



 **ROTARY CLUB OF GREENSBURG, PA.**

CENTENNIAL MOMENTS

1916 – 2016

Number 12

November, 26, 2013

Items From *Rotary Flashes*, 1939 – 1940

Attendance – “Still Room for Improvement”

In March 1940, the Greensburg Club boasted a membership of 72 members. Weekly attendance however rarely hit the 80 % mark, a major concern for the club. But, in January 1941, club attendance hit 83% prompting the club’s leadership to declare that there was “still room for improvement.” In an unsuccessful attempt to be the leader in the District, the club decreed that the attendance rules of Rotary International be “strictly enforced.” R.I. rules required a club to “automatically terminate” the membership of anyone missing four consecutive weekly meetings, or a member who had not attended 60% of club meetings during either the first or second six months of a club’s fiscal year. The first casualty of this attendance policy was Henry S. Coshey, local funeral director and later two-term mayor of Greensburg. On January 1, 1941, *Rotary Flashes* announced that the Board of Directors found it necessary to terminate Coshey’s membership for non-attendance.



MAYOR HENRY S. COSHEY

Rotary Flashes, Nov. 24, 1939, Dec. 7, 1939, Dec. 20, 1939, March 22, 1940, Sept. 20, 1940, Oct. 3, 1940, Oct. 10, 1940. Jan. 2, 1941

What Makes Rotary’s Wheels Go Round

Speakers and weekly programs were recurring issues for the club’s membership throughout the early years. A preference for “home grown” was the consensus of club members for the 1939-1940 club year. While some members preferred outside speakers, most wanted to hear what other members were doing in their businesses and professions – In short, the members wanted to know more about what makes the Greensburg Rotary’s wheels go round. During the 1939-40 club year, members heard speakers on a proposed Rte. 30 by-pass around Greensburg; the newly opened Pennsylvania “Dream Highway (PA. Turnpike); the Pa. State legislature’s debate over legislation to bar wives from working; “Medicine In the New Social Order” (New Deal); the “Basic Laws of Germany and Russia”; and the first mention of the mini-autobiography as members Dr. Bailey, Norman Bureau, Jack Sweeney and Bill Beitler “talked about their lives.”

Rotary Flashes, July 1939 thru June 1940

“High School Rotarian” of The Month

The club’s current program of inviting local high school students to lunch appears to have had its origin in 1939. Beginning in 1939, young men of character and leadership were chosen to serve as High School Rotarians. Mentored by a committee of club members, one male high school student served for an entire month. The 1939-40 High School Rotarians were Bob Sturgeon, Burl Albright, Leonard Campbell, Glenn Duncan, and Robert Long.

Rotary Flashes, Nov. 1939, March 7, 1940, May 17, 1940, Jan. 30, 1941

Rotary Brings the Spirit of Christmas to Many Greensburg Homes



Throughout the Great Depression years, the Greensburg Rotarians kept the spirit of Christmas alive in Greensburg by underwriting the purchase of articles of clothing for destitute families. A club document dated 1939 summarized the members’ generosity as they donated \$314 to purchase 170 pairs of shoes, 12 pairs of boots and galoshes, 4 pairs of rubbers, 7 boys suits, 4 pairs of pants, 2 overcoats, 6 sweaters, and 1 dress for 31 families. This practice often included relief for entire families. The Greensburg club also promoted the purchase of Christmas Seals, first issued in 1907, to raise funds to combat tuberculosis.

The Attendance Committee

The Club's Attendance Committee promoted regular attendance at Rotary meetings and other functions. The following 1942 Attendance Committee Report attests to the importance of turning out the membership for special club functions. The Attendance Committee also visited lax members in order to ascertain the reason for their unexcused absence. The 1942 committee appears to have established the need for a club directory.

Greensburg, Pa.
March, 24, 1942

Mr. O. S. Collins, President,
Greensburg Rotary Club,
Greensburg, Pa.

Dear President Shupe:

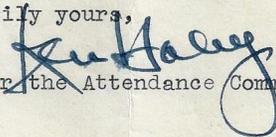
As per your request for a written report from the Attendance Committee, we can only in-form you that the Secretary tells us that the general attendance record for the past months has been good, and we have had no occasion to call upon or visit any members for delinquency in attendance.

Your committee has had several occasions however to call the membership for a check on attendance at special functions like the Pike Run Party, the Inter City Meeting and the Valentine Party, when we believe that several copies of the club roster showing both names and telephone numbers would be very helpful.

May we therefore make the suggestion that twelve or fifteen such mimeographed copies showing both office and residence phone numbers be made available so that two or three may be in the hands of the various members of the attendance committee so that they can check the calls made on members for their attendance at the special functions held periodically? In this way we feel that a more accurate report may be made to those arranging preparations for these events as well as a more accurate report to the Secretary for his records.

It is our hope and belief that the attendance will continue as good as it has for the past few months.

KRH/s

Rotarily yours,

for the Attendance Committee

