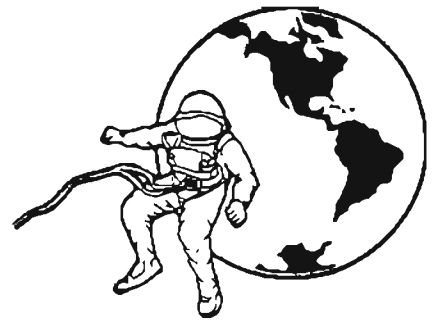




ROTARY CLUB OF SPACE CENTER

"Service Above Self"



Billy R. Smith, President

July 1, 1990

Dear Fellow Rotarians:

What is a Rotarian? What does it mean to be a Rotarian? Those are questions that we should ask ourselves regularly and which we should be readily prepared to answer when asked by one who is not a Rotarian.

We might begin to answer by saying, *"Rotary is a club whose members are the leaders of the community and who meet weekly to eat and fellowship with one another?"* One might also respond that *"Rotary is club where I can go and enjoy the companionship of a group of people whom I trust, respect, and enjoy being around?"*

Those are good answers, but very incomplete. I would also submit that such responses are not the place to begin to answer the question, *"What is Rotary?"*, but perhaps are better suited for a footnote or as an addition to the real answer. After reading the following Object of Rotary, let us ask the question again and see what our first response might be.

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:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND. 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;

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service by every Rotarian to his personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.

The answer to the question, *"What is Rotary?"*, is first and foremost **SERVICE**; service to the community in which we live, service to our nation and to the world, service to vocations, and service to our own Rotary club. Thus we have the four avenues of service around which the club is organized: Community Service, International Service, Vocational Service, and Club Service.

How, then, do we serve? In many ways, some of which require our personal time and energy, and others which require money. Some of this money is used by Rotarians to benefit others such as through scholarships, drug abuse essay contest, etc., and some is given to other

organizations to help them carry out worthy projects which the club has determined meet the standards of service by which we govern ourselves. Some money is used for the operational expenses of the club.

Where do we get this money that we use? The club has two budgets: the Administrative Budget and the Service Budget. The Administrative Budget is funded by our dues and membership fees. This money is used for club service. The Service Budget is funded by our fund-raising activities such as the Shrimpooree, Youth Golf Tournament, and Reverse Draw Dinner/Dance. This money is not used for the benefit of club members.

The extent to which Space Center Rotary Club is able to perform community service, vocational service, and international service is measured to a great extent by the success of our fund-raising activities. I don't know about you, but I dislike selling things and asking others to give me something; it makes me very uncomfortable, and, consequently I am not very successful at it. On the other hand, I believe very strongly in Rotary's ideal of *Service Above Self* and, if I am unable to overcome my personal timidity when it comes to selling tickets or asking for auction items, I will buy the tickets and give them to clients, friends, and family and purchase an auction item to donate. It becomes my choice either to put forth the effort or write the check, but the choice is mine. I believe that those are my only two choices if I am to really be a Rotarian. Each must decide for himself or herself how to answer the question, "*What is Rotary and what does it mean to be a Rotarian?*"

For me, without SERVICE, Rotary is just another club, an organization which obligates me to go to meetings and pressures or intimidates me into doing things that I don't want to do and there are plenty of clubs or organizations like that. I do not have room in my life for them.

On July 9th the program will be **SPACE CENTER SHRIMPOREE 1990** and several of our members will describe the plans we have been making since January. I believe that you will find the plans to be exciting and to promise a tremendous opportunity for fellowship and fun, but the way that you receive this information will depend greatly on how you answer the question, "*What is Rotary and what does it mean to be a Rotarian?*"

As your President, I am putting it all on the line with Shrimpooree 1990. Unless the Board of Directors decides otherwise, this will be our only fund raiser for the Rotary year 1990-1991 (with one exception, the Youth Golf Tournament, sponsored by the Golf Committee, which does not require the sale of tickets or soliciting auction items). What we have in the Service Budget will depend entirely upon the success of this activity and that is one reason for starting so early. It is my hope and recommendation that Shrimpooree planning become a year long effort and that we build toward Shrimpooree weekend in September, after which we can all collapse and pat each other on the back and say, "Job well done!"

Space Center Rotary Club is presently the third largest (in number of members) club in District 589. Very soon, we will likely be second largest. In terms of service, we are among the best, but we pale in comparison with such clubs as Brazosport and Northshore when it come to raising money in our community. Northshore just completed their fund-raiser which is a shrimp boil/auction and raised over \$95,000.00 net to fund their service budget. They have

only 98 members as compared to our nearly 200. Last year we raised about \$30,000.00 with our Shrimporee. I believe that the most we have ever raised is around \$35,000.00. Does that represent our best effort? I don't think so. How much can we raise? Only you can set that goal.

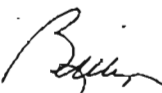
Each of you will serve on a club committee this year. Many of those committees will establish plans and goals which will require money from the service budget for funding. In making your plans, think about the source of those funds. It is not the Service Budget, that is just an accounting tool, but the SHRIMPOREE. What are you willing to do to help obtain the necessary funds for your committee's projects?

In conclusion, let me say that this letter is intended to provoke your thinking about what Rotary means to you and is not intended to intimidate or pressure you. That is not my desire nor is it my right or responsibility. Some will be satisfied with a weekly meal with fellow Rotarians and an interesting program. That is fine and you are important to me and to this Rotary club. I have been there, but after a while found that it was not enough. Going to meetings became an effort and I began to wonder why I did it. If you, too, find yourself wondering the same as I, it may be because you are not putting enough of yourself into Rotary. It seems to be true that with any investment, the return is directly related to what we put in. Think about it, but whatever you do, don't resign!

This is going to be a great year! A lot of planning has been done and we have a great club with great traditions. I truly believe that there is no project of which Space Center Rotary Club can conceive which it cannot accomplish. The Rotary National Space Award, providing treatment for underprivileged children with plastic surgery through our World Health Foundation, and the Drug Essay Contest which started here less than two years ago and which is spreading like wild fire are but a few examples.

The Rotary International theme for 1990-1991 is *Honor Rotary through faith and enthusiasm*. Let us see how many ways we can do just that in Space Center Rotary.

Yours in service through Rotary,


BILLY SMITH, President