

Best Civic Club: Martin Rotary Club

Rotary International (RI) was founded on February 23, 1905 and the Rotary Club of Martin, Tennessee was chartered on March 14, 1928 [sponsored by the Rotary Club of Paris, Tennessee]. The Martin club was the 15th to be chartered in Rotary District 6760. Nashville, Tennessee was the first chartered club in the state.

Charter members of the new club included officers: D. Walter Harper, President; T. L. Bearce, Vice-President; A.B. Adams, Secretary; John M. Martin, Treasurer; L.E. Taylor, Sgt-at-Arms; F.J. Duke, Director; Karl Warren, Director and members: W. M. Wells, P.M. Fitts, Dr. R.M. Little, J.E. Jenkins, A.S. Johnston, George M. Brooks, E.M. Burge, and L.F. Hicks.

Throughout its history, club membership has



waxed and waned and during World War II the club nearly disbanded. Members have always met at noon on Thursdays and various locations around the town of Martin have served as club meeting sites.

Martin Rotarians have always engaged in service projects designed to improve the community and through Rotary Interna-

tional to address solutions to major issues throughout the world. Locally, notable projects included support for University of Tennessee at Martin scholarships, funds to construct the Hardy M. Graham Stadium, establishment and improvement of community parks and recreational facilities, and donations to social service projects and activities.

Local fundraisers included beauty pageants, community-wide drives, ham breakfasts, golf tournaments, singing competitions, horse shows, and special celebrations. The annual Rotary ham breakfast and golf tournament are still held each year, and the proceeds are used for many projects in the community each year.

Martin Rotarians historically have supported youth activities including cooperative ventures with UT Martin, hosting and providing foreign exchange students, sponsorship of Interact/Rotaract clubs, and establishment of youth recreational opportunities.

Internationally, the club has joined Rotary International projects related to the eradication of polio, literacy initiatives, and humanitarian relief throughout the world. Rotary International, through its "Polio Plus" campaign with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, is on the verge of eradicating polio throughout the world.

Since 1987, the previous all-male Rotary clubs have admitted women members and the Rotary Club of Martin's current membership is a diverse mix and

cross-section of the local community.

Two Martin Rotarians have served as District Governor – E.B. "Bud" Pritchett (1956-57) and Norman Campbell (1978-79) – both were affiliated with the University of Tennessee at Martin.

Rotary's primary charitable arm is The Rotary Foundation and major donors are recognized as Paul Harris Fellows (Paul Harris was Rotary's founder). Twenty-three members of the Rotary Club of Martin are current Paul Harris Fellows.

Martin Rotarians have historically and presently embraced the Rotary International motto "Service Above Self" through their unselfish participation in volunteer service activities, programs, and projects. The current club president is Andy Wilson.



2016 -2017 Officers

President: Andy Wilson

Vice President/President Elect: Darrell Blaylock

Secretary: Larry Holder

Treasurer: Jill Dinning

Past President: Blake White

Board of Directors: Christy Williams, Allison Whitledge, John Hicks, Albany Cianfarani, David Horner, Alan Cary, Dustin Frazier, Steven Totty, Scott Fortner

Meetings every Thursday at noon
University Center, UTM Campus

Rotary Club of Martin

- **Smart** — we are insightful and discerning
- **Compassionate** — we tackle community challenges with empathy and understanding
- **Persevering** — we encourage others to take action, convey hope, enthusiasm and passion

Martin Rotarians are...

- Working to eliminate polio worldwide
- Beautifying our community
- Empowering young people
- Improving the lives of others through service projects
- Promoting peace throughout the world

*Martin Rotarians enrich our community
through Service Above Self!*

www.martinrotary.org

Thank you for choosing us
Best Civic Club in Weakley County

