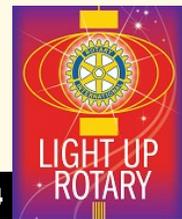


# ROTARY MOMENT



Rotary Club of Thunder bay Fort William

August 2014

This month's theme is of course membership! I have done a lot of talking about membership already and the need for our club to evolve to meet the needs of our changing society while respecting our history and our roots. As I got to thinking about this newsletter, I was reminded of the importance of looking back and appreciating where we have come from and of our humble beginnings. I have learned the value in looking back, not to hold on to the past, but to learn from it and to use the past as a compass for the future.

A good place to start is to look at the life of Paul Harris and his motivation behind starting the Rotary movement. I was intrigued to say the least and am looking forward to reading in the full "My Road to Rotary" written by Paul Harris himself.

For those of you who don't know Paul was born in Wisconsin but raised on New England by his grandparents. He graduated from Princeton law school and rather than starting his career he chose to travel the world for 4 years before settling down in Chicago and opening a law practice. Paul enjoyed people and the fellowship that friendship can bring. He longed for more fellowship as he adjusted to life in the city after having been raised in small town New England.

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*The thought persisted that I was experiencing only what had happened to hundreds, perhaps thousands, of others in the great city ... I was sure that there must be many other young men who had come from farms and small villages to establish themselves in Chicago ... Why not bring them together? If others were longing for fellowship as I was, something would come of it.*

*-- Paul P. Harris, My Road to Rotary*

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Paul Harris and His wife Jean

## In This Issue

- This month's Theme
- Paul Harris Quotes
- Pictures of Paul and Jean Harris and the Harris Home
- What does Paul Harris have to do with membership month?



Paul and Jean Harris Home outside of Chicago

## Paul Harris Continued

It took 5 years but eventually the first Rotary Club was formed. Its goal was to encourage fellowship amongst business men which would promote both business and personal relationships amongst members. As time went on there was a need for a greater purpose for Rotary. The first service project was the building of public toilets in Chicago.

Paul married Jean Harris and they resided in a large home they lovingly named Comely Bank after a street in Jean's home town of Edinburgh Scotland. They had no children however they filled their home with many friends hosting many international visitors. They created a Friendship garden where they planted trees in honor of their many visitors.

Paul and Jean were Christian's; however they strongly prompted religious and political freedom of all people. They believed in tolerance and acceptance.

***“The boy taught the man the necessity of being tolerant of all forms of religious and political faiths. He taught him not to be too critical of the views of others, whatever those views might be. The boy taught the man of the joys of neighborliness and friendliness and good will toward all. It took considerable time for these lessons to sink in—the grown-up boy was too busy having a good time—but I am glad to be able to say that eventually the man took the teachings of the boy seriously and tried to extend them to all men.***

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Quote from “My Road to Rotary”

## Paul Harris Quote

What is Rotary?  
Thousands have made answer each in his own way. It is easier to note what Rotary does than what it is. One recently has said, “If Rotary has encouraged us to take a more kindly outlook on life and men; if Rotary has taught us greater tolerance and the desire to see the best in others; if Rotary has brought us pleasant and helpful contacts with others who also are trying to capture and radiate the joy and beauty of life, then Rotary has brought us all that we can expect.”

Chicago, October, 1945, Paul P. Harris.

## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFCIAL** to all concerned?

### Rotary Moto, 1910

“He Profits Most  
Who serves His Fel-  
lows Best”

### Today's Moto

“Service above self”



Peace Poll Ceremony

## What Does Paul Harris have to Do with membership month?

Paul Harris was a leader, he put his thoughts and ideas into practice and successfully built an international movement that grew from 4 members in Chicago to 1.2 million worldwide!!

This is simply an amazing feat, one that has promoted so much good in the world. As we build our club's membership strategy, let us not forget the root from which we have come.

I see great lessons that can guide us, let focus on tolerance, specifically political and religious. Let us embrace and celebrate the differences and enjoy the comradery that Paul sought.

Who would have guessed I would be looking back on a man born in 1868 and be so moved by his open mindedness, tolerance and acceptance of all people.

I promise and encourage all members to keep these things in mind as we craft our membership strategy and ask ourselves those hard questions about sing song, Rotary Prayer and the toast to the queen. That have always created divisiveness within our club.

