

## History

On March 26th, 1948, Woodford A. Kennedy, a long time member of the Charlotte Rotary Club and active in many of its objectives, wrote a letter to John Paul Lucas, Jr., then President of the Charlotte Rotary Club, suggesting the formation of a Rotary Club in the Dilworth section of Charlotte.

J. Aubrey Chrisman and Thomas A. Aldridge, also long time members of the Charlotte Rotary Club, joined in the movement and performed notable work.

The movement received great impetus when Everett C. Bierman, Governor of the 194th District, Rotary International, advocated the same before the Club Assembly of the Charlotte Rotary Club and again before the entire club at the time of his official visit. John Paul Lucas, Jr, was appointed as Special Representative and did an outstanding job in steering the proposal through the many necessary steps.

The work of David G. Welton, the new president of the Charlotte Rotary Club, his board of directors, and finally the overwhelming vote of more than one hundred and seventy-five members of the Charlotte Rotary Club, was a deciding factor and assured the formation of a new club.

The organization meeting was held on the night of October 4th, 1948 with District Governor Everett C. Bierman presiding. A large delegation of Rotarians from the Charlotte Rotary Club, the sponsoring club, was present.

The Charter Presentation Banquet was held at Chaise Mantel, December 3rd, 1948. Governor Everett C. Bierman presented the charter. President Woodie Kennedy accepted for the Dilworth Rotary Club.

The club name was changed to Charlotte Dilworth South End in 2003, to reflect the neighborhood and area that it serves.

Rotary began as an idea more than 100 years ago. Today, Rotary flourishes worldwide with 1.2 million members in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.



The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to capture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The Rotary name derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

### [A Complete Rotary History](#)

Paul Percy Harris (April 19, 1868 – January 27, 1947) was a Chicago attorney best known for founding Rotary International in 1905, a service organization with over 1.2million members worldwide.

Harris was born in Racine, Wisconsin, but grew up in Vermont. He later moved to Chicago, Illinois, to begin his law practice.



Today's Rotary Leadership comes from all corners of the world.