

Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

- 1 The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;
- 2 High ethical standards in business and professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying by each Rotarian of his occupation as an opportunity to serve society;
- 3 The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business and community life;
- 4 The advancement of international understanding, good will, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional men united in the ideal of service.



PAUL P. HARRIS
FOUNDER – ROTARY INTERNATIONAL (1905)



Diamond Anniversary 75th

Rotary Club Of

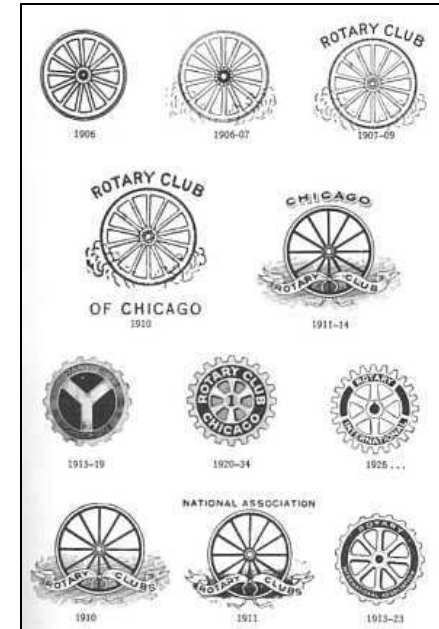
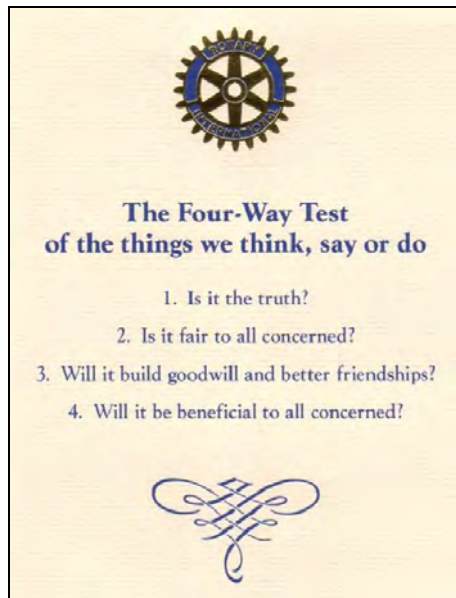
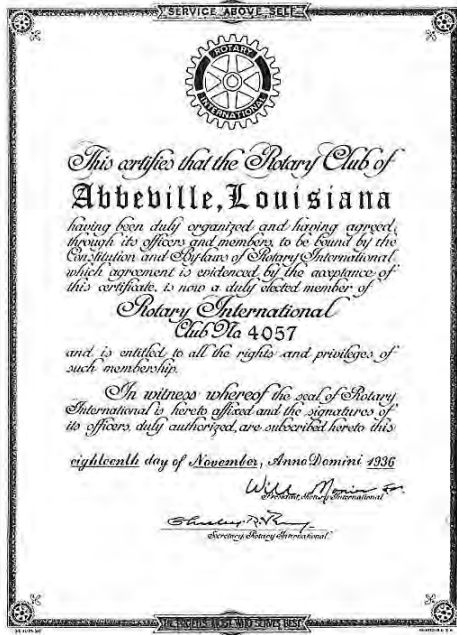
Abbeville, Louisiana

SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP

November 18, 1936
To
November 18, 2011

Commemorative Booklet





Researched & Compiled By:

Lloyd Doré III

President 1986-1987 (50th Anniversary), Club Historian

Technical Assistance Provided By

Susan Cole Doré

The committee in charge consists of the following members:
Lloyd Doré III, Don Chauvin, Bertha Mire, "Bubba" Weill, Linda Weill
and Pam C. Trahan

The Anniversary Committee gratefully acknowledges the help of many of our members. And especially Eastridge Nursing Center (Arkansas Elder Outreach) for underwriting and hosting our 75th Anniversary Celebration.

Every effort has been made to research the information contained in this booklet. Should any errors or omissions be found, please let the Club Historian know.

Presented on Thursday, November 17th, 2011 at the 75th Anniversary Celebration

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
2003-2004	Kenneth Taylor	Suzanne Jones	Dennis Thompson (Dec'd) / Lloyd Doré III / Mark Shirley
2004-2005	Deborah Parsons	Mark Shirley	Dexter Duhon
2005- 2006	Paul Bourgeois	Charles Dill Jr.	Jules Hebert
2006-2007	Mark Shirley	Jim Russo	Raymond Gagne
2007-2008	Richard Primeaux	Lance Savoie	Riley Landry
2008-2009	Charles Dill Jr.	Bertha Mire	Eric Robicheaux
2009-2010	Jules Hebert	Riley Landry	Madeline DeHart
2010-2011	Bertha Mire	Madeline DeHart	Chris Dardeau

75th Anniversary of the Abbeville Rotary Club

2011-2012	Karl "Bubba" Weill Jr.	Chris Dardeau	Jim Russo
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CHARTER MEMBERS: There are no charter members living today.

PAST PRESIDENTS: Where are they during our Diamond Anniversary Year?

Twenty-one (21) are current members of the Club:

Richard C. Dubois, Daniel Dartez, Lloyd Doré III, Alex Crochet, Glenn Suire, Noel Bajat, "Judge" Edwards, Whit Atchetee, Don Chauvin, Russell Frederick, Beno Duhon, Garolyn Landry, Ken Taylor, Deborah Parsons, Paul Bourgeois, Mark G. Shirley, Richard Primeaux, Charles Dill Jr., Jules Hebert, Bertha Mire, & "Bubba" Weill.

Fifteen (15) are no longer members, living in this area or out of town:

Jeffery Meaux, Gerald Menard, Daniel J. Broussard, Merton Zeringue. Gary Theall. Dr. Harold Travasos, Curtis Schexnayder. Paul Hebert, Sam Riché, Dr. Syd Crackower, Stephen Meador, Danny L. Broussard, Earle Broussard, Mike Wells & Betty Broussard.

Thirty-eight (38) of our past presidents are deceased.

Three of our Club members have served as District Governors.

Silas B. Cooper Jr. served as District 620 Governor during the 1973-1974 term.

Noel A. Bajat served as District 6200 Governor during the 1998-1999 term.

Don Chauvin served as District 6200 Governor during the 2005-2006 term.

Noel A. Bajat, RID is serving as one of the 2010-2012 Rotary International Directors and the RI Vice President.



Noel Bajat, Silas Cooper, Don Chauvin

Founding of the Abbeville Rotary Club

The seed responsible for the birth of the Rotary Club of Abbeville was planted back in 1929 when our neighbors in New Iberia became imbued with the missionary spirit and first approached a number of citizens of Abbeville in an effort to comply with the Rotary mandate to organize new clubs. The Abbeville club was born in the fall of 1936, and was sponsored by the New Iberia club.

Felix J. Samson, a local attorney, became the Club's founder and headed the efforts to form a Rotary Club in Abbeville, a small town of only 3,600.

On Wednesday evening, November 4, 1936, 26 men met at the Audrey Hotel Restaurant to sign the Rotary International charter application. The following is the list of the twenty-six CHARTER members, as they were submitted on the application:

Charter Members

Classification



JOHN D. SORBET
Mr. Sorbet was the Vermilion Parish County Agent from 1926 to 1948.



J. HUGH WILLIAMS
Mr. Williams was an educator and was Superintendent of Vermilion Parish Schools between 1913 to 1949.



MURPHY J. LEGE
Mr. Lege (Pat) was President of the First National Bank for many years. Served as Secretary for first two years.



THOMAS J. FLEMING, JR.
Mr. Fleming was agent of the office of Southern Pacific Railroad (also known as the Texas & New Orleans Railroad here in Abbeville). He also served on the City Council for many years.



A. O. LANDRY Hardware Retailing
A.O. was in the real estate business and founder of Landry's Store.



DR. A. A. COMEAUX Hospitals
Dr. Comeaux was a medical doctor, serving this area for many years. He donated the property for the city park which bears his name.



H. FRENZEL PERE' Refined Oil Product Retailing
In 1936, he owned a service station and the Plymouth car dealership, Frenzel Motors. He was the grandfather of Lloyd Dore' III.



FLOYD D. EDWARDS Newspaper Publishing
Floyd was owner of the Abbeville Meridional newspaper and ran a printing business.



FRANK A. GODCHAUX, JR. Rice Milling
Frank, Jr., was the chief executive of the La. State Rice Milling Company.



E. N. KIRKPATRICK Rice Exporting
Mr. Kirk was sales manager of the La. State Rice Milling Company.



LLOYD P. BROUSSARD Automobile Retailing
Lloyd was associated with the Nettles Chevrolet firm, a car dealership. He also served as this area's LA state representative.

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1952-53	G. J. Ledet	Harry D. Ramkin	Paul Piazza
1953-54	Charles B. Caldwell	Paul Piazza	James Baudoin
1954-55	Paul Piazza	James Baudoin	A. D. LeBlanc
1955-56	Albert Russo	Emile E. Soulier	A. D. LeBlanc
1956-57	P. W. Bordelon	Emile E. Soilier	H. D. O'Bryan
1957-58	George Martin	Young Broussard	Justin Broussard
1958-59	Young A. Broussard	Justin Broussard	Dr. Henry Landry
1959-60	Frank Hunter	Lloyd F. Doré Jr.	Dulis Mayers
1960-61	Guy Broussard	Dulis J. Mayers	Emery Sonnier
1961-62	Justin Broussard	Emery Sonnier	William Meyers
1962-63	Emery Sonnier	Norman Romero	Leeward Richard
1963-64	Dulis J. Mayers	M. W. Finuf Jr.	Charles Dill
1964-65	M. W. Finuf Jr.	Aurelie Hebert Jr.	Donald Guidry
1965-66	Charles Dill Sr.	Silas Cooper Jr.	Russell Gaspard
1966-67	Silas Cooper Jr.	Daniel Broussard	Russell Gaspard
1967-68	Norman Romero	Daniel Broussard	Donald Landry
1968-69	Russell Gaspard	Albert Robin	Leroy Amy
1969-70	Charles Thompson Jr.	Richard Dubois	Bernard Libersat Jr.
1970-71	Rev. Tracy Arnold	Leroy Amy	Bernard Libersat Jr.
1971-72	Albert Robin	Jeffery Meaux	Bernard Libersat Jr.
1972-73	Richard C. Dubois	Pat Tomeny	Merton Zeringue
1973-74	R.C. "Cliff" Gaspard	Gerald Menard	Merton Zeringue
1974-75	Jeffery Meaux	Donald Landry	John O'Bryan
1975-76	Gerald Menard	Merton Zeringue	Curtis Schexnayder
1976-77	Daniel J. Broussard	Earle Broussard	Gary Theall
1977-78	Merton Zeringue	Earle Broussard	John O'Bryan
1978-79	Gary Theall	Rigsby Frederick	Daniel Dartez
1979-80	Dr. Harold Travazos	Sam Riche'	Roger Boynton
1980-81	Curtis Schexnayder	Roger Boynton	Harold Suire /Daniel Dartez
1981-82	Paul Hebert	Ray Broussard	Sam Riche'
1982-83	Daniel Dartez	Floyd Prejean	Lloyd Doré III
1983-84	Sam Riche'	Danny Broussard	Curney Dronet
1984-85	Ray Broussard	R.F."Bob" Broussard	Rigsby Frederick
1985-86	Dr. Syd Crackower	Clarence Baldrige	Glenn Suire
1986-87	Lloyd F. Doré III	Stephen M. Meador	Danny Broussard
1987-88	Stephen M. Meador	Terril Faul	Dr. Don Duhon
1988-89	Emery Troups	Glenn Suire	Wayne Richard/ Lloyd Doré III
1989-90	Danny L. Broussard	W.P."Judge" Edwards III	Noel A. Bajat
1990-91	Alex Crochet	Whitney Atchetee	Noel A. Bajat
1991-92	Glenn Suire	Ken Taylor	Charles Soileau
1992-93	Earle J. Broussard	Charles Soileau	D. Michael Wells
1993-94	Noel A. Bajat	Mike Wells	Whit Atchetee
1994-95	W.P. "Judge" Edwards III	Scott Frazier	Ronney Mayard
1995-96	Ronney D. Mayard	Betty Broussard	Don Chauvin
1996-97	Whitney Atchetee	Don Chauvin	Russell Frederick
1997-98	D. Michael Wells	Allen J. LaBry	Betty Broussard
1998-99	Donald Chauvin	Deborah Parsons	Ginny Alexander
1999-2000	Betty Broussard/ Donald Chauvin	Benard Duhon	Ricky Gomez
2000-2001	Russell Frederick	Garolyn Landry	Kelly Rogers
2001-2002	Bernard Duhon	Kelly Rogers	Paul Bourgeois
2002-2003	Garolyn Landry	Karl "Bubba" Weill	Rebecca Shirley

2008-2009

Partnered with the Abbeville Meridional to provide school supplies through the Parenting Center to needy families in the parish
 Recognized World War II veterans
 Helped sponsor Louisiana Story historic marker at Frank's Theatre
 Donated to Joya Grande Scholarship Fund (El Salvador)
 Held 1st PoBoy Sale fundraiser
 100 % Sustaining Member participation to The Rotary Foundation
 Rotary Foundation contributions - \$5,350 / PolioPlus - \$2,748

2009-2010

Donated and distributed books to Clubs in Zambia, Africa
 Purchased VP 4-H pig and donated to Christian Service Center
 Hosted RIDE Reception for RI Director Noel Bajat
 Co-Hosted "Open House" at Palmetto State Park
 100 % Sustaining Member participation to The Rotary Foundation

2010-2011

Donated to Palmetto Park Fund (Community Foundation of Acadiana)
 Donated to Vermilion Parish Library for visually impaired computer equipment (in partnership with Arkansas Elder Outreach)
 Sponsored local 4-H leaders at National convention
 Volunteers provided for RI Convention in New Orleans
 100 % Sustaining Member participation to The Rotary Foundation

2011-2012 (to date)

75th Anniversary celebration
 Briggs Learning Center assistance
 Contributions to PolioPlus & PolioPlus Paul Harris Fellows

The Club Presidents, Secretaries and Treasurers from the date of our Charter to the end of the Diamond (75th) Anniversary year are as follows:

Year	President	Secretary	Treasurer
1936-37	Felix J. Samson	Murphy J. Lege	F. D. Edwards
1937-38	Felix J. Samson	Murphy J. Lege	F. D. Edwards
1938-39	W. B. MacMillan	Ed F. LeBlanc	John O'Quinn
1939-40	Murphy J. Lege	John O'Quinn	H. Frenzel Peré
1940-41	J. E. Kibbe	H. Frenzel Peré	A. J. Schlouser
1941-42	John D. Sorbert	Marc Gosselin	N. P. Hollier
1942-43	F. J. Montagne	Marc Gosselin	N. P. Hollier
1943-44	H. Frenzel Peré	Robert Hollier	Lovelis Hebert Sr.
1944-45	J. Hugh Williams	Lovelis J. Hebert	Ernest Stauffer
1945-46	Lloyd P. Broussard	Ernest Stauffer	P. W. Bordelon
1946-47	Robert C. Hollier	Ernest Stauffer	A. J. Thomas
1947-48	Dr. Robert E. May	A. J. Thomas	Ben Frederick
1948-49	Ernest Stauffer	Charles Nunez	Oscar Hebert
1949-50	Edward F. LeBlanc	Charles Nunez	Albert Russo
1950-51	Leo Oliver	Lawrence Karl	Albert Russo
1951-52	Charles Nunez	Ralph Bienvenu/ Harry Ramkin	Paul Piazza



I. M. GOLDBERG Highway Construction
 Mr. Goldberg ran a contracting business, was a city councilman for many years, and owned the Abbeville Athletics baseball team.



A. J. MELANCON, JR. Agricultural Education
 (Additional Active)
 Was Associate County Agent in charge of the 4-H programs.



DR. P. O. LANDRY Dentistry
 P. O. was a dentist and large land owner. He was Dr. Henry Landry's father.



REV. ELLIS SMITH Christianity - Protestantism
 Reverend Smith was pastor of the Methodist Church of Abbeville.



J. E. NETTLES Groceries Distributing
 Mr. Nettles ran a wholesale grocery business and founded Nettles Chevrolet.



F. W. KERKSIECK Trustee Service
 Mr. Kerksieck was the President of the Bank of Abbeville & Trust Co.



J. E. CALDWELL Sugar Manufacturing
 Eugene was associated with the sugar mills in Abbeville and Erath.



FELIX J. SAMSON Title Service
He was an attorney and served as president of the Rotary Club for two consecutive terms. He was the great grandfather of Lloyd Dore' III.



W. B. MACMILLAN Advertising Service
'Mr. Rotary' and our first program chairman. Mr. Mac was sales director of the La. State Rice Milling Company.



GEORGE S. WOOD Garage Service Station
George was the Ford car dealer; Wood Motor Company.



FELIX NUNEZ Men's Furnishings Retailing
He owned a retail men's wear business and also was a fur buyer.



FATHER EDMOND DAULL Christianity - Roman Catholicism
Father Daull was the pastor of the St. Mary Magdalen Roman Catholic church.



P. L. BROUSSARD Dairy Farming
Polycarpe was Clerk of Court for many years, and ran a farm. He was Young Broussard's father.



P. J. WHITE Electric Supplies Retailing
Mr. White was an electrician and Abbeville Fire Chief.

2002- 2003

Club Sponsored GSE Team member to District 4490/Brazil - Tesa Zaunbrecher
Contributed and met club goal for Polio Eradication
Wine Tasting Fund Raiser – Benefit Vermilion Medical Equipment Project
Centennial Community Project – assist Godchaux Park after Hurricane Lili
International Club twinning with Abbeville, France Rotary Club
Participated in sending discarded books to 3rd world countries

2003-2004

Club sponsored GSE Team Member to Germany - Alice Morein
Club sponsored Ambassadorial Scholarship Selected - Brandon Thibodeaux
Giant Etouffee Project - Benefit Vermilion Community Clinic, Christian Service Center, 256th Infantry Brigade, Matching Grant

2004- 2005

100th Anniversary of Rotary International
PolioPlus Contributions /2002-2005 Goal = \$5,100 / Raised = \$6,600
1st application for District Simplified RF Grant – Matching grant to benefit Vermilion Community Clinic
Club sponsored GSE Team Leader to Chile – Dr. Dan Dartez

2005- 2006

Host Club of District Governor / Host Club for District Conference in Gonzales
District Simplified RF Grant – (partnered with Kaplan Rotary Club)
Matching grant for providing clean water to benefit residents of Forked Island
Hurricane Katrina relief efforts - Meals to evacuees, Coordinated supply efforts
Hurricane Rita relief efforts - Coordinated supply efforts to victims, direct financial assistance to victims/schools Erath Middle School Library, Fire stations (2) Henry/Erath,
Donation of trailer to VFCC
Donation for Godchaux Park playground equipment
Revamp sound system and handmade new podium

2006- 2007

District Simplified Grant - Education Scholarships for 6 students in El Salvador
Hurricane Rita Relief Efforts – Assisted several families, St James Cemetery repairs, provided furniture to families
Group Study Exchange – Argentina
(Duncan Boutwell - Team Leader, Brooke Broussard - Team Member)

2007-2008

District Simplified Grant – Partnered with City of Abbeville to provide exercise equipment for Gertsie Huntsberry Park
Hurricane Rita Relief Efforts – coordinated financial assistance to displaced victims and
Donation to Erath High School Band to replace lost equipment
Donated a new Romero/Mayard Honor Band banner
Donated to Save the Frank's Theatre restoration project

1991-1992

Election Day Food Drive, Food Net [Record Collections]
Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship Recipient – Christie Lege

1992-1993

Hurricane Andrew Relief Assistance
Bosnia-Croatia R.I. Relief Project
FAX machine donated to JTPA office
Cecil McCrory Farmer of the Year Memorial Award

1993-1994

St. Genevieve, MO Rotary Flood Relief Support
Toys for Tots Program Support
Rotary Foundation Benefactor

1994-1995

Six New Paul Harris Fellow - Reached Club
Total of Fifty (50) Paul Harris Fellows in Club

1995-1996

First Annual Chester Broussard Vo-Tech Scholarship Presented
Haiti Rice Project

1996-1997

60th Anniversary of Abbeville Rotary Club
Ten New Paul Harris Fellows / Met Rotary Foundation Goal
Giant Crawfish Etouffee Fund Raiser to Fund "What I Want To Be & Why"
Scholarship Trust Fund
New Generation Youth Conference

1997-1998

Established A.R.C. Internet Website

1998-1999

Host Club of 6200 District Governor
Co-Hosted District Conference (with Kaplan, New Iberia)
Erected marble sign to honor two PDG from the Abbeville Club

1999-2000

Rotary Foundation Benefactors (2) and Major Donors
Contributions to support community based Interact Club

2000-2001

Club Sponsored Ambassadorial Scholar Selected – Cody Bellard
90 Second Grocery Dash – Benefit Make A Wish Foundation
Donations made to Flood Relief for Abbeville, France

2001- 2002

Club Sponsored GSE Team member to District 1520 / France – Shannon Zaunbrecher
90 Second Grocery Dash – Benefit Romeo/Mayard Honor Band & St. Jude's Children's Hospital



D. G. SKINNER Refined Oil Products Distributing
He was in the wholesale oil and gas business.

Although the first provisional meeting was held on Tuesday, the day and time for the regular club meetings were set in the original by-laws for Wednesday at 12:00 noon.

The first officers and members of the board of directors were:

President - Felix J. Samson
Vice-President - F. A. Godchaux Jr.
Secretary - Murphy J. Lege
Treasurer - Floyd D. Edwards
Board Member Rev. Ellis Smith
Board Member - Dr. A. A. Comeaux
Board Member - Felix Nunez
Program Chairman - W. B. MacMillan

The Abbeville Charter is dated November 18, 1936 and was presented by District 17 Governor James M. "Ty" Cobb on December 8, 1936 at an evening meeting held at the Audrey Hotel. The Club was incorporated under the laws of the State of Louisiana on August 22, 1963. Abbeville became the 4057th Rotary Club chartered in the world of Rotary International.

By June 30, 1937 there were 4335 Rotary clubs with 183,000 Rotarians throughout the world. Since that time Rotary has grown to include over 1.2 million Rotarians belonging to over 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas (September 2011).

Although we are presently in Rotary District 620, our Club was chartered in District 17. Areas have been reorganized through the years with our Club being in District 17 from 1936-1937, District 139 from 1937-1949, District 202 from 1949-1957, District 619 from 1957-1958, and in our present District 620 from 1958 to present (designated as District 6200 in 1991).

During the past 75 years the Abbeville Rotary Club has held its regular luncheon meetings at several locations. Ben Boudreaux's Bar & Diner was our first meeting place from 1936 to 1940; presently the sight of Dupuy's Oyster Bar. From 1940 to 1951 we met at the Catholic Community Center, now the sight of the St. Mary Magdalen Ministries Building. In 1951 we briefly met at the Old American Legion Hall, until we moved to Harry Bohrer's Midway where we met from 1951 to 1958, on the corner of Concord & Jefferson, downtown.

In 1958 we moved across the street to the second floor of the Bank of Abbeville, known then as the Candlelight Annex. From 1961 until 1962 we met at Moore's Restaurant, located on Charity Street, presently the location across from the Vermilion Parish Sheriff's office annex. In 1962 to the present day, the Abbeville Rotary Club has held its weekly lunch meetings at the Abbeville Country Club.

Members of the club have shown interest in district and international functions. Many members have attended international conventions in the United States. Several members have attended Rotary meetings while traveling in France, Europe, Mexico and Canada.

Our Club has furnished three district governors and one Rotary International Director.

Our Club sponsored the Rotary Club in near-by Kaplan, chartered June 2, 1972.

Audrey Hotel



Ben Boudreaux's Bar & Diner



Abbeville Rotary Club Service Projects

Throughout the years, the Abbeville Rotary Club has been responsible for organizing, supporting and raising funds for many community service projects. We also have supported international projects through donations to the Rotary Foundation and directing to disaster relief funds. Listed on the following pages are some of the service projects supported by our Club. However, this does not account for all the good work done over the years by our Club and Club members.

1940's - Awarded a prize animal to an outstanding 4-H member
 1940's - During World War II, spearheaded scrap metal collection & bond drives
 1945 - Sponsored Boy Scout Troop 80
 1949 - Through the inspiration of President Edward LeBlanc, the "What I Want To Be and Why" essay contest was started
 1960 - Organized a steak dinner to benefit the baseball leagues
 1983 - Raised \$22,000+ to set up trust fund for benefit of Vermilion Special Olympics
 1984 - Donation for Vietnam Memorial statue in New Orleans
 1984 - Sponsored the "Stampede 5-Mile Run" in conjunction with the Vermilion Cattle Festival

1985-1986

Started regular contributions by Club members to the Paul Harris Sustaining program of the Rotary Foundation

1986-1987

Farmer of the Year Award started
 Donated Oak Tree and Park Benches to Godchaux Park
 50th Anniversary fundraiser; benefited local Senior Citizens, Scouting/Camp Steen, Vermilion 4-H Foundation, Child Abuse Prevention & Projects for Needy

1987-88

Weekly Auctions started at meetings, funds for service projects
 Raised over **\$30,000 for PolioPlus**; Immunized over 250,000 Children against Polio & Other Vaccine Preventable Diseases
 District Rotary Foundation Award

1988-1989

Giant Garage Sale, Proceeds to start Vo-Tech Scholarship Fund
 Club Sponsored GSE Team member to Malaysia & Singapore - Mark G, Shirley
 District Rotary Foundation Award

1989-1990

Microfilm Reader-Printer Donated to V.P. Library
 Public Servant of the Year Recognition
 Host Club & Registration / 1990 District Conference
 District Rotary Foundation Award

1990-1991

Election Day Food Drive
 Vo-Tech Scholarship Funding (Named for Rotarian Chester Broussard)
 10,000 Rotary Foundation Plateau Reached
 Foreign Student Exchange Program - Australia

<u>Rotarian</u>	<u>Induction</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Rob Roy	2010	Electrical Supply
Jim Russo	2003	Retail Grocery
Lance Savoie	2005	Dentistry
Mark G. Shirley	2001	Aquaculture Education
Rebecca V. Shirley	2010	Acad. Econ. Develop.
Glenn Suire	1983	Country Club Mgmt.
Kenneth R. Taylor	1989	Package Engineer-Retired
Kim J. Touchet	2009	Civil Engineer
Pamela C. Trahan	2010	Tax Services
Karl "Bubba" Weill Jr.	1995	Lawyer -Estates

OF THE FORTY-ONE (41) CLUB MEMBERS AT THE END OF THIS DIAMOND (75th) ANNIVERSARY YEAR, SIX (6) WERE MEMBERS AT THE END OF THE GOLDEN (50th) ANNIVERSARY.

On the Diamond (75th) Anniversary the average age of Abbeville Rotary Club members is 55 year old, with the average years of service being 12 years.

Of the Club fifty-eight (58) members at the end of the Golden (50th) Anniversary year, thirteen (13) were members of the Club at the end of the Club's Silver (25th) Anniversary.

On the Golden (50th) Anniversary the average age of Abbeville Rotary Club members was 55 year old, with average years of service being 15 years.

THE TRADITIONS OF ROTARY

The Club realizes that attendance of members at Club meetings is stressed because Rotary started as a club to build friend ships; and that only by attending meetings can we share our friendships. Only by attending the meetings of other clubs can we get to know Rotarians outside our club.

Beginning with the Club's first program chairman, W.B. MacMillan, good programs have encouraged good attendance. We have heard from local, parish, and state officials, from leaders in the field of education, from scientists and from statewide business and industry organizations, U.S. Senators and Congressmen, FBI agents, and representatives of national interests. Among the best programs rendered were given by our own members when they talked about their business or professional lives.



FELIX J. SAMSON

The Abbeville Rotary Club's founder, Felix Joseph Samson, a widely known and successful lawyer and a recognized leader in the civic and public affairs of Abbeville for more than a third of a century, had been engaged in the practice of law here since 1905 and filled several positions of trust and responsibility. From 1908 until 1912 he was a member of the state legislature from Vermilion Parish district.

Mr. Samson was a member and trustee of the St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church and was the first Grand Knight of the local lodge of the Knights of Columbus organized in 1921. He was a member of the board of directors of the Bank of Abbeville and Trust Company. He was city attorney for Abbeville for three terms, served as treasurer of the Vermilion chapter of the American Red Cross from the end of World War I until his death, and acted as chairman for the parish during the third War Bond drive during World War I. He was active in many Chamber of Commerce projects, and backed Boy Scout movements until his death.

Mr. Samson holds the distinction of being the only president of the Abbeville Rotary Club to serve two terms - 1936 to 1938. Felix J. Samson passed away on May 7, 1951 at the age of 69.

W. B. MACMILLAN

W. B. MacMillan was very instrumental in the Club's formation and in continuing its growth. Mr. Mac's commitment to Rotary and the ideals of Rotary were experienced by everyone he met. In our club he was given the unofficial title of "Mr. Rotary."

Mr. MacMillan was suitably honored when the Club raised \$1,000 and made him the first Paul Harris Fellow from the Abbeville Rotary Club in 1974. W. B. MacMillan passed away on September 4, 1978 at the age of 94.



A LEGACY OF SERVICE

The Abbeville Rotary Club is fortunate to have been able to serve this community since 1936, initiating many projects involving the community and its youth. "Service Above Self" the Rotary motto, is a tradition of our Club.

The Abbeville Rotary Club and its individual members have been in the forefront of many civic enterprises.

In the early years, the Club was responsible for organizing and raising funds for many community service projects. The Club awarded a prize animal to an outstanding 4-H member. During World War II the Club spearheaded scrap collection and bond drives. In 1945 we began sponsorship of Boy Scout Troop 80, helping young men to grow to become responsible adults. In 1949, through the inspiration of President Edward LeBlanc, the "What I Want To Be and Why" essay contest, a project aimed at assisting high school students to determine what direction their lives will take, was started. Throughout the past seventy-five years the Abbeville Rotary Club has supported youth baseball teams, sponsored activities that benefit the aged, and organized projects that serve the whole community.

The Club and its individuals have a splendid record of civic work for Abbeville, a tradition begun with the founding of the Club. The Club has helped raise funds for several local needs, including setting up perpetual funds to support the following:

Vermilion Special Olympics Fund- Created June 1983
Current funds are \$33,000+

Chester Broussard Vo-Tech Fund / Created June 1989
Current funds are \$33,000+

What I Want To Be And Why Essay Contest Fund - Created April 1996
Current funds are \$28,000+

Norman Romero/Ronney Mayard Honor Band Fund – Created August 1998
Current funds are \$27,000+

Members of the Abbeville Rotary Club also serve on many fund raising committees in this area.

Abbeville Rotarians also support the programs of the Rotary Foundation, which annually awards scholarships for a year's study abroad, sponsors hundreds of cultural exchanges between countries and conducts several large-scale projects to improve health, alleviate hunger and promote cultural advancement in lesser-developed areas of the world. One notable project taken on by the Rotary Foundation is its pledge to immunize every human being in the world against polio.

Since the PolioPlus program was started in 1985 polio cases worldwide have fallen by 99%, more than 5 million children are walking who would have been paralyzed and more than 1.5 million lives have been saved with the progress that Rotary International has made in eradicating polio.

The Officers and Board serving the Club for the 1986-1987 Golden (50th) Anniversary year:

President - Lloyd Dore' III
President-elect - Clarence Baldrige
Secretary - Stephen Meador
Treasurer - Danny Broussard
Board Member - Alex Crochet
Board Member - Terril Faul
Board Member - Earle Broussard
Board Member - Ray Broussard
Board Member - Dr. Frank Falgout
Intermediate Past President - Dr. Syd Crackower

The 41 members on the Diamond Anniversary (75th) are (showing name of member, year admitted and classification):

<u>Rotarian</u>	<u>Induction</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Whitney L. Atchetee	1989	Physical Therapy
Noel A. Bajat (RID)	1977	Savings Banks
Paul A. Bourgeois	1999	Voc. Tech. Ed.
Anita M. Carrere-Chaisson	2011	Chiroprator
Donald P. Chauvin (PDG)	1992	Tax Service
Johnny Choate	2010	Insurance-Life & Annuity
Michael A. Couvillon	2001	Law Enforcement
Alex P. Crochet Jr.	1985	General Insurance-Retired
Chris Dardeau	1908	Banking
Daniel (Dr.) Dartez	1977	Educ. Suprntdt.-Retired
Madeline Dehart	2008	Music Education Spvrsr.
Charles Dill Jr.	2002	Fed. Border Agnt-Retired
Lloyd F. Doré III	1979	Accounting Service
Richard C. Dubois	1965	Banking-Retired
Richard J. Dubois	2011	Insurance/Fin. Services
Bernard Duhon	1995	Attorney - Health Care
W. P. "Judge" Edwards	1981	Conservation Service
Russell Frederick	1992	Funeral Director-Retired
Raymond Gagne	2004	Wedding Planner
Suzanne Jones	1993	Real Estate Sales
Lacy Foreman Labbe	2007	Financial Advisor
Garolyn Landry	1996	Educ. Specialist
Riley Landry	2000	Exterminator
Scott Menard	2011	Insurance/Fin. Advisor
Bertha Mire	2006	Extended Care
John O'Bryan	1999	Auditing
Craig Overland	2010	Boy Scout Exec.
Deborah L. Parsons	1995	Investment Consultant
Richard J. Primeaux	2003	Civil Engineer
Mason Romero	2008	Pharmacist

The Officers and Board serving the Club for the 2011-2012 Diamond Anniversary Rotary year:

Officers

- Karl "Bubba" Weill Jr. – President
- Riley Landry – President Elect
- Chris Dardeau – Secretary
- Jim Russo – Treasurer
- Bertha Mire – Immediate Past President

Directors

- Kim Touchet – Club Administration
- Paul Bourgeois – Club Public Relations
- Mason Romero – Membership
- Alex Crochet – Service Projects
- Lloyd Doré III – Rotary Foundation
- Pam C. Trahan – Program Coordinator
- Kim Touchet – Bulletin Editor
- Lloyd Doré III - Club Historian



(L to R) Jim Russo-Treasurer, Paul Bourgeois-Club Public Relations, Pam C. Trahan-Program Coordinator, Kim Touchet-Bulletin Editor, Karl "Bubba" Weill-President, Chris Dardeau-Secretary, Bertha Mire-Immediate Past President, Mason Romero-Membership, Alex Crochet-Service Projects, Lloyd Doré III-Rotary Foundation, Club Historian (not pictured), Riley Landry-President Elect)

The Rotary Foundation has been well supported by the Club and by individual members. In this 50th Anniversary year the club has passed the 2,000% plateau. For several years 100% of our membership is participating by contributing to the Foundation.

On the Club's 50th Anniversary the list of Paul Harris Fellows numbered only seven (7) - W. B. MacMillian, Silas Cooper, Jr., Robert Hollier, Frank Hunter, Charles Dill and Emery Sonnier. For the 50th anniversary year, our founder, Felix J. Samson was made a Paul Harris Fellow through contributions by his family and members of the Club.

Since 1986 the number of Paul Harris Fellows has increased to 134.

	<u>Total</u>
1936 – 1986	7
1987 – 1991	35
1991 - 1996	52
1997 – 2002	73
2003 – 2008	107
2009 - 2010	122
2011	134 (12 new Paul Harris Fellows as of 11/18/2011)

The Club has received and entertained Rotary Group Study Exchange teams who have come to our district from New Zealand, Belgium-Luxembourg, England, Wales, and Australia. James Fontenot was on our district's team that went to Belgium in 1970, W. P. "Judge" Edwards went to Australia in 1981, Terril Faul was on the team that went to France in 1983, and Mark Shirley was on the team that went to Malaysia/Singapore in 1988. Upon their return all became Rotarians.

The Abbeville Rotary Club's members have served this area in public offices: five parish superintendents of education, three local mayors, two Clerk of Court, several Police Jurors, several VP Sheriffs, state senators, state representatives, and chief justice of the LA. Supreme Court, and other local and state officials.

In 1986, the Abbeville Rotary Club began a new era. Our 50th Anniversary was marked by having a fourth generation Rotarian, and the great-grandson of our founder, serve as President during this year. The 1986-87 President, Lloyd F. Doré III took the same role that his great-grandfather, Felix J. Samson, took fifty years before.

Our celebration for the 50th anniversary was held on Tuesday, November 18, 1986 at the Abbeville Country Club.

Our 75th anniversary celebration is planned for Thursday, November 17th, 2011, hosted by the Eastridge Nursing Center in Abbeville.

The 50th and 75th Anniversary of the Club were attended by members and their spouses, District 6200 past district governors, and former past presidents & past members of the Abbeville Rotary Club.



Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Abbeville, Louisiana
 November 18, 2011 / Diamond (75th) Anniversary

Past Presidents of the Abbeville Rotary Club



Front (L to R): Beno Duhon (2001-02), Alex Crochet (1990-91), Bertha Mire (10-11), Garolyn Landry (02-03), Richard C. Dubois (72-73), Jules Hebert (2009-10)
 Back (L to R): Noel Bajat-RIVP (1993-94), Whit Atchetee (96-97), Charles Dill Jr. (08-09), Deborah Parson (04-05), Paul Bourgeois (05-06), Mark G. Shirley (06-07), Russell Frederick (2000-01), Dr. Dan Dartez (82-83), Don Chauvin-PDG (98-99), Richard Primeaux (07-08), Ken Taylor (03-04), Glenn Suire (91-92), Lloyd Doré III (1986-87) (Not pictured, "Judge" Edwards (94-95))



(L to R): Suzanne Jones, Rebecca Shirley, "Judge" Edwards (Pres. 94-95), Scott Menard



(L to R): Craig Overland, Dr. Lance Savoie, Lacy Labbe, John O'Bryan, Madeline Dehart, Ray Gagne



(L to R): Sheriff Mike Couvillon, Riley Landry (Pres. Elect), Johnny Choate, Rob Roy, Dr. Anita Carrere-Chaisson, Richard J. Dubois