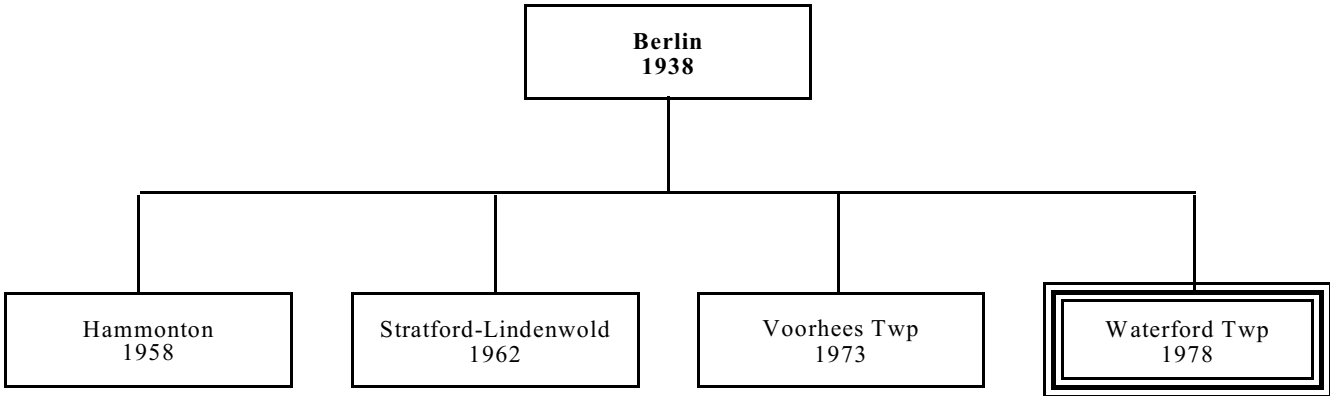


Chapter 61

Rotary Club of Waterford Township, N.J.



75th Anniversary History of District 764

Waterford Township, NJ

Chapter 61

Organized	November 16, 1977	Meets : Tuesdays at 12:15 pm at
Chartered	May 13, 1978	Pier III
Sponsored By	Philadelphia, PA	White Horse Pike
		Atco, NJ 08004
		(609) 767-4512

OFFICE	NAME OF MEMBER	CLASSIFICATION
President	Richard Passarella	Automotive Repair Service
Vice President	Joseph Negro	Photographer
Secretary	Thomas Taylor	Gum Labels Mfg.
Treasurer	William Horn	Security Systems
Director	Thomas G. Donaghue	Hospital Services
Director	Paul R. Grubb	Electronic Sales & Service
Director	Bartholomew Lees	Dog Breeding
Director	James Nunnenkamp	Taverns
Sergeant-At-Arms	Randall Dickson	Gov't Service Naval Supply
	Thomas Arming	General Merchandise-Retail
	Michael Babli	Public Safety-Police
	Arthur Chapall	Auto Body Repairing
	James Chojnacki	Flowers-Retail
	Louis Conte	Insurance-Life
	Gerald Davis	Electric Contracting
	John Dowd	Insulation Manufacturing
	Archangelo W. Ferrara	Plumbing Service
	Kenneth V. Jantz	Hospital Equipment Leasing
	John D. Lanza	Dental Laboratories
	Anthony P. Mclevin	Insurance-Casualty
	Michael J. Negro	Building Construction
	Ronald Passarella	Maintenance Products-Wholesale

Presidents

1978-79	Richard Passarella
1979-80	Joseph Negro
1980-81	James Nunnenkamp
1981-82	John Dowd
1982-83	Joe Zankowski
1983-84	John Lanza
1984-85	Steve Rynex
1985-86	Tom Taylor
1986-87	John J. Edwards, Jr.
1987-88	Howard Wilson
1988-89	Paul R. Grubb
1989-90	James Chojnacki

Persistent Efforts Led to the Formation of Waterford Club

The first attempt to form a Rotary club in Waterford Township was chronicled in the summer of 1976 during a series of meetings at Pier III. There was strong sentiment among several to start a new club, but the numbers were insufficient and Richard Passarella, Randy Dickson, Tom Taylor, William Horn, Joseph Negro and Bob Worrier temporarily joined Berlin Rotary.

But the effort continued. And during a Sept. 19, 1977 meeting at Silver Lake Inn attended by PDG Louis Joyce III and others, approval was made to form Waterford Rotary. Then, Nov. 16, the highest number of prospective Waterford Rotarians to date, 17, attended a Pier III informal dinner meeting.

Charter officers were elected at the Feb. 9, 1978 meeting: Richard Passarella, president; Joseph Negro, vice president; Thomas Taylor, secretary; William Horn, treasurer; Randy Dickson, sergeant-at-arms; and Barry Lees, Jim Nunnenkamp, Tom Donahue, and Paul Grubb, directors.

Charter night was June 8 and was attended by more than 300 District 764 Rotarians and their guests. The toastmaster was Jack Williams, who served as District Governor's Special Representative and also was a member of the sponsoring Berlin club.

"It was an evening of great personal satisfaction," Williams said. "I found it hard to believe that after all the months of joining the Waterford Rotarians in fellowship and trying my best to prepare them to be good Rotarians, we finally reached our goal."

Appropriately, the welcome was given by Thurston E. (Ski) von der Tann, District 764 Governor and a member of the Berlin club.

Waterford Rotary quickly became active in its community. One of its first projects was sponsorship of a 10-mile run through Wharton State Park which attracted 30 runners, 25 of whom completed the race.

In 1980-81, the club held its first Halloween Parade with more than 600 participating.

The club moved from Pier III to Dunbarton Restaurant in 1981-82, but when Dunbarton closed, it relocated again at Lucien's Old Tavern. During Lucien's tragic fire a year later, many of the club's records and memorabilia were lost. The club went back to Pier III.

The first scholarship awards to Edgewood Regional High School students were made in 1983-84, and a fund was established for future awards. The scholarships have been a staple of the club ever since, and in 1988 were expanded to include all Waterford students.

When a local youth, Adam Simper, needed a liver transplant, the club raised \$2,500 during Steve Rynex' term as president in 1984-85. Sally Starr was among the celebrities who helped out.

That same year, Waterford published its first phone book cover. The club distributed 2,500 covers at a tidy profit.

Another fire, this time at Pier III in 1985-86, forced the club to conduct meetings at the home of the members. These were difficult times for Waterford Rotary and membership sagged.

But, through the efforts and dedication of men like Jim Chojnacki, Jack Edwards, Paul Grubb, Jim Nunnenkamp, Steve Rynex, Tom Taylor, Turk, and others, it survived. Projects for the year, despite the problems, included the Memorial Day Parade, holiday food baskets, Waterford Day sponsorship, and support of girls' softball.

Membership climbed back to 15 the following year during the recovery period from the Pier III blaze.

In 1988-89, an Interact Club was chartered at Edgewood High. Additionally, the club's scholarship enhancement program was initiated and another phone book cover project was a big success. There was excellent club participation in the Finland exchange.

Other civic ventures through the years have included RYLA and Girls' State participation; support of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts; donations to athletic groups; and a clothing drive for the needy.

Despite its problems getting started, and two subsequent fires, Waterford Rotary has proven indisputably that it is an organization that places Service Above Self.