
A Club Manual

Rotary Club

1925-2000



Of Edinburg

Rotary Club of Edinburg
Edinburg, Texas

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* Normally, this is a part of Club Service. It is listed separately because special emphasis is being placed on membership as part of the 75th anniversary goals.

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Calendar of Activities

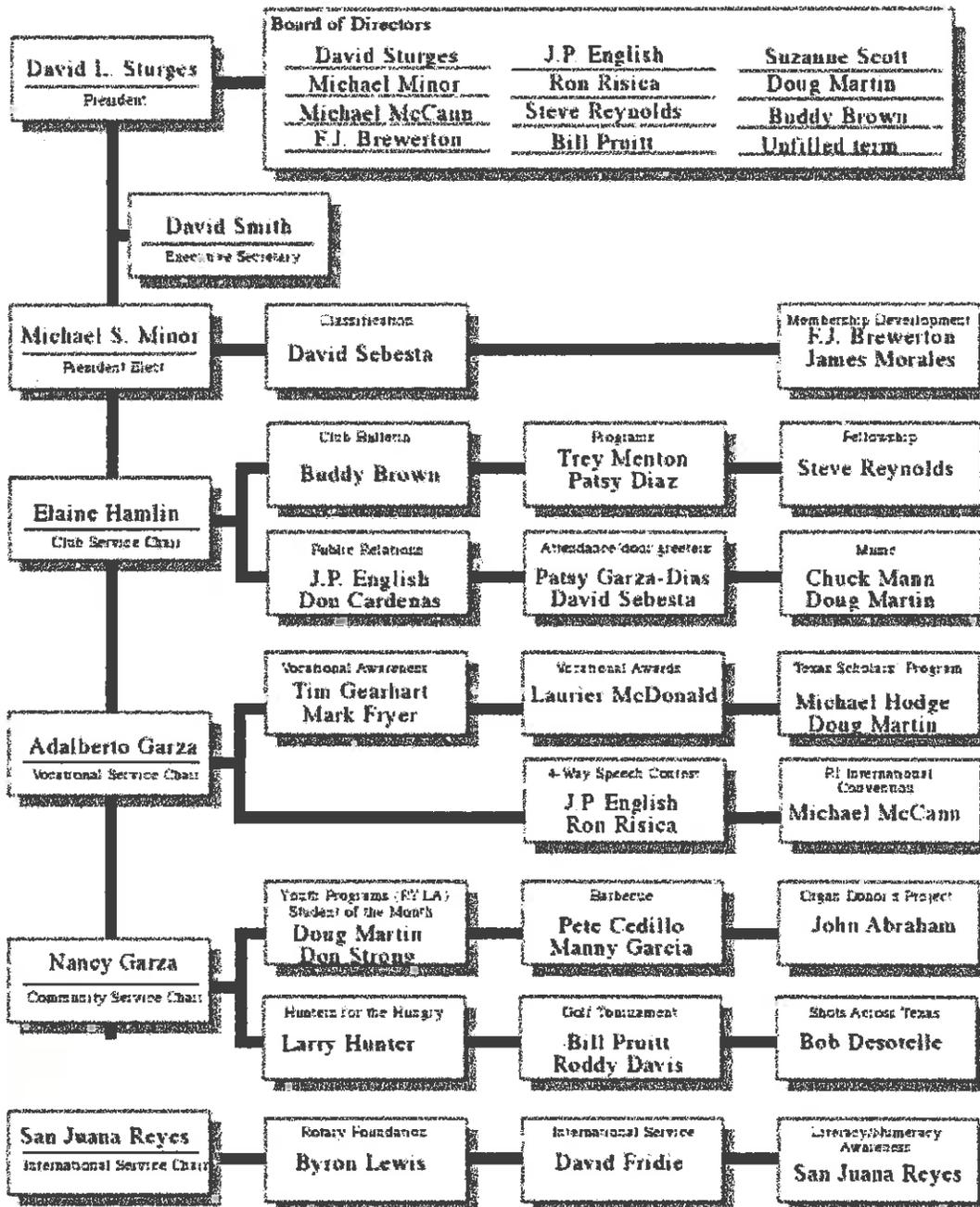
75th Anniversary Year

Please place these dates on your calendar, NOW. Participation in these activities is expected from every Edinburg Rotarian.

Installation of Officers and Board, Friday, June 25
Shots Across Texas, Saturday, August 7 or 14
Governor's Official Visit, August 10 and 11, 1999
 Wednesday, August 10, evening for all Avenue and Committee chairs.
 Dinner at 7:00 pm
 Thursday, August 11, official visit to the club meeting
Edinburg Luau and Membership Social, Friday, September 24
 (official club meeting and DOGHOUSE Event)
Bar-b-cue, Saturday, October 16 (DOGHOUSE Event)
Thanksgiving, Meeting Adjourned, Thursday, November 25
Election of Officers for 2000-01, Thursday, December 2
Christmas Party, Friday, December 9 (official club meeting)
Christmas Meeting Adjournment, Thursday, December 23
Y2K Watch, Meeting cancelled because of possible computer malfunctions,
 December 30
75th Anniversary Meeting, Thursday, January 6
RYLA conference, January 21-22
Spring Membership Development, Friday, March 3 (official club meeting and
 DOGHOUSE Event)
Foundation Dinner, McAllen, March 9
Lone Star PETS, April 13-16
District Conference, Laredo, May 4-6
District Assembly, Kingsville, May 20
International Convention, Buenos Aires, June 4-7
Installation of officers and board, Friday, June 30 (official club meeting and
 DOGHOUSE Event)

Note: DOGHOUSE events are those that are mandatory for Edinburg Rotary members. Missing a DOGHOUSE event results in immediate RotDog designation and imposes requirements to remove RotDog status.

Committee Plan for The Rotary Club of Edinburg 1999-2000



Goals and Objectives 1999-2000

Membership Service

Michael S. Minor, President-elect, Chair

Membership and its growth are primary factors in the well being and success of the Club. The membership factor is one that will be separated from club service in Edinburg Rotary this year to place special emphasis on it. As the 75th Anniversary year, this is a good time to emphasize membership acquisition and retention. The following two committees will work in cooperation with other club and vocational service committees to develop membership prospects, to recruit them, and to retain them as active members in the club.

Classification Committee

David Sebesta, Chair

The classification committee will survey the current roster of classifications and determine the possible classifications for membership recruitment. The committee will work with the membership development committee to develop programs to motivate members to invite prospective members to become more familiar with Rotary International and the Rotary Club of Edinburg. Lastly, the committee will work with the program committee and the vocational recognition committee to provide programs to the membership such as classification talks by members or other vocational descriptions.

Membership Development

F.J. Brewerton and James Morales, Co-Chairs



The membership development committee will develop programs to make information about Rotary available to prospective members. The committee will work with the public relations committee to ensure a stream of information about Edinburg Rotary reaches prospective members through the media. It will provide planning for at least two membership activities: the luau on Sept. 24 and the Spring membership event on March 3. Lastly,

the committee will implement orientation meetings for prospective members to advise them of the club's expectations for participation as well as providing information about all levels of Rotary activity.

Club Service Avenue

Elaine Hamlin, Chair

The Club Service Avenue will provide activity and support to the club through six committees: Club Bulletin, Programs, Fellowship, Public Relations, Attendance/Greeters, and Music Committees.

Club Bulletin Committee

Buddy Brown, Chair

The Bulletin Committee is responsible for preparing and distributing a weekly club bulletin. The Bulletin should contain information relevant to the membership to advise them of club activities, programs, and social information. In addition, the bulletin will include information about the Rotary Foundation and its work. The bulletin should conform to the district guidelines for bulletins to make it eligible for entry in the District Club Bulletin contest.

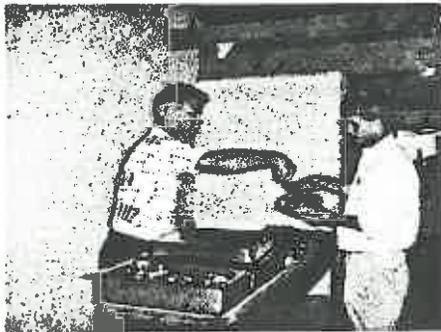
Program Committee

Trey Menton and George Snodgrass, Co-Chairs

The Program Committee is responsible for setting weekly programs for the club. The committee will work in cooperation with the chairs of other committees to provide special programs as appropriate. For example, July is Literacy/Numeracy month for Rotary International. A program in cooperation with the Literacy/Numeracy committee to provide information about local or international programs would be appropriate. The committee will schedule programs appropriate to each of the emphasis months set by Rotary International.

Fellowship

Stephen Reynolds, Chair



The Fellowship Committee produces three major events as the committee's primary activities, the annual Luau held on Friday, Sept. 24, the Christmas Party held on December 9, and the Spring membership event held on March 3. In addition, the Fellowship Committee will provide leadership for the annual Bar-b-cue implementation on Saturday, October 16. The committee will work closely with the

membership development committee to make these events attractive to non-members and to serve as a positive first impression for perspective members.

Public Relations

J.P. English and Don Cardenas, Co-Chairs

The Public Relations Committee has the responsibility of providing information to local media about the Club and Rotary International. Activities should include calling representatives of the local media to advise them of major newsworthy events or activities such as the Humanitarian of the Year Award or the Lifetime Achievement Award being presented this year. Working with the Youth Programs/Student of the Month Committee, photos and stories about the honored students should be distributed to the news media. This committee should make itself aware of and conform to legal issues involved with publicity.

Attendance/Greeters

Patsy Diaz and David Sebesta, Co-Chairs

This committee is responsible for promoting and motivating attendance at the weekly meetings. The committee will develop an Attendance Manual for distribution to members that includes attendance expectations, make up opportunities, penalties for dereliction of attendance responsibilities, and penance for being named a RotDog. The committee will ensure that missed meeting reminders are mailed to members. It will identify members who are designated RotDogs for missed meetings and will ensure these members occupy a place of acknowledgement at the RotDog table. The committee will ensure that RotDogs perform appropriate activities to remove the label. In addition, the committee will organize and supervise a plan for member greeters to welcome members and guests to the meeting. The committee will work with the program committee to

identify program presenters to escort them to the President's table and to explain the luncheon procedures.

Music

Chuck Mann and Doug Martin, Co-Chairs

This committee will provide music support to the weekly meeting, determining what song or songs are to be sung. It will work with Don Cardenas or other musicians as appropriate to ensure musical integrity. In addition, the committee will work with the public relations committee to promote the Rotary Stones, the Edinburg Rotary Club band.

Vocational Service Avenue

Adalberto Garza, Chair

The Vocational Service Avenue will provide club members with information about vocational issues related to Rotary. In addition, the Avenue will focus on programs to remind members of the diversity and dignity of all professions. To accomplish this goal, the avenue includes the following committees: Vocational Awareness, Vocational Awards, Texas Scholars' Program, 4-Way Speech Contest, and the RI International Convention.

Vocational Awareness

Tim Gearhart and Mark Fryer, Co-Chairs

The Vocational Awareness committee has responsibility of working with the Program Committee and the Bulletin Committee to provide the membership with information relative to the professions represented in Rotary. This means that this committee will assist the program committee with acquisition of speakers to discuss vocational areas not represented among the classifications of the club. The committee will work with the classifications committee to establish a program of classification talks by club members. Lastly, this committee will acquire information about rotary International Vocational programs and activities and incorporate information about them into programs of information or action for Edinburg Rotary.

Vocational Awards

Laurier McDonald, Chair

This committee is responsible for programs to recognize vocational excellence in the community. It has responsibility to promote and implement the traditional Fireman of the Year Award for the Edinburg Fire Department. It will work with the Program Committee to honor the recipient as a program at a weekly meeting. In addition, this committee will continue the selection of the Humanitarian of the Year for awarding at the officer installation in June 2000.

Texas Scholars' Program Committee

Michael Hodge and Doug Martin, Co-Chairs

This committee has among the most important activities for the club this year. It will work closely with Elaine Hamlin, previous liaison for the Texas Scholars' Program, to aid in the development of a complete and comprehensive Texas Scholars Program in the Edinburg School District. This means the committee will assist in the acquisition of speakers for the program, provide recognition for professionals participating in the program, and participate in the School District's recognition of participating students.

4-Way Speech Contest

Ron Risica, Chair

This committee will work with the local school district to implement a 4-way speech contest meeting the guidelines set out by Rotary International. The committee will work with J.P. English, Area 7 coordinator of the 4-way Speech Contest, to meet time deadlines to ensure a representative is selected for the district contest next spring. The committee will work with the program committee to schedule the club's contest during a weekly meeting. It will work with J.P. English to produce the area contest.

RI International Convention

Mike McCann, Chair

The 2001 Rotary International Convention is scheduled for San Antonio, Texas. This committee will establish liaison with the San Antonio Planning Committee to seek opportunities for Edinburg Rotary Club to participate in the international meeting. Such opportunities could range from hosting an evening of entertainment for attendees or providing side excursions to the Valley for attendees. This committee has no specific goals, but must seek out opportunities and determine if our participation is appropriate.

Community Service Avenue

Nancy Garza, Chair

This Avenue of Service assumes responsibility for the club's Community Service activities. It supervises and coordinates the work of committees assigned to the Avenue. The avenue, in general, promotes the welfare of all human beings in the community. To accomplish this it develops programs in child care, immunization, crime prevention, drug abuse, improving community infrastructure, parks, area revitalization. The committees assigned to this Avenue include: Youth Programs, the Bar-b-cue, Organ Donor's Project, Hunters for the Hungry, the Golf Tournament, and Shots Across Texas.

Youth Programs

Doug Martin and Don Strong, Co-Chairs



This committee has responsibility for all youth related programs targeted by the club. These include (1) liaison with the Interact Clubs in local schools, (2) liaison with local schools to select participants in the RYLA program in a timely fashion, (3) liaison with local schools for selection of Students of the Month each month. A primary goal for area 1 is inclusion of Interact club members in Edinburg Rotary Club activities. For example, the Interact

Club members may be issued tickets to the Bar-b-cue from which the Interact Club would keep the proceeds from the tickets they sell. This would help fund the Interact Club. This committee will work with the program and public relations committees to produce programs when appropriate related to the committee's work and to publicize the events.

Bar-b-cue Committee

Pete Cedillo and Manny Garcia, Co-Chairs

This committee will work closely with the fellowship committee to implement the annual bar-b-cue fundraiser held on October 16. While the fellowship committee holds responsibility for implementation of the bar-b-cue, the Bar-b-cue Committee is responsible for all administrative issues. This committee will develop plans for promoting the bar-b-cue, prepare tickets, distributing tickets, accounting for sold tickets, and making final accounting of revenues and expenses.

Organ Donor's Project

John Abraham, Chair.

This committee will work with the Rio Grande Valley Organ Bank to develop promotion for the Organ Donor's project. Opportunities could include implementing a speaker's bureau to visit local area clubs to promote organ donation.

Hunters for the Hungry

Larry Hunter, Chair

The Hunters for the Hungry Committee will review the 1998-99 project for modification. Although the program was successful in acquiring animals and processing them into product that was donated to the regional foodbank, some problems were encountered with the support expected from other Rotary Clubs. The committee will create a plan and implement the plan for Rotary Area 7 participation, if appropriate. If such participation is not found appropriate, then the committee will implement plans for the Edinburg to carry out a project that is within its scope.

Golf Tournament

Bill Pruitt and Roddy Davis, Co-Chairs

This committee will plan and implement the annual golf tournament as a fundraiser. The proceeds from the tournament will be used to retire the commitment to the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce for the Depot Restoration. The committee will work closely with the public relations committee to promote the event and the subsequent retirement of the commitment.

Shots Across Texas

Bob Desotelle, Chair

The Shots Across Texas Committee will be responsible for the club's participation in area immunization for children. The national immunization days are August 7 or 14. The committee will contact the local county health department and will determine the appropriate participation by Edinburg Rotary. Such participation could be similar to previous years where members help with crowd control at immunization sites. If the immunization process by the health department makes that kind of participation difficult, then the club might provide promotion for immunization. The committee will have to come to agreement with the Health Department about how we can help them in the common goal of immunizing children. In addition, the committee will work closely with the program

committee to produce programs on the Polio Plus program of Rotary International.

International Service Avenue

San Juanita Reyes, Chair

The International Service Avenue assumes responsibility for all International activities of the club. It supervises and coordinates the activities of committees assigned to it including the Rotary Foundation Committee, the International Service committee, and the Literacy/Numeracy Committee. The Avenue will work closely with the Program Committee to observe World Understanding and Peace Day on February 23 with a special program.

Rotary Foundation Committee

Byron Lewis, Chair

The Rotary Foundation Committee promotes the Foundation to the club. This includes working with the Program Committee to produce programs for the weekly meetings at appropriate times of the year during special emphasis months set by Rotary International. The committee will promote to the club and its membership the various programs of The Rotary Foundation to determine if any club members wish to participate. These programs include Ambassadorial Scholars, Exchange programs and the like.

International Service Committee

David Fridie, Chair

This committee has the responsibility to:

- (1) prepare a speakers bureau comprising Edinburg Rotarians who can speak on international issues as programs, then to promote the speakers bureau to area clubs;
- (2) act as coordinator for international youth programs should they become available;
- (3) provide information about international program of Rotary International including possible International Partners programs or other opportunities for international service. This committee will work closely with the program committee to arrange and produce programs for the weekly meetings that meet the emphasis set by Rotary International or that may be of interest to the membership.



Literacy/Numeracy Committee

San Juanita Reyes, Chair

This committee will work closely with the Texas Scholars Program Committee, the Rotary Foundation Committee, The International Service Committee, and the Youth Programs Committee to provide additional support to programs associated with literacy. In addition, the committee will work closely with the Program Committee to schedule programs to educate the membership about literacy. Lastly, the committee will seek opportunities for the club to contribute to this area of international concern that has become one of the major foci of Rotary International under the direction of Carlo Ravizzia, 1999-2000 Rotary International President.

Rotary Club of Edinburg: The History

Introduction

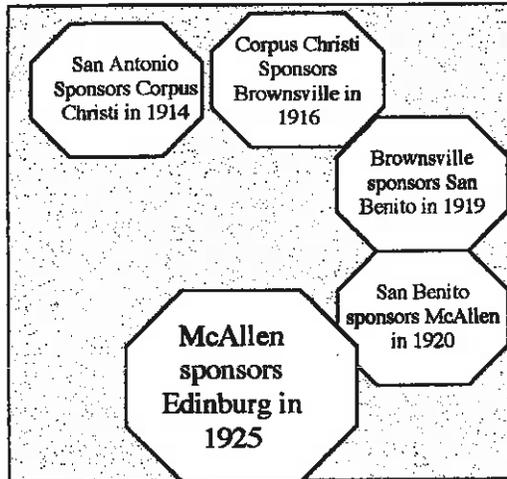
The first Rotary club was founded in Chicago in 1905. Paul Harris, a Chicago lawyer, and three friends began meeting to seek opportunities for service to the community outside of professional pursuits. Since then, Rotary has become an international organization with clubs in more than 167 countries. Today, more than 24,000 Rotary clubs list a membership of more than one million two hundred thousand members. The Rotary Club of Edinburg is proud to be a part of this international fellowship of men and women dedicated to service above self.



The millennium year 1999-2000 is the 75th anniversary year of the Rotary Club of Edinburg. Although age 75 is retirement time for many people, the Rotary Club of Edinburg remains vibrant, active, and a key service provider to its community and to the ideals of Rotary International. As we enter this landmark year, it is important that we remember and honor the past. It is a long, proud past that serves as the foundation to a culture and personality that is the Rotary Club of Edinburg today.

This history is a compilation of the work of many of the club's members. It results from the accumulated remembrances and memories of many, but the foundation of this report is the 1983 account of the club history by **Charles Hodges**. It is further developed under the watchful stewardship of **Bill Koen**, whose 1995 document provided important updates to the information.

In the early days of Rotary, clubs were organized in larger cities in the United States. In Texas, both Houston and San Antonio organized Rotary clubs in August 1912. These clubs were the progenitors of all South Texas Rotary clubs. Since Rotary clubs must be sponsored by an existing club, it is fairly easy to trace the history of Rotary in South Texas.



The Edinburg club was sponsored by the McAllen club in 1925 and the club received its charter from Rotary International in 1927. Shortly thereafter, the Rotary club of Edinburg sponsored establishment of a club in Falfurrias.

This year represents the 75th year since the founding of the club. We hope this year will provide a springboard for the continued growth and success of the Rotary Club of Edinburg.

Rotary Organization

The Rotary world is divided in Zones, Zones into Districts, and Districts into Areas. Originally the entire state of Texas was a single district. The growth of Rotary in Texas required dividing the state into districts to allow sufficient opportunity for Rotary International's liaison officers, the District Governors, to work with individual clubs on projects and growing the organization. Texas was District 12. The first District Governor was **W.R. Richardson** of Austin, who served in 1915-16. Several district structures followed, but by 1925 the new Rotary Club of Edinburg was assigned to District 47. The first District Governor of District 47 was **Sid L. Hardin** of Mission. Sid later moved to Edinburg and was a member of the Edinburg Rotary Club. The last governor of District 47 was **Ohland Morton**, of Edinburg. He served in 1948-49. For one year, Edinburg was assigned to District 125 during 1948-49. From 1950-51 to 1956-57, Edinburg Club was in District 185. In 1957-58, Edinburg joined District 593 where **R.D. Cox** of McAllen was the Governor. Rotary International's reorganization resulted in a re-designation of the district to 5930, which is its current title.

Edinburg has furnished four District Governors and associates with a fifth. They are

- **John Kirkpatrick**, who served the uncompleted term of Wynn Seale of Kingsville in 1934-35
- **Ohland Morton**, who served in 1947-48
- **Lawrence White**, who served in 1963-64
- **A. Hodges**, who served in 1972-73
- **Sid Hardin**, who served as governor in 1925-26 as a member of Mission club, moved to Edinburg where he held membership until his death.

The growth of the district in numbers of clubs and Rotarians led to the establishment of areas comprising six to eight clubs in relatively close proximity. Governor's representatives were designated to facilitate visits by the governor and to act as liaison on behalf of the governor to district clubs. **F.J. Brewerton** was selected Governor's representative in 1998-1999 and continues to serve in that capacity. At the time he became the area representative, the position's title was change to Assistant District Governor as the role changed to take on more responsibility to provide clubs with administrative and operational consultation.

Presidents

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>W.R. Montgomery 1924-25 W.R. Montgomery 1925-26 Ed. A. Brown 1926-27 R.E. Porterfield 1927-28 George Brown 1928-29 J.W. Kirkpatrick 1929-30 Merle Edwards 1930-31 A.C. Statham 1931-32 Douglas Mackenzie 1932-33 E.M. Smith 1933-34 Jack Trolinger 1934-35 A.A. Aldrich* 1935-36 A.W. Taylor 1936-37 Fred Hagadorn 1937-38 H.A. Hodges 1938-39 Jim Courtney 1939-40 S.W. Patrick 1940-41 A.M. Tarbutton 1941-42 Victor Bobo 1942-43 Ohland Morton 1943-44 James Keeble 1944-45 Carl Van Way 1945-46 J.C. Hall 1946-47 Herndon Aderhold, Sr. 1947-48 C.E. Koen* 1948-49 Alfred Laughlin 1949-50 Henry Warren 1950-51 Harry Skinner 1951-52 John A. Murray 1952-53 Don Ross 1953-54 Frank Brackney 1954-55 Conway Wharton 1955-56 Charles Fortson* 1956-57 T. Lawrence White 1957-58 C.R. Fitzpatrick 1958-59 Harry Roberts 1959-60 E.D. Anderson 1960-61 Tom Aderhold* 1961-62</p> | <p>A.H. Karcher 1962-63 Charles Queen 1963-64 Joe Osment 1964-65 Herndon Aderhold* 1965-66 Joe May 1966-67 Elmer Grounds 1967-68 Paul Voigt 1968-69 W.C. Reynolds * 1969-70 Fritz Hagadorn 1970-71 Luther Jasper 1971-72 Paul Hetrick 1972-73 L.Nathan Winters 1973-74 Riley Peveto 1974-75 Bob Oaks 1975-76 Preston Henrichson 1976-77 Don Naiser 1977-78 Phillip Bailey 1978-79 Mike Villarreal 1979-80 David (Skipper) Smith* 1980-81 Larry Hunter* 1981-82 Bill Koen* 1982-83 Bill Platzner 1993-84 Doug Martin* 1984-85 Al Medina 1985-86 Ward Skinner 1986-87 Bill Carlson 1987-88 Steve Reynolds* 1988-89 Carey Paull 1989-90 F.J. Brewerton* 1990-91 Byron Lewis* 1991-92 F.J. Brewerton* 1992-93 Lloyd Davis 1993-94 Nario Cantu 1994-95 Judy Vinson 1995-96 J.P. English* 1996-97 Ron Risica 1997-98 Suzanne Scott 1998-99 David Sturges 1999-00</p> |
|---|---|

*Denotes a Paul Harris Fellow

W.R. Montgomery was among the Edinburg professional community instrumental in organizing the Rotary Club of Edinburg. He was elected president when the club was founded in January 1925. Since the Rotary year extends from July 1 to June 30, his first term was not a complete term. He was reelected to serve a full term in 1925-26. He and **F.J. Brewerton** have the distinction of being the only club members to serve more than one term as president. Brewerton served in 1990-91 and 1992-93.

Five presidents, **Fritz Hagadorn, Herndon Aderhold, Tom Aderhold, Bill Koen,** and **Steve Reynolds** share the distinction of having fathers who were presidents of the Rotary Club of Edinburg.

Pride in Attendance

In the late 1930s and 40s, the Rotary Club of Edinburg established an enviable record by winning the District Attendance Plaque, awarded by the District Governor, for ten consecutive years of attendance excellence. This meant that Edinburg had the best attendance of all clubs in the district. This attendance success was the result of two factors. First, a Past Presidents' Council provided an orientation for each prospective new member including the importance of attending club meetings. Second, attendance was a direct result of the long service of **Dr. J.C. Gohman** as attendance chairman. Doc was relentless in his efforts to ensure attendance. He was known to call members needing a make-up to announce that he would pick up the Rotarian in ten minutes to take him to a make-up meeting somewhere in the Valley.

This same spirit was shown by many Edinburg members. When veteran members gather, it doesn't take long until the topics of discussion are the stories of attendance myth and fact. They recount one member who gathered a group of Rotarians on a train traveling through Russia. Others made club meetings brought in on stretchers. And, the club boasts one documented incident when the official club meeting was adjourned to the hospital bedside of a member to allow his perfect attendance to be maintained. Perhaps this spirit is no better exemplified than by **Herndon Aderhold, Sr.**, who fell ill during a meeting but stayed for the required thirty-six minutes. He left the meeting room only to fall victim to a fatal heart attack in the hotel lobby. Years later, his son, **Tom Aderhold,** kept his perfect attendance record by attending a meeting less than a week after his heart surgery.

The Rotary Club of Edinburg has met in a variety of places during its seventy-five years. The Edinburg Hotel, located where the First National Bank now stands, was the meeting place for years. The ECHO Hotel has been the club's home several times, including its current home. The basement of the Methodist Church served as a meeting place for a time. The ladies of the church served as caterers

for lunches, some of the best meals in the recollection of veteran members. Hec-'n-Bec Restaurant, Monte Christo Country Club, and Western Sizzlin' Steak House have served as meeting places in the not too distant past. Meetings have even been held at the Hidalgo County Historical Museum on occasion.

Membership and International Activity

Membership numbers in the Rotary club of Edinburg have fluctuated during the years. The number peaked in the 1955 to 1962 time period with a range of 110 to 120 members. The membership represented more than 100 classifications. Today, the club's membership has stabilized at 45 to 50, although a major goal during the 75th anniversary year will be an emphasis on membership development.

Edinburg Rotarians have always been involved in Rotary and community service. The Rotary Student Exchange Program has always been a club favorite. In 1959-60, **C.E. Koen** hosted **Margarita Heinbeck** of Brazil, who was an exchange student to Pan American College. Other exchange students have been hosted including Pedro from Spain who was hosted by **Dr. Adalberto Garza** in 1997-98.

During the presidency of Charles Fortson, 1956-57, the Rio Grande Valley was visited by Rotary International's President, who was from Italy. A joint meeting of all clubs in the Valley was held at the McAllen high school stadium.

Rotary Club of Edinburg's twenty-fifth anniversary coincided with Rotary International's seventy-fifth anniversary in 1980. The event was marked by the presentation of a Paul Harris Fellow to **Sid Hardin** and by the attendance at that meeting reaching 98%. In the same year, the RI President James Bomar visited Monterrey, Mexico. Edinburg President **Mike Villarreal** paid for a special dinner and joined a group of Valley Rotarians who traveled to Monterrey to visit with the President.

During the 1934-35 Rotary year, **A.A. Aldrich**, the Edinburg President, attended the Rotary International Convention in Mexico City. He related a couple of incidents to **Chase Hodges**, who added them to this account. The Mexican Railway parked sleeping cars on tracks within walking distance of the Palace of Fine Arts, the location of the meetings. They constructed make-shift bathing facilities next to the cars. It all seemed to work out OK. He also recalled that after checking in at the registration desk, he found his next door neighbor to be **Paul Harris** himself. The International Convention was held again in Mexico City in 1991. **Byron Lewis** and his wife **Keely** attended. Their quarters were a little nicer. **Judy Vinson**, the first woman president of Edinburg Rotary, attended the 1997 Rotary International Conference held in Nice, France.

Rotary Club of Edinburg members have been actively involved in international contributions of service during the club's history. Certainly, the club has had its share of members traveling to foreign lands and visiting Rotary clubs all over the

world. The collection of banners in the club's possession is a testament. In addition, members have participated in international projects including **Michael Minor** and **F.J. Brewerton**, who visited China to present a series of workshops in management skills for Chinese managers. **David Sturges** served as a visiting professor at the University of Lethbridge in Alberta, Canada and currently has two videotaped college-level courses designed for universities in developing countries, which are used in Poland, Estonia, Malaysia, Indonesia, and Vietnam. **F.J. Brewerton** served as Group Study Exchange Team Leader for a group of five non-Rotarians selected to visit Western Australia as a cultural and vocational exchange.

Projects the club has adopted include a project implemented by **Suzanne Scott** and **Byron Lewis** to produce sewing kits for distribution in Central America by a group of doctors who visit each year to treat the poor. **Ron Risica** adopted a project to collect used books for shipment to Central America where printed books in English are difficult to find.

Civic Contributions

Rotary is a civic organization. The Rotary Club of Edinburg upholds this ideal. Listing all of the accomplishment of the Club and its members in this area of service would create a major book. However, some outstanding examples of civic service should be singled out.

Under the leadership of **W.P. Ward**, and with the help of Coach **Bobby Cannon**, "Boys and Girls Incorporated" was established as the first city-wide summer program for youth in Edinburg. This group was the foundation to the Edinburg Recreational Department, which has grown to two swimming pools and four baseball fields for use of the Pony League baseball program. In fact, the baseball park still carries the designation Rotary Park.

The Rotary Club of Edinburg has always maintained youth and youth programs as a primary focus. It was instrumental in the development of Little League baseball in Edinburg. This beginning has grown into the Edinburg Pony Baseball Association (EPBA). It serves hundreds of young boys and girls from 6 to 18 years of age. Rotarian **Bob Oaks** was one of the primary founders of the league. He not only rallied the club members to the effort needed to keep the league going in the early years, but he also widened the scope to include district and regional tournaments to Edinburg. Rotarians like **Manny (Manual) Garcia** as **Gene Espinosa** have been very active in the organization. In 1993, the Edinburg Rotary Club ended its active participation in the management of the EPLB. The organization had grown to the point that it was self-sustaining. The club could look with pride on a program that now fills a major role in the lives of Edinburg youngsters. The club continues to sponsor teams in both the Pony League and the Boys and Girls Club league.

Mark Fryer led the Edinburg rotary's support of Edinburg Youth Soccer Association's development. Rotarians **Ed Cook** and **Bruce Kroeker** also coached soccer teams. Ed has since moved from the Valley and Bruce is in McAllen, but Mark continues his support of and involvement in the program.

Edinburg Rotary has been involved in cultural development for the city. In the early thirties, a number of citizens believed that a program of cultural value to older and younger was needed. At that time, anyone who wanted to enjoy classical music, hear distinguished speakers, or participate in any type of cultural activity had to go to San Antonio or Houston. Several member of Rotary formed the Cultural Arts, Inc. in cooperation with Edinburg Junior College. The college paid for half the ticket costs for students and provided space for performances. The result was a relationship that lasted for more than twenty-one years. During this time it brought into Edinburg such feature artists as Richard Crooks, Lily Ponds, Jascha Heifitz, Jose Itubi, The Pamplona Spain Cathedral Choir and others. Distinguished speakers sponsored included historian Will Durant, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, poet Carl Sandburg, editor Norman Cousins, several U.S. senators, a former English prime minister, and a host of others.

This historic association with culture and the arts is now manifested by the Edinburg Rotary Club's own dance band. **F.J. Brewerton, Don Cardenas, J.P. English, Doug Martin, Chuck Mann,** and **Michael Minor** have assembled a band that has played for district conferences as well as the club's own social and formal events. The band, called the *Rotary Stones*, is scheduled to play for the social event at the 2000 District 5930 convention in Laredo.

When the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce adopted the project to renovate the old Southern Pacific Railway Station as Chamber headquarters, it made the project one of civic pride. The chamber acquired the first grant under a State of Texas program for such historic renovation. The Rotary Club of Edinburg committed to fund a stained glass window for the new Chamber headquarters. The \$10,000 commitment will be met in 1999-2000 with the last of five contributions from funds raised at the annual golf tournament sponsored by the club.

Awards

During the presidency of **Ward Skinner** (1986-87) the Edinburg Rotary Club initiated the Rotarian of the Year Award to recognize the most outstanding Rotarian for the Rotary year. Chosen by a committee of the board of directors, the recipient of this award typically has rendered outstanding service to the club in one or more the four service avenues. **David "Skipper" Smith** was the first to receive the award. The list of award winners includes:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| David "Skipper Smith" * | 1986-87 |
| Tom Aderhold * | 1987-88 |
| Manuel "Manny" Garcia | 1988-89 |
| Stephen Reynolds * | 1989-90 |
| David Bondurant | 1990-91 |
| Carol Rausch | 1991-92 |
| Lloyd Davis | 1992-93 |

| | |
|-------------------------|---------|
| F.J. Brewerton * | 1993-94 |
| J.P. English * | 1995-95 |
| Ron Ristica | 1995-96 |
| David Sturges | 1996-97 |
| Michael McCann | 1997-98 |

*denotes a Paul Harris Fellow

On the Rotary International level, the **Paul Harris Fellow** was created to honor those who contribute \$1,000 to the Rotary International Foundation. The gift may be given by the individual in self-nomination, the club in someone's name, or by an individual to nominate someone else. In the Rotary Club of Edinburg, the club has chosen to use the award of a **Paul Harris Fellow** in the name of individuals to honor exceptional contribution to the club. Sid Hardon was the first **Paul Harris Fellow** in 1980. Others so honored include:

| | |
|-------------------------|------|
| Sid Hardon | 1980 |
| Al LaFever | 1978 |
| A.A. Aldrich | 1982 |
| C.E. Koen | 1982 |
| Bowman Baker | 1988 |
| Charles Fortson | 1988 |
| Tom Aderhold | 1989 |
| Bill Reynolds | 1989 |
| Herndon Aderhold | 1990 |
| Laurier McDonald | 1990 |
| F.J. Brewerton | 1991 |
| Skipper Smith | 1992 |
| Bill Koen | 1993 |

| | |
|----------------------------------|------|
| Stephen Reynolds | 1994 |
| Doug Martin | 1994 |
| Carmen Barrier | 1994 |
| Mark Fryer | 1995 |
| Manny Garcia | 1995 |
| Byron Lewis | 1996 |
| Cullen Looney | 1996 |
| Roddy Davis | 1997 |
| Larry Hunter | 1997 |
| J.P. English | 1998 |
| Hale Schaleben (honorary) | 1998 |

Women in Rotary

The Rotary International convention in 1986 approved the acceptance of women into the organization. Some clubs were quick to be the first to bring women into the organization. Edinburg, however, approached the new policy cautiously. After a diligent search for outstanding women in the community, a class of four women and four men was inducted into the organization on November 1, 1990. The women were, **Teresa Morales-Best**, **Martha Noell**, **Carol Rausch**, and **Judy Vinson**. This group has proved to be outstanding. **Martha Noell** served on the Board of Directors for several years before her move to Hidalgo. **Carol Rausch** received the Rotarian of the Year Award in 1991-92. **Judy Vinson** became the first woman president in 1995-96. This legacy of active leadership continues today with **Suzanne Scott** (President for 1998-99), **Elaine Hamlin** (Board of Directors), **San Juanita Reyes** (Texas Scholars Program), and **Patsy Diaz**, the newest member.

Fund Raising

Edinburg Rotary boasts some of the best cooks west of the Mississippi. With the talent, dedication, and hard work of members, the annual Rotary bar-b-cue has become a tremendous success as a fund raiser for the club and its activities. When bar-b-cue day comes around, the members, their families and friends, mobilize for full day of activity. Since the bar-b-cue was first held in 1985, this event has become the place for Edinburg Rotarians to shine. **Steve Reynolds** has served as chair for the bar-b-cue for the past few years, and continues to go above and beyond the call of duty in using his resources to acquire and prepare the bar-b-cue meals. **F.J. Brewerton, Michael Minor, Mike McCann, David Sebesta, Bob Desotelle, Richard Ruppert, and Tim Gearhart** are on the meat crew and produce some of the best bar-b-cue beef in the Valley for a civic club. **Adalberto Garza, Don Strong, Ron Risica and Michael Hodge** cook up Cajun Potatoes and Charo beans that are renowned across the state. **J.P.English, Mark Fryer, Buddy Brown, Elaine Hamlin, Doug Martin, Don Cardenas, Suzzane Scott, Bill Pruitt, David Fridie, and Skipper Smith** are excellent at onion and tomato preparation and meal assembly. **Tom Aderhold, Charles Fortson, David Sebesta, Don Cardenas** and others organize and keep ticket collection and distribution moving smoothly. And last but not least, **Roddy Davis, Mike McCann, Ron Risica and Michael Hodge** are indispensable in the major task of clean up. The annual bar-b-cue has become extremely successful. In 1998, more than 2200 plates were served with more than 2500 tickets sold.

In 1992, the club sponsored an annual Christmas sale at Haggar Company. Lloyd Davis solicited seconds and overruns from garment manufacturers that were sold on the Haggar Edinburg campus. The club retained the mark-up price.

The Annual Edinburg Rotary Golf Tournament, originally held as a part of Fiesta Hidalgo and now at the same time as Fiesta Edinburg, was established to raise funds for the club's commitment to the Chamber of Commerce's Depot Restoration Project. In 1999-2000, the final donation will be made in fulfillment of that commitment. The annual golf tournament will continue with proceeds providing an additional Paul Harris Fellowship each year.

Doug Martin adopted a project as a part of Valley Proud that contributed to the planting of 40,000 trees in the Valley between Feb 14, 1991 and April 20, 1991.

The club introduced several small fund raising activities in 1996-97 including the wheel of fortune of RotoLotto and the brag jar. In 1998-99, the club instituted a special Paul Harris Fellow drawing that permits members to buy chances for a Paul Harris Fellowship.

Traditions

The Rotary Club of Edinburg is a collection of traditions that have developed during its seventy-five years. Some are traditions of service such as the prominence of attendance as a responsibility for an Edinburg Rotarian. Some are frivolous and form the basis of friendship and camaraderie that are the hallmark of Edinburg Rotary. The key to these traditions is the ability to poke fun without mean spiritedness.

For example, the RotDog designation is bestowed on anyone who doesn't make up a missed meeting in the allotted time. RotDog designees sit in a special place in the meeting until they perform prescribed activities to elevate themselves from RotDog status. And, the audience reaction any time **F.J. Brewerton** is introduced confounds visitors. **Michael Minor** is our ever-present program stand-in with all the slides of China and Japan he has left to show.

Perhaps the epitome of the fun traditions in the club is the annual Christmas Party including the exchange of gifts. In 1988 a new tradition began that is now known as the TURKEY BOOK. Each Rotarian was to bring a small gift to place under a tree for exchange. **Doug Martin** was late coming to the Christmas Party so he chose his gift from merchandise at his store. The book, "How to Raise Turkeys," was included as part of a turkey raising kit. **Mark Fryer** was unlucky enough to draw the Turkey Book from under the tree. The following year, Mark brought the Turkey Book back, wrapped and waiting for some other unsuspecting sole. And, under the influence of the Great Rotarian in the Sky, **Doug Martin** drew his own Turkey Book from the previous year as his gift from the tree. Thus was born the tradition of the Turkey Book. Now, the winner each year disguises the Turkey Book in wrapping paper and places it under the tree the following year. Those who have won the Turkey Book include

| | | | |
|------------------------|------|----------------------|------|
| Mark Fryer | 1988 | Michael Hodge | 1994 |
| Doug Martin | 1989 | Bill Pruitt | 1995 |
| Jon Gillespie | 1990 | Judy Vinson | 1996 |
| Suzzane Scott | 1991 | Manny Garcia | 1997 |
| Sam de la Garza | 1992 | J.P. English | 1998 |
| Skipper Smith | 1993 | | |

On March 7, 1991, the Edinburg Rotary Club showed its athletic prowess. In two games of bowling, the club proved itself the masters of the local Kiwanians. In game one, led by **Bill Carlson's** 185, the Rotarians defeated the Kiwanians 821 to 753. In game two the Rotarians lost 803 to 846 (although President **F.J. Brewerton's** 199 was not included in this total). The total pin count for the tournament was Rotary 1624, Kiwanis 1599.

March 27, 1991 marked an historic day for the Rotary club of Edinburg. **Martha Noell** became the first Edinburg Rotarian to have a baby. **Mary Frances Noell** was born at the Edinburg Hospital at 12:16 pm weighing 7 lbs, 14 1/2 ounces.

Lastly, the tradition in Edinburg Rotary of Attendance is one of the foundations of the club. With the belief that service begins with attendance at club meetings, attendance has become a hallmark of the club. This emphasis resulted in the club achieving 100% attendance in each of seven months during the 1997-98 and 1998-99 Rotary years. This performance places the club in close competition with Pharr Club for one of the district's most heated competitions.

The 75th Anniversary Year

Rotary year 1999-2000 is the seventy-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Rotary Club of Edinburg. We have a lot of tradition to uphold, high community expectations to meet, and numerous aspirations for ourselves and our club. The 1999-2000 year will be one of challenge. The challenge is to meet or exceed the high standards of accomplishment set by the club in previous years. If we dedicate ourselves to the ideals of Rotary International, the Rotary International Foundation, and to the

spirit of the Rotary Club of Edinburg, we will have a great year, no matter who is president. Make your pledge now to do everything you can to ensure that you exemplify the Rotary Badge of Honor, "Service Above Self!" The Rotary Club of Edinburg is you! And, it is nothing without you!

