



History

Rotary, and its ideals, came alive in Morehead City on May 11, 1925, when John M. Aberly of the New Bern Rotary Club and special representative Governor Charlie J. Smith, District 37 Rotary International, Roanoke, Virginia, met with interested community leaders to present Rotary's objectives and opportunities. On charter night, May 19, 1925, the 22 charter members of the Rotary Club of Morehead City joined with 2,094 other Rotary Clubs in 30 countries and 53 Rotary districts in actively furthering Rotary's objectives. Governor Charlie presented the charter.

Harvey L. Joslyn, Sr. became the first delegate to Rotary International from the newly chartered Rotary Club of Morehead City. He was elected delegate to the Rotary International, meeting from June 15 through June 20, 1925. Rotary District 37 had chartered a rail car for its delegates, and the Eastern North Carolina delegates joined the "Rotary Car" in Goldsboro. The spirit of Rotary was very much alive as Rotarians from throughout the District traveled together to and from Cleveland where they met with International Rotarians. Eighteen hundred forty-three clubs of the 2,943 clubs chartered in mid-1925 were represented by 2,475 voting delegates and a total registration, including friends and families, of 10,233.

From the beginning, the Rotary Club of Morehead City has been vibrant. The club got underway by stressing the attendance rule and the objects of Rotary. This resulted in our leading the District in attendance for many years. District assemblies and conferences were well attended by officers and other interested Rotarians, resulting in more Rotary knowledge and inspiration.

Unfortunately, early records were lost in the fire that destroyed the Rex Restaurant in the early 1960's. Although chronological records were lost, memories of Rotary's service in Morehead City and Carteret County are alive.

The March 1942 issue of *the Rotarian* magazine featured the Rotary Club of Morehead City under the title "THESE CLUBS WON'T BE LICKED." In 1952-53, the Rotary Club of Morehead City was honored by having fellow Rotarian Stanley Woodland chosen as Governor of the 773 District of Rotary International.

Many service projects conceived and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Morehead City in its early years were continuing projects for many years. For example, "The Best All Around Student" award began in 1928 and grew to a \$1,500 scholarship. This scholarship award continued until 2020. In 1950, a \$250 scholarship was established for a student at Carteret

Technical Institute, now known as Carteret Community College. This \$250 scholarship continued for several years. One thousand dollar scholarships have been given to Carteret Community College students in recent years. Other projects started by the Rotary Club of Morehead City have been turned over to government or civic groups to carry on. Some examples of these are the State Port Authority of Morehead City and the Carteret County Health Department which are outgrowths of the initiative and effort of the Rotary Club of Morehead City. The Morehead City Recreation Department results from a 1951 project to save and restore the former USO building for use as a youth center. The Morehead City Chamber of Commerce was organized and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Morehead City in 1946 and continues today as the Carteret County Chamber of Commerce.

In 1980-81, the Rotary Club of Morehead City was honored by having fellow Rotarian, R. B. "Bob" Howard serve as governor of Rotary District 773, now known as Rotary District 7730. Mr. Howard served as the Foundation committee chairperson for several years and encouraged giving to the Foundation.

The Beaufort Rotary Club, chartered April 1928, was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Morehead City, as was the Newport Rotary Club on June 17, 1949, and the Rotary Club of Morehead City-Noon on June 11, 1981. Today there are four Rotary Clubs in Morehead City.