 Congress Street until they moved to California. Charlotte, along with a two sons, Ralph Jr. and Charles, and a daughter, Dorothy, survived Mr. Joannes.

Ralph introduced his brother, Harold, to Rotary before leaving Green Bay. Harold, who remained in Green Bay, duplicated Ralph's interest in Rotary and served as club President in 1922-1923. Ralph Joannes was an avid outdoorsman, enjoying golf and fishing, and was, in addition to being a Rotarian, a Mason and Knight of Pythias.

## **5) Kline, John K. - Newspaper Publishing – Green Bay Press Gazette**

Born in Bristol, IN in 1875, Mr. Kline attended Indiana University. One year short of a degree he left school and joined the Indianapolis Sentinel as Reporter, quickly moving up to City Editor. From Indianapolis he moved on to the Cincinnati Post as Reporter for two years. Then, in 1903 Mr. Kline moved to the Saginaw (MI) Daily News as Assistant Editor, becoming Editor in 1913. In 1916 he moved yet again, this time to Green Bay, where he and a prior associate, Mr. Andrew Turnbull, along with Mr. Victor Minihan, purchased the Green Bay Gazette. Shortly thereafter the three men acquired the other Green Bay newspaper, the Free Press, a struggling paper, and merged the two dailies into the Green Bay Press Gazette. In 1920 Messrs. Kline and Turnbull purchased controlling interest in the two Appleton newspapers, the Post and the Crescent, and merged them into the Post Crescent.

Mr. Kline was never known to demur from expressing an opinion that was in favor of the common good. A well known editorial speaking against the diversion of Lake Michigan water at Chicago was an example of his writing. His arguments were used as evidence at federal hearings in Chicago. As strong as his views were, he insisted that the reporting and editorial pages of the papers remain unbiased and impartial. Topics he advocated included a more extensive park system for the city, adequate water facilities, a civilian park board, suppression of the smoke nuisance, organization of the Community Chest, improvement of the public school system, and more.

Mr. Kline felt that to have some excuse for one's existence, one must be of service to one's fellow man. This line of thought fit in well with the Rotary ideals.

A fan of books, Mr. Kline collected an extensive library of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century American and English authors, as well as an extensive collection of stamps. As well as his association with Rotary, Mr. Kline was a member of the Sigma Chi fraternity as well as the Free and Accepted Order of Masons. He served as President of the Wisconsin Associated Press, a member of the Oneida Golf and Riding Club and the Masonic Lodge.

Mr. Kline died in October 1930 at the age 55. He was survived by his children, Harriet R. Kline and John R. Kline, both of Saginaw, MI. Married twice, Mr. Kline was survived by both women, Ara Richardson Kline (Saginaw) and Anne Kellogg (Green Bay).

## **6) McGillan, James H. - Attorney – Corporate - McGillan & Alk**

James H. McGillan was born in 1870 in Appleton, WI, the city he also called home at the time of his death. Mr. McGillan earned his law degree from UW-Madison in 1891 and held various positions in Marinette until 1899. Six months after arriving in Marinette, Mr. McGillan was named City Attorney. Two years later (1893), he became District Attorney and, in 1896 he began serving as Municipal Judge. In 1900 he moved to Green Bay. His business interests remained in Green Bay until the time of his death, in 1935. Mr. McGillan set a high bar for accomplishments. He was Green Bay's first Mayor under a 21 member commission (aldermen), serving from 1927 to 1929. He was elected with the heaviest vote ever polled for the office, up to that time, a testament to his reputation.

Mr. McGillan was, with the previously mentioned Otto Brandt, a leading proponent of the founding of a Rotary Club in Green Bay. Upon hearing of the Rotary ideals from Mr. Brandt, Mr. McGillan introduced the idea to members of the Green Bay Swim Club and business associates. At the founding of the Rotary Club of Green Bay Mr. McGillan agreed to serve as the first President.

In 1917, shortly after his year as Club President began, Jim resigned his position in the club to enlist in the US Navy to serve during the World War. During the war he achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander before his discharge in 1918. The rank of Lieutenant Commander is the highest rank that any non-Annapolis graduate could attain in the Navy. Following his service, he returned to Green Bay where he was instrumental in helping to establish the Green Bay Naval Reserve.

Following his active military service and upon his return to Green Bay, Jim re-entered the practice of law, first as a partner with the firm of Greene, Fairchild, North, Parker & McGillan. Later he elected to restart his career on his own and after several years he took on a partner, Mr. Alk. McGillan and Alk continued as a law partnership until his death. Mr. McGillan died in 1935 at the age of 65 from heart disease. He was survived by his wife, Gertrude (Summerville) McGillan and four siblings.

Along with his membership in Rotary, Mr. McGillan was affiliated with the Wisconsin Bar Association, the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks, Knights of Columbus, American Legion and the Naval Reserve.

## **7) Neugent, Joseph P. - Beer Brewer – Henry Rahr & Sons Co.**

Joseph P. Neugent, another 'native son' of Green Bay, was born in 1880 in Green Bay. He was the eldest of four children. He married Alma Smith in Green Bay in 1910.

Following his education he started his career at the Henry Rahr & Sons Co, brewing company, starting as bookkeeper and ending up as the Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Neugent recognized that the newly developing industry of vehicles would become a growth industry. He was one of the prime organizers of the Oneida Motor Truck Company in 1914, recognizing a need for trucks in both industry and later in the war effort. He continued at Henry Rahr & Sons Co., while holding an interest in Oneida Motor Truck. In 1920 the FWD Auto Company acquired Oneida Motor Truck Company, ending Joe's ownership., Joe used the proceeds of that buyout to help begin the Peshtigo Paper Company. During that same year, Prohibition was introduced and the Henry Rahr & Sons Co. was idled to comply with federal regulation. Mr. Neugent took a position with FWD as Secretary-Treasurer and continued his interest in the nascent truck industry. FWD had developed the four wheel drive concept years earlier and built a truck conducive to the dirt roads and construction needs of the day. He continued to look for ways to invest in and around the area, trying new ideas. Being located in Clintonville, WI, he moved there for work, but kept a number of business contacts in Green Bay. In an article at the time, the Green Bay Press Gazette reports he was highly respected as a salesman and might have been called 'one of the cities best promoters' up to that time.

During Prohibition, Mr. Neugent, along with seven partners, formed a loose association to lease a portion of the idled Henry Rahr & Sons facility. This partnership then began the illegal operation to bottle bootleg beer and distill whiskey. The operation was discovered in 1930 and Mr. Neugent surrendered himself to federal authorities on a liquor charge. Several of his partners did the same. He was jailed and served an eight month sentence on income tax charges, being released in 1931. At that time the federal bootlegging charges were dropped.

Upon his release, he then formed Nugent Products Company, distributing cigarettes and candy to a variety of outlets from Appleton into the Upper Peninsula. In 1933, with the end of Prohibition, Joseph moved to Milwaukee and joined the firm of the Jos. Schlitz Brewing Co. as Sales Manager.

In November of 1934, Mr. Neugent and his son had been traveling together on a sales trip to Escanaba, MI. On their return trip they stopped in Green Bay for dinner with friends. Following that dinner, rather than spending the night night in Green Bay, the two men elected to drive back to Milwaukee. Mr. Neugent complained of discomfort along the way and shortly after their arrival in Milwaukee he died of a massive stroke.

Mr. Neugent was survived by his wife, Alma, and his four children, Patricia and Agnes, Joseph Jr. and David, all of Milwaukee. He was 54 at the time of his death.

## **8) Phenicie, Carroll R. - Utility Company – Wisconsin Public Service Corporation**

Born on a farm near Fort Scott, KS, in 1877, the son of a Civil War Army officer, Mr. Phenicie attended two years at the Univ. of Kansas, leaving during his junior year to serve in the Army in the Spanish-American War and later in China. After his discharge, Mr. Phenicie went to the University of Wisconsin (Madison) and completed a degree in electrical engineering. He began his business career in Chicago, working at Dearborn Power and Light, Chicago Edison, American Glucose Refining and Chicago & Milwaukee Electric Railway Company. He achieved a Master's Degree from the Armour Institute during that time.

Working as an electrical engineer in Milwaukee, running the Chicago & Milwaukee Electric Railway Company, Mr. Phenicie was asked by his employer to "go on up to Green Bay, make a complete study of the situation up there and prepare yourself to make a report to me". That was in December 1911. That business owner had recently purchased the Green Bay Utility Company and needed a report for what was needed to improve it, etc. Mr. Phenicie spent the next 18 years converting the Green Bay Utility Company from a business serving one community (the City of Green Bay), paying 80 employees and earning \$300,000 in revenues into an entity that served more than 180 cities, towns and villages, employed more than 1,300 and had revenues in excess of \$5,000,000 per year (1929). In the process, Mr. Phenicie grew from being an engineer to Vice President of the company and a force in the utility industry in Wisconsin. That company became Wisconsin Public Service Corporation (WPS) in 1922 and continues today as part of Fox Energy Company, LLC.

In addition to providing electrical and gas service, the company ran a line of buses in Green Bay as a form of public transportation. A part of his later career in Green Bay was the oversight of this bus company, but he will always be remembered as the man who grew WPS to its zenith.

In addition to his work at WPS, Mr. Phenicie served for 11 years as Director of the City of Green Bay Association of Commerce, serving as President for three terms. He endorsed the Y.M.C. A. and served as both Secretary (1923-1930) and President (1930-1932). He was chairman of the Fox Valley and Lake Shore Safety Council and was one of the first directors of the Community Chest in Green Bay. Carroll was a director at multiple companies, including Kellogg-Citizens National Bank, Peoples Trust & Savings Co., Citizens Loan and Investment Co., Hoberg Paper Mills and Hudson Sharp Co. He served as a member of the Tercentennial Commission (Green Bay's 150<sup>th</sup> birthday party), devising the international celebration in and for Green Bay in 1934. In addition to his Rotary membership, he was a Shriner.

Carroll Phenicie died in 1959 and was survived by a son, Robert E Phenicie, two daughters, Mrs. W. M. (Rachal) O'Connor, and, Mrs. James (Elizabeth) Nellis. His wife preceded him in 1947 and a second son, Arthur, preceded him in 1953. Living in Florida following his retirement, Mr. Phenicie was 82 at the time of his death.

## **9) Reeke, George F. - Plumbing Contractor – G. F. Reeke Company**

George F. Reeke was born in Milwaukee in 1869 and learned the plumbing trade as an apprentice at W.E. Goodman in the middle 1880's when Goodman's was a nationally known plumbing concern. He left Milwaukee in 1890 and spent time in Tacoma, WA and Portland, OR. In 1893 he returned to Wisconsin and formed the Sanitary Construction Co. in Sheboygan, WI. He sold this in 1906 to the Morley Murphy Supply Co., after he had moved to Green Bay. Upon the sale he started G. F. Reeke Company, a commercial plumbing concern.. He remained here until his retirement in 1946. That company continues today as Reeke-Marold Company in Green Bay, WI.

Mr. Reeke served as Treasurer, Vice President and President of the Wisconsin Master Plumbers Association and was a long time member of the board of directors of that organization. He represented the National Association of Master Plumbers on the National Trade Extension Bureau as a director of the national group for several years. Following WW-I, Mr. Reeke was instrumental in setting up an apprentice training course that later became the model for other trades within Wisconsin. While in the State plumbing association, Mr. Reeke sponsored the Wisconsin Plumbing Code, which, with later changes, became the model for the National Plumbing Code.

Mr. Reeke, in addition to being active in Rotary, was involved with the Benevolent and Paternal Order of Elks. George also enjoyed sports, remaining involved in golf and baseball in warmer weather and bowling in winter months. The Green Bay Press Gazette offers numerous listings of George's bowling scores. He often competed against the Beaumont Hotel team. He was also an early shareholder in an area baseball league.

At the time of his death in May 1959, George was residing in Tampa, FL with his second wife, Edith Duncan.. His first wife had died in 1937. He was survived by Edith, along with his daughter, Mrs. J. Bernard Gueinzus, his sons George and Donald and numerous grandchildren. Both sons followed him into the plumbing business. At the time of his death Mr. Reeke was 91.

**10) Richardson, George A. - Banking – Administration – Mc Cartney National Bank**

Born November 22, 1872, Mr. Richardson was another true "son of Green Bay". Mr. Richardson married Marion E. Bay of Blissfield, MI, on July 26, 1905.

Starting in his early teens, George took a position at McCartney National Bank as 'Bank Messenger'. Later, upon graduation from high school, he took a full time position at the bank, and, eventually, at the end of his forty years there, had attained the position of President in January of 1931.

In late 1929 Mr. Richardson was leaving for work when he entered his garage to start his car. He let the vehicle warm up and was attempting to raise the garage door, unaware that the previous nights weather had frozen the door shut. Unable to raise the door and nearly unable to get out the door he had entered, he was close to asphyxiation by the time he made it outside. The result was that he spent several weeks in a sanitarium recuperating from this nearly fatal incident. Friends were later to declare that George never fully recovered his health and that this incident may have played a hand in his death..

In May of 1931 just 18 months after his near death experience, Mr. Richardson arrived at his bank office at McCartney National Bank around 9:00 and chatted with several employees before heading to the wash room. Shortly thereafter a gunshot was heard and employees rushed to find out what had happened. It was discovered Mr. Richardson had shot himself in the head. He died on in the ambulance, enroute to the hospital.

During his career, he also served as vice president of the Mortgage Loan and Debenture Company, as Director and Treasurer of Badger Casualty Company, and as Secretary of the Fort Howard Cemetery Association. He had a firm faith in the business future of Green Bay and his investments were always made in local enterprises. In addition to his membership in Rotary, Mr. Richardson was also a member of the Mason's, belonging to the Wisconsin Consistory in Milwaukee. He was also a member of the Knights Templar, serving as Treasure of the Palestine Commandery. In addition to these he was a member of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks.

At the time of his death, George Richardson was survived by his wife, as well as a son, George Jr., and a daughter, Mrs. John Wilcox. Mr. Richardson was 58 at the time of his passing.

### **11) Smith Frank H. - Associations, Business – Green Bay Association of Commerce**

Frank Henry Smith was born September 20, 1874 in Maine. Shortly thereafter his family moved to Minneapolis, MN where he spent his childhood and early adult life. Following a job as cashier at a Minneapolis bank, Mr. Smith moved to Green Bay and in 1917 became the first Secretary of the newly formed Green Bay Association of Commerce (GBAC). This would be similar to today's Chamber of Commerce. Through this organization, Frank's connections to business leaders made him widely known and widely liked in the community. He remained with the GBAC for seven years before retiring for health reasons and moving to the Sturgeon Bay area, to manage the well respected 'Black and White Farm' for his friend, Mr. E. N. Murphy.

In October of 1925 Mr. Smith attended the sale of a portion of the herd of the Black and White Farm at an auction in Fond Du Lac. On the return trip, in cold rainy weather, the truck in which he was riding encountered rain and cold weather. Returning home both wet and cold, he contracted what was believed to be a severe cold. Troubled with prior heart and kidney issues and being overweight, this 'cold' quickly became pleural pneumonia and was the cause of his death on October 23, 1925. At the time of his passing Frank Smith was 51 years old. He was survived by his wife, Adda C. Smith, a daughter, Mrs. B. Reynolds, and, a son, Fred C. Smith. He was interred in Lakewood Cemetery in Minneapolis, MN.

Mr. Smith, at the founding of the club in Green Bay was 43 years old. His death in 1925 was the first if those thirteen members.

**12) Winter, Albert E. - Retail Hardware Distributing – Morley-Murphy Hardware Co.**

Albert Ellsworth Winter was born June 10, 1862 and raised on a farm in Sharon, WI (Walworth County). Mr. Winter attended schools in Sharon and graduated from the Whitewater Normal School (today, UW-Whitewater). He taught school for one year, until in 1890 he went to Chicago and joined the hardware distribution firm of Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Company, as a stock clerk. While in Chicago, in 1894, he married Zula Brown of Newport, IN.

Hibbard, Spencer, Bartlett & Company (HSB&C) sold hardware in all, or part of, five states (IL, IN, MI, WI, IA). That company eventually became TrueValue Hardware. By 1904 he had attained the position of Traveling Representative, covering the area in and around Green Bay. That same year, an opportunity presented itself and Mr. Winter left HSB&C, and, with two partners, R. C. Morley and Frank E. Murphy, purchased the interests of the a similar concern, the Gottfredson Brothers Hardware Company, and formed the Morley-Murphy Company. Msrs. Morley and Murphy were President and Vice President, respectively, while Albert was Secretary and Manager. He continued in that post until 1915 when he became Vice President. When Mr. Morley retired from the position of President to become Chairman of the Board in 1927, Mr. Winter assumed the position of President. Under Albert's direction the company expanded its territory from northeast WI to all of WI, northern MI and eastern MN. Under his direction the company grew quickly and steadily to become the largest such business of its kind in the state. As a measure of growth, in 1927 there were ten inside and seven traveling salesman. Under Mr. Winter, as the business grew, salesmen totals increased to 162 inside and sixty-two outside personnel. Branch offices were built in Milwaukee, Minneapolis and a warehouse in Wausau. The company provided wholesale services to retailers for a wide variety of items, including gas fueled irons for clothes, coal fired heaters for your carriage, sleigh and later, cars, stoves, refrigerators and similar appliances, lighting and still later, televisions and wash machines, to name a few. As the business model changed, the product line changed with it, away from consumer goods to generators, electrical, heating, plumbing and industrial supplies. The Morley-Murphy Company continues today, with its executive offices still located in downtown Green Bay.

In addition to his part in Rotary, Mr. Winter was active in the Y. M. C. A., and, he was the first President of the Association of Commerce of Green Bay when it succeeded the Businessman's Association in 1917. His first Secretary of this new organization was Frank H. Smith. He also served as a director of Citizens Bank from 1920, and, following the Kellogg-Citizens merger in 1926, he continued to serve as director until his death in 1943.

Mr. and Mrs. Winter enjoyed spending winters in Florida at their second home. On July 30, 1943, Mr. Murphy died, following a two month illness. He was survived by his wife Zula. His son, John H. Winter preceded him, dying in a car accident in 1916, at the age of 21.

### **13) Witteborg, Alfred C. - Hotels, Management – Beaumont Hotel**

Alfred C. Witteborg was born in Norwalk, OH, November 26, 1884 and grew up in nearby Columbus Grove, OH. Mr. Witteborg graduated from high school in 1902 and immediately entered the hotel industry. His first hotel position was in Chicago at the Sherman House, where his brother was Chief Steward. Mr. Witteborg, then moved on to Fred Rector's, also in Chicago. In 1908 he married Carrie Evans.

In 1911 he started the Lake Geneva Hotel in Lake Geneva, WI. A year later he arrived in Green Bay to manage the Beaumont Hotel for Frederick G. Hall. When Mr. Hall died a short time later, Mr. Witteborg formed a corporation for employees to purchase the hotel. He quickly became a firm believer in the City of Green Bay. When local businessmen met at his hotel for lunch, dinner or events, he never failed to make the event memorable, so when the Rotary Club was being formed it was only appropriate that he be included as a charter member. Mr. Witteborg ran the hotel until a series of strokes made that task impossible. In 1957 he was succeeded as Manager of the Beaumont by his son, Alfred Witteborg, Jr. At the time of his resignation, he held the unique distinction in Green Bay of being identified with the same business on the same downtown location longer than any other person. The hotel was razed in 1963 to be replaced by a more modern structure. Today, Schreiber Food's corporate headquarters stands on the former site of the Beaumont Hotel..

'Witt', as he was known by friends, was an avid golfer and bowler. An organizer of both the Fox River Country Club and the Oneida Golf and Riding Club, he was club champion at the latter for a number of years. As a member of the Beaumont Bowling Team, they participated in the Green Bay Major League, competing against other Rotarians, like George Reeke.. The team won the league championship several times. In addition, Mr. Witteborg was interested in football and baseball. He was a charter member of the Green Bay Packers Board of Directors and served that team for more than 40 years, until his incapacitation in 1957.

In addition to his interest in Rotary, he was an active member and longtime supporter of the Green Bay Civic Music Association and Green Bay Symphony. Mr. Witteborg was also a member of the Knights Templar.

A granddaughter indicates that a treat for most of the grandchildren occurred during the winter of each grandchild's ninth year. During the winter of that year the birthday grandchild was allowed to spend two weeks in Arizona with 'Grompy and Grommy' before a long trip back to Wisconsin. Stops along the way included the Grand Canyon, which had to include a ride on 'Rosie the mule' down to the canyon floor and back. As she relates it, 'Grompy Witt' wanted these trips to be 'a trip each grandchild would remember for a long time'.

'Witt' died on Thursday, April 22, 1965 and was survived by his wife, Carrie and his son, A. C. Witteborg Jr. Prior to his death, Mr. Witteborg was the last living charter member of the Rotary Club of Green Bay. At the club's founding, 'Witt' was the youngest member, being 33 and he remained a member for nearly 40 years.

## **100 Years of Presidents**

The Rotary Year begins July 01 of the Year indicated and completes on the following June 30.

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Classification</b>
1917	J. McGillan	Attorney, Private

Mr. McGillan served as President from March 17, 1917 to the time of his resignation in July 1917 to enlist in the U.S Navy for service during W W I. Mr. Brandt completed the balance of Mr. McGillan's term as President.

1917	O. Brandt	Insurance, Life & Casualty
1918	W. L. Evans	Evans, Race - Attorney's
1919	A. O. Olmsted, Dr	Radium Institute
1920	H. Ludolph	Hanson Construction
1921	S. Hastings II	Barkhausen Oil
1922	H. Joannes	Joannes Brothers Grocers
1923	M. Smith	Northern Bond & Mtge
1924	J. Kline	Editor – Green Bay Press Gazette
1925	J. Kline	Editor – Green Bay Press Gazette
1926	C. Wernig	Wernig Sunlit Bakery
1927	F. Plott	Fairmont Creamery
1928	E. Nadeau, Dr.	Ear, Eye, Nose, Throat
1929	E. Eklund	Wisconsin State Reformatory
1930	A. Goedjen	Wisconsin Public Service
1931	J. Horner	Green Bay Press Gazette
1932	A. Grimm	Y M C A
1933	F. Neu	National. Guardian Life Insur
1934	L. Balza	E. J. Balza Co. (pickles)
1935	H. Wells	A. G. Wells Co (Grain)
1936	C. Cole	West High School
1937	V. Lewellen	Standard Oil Company
1938	C. Van Deuren, Dr	Dentist
1939	H. Gochnauer	Northern Paper Mills
1940	C. Marcott	West Side State Bank
1941	G. Denman	Central High School
1942	C. Flint	Western Union
1943	R. Risdon	Bingham & Risdon Company
1944	H. Hagemeister	Nelson Machinery Company
1945	J. Evans	Evans, Race, Campbell
1946	S. Killeen	Premontre, Abbott
1947	R. Reed	Standard Oil Company
1948	W. Chilson	Northern Paper Mills
1949	E. Richter	Kilberg Pontiac Sales
1950	J. Ross	Diana Manufacturing Co
1951	L. Gannon	Editor – Green Bay Press Gazette
1952	F. Ross	Multiple Copy Forms Co.
1953	R. Horn	Wisconsin Public Service
1954	G. Dauplaise	West Green Bay High
1955	N. Smith	Attorney, Private
1956	A. Lund	Industrial Commission
1957	D. Gleason	Brown County. Municipal Court
1958	G. Murray	Y M C A
1959	G. Nadeau, Dr.	Occulist & Aurist

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Classification (continued)</b>
1960	W. Mac Donald	Wisconsin Public Service
1961	F. Olsen	Neslo Electronic Distributors
1962	F. Kuehl, Dr.	Allergist
1963	W. Lindemann	Lindemann Cleaners
1964	R. Neu	National Guardian Life Insur
1965	L. Cranston	Strehlow & Cranston-Attorneys
1966	C. Meidl	Peoples Bank of Green Bay
1967	M. Johnson	Sure Way Stores
1968	K. Feldhausen	Feldhausen Insurance. Agency
1969	R. DeMoe	Wisconsin Telephone Company
1970	F. Burrall	Rothe Foundary Company
1971	W. Lucas	Bay Industries
1972	P. Klusmeyer	Christy Supply Inc.
1973	R. VanderZanden	J. VanderZanden Jewelers
1974	G. Thorpe	Trinity Luthern Church
1975	C. Kronschnable	Standard Oil Company
1976	P. Davis	University of Wisconsin Green Bay
1977	B. Roningen	Roningen Animal Hospital
1978	M. DeBaker	Brown County Savings & Loan
1979	T. Ragland	Pilgrim Congregational Church
1980	J. Bowley	Y M C A
1981	R. Kjell	Northeast Wisconsin Technical Institute
1982	J. Lewis	Kelloggs-Citizens National Bank
1983	J. Lewis	Kelloggs-Citizens National Bank
1984	T. Guyette	Merrill Lynch
1985	L. Clark	St Vincent Hospital
1986	B. Schram	Green Bay Packaging Inc
1987	M. Meeuwssen	First Northern Savings
1988	J. De Coster	De Coster Construction Co
1989	K. Rock	Temployment, Inc.
1990	D. Denil	Denil Cadillac Company
1991	L. Frigo	Frigo Cheese Company
1992	T. Prust	Alwin Manufacturing
1993	C. Wagner	Green Bay Public Schools
1994	P. Bruner-Davit	The Chocolate Chicken
1995	T. Wiers	First Interstate Trust Company
1996	S. Handrick	Hawkins Ash Accountants
1997	G. Blohowiak	Career Guidance, Private
1998	T. Milbourn	WLUK TV
1999	L. Sarver	Baker Tilley Accountants
2000	P. Kendle	U. S. Bank
2001	S. Finco	Leonard Finco Advertising
2002	T. Friese	Friese Interior Designs
2003	B. Lindberg	M & I Trust
2004	J. LaMue	Associated Bank
2005	B. Nagel	Wells Fargo Bank
2006	D. Dappern	Prevea Health
2007	R. Hieronimczak	Wilco Cabinets
2008	D. Yeghiaian	Big Brothers, Big Sisters
2009	B. Patterson	PMI Entertainment
2010	M. Knaus	Baylake Bank
2011	T. Cody	Pathmakers Inc.
2012	N. Thompson	Signature Search

<b>Year</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Classification (continued)</b>
2013	K. Moody	Hyatt On Main
2014	I. Griffiths	Berners-Schober Architects, Inc.
2015	J. Kalny	Davis & Kuelthau, S.C. – Attorney
2016	M. K. Orr	Mary Kay Orr Insurance Agency

### **Club Propagation**

The Rotary Club of Green Bay not only performs activities in and around Green Bay, but, over the years has sponsored other clubs to do the same.. Sponsorship involves spreading the word of Rotarianism and helping a new club establish expectations, get started and to offer support.

In recent years, as guidelines change, several of the area clubs have joined forces to create and complete larger projects of greater importance. A network of clubs, some founded by the Green Bay Club, helps to make this happen. The clubs founded by the Green Bay club, and subsidiary clubs include::

**Rotary Club of Green Bay**, chartered March 17, 1917

-**Marinette**, chartered October 1, 1918

-**Manitowoc**, chartered June 17, 1919  
-Manitowoc then sponsored Two Rivers,  
chartered February 8, 1923

-**Sturgeon Bay**, chartered May 1, 1920  
-Sturgeon Bay then sponsored Kewaunee,  
chartered April 15, 1924

-Sturgeon Bay then sponsored Sturgeon Bay  
Breakfast, chartered February 17, 1992

- **Antigo**, chartered February 10, 1922

-**Shawano**, chartered November 3, 1923  
-Shawano then sponsored Bonduel,  
chartered August 9, 1945

-**De Pere**, chartered March 22, 1926

-**Green Bay West**, chartered April 22, 1974

-**Packerland Sunrise**, chartered December 16, 2010

In addition, the Green Bay club sponsored four out-of-area district clubs, largely due to the efforts of our 1919 Club President and 1922 District Governor, Dr. Austin. O. Olmsted.

### **Club Participation at a Higher Level**

The Rotary Club of Green Bay takes pride in recognizing that seven members of the club have volunteered and gone on to lead the district as Governors. The District Governor serves a year similar to the Rotary Club year, July 1 to the following June 30. The role of District Governor is to oversee, for one year, the entire district. District 6220 (current designation) encompasses an area from Green Bay to Kewaunee, up the lakeshore to Sturgeon Bay, across the water to the entire Michigan Upper Peninsula, down from northwest Wisconsin to Steven's Point, southeast to Appleton and back to Green Bay. A District Governor travels to all of the clubs in the district and participates in numerous district and international events. Club members who have served as District Governor, and the year in which they served as District Governor include:

<b><u>Jul 1 to Jun 30</u></b>	<b><u>District Governor Name</u></b>
1922-1923	Dr. Austin O. Olmsted
1968-1969	Norman H. Smith
1984-1985	James C. Bowley
2000-2001	Thomas R. Guyette
2008-2009	Thomas R. Friese
2013-2014	David B. Yeghiaian
2016-2017	Diane M. Dappern

Congratulations to each of you for your exemplary service to Rotary, the district and the world.

**Current Club Members as of 03/01/17** (listed alphabetically by last name)

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Business Affiliation</b>
Kay Baranczyk	Young Women's Christian Association
Miranda Bonde	Investments/Insurance
Ken Braband	Free Lance Writer
Robert Bush	Schreiber Foods - Retired
Diane Dappern	Prevea Health
David Daul	Wanazek, Umentum, Daul, Babcock, Attorneys
James De Coster	DeCoster Construction - Retired
Eric DeJardin	Nicolet National Bank
Paul DeLeers	DeLeers Construction
Mary Denissen	AON Risk Management
Gina Evans	Johnson Bank
Rebecca Fairman	Amer. Found. Of Counseling Svcs
Thomas Friese	Friese Mier Interiors - Retired
Allan Fromm	Anser Services
Susan Frost	UW Green Bay
Gabe Gabrielsen	Consulting
Andrea Gage-Michaels	Elder Law Associates
Kathryn Garner	The Auto Gallery
Bobbi Giles	Health Sisters Hospital Systems
Ian Griffiths	Berners-Schober Architects
Thomas Guyette	Merrill Lynch - Retired
Thomas Hamilton	Bon Ton Stores - Retired
Steve Handrick	Baptie Ash Accountants - Retired
Steve Hardy	Young Men's Chistian Association
Jennifer Hickey	Connect Inc.
Robert Horn	St Norbert College - Retired
James Kalny	Davis & Keulthau, S.C. - Attorney
Paul Kendle	Wells Fargo Bank - Retired
James Koehler	Captain's Walk Winery
Kathryn Kroll	Kroc Center/Salvation Army
Julian LaMue	Associated Bank
Jack LaDuc	American Communications Co.
Greg LeGrave	Wisconsin Public Service
Cheryl LeMere	Edward Jones
Mary Beth Leopold	The Auto Gallery
Chad Levanetz	Metzler Timm Trevleven Attny
Jim Lienau	Cellcom - Retired
Bruce Lindberg	Sign Solutions
Gregg Maass	Brown County United Way
James Madigan	FECO International
Michael Marquette	Marquette Law Office
Michael Martin	Schuller Harrington Insurance
Paul Martzke	Selmer Construction
Steve Mastalir	Consulting
Joyce McCollum	Bellin Health Systems
Darcel McDonald	McDonald Lumber
Thomas Millbourn	WLUK TV News
Jeff Mirkes	Downtown Green Bay Inc
Kari Moody	UW-Green Bay
Brad Nagel	Navigen Wealth Management

**Member Name**

Judy Nagel  
Jim Olson  
Mary Kay Orr  
Barbi Patterson  
Thomas Prust  
Katie Quasius  
Mike Radtke  
Matt Rentmeester  
Kramer Rock  
Gordon Russell  
Larry Sarver  
Michael Schwart-Oscar  
Jelmer 'Gus' Svoboda  
Jeff VanderLeest  
Christine Vanden Hoogen  
Jack Wahr  
Julia Wallace  
David White  
Jason Wilke  
Alejandro Yanez

**Business Affiliation**

Wells Fargo Advisors  
Schenk Accountants  
Mary Kay Orr Insurance Agency  
PMI Entertainment  
Alwin Manufacturing - Retired  
CH Robinson  
Wisconsin Public Service - Retired  
Bellin College  
Temployment, Inc.  
Retired  
Bronfman E.L. Rothschild - Retired  
Oral Health Partnership  
Wisconsin Public Service - Retired  
Family Services  
Health Sisters Hospital Systems  
Younkers Stores - Retired  
UW-Green Bay  
White Enterprises, Inc. - Retired  
Associated Bank Trust Company  
Salvation Army

**Contact Information**

**Rotary Club of Green Bay**

[www.greenbayrotary.com](http://www.greenbayrotary.com)

[www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfGreenBay](http://www.facebook.com/RotaryClubOfGreenBay)

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(920) 490-7000

**Rotary Foundation of Green Bay, Inc.**

[www.greenbayrotary.com](http://www.greenbayrotary.com)

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Green Bay, WI 54305-0005

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**Rotary International**

[www.rotary.com](http://www.rotary.com)

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Evanston, IL 60201

**Brown County Oral Health Partnership**

[www.browncountyohp.org](http://www.browncountyohp.org)

331 North Broadway

Green Bay, WI 54303

(920) 965-0831

**Ben's Wish Project Fund**

[www.benswish.org](http://www.benswish.org)

C/O Greater Green Bay Community Foundation

320 North Broadway Avenue, Suite 260

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### **Thank You's & Special Recognitions**

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-to the spouses and significant others of club members, for the support you give us in so many ways, that allow us to do some of the things we do

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