

Brookings Rotary Club Records

Collection Summary

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| Identifier: | MA 31 |
| Title: | Brookings Rotary Club Records |
| Dates: | 1920-1999 |
| Extent: | 2.54 linear feet (4 document cases, 1 oversize box) |
| Creator: | Brookings Rotary Club (Brookings, S. D.) |
| Language: | English |

Repository: South Dakota State University Archives & Special Collections, University Station, Box 2115, 1300 North Campus Drive, Brookings, South Dakota, 57007

Access Note: Open. Materials must be used in-house and do not circulate.

Preferred Citation: Title or description of item, date, MA 31, box number, folder number, Brookings Rotary Club Records, South Dakota State University Archives and Special Collections, Brookings, South Dakota.

Abstract

The Brookings Rotary Club was established in 1919 and chartered on February 1, 1920, through the efforts of local leaders Ivan Cobel and Clyde Hinkley, with sponsorship from the Watertown Rotary Club. Under its first president, Arthur Stoll, the club began with 21 members and quickly became an active force in civic development. Over the decades, Brookings Rotarians have supported youth programs, local health care, education, and community infrastructure, while also contributing to international efforts such as the Polio Plus campaign and global literacy initiatives. The club has maintained strong representation within Rotary leadership, sponsored educational scholarships and exchange programs, and continues to promote service and fellowship among business, industrial, and educational leaders in Brookings, South Dakota.

The Brookings Rotary Club Records, dating from 1920 to 1999, document nearly eight decades of organizational activity. The collection includes foundational governance documents, correspondence, committee reports, district conference materials, membership directories, newsletters titled *Rotary Cog*, photographs, awards, scholarship records, and a compiled club history. Together, these materials provide comprehensive documentation of the club's administrative development, community engagement, and participation in Rotary International programs, reflecting sustained civic leadership and service within the Brookings community.

Biography

Rotary International is a global organization of business and professional leaders dedicated to humanitarian service, promoting high ethical standards in all vocations, and fostering goodwill and peace. The movement began in 1905 when four Chicago businessmen met to build fellowship within the business community. As membership grew, meetings rotated among members' places of business, inspiring the name "Rotary." Rotary became international in 1910 with the formation of a club in Canada, and by 1921 it had expanded to every continent. The organization formally adopted the name Rotary International in 1922.

The Brookings Rotary Club was established in 1919 through the efforts of local businessmen Ivan Cobel and Clyde Hinkley, who believed a Rotary Club would help strengthen ties among the business community. With support from other local business leaders and sponsorship from the Watertown Rotary Club, the Brookings club received its charter on February 1, 1920. Arthur Stoll served as the first president, and the club began with 21 charter members.

Throughout its history, the Brookings Rotary Club has contributed significantly to local civic and youth initiatives. These include supplying instruments and uniforms to the Brookings High School band, sponsoring Boy Scouts and youth sports teams, and initiating the concept for the Brookings United Retirement Center. The club also helped establish the United Fund, provided equipment for the Brookings Hospital, and developed Rotary Park. Members have contributed to international efforts as well, including book drives for schools in South Africa and the Philippines, financial support for the Polio Plus campaign, and contributions to the Rotary International Foundation.

Brookings Rotarians have played an active role in the broader Rotary organization, with six members serving as District Governors. The club has sponsored young professionals for international group study exchanges and awards a four-year scholarship annually to a local

student attending South Dakota State University. It also provides educational awards for students studying abroad.

The Brookings Rotary Club remains active today, supporting local projects and promoting fellowship and service among members from the business, industrial, and educational sectors. Weekly meetings continue to serve as a platform for community engagement and informative programs.

Scope and Content

The records document the activities, administration, and history of the Brookings Rotary Club from 1920 to 1999. Materials include foundational documents such as the 1920 charter, by-laws, and constitution; correspondence, committee reports, and assignments from the 1960s through the 1990s; district conference planning and reports to the District Governor spanning 1957–1999; and membership directories from 1943–1999. The collection also contains certificates, awards, attendance records, banquet programs, president's plans, and a book project. Extensive newsletters titled Rotary Cog date from 1920–1998, along with clippings, photographs, and a club history compiled between 1955 and 1995. Additional materials include a songbook, records of Rotary Foundation scholarship activity, and summaries of club plans and objectives.

The collection provides documentation of the Brookings Rotary Club's organizational development, community involvement, and participation in Rotary International programs over nearly eight decades. It reflects local leadership, service initiatives, and the continuity of civic engagement in Brookings, South Dakota.

Access Points

Subjects

- Businessmen—Societies and clubs

Names

- Brookings Rotary Club (Brookings, S. D.)

Places

- South Dakota--Brookings

Genre

- Records and correspondence
-

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Container List

| Box | Folder | Description | Dates |
|-----|--------|--|----------------------|
| 1 | 1 | Anniversary banquet programs | 1945-1995 |
| 1 | 2 | Attendance | 1982-1983 |
| 1 | 3 | Book project | 1981-1983 |
| 1 | 4 | By-laws | 1971 |
| 1 | 5 | Candidate for nomination for District Governor | 1974-1975, 1979-1980 |
| 1 | 6 | Certificates and awards | 1927-1999 |
| 1 | 7 | Charter | 1920 |
| 1 | 8 | Clippings: Rotarians in the news | 1970-1985 |
| 1 | 9 | Committee assignments | 1974-1990 |
| 1 | 10 | Constitution | 1971 |
| 1 | 11 | Committee reports | 1965-1987 |
| 1 | 12 | Correspondence | 1967-1986 |
| 2 | 1 | Directory | 1943-1964 |
| 2 | 2 | Directory | 1976-1986 |
| 2 | 3 | Directory | 1999 |

| Box | Folder | Description | Dates |
|------------|---------------|---------------------------------|--------------|
| 2 | 4 | District conference planning | 1975-1980 |
| 2 | 5 | District conference programs | 1957-1998 |
| 2 | 6 | History of Brookings Rotary | 1955-1995 |
| 2 | 7 | Jr. Career Day | 1998 |
| 2 | 8 | Minutes | 1980-1984 |
| 2 | 9 | Miscellaneous | 1950-1988 |
| 2 | 10 | Photographs: 0001 to 0069 | 1920-1994 |
| 2 | 11 | Photographs: 0070 to 0190 | 1920-1994 |
| 2 | 12 | President's plans and comments | 1980, 1987 |
| 2 | 13 | Report to the District Governor | 1977-1978 |
| 2 | 14 | Report to the District Governor | 1978-1979 |
| 3 | 1 | Report to the District Governor | 1982-1983 |
| 3 | 2 | Report to the District Governor | 1983-1984 |
| 3 | 3 | Report to the District Governor | 1994-1995 |
| 3 | 4 | Report to the District Governor | 1996-1997 |
| 3 | 5 | Report to the District Governor | 1997 |
| 3 | 6 | Report to the District Governor | 1998 |
| 3 | 7 | Report to the District Governor | 1999 |
| 3 | 8 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1954 |
| 3 | 9 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1955 |
| 3 | 10 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1956 |
| 3 | 11 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1957 |
| 3 | 12 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1958 |
| 3 | 13 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1960 |
| 3 | 14 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1961 |
| 3 | 15 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1962 |
| 4 | 1 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1982 |
| 4 | 2 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1983 |
| 4 | 3 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1984 |
| 4 | 4 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1985 |
| 4 | 5 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1987 |
| 4 | 6 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1989 |
| 4 | 7 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1990 |
| 4 | 8 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1991 |

| Box | Folder | Description | Dates |
|------------|---------------|--------------------------------------|--------------|
| 4 | 9 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1993 |
| 4 | 10 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1996 |
| 4 | 11 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1997 |
| 4 | 12 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1998 |
| 4 | 13 | Rotary Foundation scholar | 1992 |
| 4 | 14 | Songbook | undated |
| 4 | 15 | Summary of club plans and objectives | 1966-1995 |
| 4 | 16 | Weekly meeting guide | 1981, 1983 |
| 5 | 1 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1920 |
| 5 | 2 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1921 |
| 5 | 3 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1922 |
| 5 | 4 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1923 |
| 5 | 5 | Rotary Cog newsletter | 1924 |