

Historian 2009 had a telephone discussion with Lionel Garcia, President 1976-77 on January 14, 2010. The following is a summary of the conversation. I joined the Club in 1969 and stayed until 1980. The club members were a close group attending many basketball, football, and baseball games together and big Christmas parties. I recall that the Club started the meeting with a song and pledge, but not with the 4-way test. We always had someone witty to introduce the guests. I had an exchanged banner cabinet with doors made so the exchanged banners could be displayed in a nice fashion. Marvin Matthews started the Shrimporee patterned after the one in Brazosport. One of the problems with the Shrimporee was that the food was all you could eat. Families would come, buy one ticket and the whole family eat off the one ticket and even take food home. We put in a lot of effort in making the public aware of the Shrimporee and did all kinds of advertising. I would go to TV stations and have a kid wear the Shrimp costume. I would never wear it. The idea of the Shrimporee was not so much in raising money but for the all the members to work together and to get to know each other better. However there was a lot of discussion about what group or groups to give the money to. Finally the Club decided to have one primacy beneficiary and the remainder of the money go to a number of other groups. Before the Shrimporee funds were raised by Club members donating out of their pockets, from the fees, and occasionally dinners for the public. He spoke of the astronauts being honorary members of the Club and how the Club banner circled the earth. Drugs were a big problem while I was with the Club and drug awareness was one of the main focuses. I took my family to the Rotary International Convention in San Francisco in 1976. We drove out and made a vacation out of it. Don Kirk, Dick Chandler, and I and our wives also attended the Rotary International Convention in New Orleans in 1975.