



Tour of One Rotary Center

Rick Barrett

This week we celebrate the anniversary of the founding of Rotary, and what better way to do so than to visit Rotary's headquarters and get a bit of our history? Today's program is a follow-up to Rick's program from last fall on the [Polio Plus exhibit](#). Rick, lead the way!



Welcome!

As we enter the lobby, we see the dedication plaque above, and from here, we go up to the 16th Floor where we are greeted by Paul Harris himself.



The main reception desk is also on the 16th Floor. Note the stained glass behind the desk. It is a piece called the “Ship of Fellowship,” which was designed and hand wrought in 1984 as

a gift to Rotary International by master artist John Bera, a Rotarian of Rancho Bernardo (San Diego), California, USA. This stained glass window is fabricated of individual pattern-cut pieces of colored glass from various parts of the USA and Europe (a larger shot of the piece is on the next page).

The theme combines the Rotary qualities of fellowship, service, and good humor. The figure holding the book signifies knowledge and experience. The scales, ever mindful of the 4-Way Test, weigh good and evil (fairness). The burning torch signifies love for all humanity. The personage at the extreme right offers musical joy to the laden heart. Finally, the dolphin swimming alongside ensures a safe and peaceful voyage.

The design was inspired by the theme of 1984-85 RI President Carlos Canseco: “Discover a New World of Service.”



We now enter
the 711 Room.

“The rain beat
down on 127 N.
Dearborn Street
on November
15, 1983, as 100
Rotarians and
wives crowded
the 7th Floor
hallway of





Chicago's Unity Building. Before them was the office of mining engineer Gus Loehr: Room 711. Here on February 23, 1905, lawyer Paul Harris met with Gustave Loehr, coal dealer Sylvester Schiele, and merchant tailor Hiram Shorey to create the world's first Rotary club." (Paul Harris 711 Club brochure) Before the Unity Building was demolished, this shrine to Rotary's birthplace was moved to One Rotary Center.



For more information about the Paul Harris 711 Club, go to www.room711.org.

Also on the 16th Floor is the Paul Harris Room. While this is not a reproduction of Paul's office, the furnishings and artifacts are displayed nearly exactly as they were in his RI office.



Highlights include:



Paul Harris's wood desk with an inlaid gearwheel, which was a gift from Australian Rotarians.



A wooden Rotary wheel with a base that is made from pieces of wood indigenous to regions of the Rotary world.

A wooden Rotary wheel with a base that is made from pieces of wood indigenous to regions of the Rotary world. (previous page)

Awards presented to RI from dignitaries all over the world.



We now go up to the 17th Floor to The Rotary Foundation lobby. Past RI President Arch C. Klumph (1916-17) was the first Rotary leader to propose a foundation. In 1918, the Rotary Club of Kansas, Missouri, USA, made the first gift of US\$26.50 to a fledgling fund that grew to more than US\$5000 in 1928. The endowment was so large that it needed administrators to manage it – thus The Rotary Foundation was born. PRIP Klumph was selected as one of the first Trustees and served as chair from 1928-34.



Along the north and south walls of the east side of the floor is the Arch C. Klumph Society Gallery. These very generous Rotarians and their spouses have contributed at least US \$250,000 to The Rotary Foundation



We also see the Arch C. Klumph Society Memorial Display Case, which contains special memorabilia from Past RI President Klumph's Rotary career.

The picture on the next page, which is on the top row of the display case, is the 1916-17 RI Board of Directors.



Back Row: 1st Vice President F.W. Galbraith, 3rd Vice President E. Leslie Pidgeon, Secretary Chelsey R. Perry, 2nd Vice President Guy Gundaker
Front Row: President Arch C. Klumph, Past President Allen D. Albert

We now go up to the 18th Floor.

The flags of each country and geographic area where Rotary clubs are located are represented, over 200 in all. (see next page)



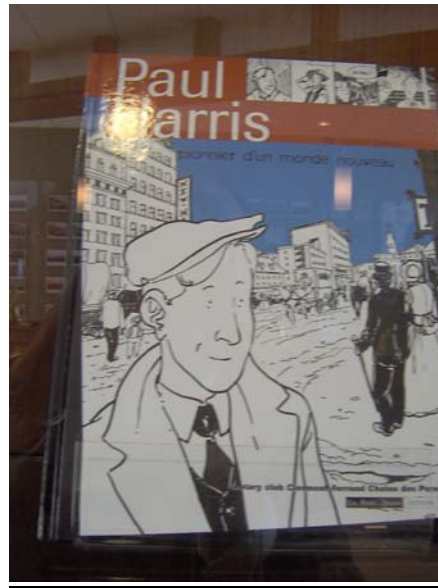
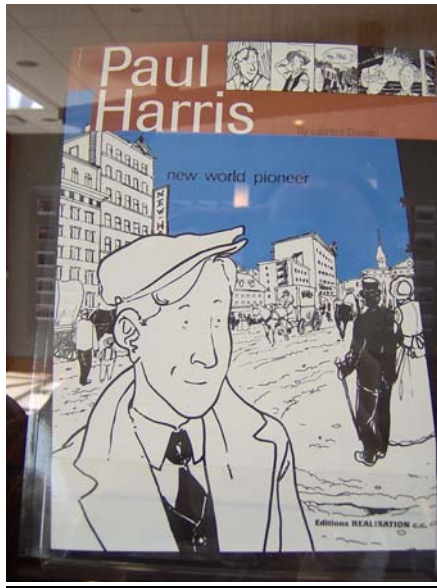


On display are four Rotary centenary bells. Next to each bell is a book. These four books traveled to Rotary clubs all over the world during Rotary's centenary year and contain greetings from thousands of Rotarians.

THE CENTENARY BELL

Messenger of Peace and Brotherhood among people
 Realized from the Agnone Club (district 2090 - Italy)
 for the Evanston One Rotary Center.
 Melted at the Marinelli Pontifical Foundry in Agnone





Cartoon books about Paul Harris in English and French



This portrait of Arch C. Klumph hangs outside the Trustee Chairman's office. During the 2001-02 Rotary year, Past President Klumph was posthumously named a Paul Harris Fellow.

Next up, the Trustee Chairman's office. (see next page)

Inside the office is a miniature version of the PolioPlus statue that is outside One Rotary Center.



From the Trustee Chairman's office it is a short walk to the Board Room. This is where both the RI Board of Directors and TRF Board of Trustees conduct their meetings.

During meetings, each item on the agenda is displayed on the monitors, moved for passage by the sponsor, discussed, and then voted on. Meetings follow Robert's Rules of Order.



Along the north wall of the Board Room you can see the interpreters' booths. While

meetings are conducted primarily in English, Board and Trustee members represent Rotarians from all over the world. As a result, simultaneous interpretation is available as needed for leadership meetings in all nine official Rotary languages (English, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swedish). The simultaneous interpretation program of the United Nations is based on that of Rotary.

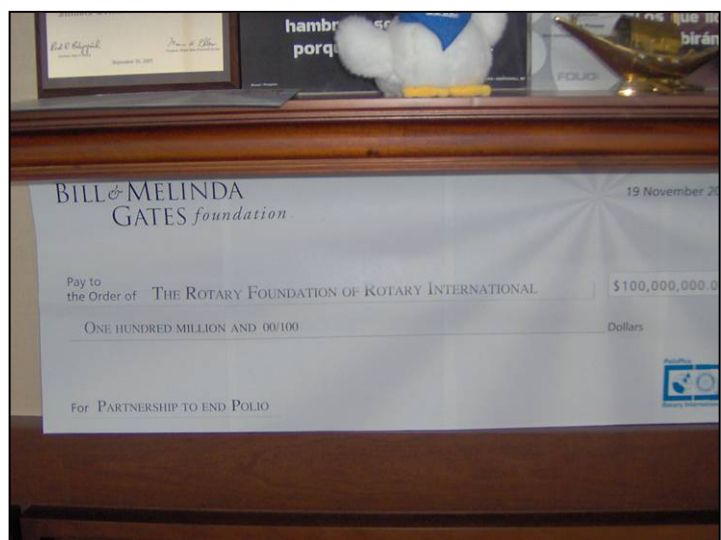


We'll go from the Board Room to the General Secretary's office. GS Ed Futa has held this position since July 2000.



There is a display case with mementos of the General Secretary's travels and Rotary

memorabilia. There is also a presentation check from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International for US \$100 million, which was the amount of the Gates Foundation's first grant to Rotary towards Polio eradication.



Also located on the 18th Floor, just east of the Boardroom, is RI President-elect Ray Klinginsmith's office.



Rotarians elect their president for a one-year term at the International Convention. The 2009-2010 RI President is John Kenny. His official biography is as follows.

President Kenny, a graduate of Glasgow University, is a past dean of his local law faculty, a judge, and a notary. He is past president of the Forth Valley Junior Chamber of Commerce and the Federation of Scottish Junior Chambers of Commerce and past general legal counsel of Jaycees International. In addition, Queen Elizabeth II appointed him the deputy lieutenant of his district.

President Kenny is an elder of the Church of Scotland, where he has served as session clerk and Presbytery elder. Active in Boy Scouting, he received the organization's Medal of Merit for helping to form new Scout groups in Eastern Europe.

A Rotarian since 1970, President Kenny is a member of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth. He has served Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI) as committee member and chair, vice president, and president. He has served Rotary International as district governor, task force member, committee member, vice chair, RI Board Executive Committee chair, director, and Rotary Foundation trustee. He also has been a representative, member at large, and parliamentarian for the Council on Legislation on several occasions.

President Kenny is a Rotary Foundation Major Donor and Bequest Society member. He is a recipient of the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.

President Kenny spends about half of the year in the Evanston office. The rest of this time in office is spent traveling the world on RI's behalf, visiting heads of state, conducting Presidential Conferences and other international meetings, and visiting Rotary clubs and projects. The many gifts and other mementos of the President's visits decorate his

office. When President Kenny leaves office on June 30, 2010, these mementos will be packed and shipped to his home in Scotland, and 2010-2011 RI President Klingensmith will move into the office to begin his term on July 1, 2010.

I hope you have enjoyed this tour. If you should find yourself in Evanston, I look forward to showing you One Rotary Center in person.

Yours in Rotary Service,
Rick Barrett
Rotary eClub of the Southwest USA

