

We wish to thank all those who answered a request to: Give a description of why YOU joined our eClub, what YOU knew and expected from Rotary and our an eClub before and shortly after joining, what was YOUR vision of YOUR service to the eClub and how YOU saw the eClub (now that it is a permanent partner in Rotary's future) giving in service to other Rotarians and clubs. Like all tasks in a Rotary club, some members replied right away (especially newly joined Rotarians), some wanted time to think it through (many of our seasoned Rotarians) and some did not really wish to answer the request. In other words, a Rotary eClub works just like any other club, Rotary or outside in the world.

Read what these Rotarians wrote about themselves, their background and some of their visions for the future. You may find it refreshing, revealing and, at times, a new revelation. We called it, A Dance While Joining Hands. How would you answer this request? Read what these Rotarians think about our eClub. It is a beginning for more questions. The real questions for our eClub will be, now or in the future: What are the resources of an eClub? What does an eClub do best in the world? How are our resources used to forward this level of excellence?

Norma Taylor-Rodriguez, a member from 2007, past District 5510 Governor, Phoenix, Arizona (who we asked to write programs this year when the muse touched her as Ms Truly Candid- giving us a lighter, humorous touch this year to our overall programs to counter-balance all the seriousness of being a new eClub in the Rotary family). Here is Norma's answer to that request:

Dear President Joe:

Well, I called Miss Truly about your request for her to write articles for your club next Rotary year. I could not answer any sooner because she doesn't have e-mail, and her party line was busy when I tried to call.

She was so honored that I believe she was actually floored. (I think she took a few sips of her medicinal spirits.) She will indeed be most happy to oblige you and write columns several times a year, depending upon (she said) whether there were significant and important goings-on in Quaking Aspens and Podunk Pines.

I must let you in on how Miss Truly Candid was born. I am originally from Colorado, grew up in Colorado Springs. My brother is a retired minister from a teensy tiny little town high in the Colorado Rockies and has lived there for probably 40 years. Actually his little house and church were located in Poncha Springs (Quaking Aspens) and he now lives during the summers about five miles from there in Salida (Podunk Pines). He spends his winters in Mazatlan, Mexico.

For many, many years I spent a couple of weeks visiting him during the hot Phoenix summers – and still do. He is an avid mountaineer and jeep driver. He has a WWII jeep

with a hotrod Chrysler engine in it, and that machine will go straight up. We have been up as high as 13,000 feet in it, have been snowed on in August, and once gently rolled it and had to winch out. I never felt as if I had been on a real jeep trip unless my life was in danger.

One day about 15 or 16 years ago I was sitting on his patio reading the Salida weekly paper. I got absolutely hysterical. It listed everyone who had got any kind of traffic ticket, all the hospital admissions, discharges and births, dates the ladies' sewing circle met, and every little bit of human interest in the town. So when I occasionally felt inspired, I began to write, as Miss Truly Candid, on subjects such as religion (I'll send that to you if you'd like), citified visitors in the town (me), and various other subjects as they occurred. I found that Ms Truly could say many things that I could not.

She began to write about Rotary probably six or eight years ago and covered events such as a governor's installation, a Rotary dinner party, and of course the district conference which originally appeared in the eClub early on. Until I lost my voice box to cancer, I did a number of presentations as her: gray wig, long-sleeved, high-necked black dress with white collar and cuffs, and a 1950's pillbox hat, with a silver flask of "medicinal spirits" in it. I had great fun at PETS and several district conferences. At PETS I once called the incoming governor to the stage for laughing at me and made him sit in the "forgiveness chair" and sit with his back to the audience and stare at the flag with the Four-Way Test for about 15 minutes. (Sure couldn't have done that as Ms. Taylor!) The Rotarians loved it! At my own district conference shortly after Ron and I were married, I also called him to the podium for "giggling at my serious speech." I asked him his name, and he responded with the name of another PDG. I then had him "arrested by the Rotary police," and led away in handcuffs for wearing someone else's badge, saying that was just the type of person who would marry someone just to attend my district's conference. (Ron and I are PDGs in different districts.) I am fortunate to have a video of one of those presentations so my grandkids (and great-grandkids) will know how I used to talk.

Well, I have rambled on almost as bad as Miss Truly. But indeed she advises that she will be so honored to write her column for you and she wishes you a wonderful and exciting year as President of the eClub.

In Rotary, Norma.

**Many Voices, One Song, our eClub 2010
Rev. Judy Taunt, Founder and Charter President 2004~2005**

In 2003 I was considering leaving my Rotary club due to diminishing eyesight from Macular Degeneration. Our RC meeting room was very dark plus smoke from the next dining room was toxic to me. I had looked at eclubone's web site with the thought of my Rotary membership being with a club on line. The current DG knew my situation and asked me to "spear head" chartering an eClub in the RI Pilot Program with D5510 as the host district. Six years later the April 2010 COL vote made eClubs a permanent reality in the Rotary World. The charter members visualized new members coming to us as they were needed to make this a global membership giving individual and group

participation capability with equanimity. Those of us who are still with our eClub are so pleased that our hard work has manifested with continuous expansion in all areas. This concept of a new Rotary expression in the form of an eClub has become a creative and safe place to express each member's desire to experience "Service Above Self". We have made a difference in people's lives and will continue to do so. If I were a new member I would explore all the options that this eClub offers for about a year. Why? Each member will find their niche, work within their passion & know that their experience in this eClub and Rotary is meaningful. Our membership will make the changes, based on a very strong constitution and bylaws, that will be needed as each Rotary year passes. We are the vision, we are the future.

Rick Barrett is the finance manager in Evanston for Rotary International and a member of this eClub.



I became interested in joining a Rotary club in 2008. As an RI staff member, it's easy to feel disconnected from all the good works Rotary and Rotarians do around the world, and I wanted to be a part of that in a more hands-on way. The logistics of my commute and the usual fullness of my schedule made committing to a terra club very difficult. While searching Rotary's website, I came across e-clubs and did some investigating about how they met and supported projects. I reviewed the websites of several e-clubs and became interested in the Rotary E-Club of the Southwest USA because of the diversity membership (geographically, good mix of men and women, different cultural backgrounds) and my personal connection to the Phoenix/Scottsdale area: my maternal grandparents have lived in Scottsdale since 1991. I've really enjoyed our weekly programs, meeting my fellow e-club members, and seeing the projects we've supported.

After I joined, I had hoped to make connections with local Rotary clubs so I could participate in community projects. I made several attempts to contact local clubs or to schedule a time to speak with the faculty sponsors of the Interact club of the high school I graduated from to talk about mentoring opportunities but to no avail. I started becoming discouraged as I did not want to be an "armchair" Rotarian. I have to thank Carol Anderson for pointing out in one of our programs that volunteer service can be anywhere and not just limited to Rotary projects. I had been volunteering with a group that seeks to provide education through entertainment for years. In 2009, I organized a reunion of past and present members (400+) in honor of our 20th anniversary;

almost 170 attended. I have since assumed the position of treasurer and have used my expertise to file for legal registration and will be working on our application for tax-exempt status later this year.

I think our e-club has a bright future. The growth in membership reflects the reality that many Rotarians face. We all have many professional and personal commitments, and we want to remain active Rotarians, but we just cannot fit a weekly meeting at a fixed time and place into our schedules. E-clubs provide another way to participate in Rotary, and I am pleased that Rotary has chosen to embrace e-clubs, as evidenced by the vote at the Council on Legislation overwhelmingly in favor of making e-clubs a permanent part of Rotary. I do think that the opportunity to form two e-clubs per district will result in some loss of membership in our e-club as members may be asked to help charter new e-clubs in districts where they are located geographically. While these new e-clubs will certainly benefit from the experience of our members, I hope that our e-club will not lose the diversity that makes it so interesting to prospective members.

**Maureen A. McKinley, a new member since February 1, 2010, who lives on
Whispering Tree Road in Las Vegas, Nevada:**

I would guess that I am the only third generation Rotarian in this EClub. At least the only one over 55? My grandfather was a charter member of the West Hollywood, California Rotary Club (no longer extant) and joined we think in 1930. My dad moved from Wisconsin to California in 1953 and joined Rotary and I was born in 1954, thus have been a Rotarian all my life. The two weekly events that were never missed were Church on Sundays and for Dad his Rotary Meeting. I learned from him and my mom the importance and value of "Service Above Self" at a very early age and hopefully I live it half as well as they did. My dad also taught me that there were three kinds of Rotarians: those who had time and money to serve Rotary; those who just had money and those who just had time. (My mother added a fourth category those who had money and a family that did the time!)

When my Dad and I would talk about Rotary and how it could be better, get more members and better retain those they had, he always thought that Rotary needed to adjust to make it easier for the latter two types to join Rotary and feel as appreciated as those that had both time and money. Well, he passed away last November, and thus did not get to see his wish come to fruition, Rotary International ruling that Eclubs are now full-fledged Rotary Clubs! YAY Rotary International and all of the eclubs and their members who excelled as members of Rotary and proved to the naysayers that Eclubs can do anything that brick and mortar Rotary Clubs can do AND MAYBE EVEN MORE!!

When I elected to join RECSWUSA, my primary motivation was money. My dad had paid the base costs of the Rotary Club and I paid for project donations, PolioPlus and

Foundation as my budget allowed. After his death, I just could no longer spend \$100 a month simply on food, but I still wanted to be a Rotarian. Joining an EClub was the obvious budget solution. What I didn't realize and soon did after spending just a few minutes on our great website was how similar EClubs are to B&M Clubs. I was thrilled!

Now what really surprised me was the international feel of our particular club. I can hardly wait to visit members in Nigeria, Mexico, Italy – don't be scared I am no looking for cheap vacation housing, but when traveling by oneself it is always nice to know that you have a fellow club member that just might help you out! The other surprise was the need to facilitate the disabled, those recovering from long or serious illnesses and the very senior of age to be a part of Rotary. In the last six months of his life, Dad was still able to “go” to a Rotary meeting by EClubs – he favored Rotary Eclub One (shame on him!) Now, his assisted living facility is thinking about holding a Rotary Meeting with online participation for their residents! I will try to facilitate their participation.

As for those that are members that might come to Las Vegas, Nevada, I do have two guest rooms during the winter months and three during the summer and if you give me fair warning I will make sure I am home and the sheets and towels are clean. I am looking forward to Skyping and chatting with more members soon. It is my goal to contact one member a month for some social, casual fellowship. I am still learning how Skype works as I have had a few hiccups but it is now a priority.

Kim Covill, a new member-January 2010, Albuquerque, NM:

What a wonderful organization! I first heard about Rotary eClub of the Southwest USA from a friend in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Aware of the Rotary's excellent reputation for its local, domestic and international humanitarian work, I was delighted to receive an invitation for membership. Moreover, being able to attend meetings online gave me the flexibility I needed to be an active member. Without that option participation would have been impossible at this time.

Through Rotary I hoped to meet accomplished individuals from many countries and of many cultures, and to learn of their community projects. After attending my first several meetings, those expectations have been more than met! From Idylwood Care Center's residents growing their own vegetables in California, Bill Smale's Shoebox Project in Mexico, and Rotary's windmills benefitting the salt workers in India, I am overwhelmed with the countless and varied projects! Rotary members have earned knowledge and experience from which I hope to benefit. Already I have met two dentists in Granada, Nicaragua and learned of their library projects. As president and a founder of From Books to Brilliance, a nonprofit dedicated to providing access to literacy in impoverished

communities, these relationships help to foster my global view. I am inspired by Rotary's success and their philosophy of "Service above Self".

When joining Rotary eClub of the Southwest USA, expect more than you can imagine! I envision that this club will continue to expand, involving people of a common mind and purpose throughout the world. How wonderful it would be to have representation from all countries, bringing their social, economic and political expertise to the forefront of Rotary eClub of the Southwest USA! I am excited to learn more about Rotary and our club and to become an active and valuable member myself. I thank you all for your patience and help in that effort !

Francoise Thiebault-Rogers, a new member in April, 2010, from Saint Cyr sur Loire, France:

I joined the eClub because an eClub is a good solution for me. My Rotary club was 150 miles from my home and I could not attend every meeting. Also, I wanted to create the first French speaking eClub in France. And I wanted to know how an eClub works. I chose this eClub because I love Arizona. So now, I will do my best to improve the French eClub, but I want to stay in the Rotary eClub of the Southwest. I know very little about our eClub so I did not expect anything because I did not know how an eClub worked. But now, after visiting the Southwest eClub (MY eClub) many times, these last few weeks, I can tell you that I am surprised to notice that I am (almost always) alone on line, even now, when I am in Quebec. Here there is little change in time...and I wonder if many members are attending the sessions every week...I need to know that because of my desire to help create the French eClub.

For being a good member...maybe we have to read every new page on the website, to attend the session every week to keep in touch , to give money, of course, and to find a project that we enjoy ourselves, and then contribute a donation to this project. A good member might propose a project, and then explain it to all the members. We can exchange some ideas with all the members on the forums for making the eClub vibrant and alive. This means, of course, not only chatting, but talking about projects we can do all together or with a small group.

Since I do want to do my best while being helpful, I am waiting for you (our leadership) to tell me what I can do for being a good Rotarian! In the future - and now!-, an eClub can help Rotary to have young members, the young people who used the Rotary for having a (free) tour in a far country (GSE). They can become an eClub member, and therefore there will not be any reasons to refuse to be a Rotarian...for giving back to Rotary what Rotary gave to them!

Victor Esperon Alva, a new member in the last two months (2010) from Monterrey, Mexico:

I join the eClub because last year I had many health problems and the Doctors order me to stay at home least three months in complete rest , so I had to separate from my local club. In that time Raul Herrera (another new member to the eClub) told me about the eClub and I found that was the best option for me to stay in Rotary. Staying in Rotary were my expectations and my desire.

The E-Club has fulfilled all and more these expectations, because now I am still in Rotary and I am part of a new experience for Rotary and my self. Besides, I have fellow Rotarians of my own Club (the eClub)not only in my city but in 16 other countries of the world. ¡Isn't that Great!

If possible new members to the eClub have the spirit of a Rotarian and they found that it was very hard to give service to a regular Club, this is the chance to serve others with the freedom of assisting to your club on your personal schedule.

I believe this is going to be the Global Rotary Club in the 21 century (or a model for it) using all the technology available. When this happens, it is important not to forget to have a local group to share Rotary with them. It is not necessary but is very enjoyable.

FRANK LONGORIA, a seasoned Rotarian



My name is Frank Longoria. I was born in South Texas, and I have lived in Seattle, Washington, Madrid, Spain, Puerto Rico, Colorado, and Upstate New York. My ancestors came to Mexico from Spain and became Mexican Citizens in the early 1700's. In the early 1800's, they settled in Texas. Please note that this was before Texas

was a sovereign country (1836-1845). Texas joined the Union as the 28th State in 1845.

My father was a proud owner of a grocery store and a filling station, so I was taught responsibility early in life, since all of us children had to help him with chores in the morning (before school hours) and in the afternoon (after school hours). Our duties consisted of packaging sugar, beans, rice, etc. in various weights because everything came in 100 pound sacks in those days. Sometimes, during busy seasons, we would work in the evening until 10:00 p.m. My dad would wake us up at 4:30 a.m. the following morning to start the same routine all over again. He read quite a bit (in Spanish), and being that he was a great raconteur, on certain Winter nights that we did not have to work late, we would sit by the fire and he would tell us stories about all of his readings. Some of our nights were filled with exciting stories from the Thousand and One Nights, or from several of the novels written by Victor Hugo. He loved to recite poetry written by Spanish and Spanish American authors. I still know several of those poems by heart. Consequently, I majored in Spanish Language and Literature and minored in Comparative Literature (American and European). I graduated from the University of Washington in 1968 with a PhD in Romance Languages and Literature and took a position with the State University of New York. Shortly thereafter, I was named Director of International Programs and spent three years in Madrid, Spain as Resident Director. Upon my return, I served as Chair of the Foreign Language Department.

My sense of responsibility, learned at a very early age, encouraged me to seek ways in which I could help my fellow humans. I served as a Scoutmaster, both during my early years as a teacher and while I was serving in the U.S. Army. Helping youth was my passion! Later, I joined a Lions Club, then an Optimist Club and finally Rotary. Since Rotary has the International dimension that I was seeking, I am honored to be a Rotarian. After a long career as a college professor and administrator (44 years) at several universities, I retired in Horseshoe Bay, Texas. I immediately joined the Rotary Noon Club of Marble Falls, Texas. Knowing of my interest in the International dimension of Rotary, I was named Director of International Projects. During the time I served as Director, I had the pleasure of writing several Matching Grants, including a Matching Grant for an ambulance for Ciudad Madero, Mexico. That has been my proudest accomplishment because the poor people of Ciudad Madero are still putting the ambulance to good use.

As I got older, my hearing deteriorated to the point that it became very difficult for me to follow the business of the meetings, so I decided to look for an alternative. I was fortunate to find the eClub of the Southwest. I noticed that the eClub had members from 6 continents, so I became a member immediately. The eClub of the Southwest has met my expectations in every way because it is very much involved in the International dimension, and it continues to attract members from all over the World. It also has afforded me an opportunity to continue to serve. My advice to new eClub

members is to become active immediately, and to stay in constant contact with other members. That is what fellowship is all about, isn't it?

The future for our eClub is very promising. I was convinced from the very beginning that eClubs would be the trend of the future. Now, that eClubs are a permanent part of Rotary, I am confident that they will continue to grow in importance, in recognition, and in membership. I believe that we have begun to see this trend unfolding. My hope is that we attract younger people because they are the future of the World and the future of Rotary. (For further information on this subject, please refer to past program—No. 35).

A visit to Rotary Club Industrial of Monterrey, Mexico to work on Matching Grants. I am on the left, and the tall fellow next to me is Vicente García, President of Rotary Club Industrial of Monterrey. The Rotarian on the right is a good friend of mine, PDG John Salem from the Marble Falls Noon Rotary Club.



[Stephen Shearin – Internet Chair]

That's a wrap. Thanks very much to all those who contributed to this program, and 'Hello!' and thanks to all our visitors. Please leave a comment with some feedback – tell us how we're doing! As always, have a great Rotary week.