

Part I

Section 2

From Chicago One to District 764



75th Anniversary History of District 764

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When Rotary first began back in 1905, there was one club-, the Rotary Club of Chicago. As Rotary grew and more clubs were organized, the founding fathers felt the need for a more structured organization.

By 1910 there were 16 clubs across the United States so they called for the first Rotary convention in Chicago, Illinois. At that convention, all 16 clubs were grouped into "The National Association of Rotary Clubs."

By 1912, Rotary had crossed national boundaries forming clubs in Canada, Ireland and Great Britain; thus the term "National" was no longer appropriate. At the 1912 Convention in Duluth, Minnesota, with 50 clubs represented, it was changed to "The International Association of Rotary Clubs." Also, the Rotary world was organized into divisions.

EASTERN DIVISION (1912-15)

In our area, the first Rotary Club formed was the Rotary Club of New York, chartered in 1909 and sponsored by the first Rotary Club, Chicago. Then, in 1912 the Rotary Club of Philadelphia was formed, sponsored by New York Rotary. These clubs were placed in the Eastern Division, with a Vice-President assigned to the division.

This division consisted of clubs in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia and the District of Columbia.

So when Camden Rotary was chartered in 1913, and Atlantic City and Wilmington in 1915, they were placed in the Eastern Division.

SECOND DISTRICT (1915-18)

Rotary was expanding very rapidly. At the 1915 convention, the by-laws of Rotary were amended to provide for "Districts" with a "District Governor" assigned to supervise each. The clubs in our area fell into the second district which consisted of clubs in New York and New Jersey.

FIFTH DISTRICT (1918-22)

In 1918, the Second District was divided and Southern New Jersey became a part of the Fifth District, which included clubs from Southern New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC.

35th DISTRICT (1922-25)

Then, in 1922 the Fifth District was realigned and given a new number. We were placed in the 35th District with clubs from Southern New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Also, the name "International Association of Rotary Clubs" was shortened to Rotary International.

50th DISTRICT (1925-37)

In 1925, the Districts were re-numbered and we were now in the 50th District, which included those same clubs from Southern New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

184th DISTRICT (1937-49)

In 1937, the District was again realigned and renumbered. We were then in the 184th District, with clubs from Southern New Jersey and Delaware.

272nd DISTRICT (1949-57)

In 1949, the District was renumbered yet again. We then became a part of District 272 which covered the clubs from Southern New Jersey and Delaware.

764th DISTRICT (1957-70)

In 1957, the District was renumbered with the 272nd District becoming the now familiar 764th District, with clubs still from Southern New Jersey and Delaware.

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764th DISTRICT (1970-present)

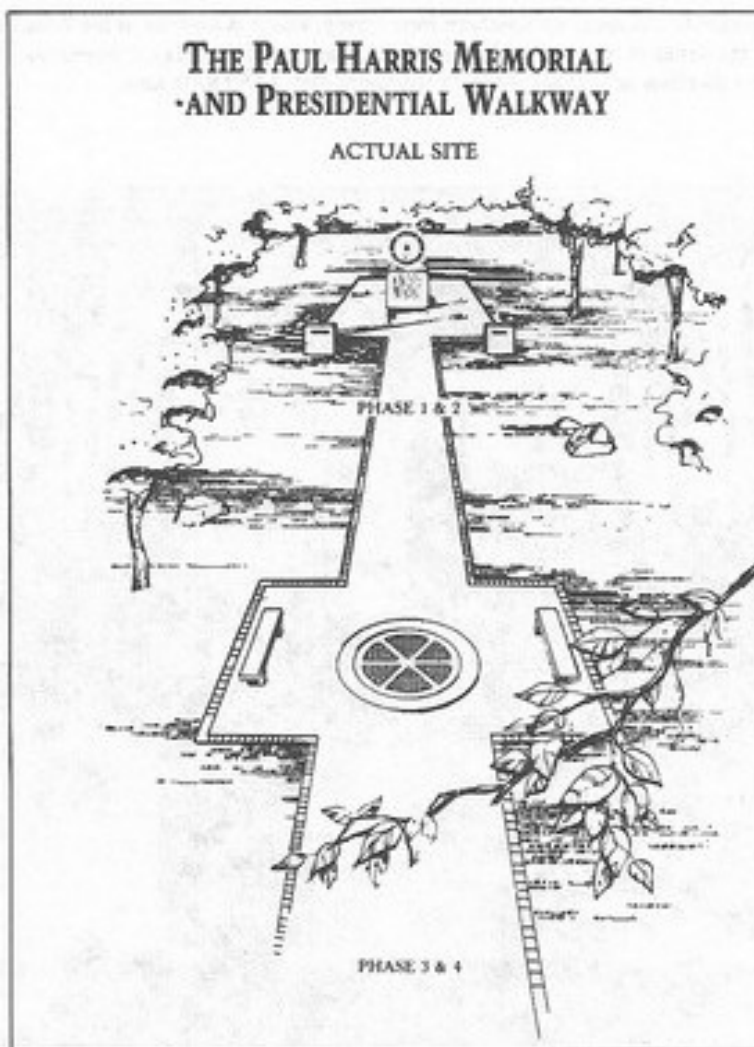
In 1970, the District was realigned with clubs from Delaware being split off into their own District, (today District 763).

District 764 now administers clubs from Southern New Jersey, which is defined as the 7 southernmost counties in New Jersey. They are the counties of : Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem. Currently there are 65 clubs in District 764 with approximately 2,550 Rotarians.



The earliest we found, this marvelous shot taken at an Assembly for the then 50th District in 1932. Some of the people we've been able to match with pictures of Past District Governors, but the majority are unknown. Anyone know who these fine Rotarians are?

The Paul Harris Presidential Walkway



The Paul Harris Memorial and Presidential Walkway is located in -Mount Hope Cemetery, Chicago, Illinois. Paul Harris and First Rotary Club President Silvester Schiele are buried there with the Memorial between their gravesites. The Presidential Walkway is being established by the Memorial Committee of the Blue Island Rotary Club (Chicago'), an affiliated member in the Rotary Heritage and History International Fellowship, which was established lb 1988 to stimulate acquaintance and fellowship among Rotarians interested in exchanging information about Rotary heritage and history. Officers of the Paul P. Harris Memorial Committee are: Cedric A. Pope, PDG 645, Chairman; Edward Cebulski, Vice-Chairman, James Pitaro, DG 89-90 Herbert Budd, Jr. aid PDG 85-86 Neil R. Garber are, both consultants to the Committee.