

Historical Highlights Of The Rotary Club of Bastrop County District 5870

July 1990 — June 1991

Beverley Saunders Reed, Charter President

“Enjoy Rotary”

- Spring 1990: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County began meeting as a provisional club at La Cabana Restaurant in Smithville, Texas. The club was officially chartered on July 25, 1990.
- September 1990: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County celebrated its Charter Banquet on Sunday, September 16, 1990 at the Village Inn Restaurant at Tahitian Village, Bastrop. As a result of the hard work and commitment of PDG Virgil Waggoner, Charter President Beverley Saunders and sponsoring club, the Rotary Club of La Grange, the Bastrop County Rotary Club had become a reality. In attendance were over 100 visiting Rotarians and their guests, along with the 25 charter members and their guests.
- Spring 1991: The first academic scholarships of \$500 were awarded to a graduating senior from Bastrop, Smithville and Elgin High Schools.

July 1991 — June 1992

Gary Workman, President

“Honor Rotary with Faith & Enthusiasm”

- November 1991: The first fundraiser to fund the scholarship program was launched by selling Rotary Wreaths to the community.
- Spring 1992: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County was paired with the Rotary Club of Ciudad Victoria, Mexico as a partner club for the purpose of International dialogue and friendship between the two clubs.

July 1992 — June 1993

Stacy Adams, President

“Look Beyond Yourself”

- July 1993: In support of the Rotary International Foundation, the first member of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow.

July 1993 — June 1994

Ed Nyc, President

“Real Happiness Is Helping Others”

- To be developed.

July 1994 — June 1995

Nancy Best, President

“Believe in What You Do, Do What You Believe In”

- July 1994: The Board of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County accepted proposals from non-profit organizations for the purpose of entering into a long-term support relationship for community service.
- October 1994: The first Cajun Fest fundraiser was held at Smithville Riverbend Park and proceeds of \$4,500 were donated to the new Smithville Regional Hospital to purchase furnishings for the emergency room waiting area. The Cajun Fest chairperson was Beverley Saunders.
- November 1994: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County elected to support the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) and the Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) as the club’s major project in the future. The purpose of the partnership was to help the two organizations acquire a permanent facility which both groups would share.
- Spring 1995: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County was awarded the District’s Membership Development Award for 1994-95 at the District Conference in Killeen for the largest percent of membership increase of the 50 clubs in the District.

July 1995 — June 1996

Earl Walborg, Jr., President

“Act with Integrity, Serve with Love, Work for Peace”

- October 1995: The second Annual Cajun Fest fundraiser was held at Riverbend Park with \$5,000 designated for CAC and CASA. The 1995 Cajun Fest Chairperson was David Weir.
- November 1995: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County made its first financial contribution to CAC and CASA by donating \$5,000 toward the down payment of the Rotary Children’s House at 1202 Chestnut in Bastrop. An additional \$5,000 was donated for the purpose of renovation of the property.
- December 1995: Club support of the Rotary International Foundation increased to include three Paul Harris Fellow recognitions and 16 Paul Harris Sustaining Members.
- Spring 1996: Continuing major projects of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County included: the awarding of academic scholarships to local high schools, increase of membership, increased contacts and visits with our partner club in Mexico, sponsorship of the club’s first foreign exchange student from Australia, and increased involvement in the community and Rotary International.

July 1996 — June 1997

Wilfred Navarro, President

Build a Future with Action and Vision”

- October 1996: The third Annual Cajun Fest fundraiser was held at Riverbend Park. Rotary again give \$5,000 to CAC and CASA. The 1996 Cajun Fest Chair was David Weir.

- January 1997: The Club was happy to welcome Wendy Steward, from Australia and our first exchange student. She stayed with our club throughout the year. Her host families were Beverley Saunders Reed and her daughters, Kelly and Regan Saunders; Wilfred and Dully Navarro; and David and Sarah Johnson.
- April 1997: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County was fortunate to host Group Study Exchange Team members from District 2710 in Japan. The team members were treated to highlights of Bastrop County, including historic homes, a tour of MD Anderson Science Park, Research Division, and an old-fashioned Texas rodeo.
- May 1997: The Club held a work day at the Rotary Children's House to assist the CAC and CASA staff with yard work, general cleaning, painting and other projects.

July 1997 — June 1998

Steve Taylor, President

“Show Rotary Cares for Your Community, For the World, for its People”

- August 1997: Families of Rotarians from our partner club in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico were weekend guests of our club. Both groups enjoyed the opportunity for fun and fellowship.
- October 1997: The fourth Annual Cajun Fest was held at Riverbend Park to benefit CAC/CASA in the amount of \$5,000. The 1997 Cajun Fest Chair was Darian Young.
- May 1998: Steve Taylor led the club to receive its first Presidential Citation. The club also awarded three college scholarships to area graduating seniors at Bastrop, Elgin, and Smithville High Schools for \$500 each.
- May 1998: A team of Rotarians participated in the first annual Rotary Club of Bastrop County Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. The club was also a corporate sponsor of the event, making a \$500 contribution in addition to the amounts collected by team members.

July 1998 — June 1999

Derek Van Gilder, President

“Follow Your Rotary Dream”

- October 1998: The fifth Annual Cajun Fest was held at Riverbend Park to benefit the CAC/CASA and the amount of \$5000 was donated. The 1998 Cajun Fest chair was Darian Young.
- Fall 1998: The club had its second Youth Exchange student, Thais (Thata) Fredrich. This year's student came from Brazil to spend the 1998-1999 school year in Bastrop County. Her host families were Charlotte Hinds and her daughter, Miranda Hodgkiss, and David and Sarah Johnson and their children, Zane and Claire.
- Spring 1999: The club co-sponsored with the Giddings Rotary Club a new Rotary Club in Elgin.
- April 1999: Derek Van Gilder led the club to receive a Presidential Citation for the second consecutive year. The club attained five new Paul Harris Fellows as well as four new Foundation Benefactors for the 1998-99 Rotary year. Earl Walborg was recognized with the District's Role of Fame. The club set up plaques honoring Past-Presidents, Paul

Harris Fellows and Cajun Fest Chairs. Two college scholarships in the amount of \$1,000 each were awarded to a graduate from each of the area high schools (Bastrop and Smithville). The club participated in two club-to-club exchanges with our partner club in Ciudad Victoria, Mexico.

- April 1999: Earl Walborg was inducted into the RI District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 1999, at the District 5870 Conference, April 8-10, 1999.
- May 1999: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County again participated in the Bastrop County Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. The club sponsored a team, as well as participating as a corporate sponsor with a donation of \$500.
- June 1999: The club donated a used commercial stove, freezer and cooler to our partner club in Mexico for their Mesa del Senor program that feeds the young and elderly in a poor section of Ciudad de Victoria.

July 1999 — June 2000

David Weir, President

“Rotary 2000: Act with Consistency, Credibility, Continuity”

- July 1999: The third Youth Exchange Student was Breno Hernandez from Brazil. He attended Bastrop High School. His host families were Derek and Donna Van Gilder and Al and Janice Mouton.
- April 2000: Beverley Saunders Reed was inducted into the RI District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 2000, at the District 5870 Conference in Galveston on April 28-30.
- April 2000: The club participated in the third annual Bastrop County Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. The Club sponsored a team, as well as participating as a corporate sponsor with a donation of \$500.00.
- October 2000: The sixth annual Cajun Fest was held at Riverbend Park to benefit the CAC/CASA and \$5,000 was donated.
- June 2000: President David Weir received the Club’s third annual Presidential Citation for his service as president.

July 2000 — June 2001

Travis Sheffield, President

“Create Awareness — Take Action“

- July 2000: President Travis Sheffield presented an award to the City of Smithville in behalf of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County for their recycling efforts.
- July 2000: The fourth Youth Exchange Student was Lena Woudstra from the Netherlands. She attended Smithville High School. Her host families were David and Sarah Johnson; Earl and MaryAnn Walborg; and Derek and Donna Van Gilder.
- July 2000: Derek Van Gilder chaired the District 5870 Foundation Committee and was Assistant Governor.
- October 2000: The seventh Annual Cajun Fest was held October 1 at Riverbend Park in Smithville to benefit the Rotary Club of Bastrop County’s special projects.
- April 2001: Members attended the District Assembly at the University of Mary Harden-Baylor on April 7.

- April 2001: The Bastrop County Rotary Club hosted the GSE Team from England, District 2090, during the week of April 27 — May 8. Host families were David and Cassie Weir; Al and Janice Mouton; Derek and Donna Van Gilder; Earl and MaryAnn Walborg; and David and Sarah Johnson.
- April 2001: The Club again participated as a team in the fourth annual Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. The Club was a corporate sponsor in addition to contributions collected by team members.
- May 2001: The Club through the efforts of President Sheffield collected approximately 500 (480 from Smithville HS and 20 from the Literacy Volunteers of America) school books for the District 5870 South Africa project. Also several dozen books were presented to the Bastrop Library by President Sheffield.
- May 2001: Derek Van Gilder was inducted into the RI District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 2001, at the District 5870 Conference, May 4-6, 2001.
- June 2001: President Travis Sheffield received the Club's fourth annual Presidential Citation for his service as president.
- June 2001: On June 26, the Rotary Club of Bastrop County presented a new ambulance to its partner club from Ciudad Victoria, Mexico. The two clubs worked together raising \$18,000 and obtaining a matching grant of \$18,000 from The Rotary International Foundation to fund the vehicle. The ambulance was given to the Red Cross unit in Ciudad Victoria. The matching grant application was developed during the 2000-01 presidential year of Travis Sheffield.

July 2001 — June 2002

David Johnson, President

“Mankind is Our Business”

- July 2001: Derek Van Gilder served as the 2001-02 District 5870 Rotary Foundation Committee Chair.
- August 2001: The Club's fifth Exchange Student, Anna Dreves, arrived from Germany and spent the 2001-02 year in Bastrop County. Her host families were David and Sarah Johnson.
- August 2001: A pamphlet was developed by Club member Dolores Hestdalen about our local and RI programs to be given to perspective members.
- September 2001: The Club purchased a Rotary Kiosk to be used at the Club's public appearances.
- October 2001: The eighth Annual Cajun Fest was held at Riverbend Park in Smithville to benefit the Rotary Club of Bastrop County's special projects.
- December 2001: A new program was developed whereby the Rotary Club of Bastrop County members would donate Christmas gifts to the Bastrop County CASA children. The gifts were donated and wrapped by Club members during the annual Christmas Party at the LCRA Conference Center.
- December 2001: District Exchange Students participated in a traditional American Christmas at the home of Derek and Donna Van Gilder.
- December 2001: Personal hygiene items and clothes kits were also donated to CASA for the children who have been taken from their homes so that they would have their own items. Travis Sheffield was chair.

- January 2002: On January 5 members attended the District 5870 Mid-Year Rally and Academy training for new Rotarians and renewal for seasoned Rotarians at Central Texas College in Killeen. Five members attended.
- March 2002: Dolores Hestdalen, President-Elect, attended the sixteenth annual President-Elect Training Seminar, Inc. (PETS) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Dallas-Fort Worth Airport on March 22-23.
- April 2002: The Club donated \$10 per member to the Rotary Foundation Polio Plus program.
- April 2002: President David Johnson presented Children's Advocacy Center and CASA with checks for \$3,000 each to help with mortgage payments and maintenance at the Rotary Children's House.
- May 2002: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County again participated in the fifth Bastrop County Relay for Life for the American Cancer Society. The club sponsored a team, as well as participating as a corporate sponsor with a donation of \$500. David Johnson was chair.

July 2002 — June 2003

Dolores Hestdalen, President

“Sow the Seeds of Love”

- July 2002: The Installation Banquet honoring Immediate Past President David Johnson, Incoming President Dolores Hestdalen, and the installation of officers and directors was held on July 2, at ColoVista Country Club. PDG Patsy Derr, Rotary Club of Killeen Heights, was the Installing Officer and music was provided by Sean Orr. Hestdalen's officers and directors were: Immediate Past President David Johnson; President Elect Jay Polsky; Vice President Bill Reed; Secretary Kariann Sokulsky; Treasurer Paul Ervin; Sergeant at Arms Steve Kice; Club Service Chair Rick Nalle; Community Service Chair Joe Newman; International Service Chair Rick St. Cin, and Vocational Service Chair Al Mouton.
- July 2002: At the July 9 Club meeting, Texas Rep. Robby Cook presented a Texas State flag that flew over the Capital to the Club's 2001-02 German Exchange Student, Anna Dreves, as a going home gift.
- July 2002: The District 5870 Foundation Dinner was held on July 19. RI President, Bhichai Rattakul, presented two Paul Harris Fellows to members Dolores Hestdalen, President; and Rick St. Cin, International Service Chair. Eight members attended.
- July 2002: The Club issued an area challenge to other civic organizations to donate blood on July 23 when the Central Texas Blood Bank bus visited Bastrop's Masonic Lodge. Several Club members participated.
- July 2002: At the July 30 meeting, Derek Van Gilder presented John Agee with a Paul Harris Fellow.
- July 2002: The following members served on or chaired District 5870 Committees for 2002-03: Earl Walborg, Bi-District Reunion Chair; Donna Van Gilder, Literacy; Derek Van Gilder, Membership Development & Retention Chair; and Travis Sheffield, Assistant Governor and on the Regional Committee for the Young Hero's Award.
- August 2002: On Saturday, August 3, the Club participated in the Bastrop Homecoming Parade with a “truck float.” Donna Van Gilder was chair.

- August 2002: Members Dolores Hestdalen, Derek Van Gilder, and Travis Sheffield attended the District Membership Development and Retention Seminar on August 10.
- August 2002: The Club's sixth Exchange Student, Juha Koskinen, arrived from Finland on August 14. He spent the 2002-03 school year in Bastrop County. His host families were Al and Janice Mouton, Mike and Jean Helmick, and Derek and Donna Van Gilder.
- August 2002: On August 20 at the Club's meeting PDG Rex Weaver presented the Club's fifth Annual Presidential Citation to 2001-02 President David Johnson.
- August 2002: During the August 20 meeting, DG Tom Chamberlain presented a Paul Harris Fellow to MaryAnn Walborg which was given to her by Earl Walborg for MaryAnn's birthday.
- August 2002: At the August 20 meeting the Club presented DG Chamberlain with a \$100 check for his Vietnam Children's Hospital project. This was a RI World Community Service Project.
- August 2002: The Club sponsored a children's book, Tiny Steps Stories (and the moral is...) published by Friesens Printing, Canada. The book was a collection of short stories with a moral from authors across the Country. Copies of this book were given to the Club which in turn donated them to the Children's Rotary House. David Johnson was Chair.
- August 2002: On August 24 members participated in a fundraiser for Ray Shappa, Smithville Police Officer who had been providing security at our Rotary Fests for the past two years. He was hit by a drunk driver and critically injured while conducting traffic control at a major fire.
- September 2002: A check for \$1,000 was donated to the Boy Scouts for a Special Eagle Project by Garret Lentz, Troop 187, to enclose a porch at the Children Advocacy Center. Rotary members also built a fence around the front of the house. Al Mouton was chair.
- September 2002: The club joined both the Smithville and Bastrop Chambers of Commerce.
- October 2002: The ninth Annual Rotary Fest (name changed from Cajun Fest) fundraiser was held at Riverbend Park on October 5. Over \$22,000 was raised before expenses. Donna Van Gilder was chair.
- October 2002: Club members participated with the City of Smithville by supporting their application for a Veterans Home in Smithville. (Unfortunately Smithville was not one of the cities selected for the VA Home.)
- October 2002: At the October 29 meeting, the Club was presented with a plaque from the Boy Scouts of America for their donation of \$300 to the Friends of Scouting.
- October 2002: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County set aside \$3,000 to be used for a Centennial Project for the Rotary Centennial Year 2005.
- October 2002: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County donated \$500 to District 5870's South Africa Book Project. Due to her shipping experience, member Donna Van Gilder was able to negotiate very low rates for the shipping of the books.
- November 2002: Five members attended the District Academy for new member issues on November 16 at the Salado Civic Center, Salado.
- November 2002: The officers for 2002-03 were elected during the November 19 meeting: President Jay Polsky, President-Elect Bill Reed, VP Rick St. Cin, Secretary Sis Hammack and Treasurer, Al Mouton.

- December 2002: The annual Christmas Party was held on December 16 at the LCRA Riverside Center. Checks for \$3000 each was presented to CASA and CAC. Members wrapped Christmas presents that they personally donated for the CASA children of Bastrop County. Debra Rogers was the coordinator between CASA and Rotary.
- December 2002: The Club sponsored a lighted display for the Chamber of Commerce's "River of Lights." On December 22, members participated in the "Adopt a Night" program by monitoring the four park entrances in pairs and also patrolled the walk.
- January 2003: Kristina Kelly from Smithville High School was selected as the Club's nominee for District 5870's first Young Hero's Award. Club member Ed Henderson nominated Kristina.
- January 2003: District Mid-Year Rally was held at Mary Hardin-Baylor University, Belton, for new members and in coming officers. Three members attended.
- February 2003: Earl Walborg, District 5870 Bi-District Reunion Chair; Rick St. Sin, International Service Chair; and Dolores Hestdalen, President, participated in the Bi-District Reunion held in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, February 7-8. Members met with the President of Villa de Aguayo Club, Jose Bringas. A check for \$1,100 was donated to the Mexican Red Cross in memory of Diego Fernando Etienne Llano who was killed in a tragic accident. Diego had been directly involved in every interaction with the Bastrop County Club.
- March 2003: Donna Van Gilder received the RI Four Avenues of Service Award for her services at the local and District levels at the March 4 meeting.
- March 2003: The Club sponsored two 11th grade students, Kristen Layton from Smithville High School and J. T. Fort from Bastrop High School to attend Camp Enterprise held during the weekend of March 21-23. The camp exposed the students to real-life business skills, concepts of free enterprise system, a computer business simulation game, and much more. Mike Helmick was chair.
- April 2003: Members participated on April 4-5 in the sixth annual Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Club was also a corporate sponsor of the event, making a \$500 contribution in addition to the amounts collected by team members. Approximately \$3,000 was donated by the Club. David Johnson was chair.
- April 2003: Eleven members attended the District Assembly at the Central Texas College, Killeen, on April 5.
- April 2003: Scholarships of \$1,500 each were awarded to Staci Vincent from Bastrop High School and Lindsey Goertz from Smithville. A Vocational Scholarship of \$500 was awarded to Shalisa Hilbig. Al Mouton was chair.
- April 2003: Our nominee for the District 5870 Young Hero Award, Kristina Kelley from Smithville, was one of only four students for Top Recognition at the District 5870 Young Heroes Banquet on April 22, at the Hyatt Regency on Town Lake, Austin. Kristina received a certificate, medallion, a \$500 US Savings Bond, and a Dell computer and printer. Kal Patel was chair.
- April 2003: On April 26, members Dolores Hestdalen, Travis Sheffield, Don Heller, Derek and Donna Van Gilder participated the Chartering Banquet of the Rotary Club of Lexington, St. James Parish Hall. Derek Van Gilder donated a Paul Harris Fellow to incoming President John Higgins.

- April 2003: Several members participated in a Bed Team Race at the annual Yesterfest on April 26. The Rotary Club placed second in the race. Yesterfest is a fundraiser for the Bastrop County Opera House.
- April 2003: The Club sponsored a trip for the GSE team from Brazil on April 23 to San Antonio visiting the Riverwalk with lunch, the Marketplace, and Alamo. Derek & Donna Van Gilder and Sis and Brad Hammock each hosted a team member in their homes for the time that the team was in Zone 4. The Rotary Club of Bastrop County also sponsored a dinner on April 24 for the team with club members attending.
- April 2003: Club member Derek Van Gilder was the Team Leader for the outgoing GSE team to Brazil. He lead a team of four to Brazil from April 28 through May 25.
- May 2003: The annual District 5870 Conference was held in Ft. Worth on May 16-18. Eight members registered with 12 people attending altogether including spouses and our Youth Exchange student, Juha Koskinen.
- May 2003: The Club was sixth place per capita and 12th place in overall giving in District 5870 for donations to the RI Polio Plus Eradication campaign. The Club also achieved a District Goal of \$15.00 per member donation to Polio Plus.
- May 2003: Travis Sheffield was inducted into the RI District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 2003, at the District 5870 conference, May 15-18, 2003.
- June 2003: President Dolores Hestdalen led the club to receive the Presidential Citation for the sixth consecutive year. The club attained seven new Paul Harris Fellows for the 2002-03 Rotary year. The Club received the RI Membership Development and Extension Award in recognition of the Club having the highest percentage net membership gain in District 5870 and was one of only 100 winning clubs worldwide. As a result, the Club received \$1,000 from Rotary International.
- June 2003: David Johnson gave Sharah Johnson a Paul Harris Fellow during the June 17 meeting and Roy Gould received a Paul Harris Fellow at the June 24 meeting. Derek Van Gilder also received a Paul Harris Fellow.
- June 2003: Members attended the Sunset Dinner Cruise Installation of 2003-04 District 5870 Governor Barbara Warden on the Flagship Texas at the Lakeway Resort, Lake Travis, on June 7.

July 2003 — June 2004

Jay Polsky, President

“Lend a Hand”

- July 2003: Jay Polsky was installed by DG Barbara Warden as president. Polsky’s officers and directors were President-Elect Bill Reed; Vice President Rick St. Cin; Secretary Sis Hammack; Treasurer Al Mouton; Sergeant at Arms Bill Atwood; Immediate Past President Dolores Hestdalen; Club Service Chair Deborah Rogers; Community Service Chair Kal Patel; Vocational Service Chair Mike Helmick and International Service Chair Sara Wannarka.
- July 2003: The Club had its seventh Youth Exchange Student, Rosa Alejandra Sardon Panta, from Brazil. She spent the 2003-04 school year in Bastrop County. Rosa’s host families were Jay and Marcie Polsky; Lisa and Rick St. Cin; and David and Sharah Johnson.

- July 2003: The following members served on or chaired District 5870 committees: Travis Sheffield, Assistant Governor; Marcie Polsky, RYLA Planning Team; Donna Van Gilder, Youth Exchange Officer; Dolores Hestdalen, GSE Zone 4 Incoming Team Chair (India) and Youth Exchange Zone 4 Chair.
- October 2003: The 10th Annual Rotary Fest was held on October 4, 2003 at Riverbend Park in Smithville.
- November 2003: The club held a food drive to benefit the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry. Kal Patel, chair.
- December 2003: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County presented Chris Fiebrich, President of the Board for the Literacy Volunteers of Bastrop, Inc. with a check for \$3,000 to help reduce illiteracy in the community. \$1,500 was obtained from RI District 5870 and a matching amount of \$1,500 from the Rotary Club of Bastrop County.
- December 2003: The Rotary Club of Bastrop County donated \$3,000 each to CASA and CAC at their annual Christmas Party. Club members also wrapped gifts that they personally donated to the CASA children of Bastrop County.
- December 2003: The Club again sponsored a lighted display for the Chamber of Commerce's "River of Lights." Members also participated in the "Adopt a Night:" program by monitoring the four park entrances in pairs and also patrolled the walk.
- February 2004: On February 6-8, Earl Walborg, his wife, MaryAnn Walborg and Dolores Hestdalen traveled to Monterrey, Mexico to attend the annual Bi-District Friendship Reunion.
- April 2004: Members participated on April 2-3 in the seventh annual Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Club was also a corporate sponsor of the event, making a \$500 contribution in addition to the amounts collected by team members. Approximately \$3,000 was donated by the Club. David Johnson was chair.
- April 2004: Wallace "Wally" Simmons, an eighth grader at Cedar Creek Middle School and a member of Boy Scout Troop 1998, was nominated by the Rotary Club of Bastrop County to receive the 2004 District 5870 Youth Service Above Self Award. PDG William Bradfield presented Wally with a certificate and a \$200 Series EE Savings Bond from District 5870 during a Rotary Regional meeting held in April at ColoVista Country Club. Wally had saved two individuals who had been swept away by the current of the Colorado River near Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. At the time he was 13 years old.
- April 2004: The annual District 5870 Conference was held in Corpus Christi on April 23-25. President Jay Polsky was in charge of the Fun Activities during the District Conference.
- April 2004: Immediate Past President, Dolores Hestdalen, was inducted into the RI District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 2004, at District Conference in Corpus Christi on April 24.
- April 2004: The Club hosted the GSE Team from India Monday, April 26 for their vocational day. Deborah Rogers took Kiran, a Journalist, to the LCRA Corporate Communications Department in Austin. The Department handles all publications, press releases, achieves, and printing for LCRA. They met with the manager and toured the facilities. Sarah Wannarka took Meena, an Educator, to Woodsides Trails which is a therapeutic group home for youth with special needs and is affiliated with Smithville ISD. They also visited history and government classes at Smithville High School. In the afternoon, they visited the Children's Advocacy Center where Meena observed how we

take care of abused children and toured the Bastrop County Court House. Mike Helmick took the team leader, Madhu, a Rotary member and an Accountant, to the State Board of Accountancy in Austin. They also met with the Texas Society of CPAs and spent the afternoon with a Regional CPA firm. On Friday, April 30, the team returned to Bastrop for a tour of M. D. Anderson Cancer Research Center and lunch at Baxter's with Club members. Sarah Wannarka was chair.

- May 2004: On May 11, 2004, a chartering ceremony was conducted for two new Interact Clubs at Bastrop and Smithville High Schools. District 5870 Governor Barbara Warden, joined President Jay Polsky, Vocational Service Chair Mike Helmick, and Jason Goodman, Interact Chair, in conducting the ceremony.
- May 2004: Scholarships of \$1,500 were given by Chris Maynord, Scholarship Committee Chair, to Kristen Layton from Smithville High School and Claudette Godfrey from Bastrop High School.
- May 2004: Scholarships for a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp were awarded by Marcie Polsky, District 5870 RYLA Chair, to Katie Diedrich and Brenda Luna made their official visit to the Rotary Club of Bastrop County from Smithville High School and Vivianna Hamilton and Kevin Nixon from Bastrop High School.
- June 2004: On June 8-10, members Earl Walborg, Dolores Hestdalen, Maria Caracheo, and Sis Hammack, along with spouses, Mary Ann Walborg and Brad Hammack, traveled to Ciudad Victoria, Mexico to attend the installation of the Board of Directors of the Via de Aguayo Rotary Club. A \$2,000 check was presented to Dr. Laureano Cantu, their new president, to be used in the construction of sanitary facilities for a new Alvaro Obregon primary school which is under construction.
- June 2004: Members Dolores Hestdalen, Jay and Marcie Polsky attended the Installation of District 5870 Governor Gene Davenport at Sun City Country Club in Georgetown on June 12.

July 2004 — June 2005

Bill Reed, President

“Celebrate Rotary’s 100 Years”

- July 2004: Bill Reed was installed by 2004-05 District 5870 Governor Gene Davenport as president of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County. Reed's Board of Directors were: President-Elect Rick St. Cin; Vice President Rick Nalle; Secretary Tammy Dickey; Treasurer Bill Atwood; Sergeant at Arms; Biff Singleton; Immediate Past President Jay Polsky; Club Service Chair Tami Knipstein; Community Service Chair Doug Clark; Vocational Service Chair Jack Nelson; and International Service Chair Maria Caracheo.
- July 2004: The following members served on or chaired District 5870 committees: Dolores Hestdalen, Area 4 Incoming GSE Chair (Mexico); Donna Van Gilder, District Youth Exchange Officer; David Johnson, Area 3 Youth Exchange Chair; Marcie Polsky, RYLA Planning Team; and Travis Sheffield, Assistant Governor.
- July 2004: Members participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA in the Rough) Teen Leadership Camp on July 25-30, 2004 at McKinney Roughs. RYLA is a six day leadership training camp sponsored by RI District 5870 The camp focuses on personal and professional development for high school students. Marcie Polsky was District RYLA Chair and Jason Goodman, Club Counselor.

- August 2004: Jay Polsky, Immediate Past President, received the Presidential Citation from RI for the seventh consecutive year in recognition of his work during his Rotary year as president.
- August 2004: The Club's eighth Youth Exchange Student, Anne Pelletier, arrived from France. She spent the 2004-05 school year in Bastrop County. Her host families were Roy Gould and Bonni Baty; and Derek and Donna Van Gilder.
- September 2004: The Club became a chartering organization for two Scout Units: Cub Scout Pack 181, Lost Pines Elementary; and Sea Scout Ship 1701 for boys and girls ages 14-20. Club member Al Mouton was the Charter Organization Representative and Club member Ed Henderson was the organizer between the Scouts and Rotary.
- October 2004: The 11th Annual Rotary Fest fundraiser was held at Riverbend Park in Smithville on October 2 to benefit Rotary special projects. Mark Sheffield was chair. This was the first year that the Interact clubs from Bastrop HS and Smithville HS participated. The youths sold ribbons to help raise funds for the Rotary US/Mexican Border TB Summit and helped serve food and drinks. They were in charge of the children's booths and will use the money they raised for their projects.
- October 2004: DG Gene Davenport and his wife, Janet, made their official visit to the Rotary Club of Bastrop County on October 5, 2004. He presented the Governor's Centennial Citations for Meritorious Service Above Self during the Renewal of District 5870's Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) Camp 2004 held at McKinney Roughs in July 2004 to Jason Goodman, Counselor, and Marcia Polsky, RYLA District 5870 Chair.

He also gave certificates to Assistant Governor Travis Sheffield and President Bill Reed for attending the President-Elect Training (PETS).

The Club presented DG Davenport with a check for \$100.00 for Heartbeat International.

- October 2004: Maria Caracheo, International Service Chair, participated in the Rotary Bi-National Tuberculosis Summit in McAllen, Texas, on Saturday, October 16. This Summit is a bi-national strategic plan to prevent and control TB along the USA-Mexico border.
- October 2004: On Thursday, October 28, the Rotary Club of Bastrop County unveiled their Rotary International Centennial Project which was housed at the Bastrop County Court House Annex. RI will celebrate 100 years in 2005 and RI asked each club to do a centennial community service project. The Bastrop County Club funded a public art piece. Sculptor, James Muir, created a bronze sculpture entitled, "Truth and Justice." The base was made by the Deep in the Heart Foundry, Bastrop, and is granite with the Rotary Centennial logo and the Four Way Test. Presidents Dolores Hestdalen, 2002-03; Jay Polsky, 2003-04; and Bill Reed, 2004-05, set aside \$3,000 in each of their presidential years to fund this project.
- December 2004 — On December 14, over 70 Bastrop County Rotarians, spouses, family and friends gathered at the LCRA Conference Center to celebrate their annual Christmas Party with food, merriment and camaraderie. Members wrapped 120 presents for the CASA children. President Bill Reed presented checks in the amount of \$3,000 each to

Cheryl Koch, Director of the Children's Advocacy Center and Heather Short Bandelman, Case Supervisor at CASA.

- January 2005 — January 22 members Earl Walborg, Derek Van Gilder, Dolores Hestdalen, Rick St. Cin, Beverley and Bill Reed, along with MaryAnn Walborg, Margaret Walborg, Regan Saunders and Lisa St. Cin attended the District 5870 Foundation Dinner at North Austin Hilton Hotel. Rotary International President Glen Estess presented Paul Harris Fellow medallions to Derek Van Gilder; Margaret Walborg, given to her by her parents Earl and MaryAnn Walborg; and Regan Saunders, given to her by her parents, Beverley and Bill Reed.
- February 2005 — On February 4-6, Earl and MaryAnn Walborg, Dolores Hestdalen, and Maria Caracheo, International Service Chair, traveled to Reynosa, Mexico, to attend the Bi-District Friendship Reunion between District 5870 and Mexico District 4130. Bastrop County met with President Laureano Cantu, Jose Luis Cavazos, and President-Elect Pedro Gutierrez of their partner club, Villa de Aguayo Club, Ciudad Victoria.
- February 2005 — On February 23, Rotary District 5870 recognized Bastrop community individuals and organizations for their services and donations to the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) camp that was held at McKinney Roughs in July 2004. Plaques were given to the following: Major Donors LCRA, Baxter's on Main, Bluebonnet Electric, Bluebonnet Fire Department, Bastrop Back and Neck Clinic. A plaque was also given to the Greater Texas Federal Credit Union. Certificates for monetary donations, supplies or services donated were presented to the following: Comet Cleaners, Saunders Insurance Agency, Christ Maynord, Maria Caracheo, Mike Helmick, Bastrop Mortgage, Al Mouton, Steve Kice, Law Offices of Derek Van Gilder, Argent Court, RE/ MAX, Bastrop Copier, and Judge Ronnie McDonald who was also voted the Best Speaker by the students attending the camp.
- February 2005 — February 23 marked Rotary's 100th birthday. To celebrate Rotary's Centennial, Renee Blaschke, Mayor of Smithville, Texas and Tom Scott, Mayor of Bastrop proclaimed February 23 as Rotary International Day in Bastrop and Smithville and encouraged all citizens to join in recognizing Rotary International for 100 years of service in local communities around the world.
- March 2005 — On March 28, the Bastrop County Rotary Club hosted a five member GSE team from Mexico. The leader of the group was Rotarian Maria Guadalupe Martinez, Ph.D. in Economics and a full time Professor at the School of Economics, UANL. She was accompanied by Juan Felipe Sanchez Rocha, a State Preventative Police Officer from San Luis Potosi; Pablo Antonio Saldana Ramirez, BS in Administration of Criminology and Leader of the Addictions Prevention Program that works with children drug offenders; Julian Rodriguez Hernandez, a part time teacher and studying for a Ph.D. in Materials Engineering; and Rodrigo Zavala, MS in Industrial Engineering and a security engineer.

The day started at 9 am with Bill Atwood picking them up in Austin and transporting them to the Family Crisis Center (FCC) in Bastrop. They were met by Rotarian Susan Wendel, Dolores Hestdalen, District 5879 Area 4 Incoming GSE Chair, and Maria Caracheo, International Service Chair, Sherry Murphy, Executive Director for the Center who gave an overview of their programs. The FCC also gave the group a tour of their emergency shelter and apartments.

Next they traveled to the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) and were treated to a tour of their buildings and explanation of their services.

During lunch at Baxter's on Main, County Court-at-Law Judge Benton Eskew spoke about the Criminal Justice System as it is dealt with in his courtroom and in Texas in general. About twenty-five Rotarians and guests were present.

After lunch, they went to the office of the County Sheriff, Richard Hernandez, who spoke to the group about many of the programs currently underway in the Sheriff's office and how his agency interacts with other law enforcement groups around the state. He also told of the citizens' patrol group that are trained and go out in patrol cars by themselves to watch and report.

The group then traveled to Smithville Police Department where Chief Dale Dockery, Rotarian Ed Henderson who is District Executive of the Boy Scouts of America, and Officer Greg Stewart spoke about the Law Enforcement Explorer Post 200 and how Scouts are selected, trained and become an integral part of the overall protection of the community of Smithville.

- Because of restrictions of time, Rotarian Christine Kempff, Executive Director of the Boys and Girls Club and Joan Martin-Thurman, Executive Director of CASA, prepared packets with information on their programs for the team's information.
- The team was returned to Austin by Bill Atwood.
- April 2005 — District Assembly was held on April 9 at Central Texas College in Killeen.
- April 2005 — Three Bastrop County citizens were nominated by Club members for the RI Service Award for Professional Excellence. They were Terry Orr, OceanTec Electronics; Jim Mills, Edward Jones and Company; and Tom Scott, City of Bastrop Mayor. Jim Mills was selected and his name was forwarded to DG Gene Davenport.
- April 2005 — On April 22-24, members Dolores Hestdalen, Bill Reed, Derek and Donna Van Gilder, Beverley Reed, David Johnson, and Maria Caracheo attended the District 5870 Conference at the Marriott Hotel, Round Rock, Texas.
- April 2005 — David Johnson, 2001-02 President, was inducted into the RI District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 2005, at the District 5870 Conference on April 23.
- April 2005 — Club members Dennis Jack, Susan Wendel, Ed Henderson, Al Mouton, Mike Helmick, Deborah Rogers and members of the Smithville Interact Club worked at Yesterfest which was held on April 23.
- May 2005 — Members participated on May 13 and 14 in the eight annual Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Club was also a corporate sponsor of the event, making a \$500 contribution in addition to the amounts collected by team members. Approximately \$2,000 was donated by the Club. David Johnson was chair.
- May 2005 — On May 21, members participated in a workday for the Rotary Children's House (Children's Advocacy Center) on Chestnut Street. CAC needed help with a National CAC accreditation compliance inspection
- May 2005 — Scholarships of \$1,500 were given by Scholarship Committee members Jack Nelson, Bill Reed, and Jay Polsky to Mathew Barnes from Bastrop High School and Neil Wessels from Smithville High School.

- May 2005 — Scholarships for a Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) camp were awarded by RYLA Scholarship Committee members Bill Reed, Marcie Polsky, Sally Kirkpatrick, Jason Goodman, and Rick Nalle to Smithville HS students Amanda Hartfield and Kenneth Trench. Alternate Smithville HS students were Justin Weldon and Megan Murphy. Bastrop HS recipients were Quione Cooke and Jacinto R. Melendrez. Alternate Bastrop HS students were Kimberly Simons and Stephanie Trevino. The camp was held on July 3-9 at McKinney Roughs.
- June 2005 — At the June 7 lunch meeting, DG Gene Davenport awarded community member Jim Mills with the RI Service Award for Professional Excellence. This award is given to a non-Rotarian for exceptional professional achievement consistent with the ideals of Rotary. Travis Sheffield was presented the RI Commitment to Service Award. This award recognizes Rotarians who have been active for more than 25 years and have records of unwavering support for their clubs and the ideals of Rotary. It also recognizes veterans who have served quietly and consistently throughout the years. President Bill Reed received the Presidential Citation for the eighth consecutive year for his work during his year as president.
- June 2005 — Members Dolores Hestdalen and Travis Sheffield attended the Installation of District Governor Ed Mullen at the Phantom Warrior's Center, Fort Hood, Killeen, Texas on June 10.
- June 2005 — Beverley Saunders conducted a year long project called "Who are You" where she had all Club members fill out a questionnaire telling about themselves, such as where they were from, what states and countries they have lived in, etc. She picked one questionnaire each week, read it to the members and the members wrote down who they thought it was. A name was drawn from the members who had the right person, and Beverley donated \$25.00 to the Foundation in that person's name. A total of \$600.-00 was donated to the Rotary Foundation..

July 2005 — June 2006

Rick St. Cin, President

"Service Above Self"

- June 2005 — Rick St. Cin was installed by Assistant Governor Travis Sheffield as president of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County. St. Cin's Board of Directors were: President-Elect Rick Nalle; Vice President Mike Helmick; Secretary Tammy Dickey; Treasurer Bill Atwood; Sergeant-at-Arms Biff Singleton; Immediate Past President Bill Reed; Club Service Chair Tami Knipstein; Community Service Chair Christine Kempff; Vocational Service Chair Lori Hunt; and International Service Chair, Maria Caracheo.
- July 2005 — The following members served on or chaired District 5870 committees: Travis Sheffield, Assistant Governor; David Johnson, Co-Coordinator Area 4 Youth Exchange; Bill Reed, Membership Committee Member; and Marcie Polsky, District 5870 RYLA Planning Team and Camp Director.
- July 2005 — Members participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) Teen Leadership Camp on July 3-9, 2005 at McKinney Roughs. RYLA is a six-day leadership training camp sponsored by RI District 5870. The camp focuses on personal and professional development for high school students.

- July 2005 — The Club's 9th Exchange Student, Michelle Hui Ling Chung, arrived from Taipei, Taiwan. She spent the 2005-06 school year as a Junior at Bastrop High School. Her host families were Donna and Derek Van Gilder and a non-Rotarian Sandy Rogers and her daughter, Tamara, who was also a Junior at Bastrop High School.
- July 2005 — The Rotary Club of Bastrop County participated in a short term Youth Exchange July 9-23. Mark Sheffield, 17, son of Club member Mark Sheffield, and Brandon Dunham, 15, of Cedar Creek, spent a week in Mexico with Jose M. Benites, 14, son of 1003-04 President Jose Benites of the Rotary Club of Ciudad Victoria and Rodrigo E. Ruiz, 17, son of the late Jose M. Benites of the Ciudad Victoria Club.

Bastrop County Club member Clyde Howell picked the four students up at McAllen on Saturday, July 16, for a Historical week's stay together in the US. They spent Saturday and Sunday nights with the Rotary Club of Bastrop County 2003-04 President Jay and Marcie Polsky. Bastrop County Club members welcomed them on Saturday night with a party at the home of Jay and Marcie Polky. Bastrop County members Derek Van Gilder and Donna Van Gilder took the students to Georgetown Monday morning and the Rotary Club of Killeen hosted them for visits to the Dallas Cowboy Museum, Baseball Hall of Fame, Chocolate Factory and the Galleria Skating Rink. On Wednesday, they enjoyed the Mall at Barton Creek. On Thursday, Donna Van Gilder took the students to Fiesta Texas in San Antonio and to Dave and Buster's for food, fun, and games. On Friday, Club members Polly McGee took them to the Bob Bullet Museum.

Club members Earl Walborg and Maria Caracheo, and MaryAnn Walborg, returned the students to Mexico.

- July 2005 — Special Note — On July 4, President Rick St. Cin hit a "Hole-in-One" off the No 5. hole at Pine Forest Golf Course. He made a rare double-eagle on the par-4 hole using his driver.
- October 2005 — The 12th Annual Rotary Fest fundraiser was held at Riverbend Park in Smithville on October 1 to benefit Rotary special projects. Mark Sheffield was chair.
- December 2005 — The Rotary Club of Bastrop County donated \$3,000 each to CASA and CAC at their annual Christmas Party. Club members also wrapped gifts that they personally donated to the CASA children of Bastrop County. Deborah Rogers was the coordinator between CASA and Rotary.
- December 2005 — The Club donated \$300 for Emergency Management Sheltering at the Smithville Recreation Center to Jack Page, Emergency Management Coordinator for Smithville.
- December 2005 — A donation of \$400 was given to the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry to assist with their nutrition education program which includes a garden project that teaches families to grow their own fresh vegetables and provides fresh produce for the pantry.
- January 2006 — Rotary Youth Leadership Award (RYLA) was the program at the January 3 meeting. Marcie Polsky, member of the District 5870 RYLA planning team and camp director, introduced student leaders for the 2006 RYLA Camp to be held at McKinney Roughs on July 4-9. Students taking part will be Amanda Hartfield of

Smithville HS, Marcie's Assistant; Stephanie Trevino, Bastrop HS, Assistant Counselor; and A. J. Kuizinas, Smithville HS, Counselor. Kenneth Trench and Jerry Germenis were Gold Shirts (students who learned the most) during the 2005 RYLA Camp, The students spoke at the meeting about their experiences at the RYLA camp.

- February 2006 — The Club donated \$400 to the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry to assist with their Empty Bowl project.
- February 2006 — Derek Van Gilder was presented with an exclusive White Hat Society Pin for his \$5,000.00 donation to the Rotary Foundation by 2000-01 RI President Frank Devlyn at RI District 5870 Donor Recognition Foundation Dinner on February 3 at the Omni Hotel in Austin. The White Hat Society was founded by the First Team of the Second Century Zones 25 and 26 governors of 2005-06 to encourage accelerated giving to the Rotary Foundation in a Rotary year and recruit one other Rotarian to do the same. President Rick St. Cin, Dolores Hestdalen, Derek Van Gilder and Rick Nalle and their spouses Lisa St. Cin, Donna Van Gilder and Betsy Nalle attended this meeting.
- March 2006 — The Rotary Club of Bastrop County donated \$2,500 to Dennis Dolgener, administrator at Towers Nursing Home, in Smithville to help with the construction of a prayer pavilion at Towers.
- March 2006 — Youth Service Above Self presentations were given to area students during the March 14 luncheon meeting by Benjamin Ford, District Chair. Zenaida Meranda, Bastrop High School, was the Rotary Club of Bastrop County's recipient. She received a certificate and a \$200 savings bond.
- April 2005 — Past President Jay Polsky was inducted into the RI District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 2006, at District Conference held in San Antonio on April 28-30 for his service as a member of Rotary. Dolores Hestdalen, Marcie Polsky, Rick and Lisa St. Cin, and Rick and Betsy Nalle also attended the District Conference.
- April 2006 — Several members participated at the annual Yesterfest on April 29. This year Yesterfest took place in downtown Bastrop. Mike Helmick worked at the Visitors' Bureau, and Al Mouton was Yesterfest chair.
- May 2006 — Members participated on May 19-20 in the ninth annual Relay for Life to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Club was also a corporate sponsor of the event making a \$250 contribution in addition to the amounts collected by team members. Approximately \$2,250 was donated by the Club and members. David Johnson was chair.
- May 2006 — Member Travis Sheffield was honored by the Rotary Club of Bastrop County for his 47 years of Rotary service. The \$1,500 scholarships given each to a Bastrop and Smithville High School student will now be named, "The Travis T. Sheffield Rotary Scholarship."
- May 2006 — The Travis T. Sheffield Rotary Scholarship of \$1,500 were awarded to Maggie Ning of Bastrop High School and Kaila Waters of Smithville High School. George Derryberry of Bastrop High School and Kayla Burns of Smithville High School received \$500 Vocational Scholarships. Lori Hunt was Chair.
- June 2005 — Rick St. Cin received the Presidential Citation for the ninth consecutive year. The Club increased membership by 10 percent, held a successful Rotary Fest fundraiser, sponsored high school students for RYLA, hosted a Youth Exchange Student, donated \$3,000 each to CAC and CASA, gave \$1,500 scholarships to Smithville and Bastrop HS seniors, and two \$500 vocational scholarships, donated to Boys and Girls Club for early book program and early learning reading program. New projects this year

included assistance to Bastrop County Food Pantry's nutrition education program and Empty Bowl Project, donation to the Emergency Management Shelter at the Smithville Recreation Center, donation to Towers Retirement Facility in Smithville, participation in a Short Term Youth Exchange project in July 05 with partner club in Mexico, and exceeded the goal of contributions to RI Annual Program Fund of \$100 per capita.

- June 2006 — The Club donated \$300 to the Boy Scouts of America .
- June 2006 — Members of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County contributed \$1,012.00 to the Katrina Victims.
- June 2006 — On June 23, Dolores Hestdalen, her grandson, Austin Hestdalen, and Lenore Brieger attended the installation of District Governor Jim Osbon at the Marriott Hotel South. Also installed was Roblyn Thorne, President, Rotary Club of Austin Oak Hill; Johnnie Gary, President of Rotary Club of Lago Vista; and John Pearce, President, Rotary Club of Lakeway/Lake Travis.
- June 2006 — RYLA scholarships were awarded to Lauren Carver, Andrew Vinklerek, and Mia Minor from Smithville High School; Greg Shivener from Bastrop High School; and Yral Wade from Elgin High School. These students participated in the RYLA camp on July 4-9, 2006.

July 2006 — June 2007

Rick Nalle, President

“Lead the Way”

- June 2006 — On June 23, President-Elect Rick Nalle held a planning meeting for the upcoming year with his new board members at his home in Elgin.
- June 2006 — Rick Nalle was installed by 2003-04 President Jay Polsky as president of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County at the Hyatt Regency Lost Pines Resort. Nalle's officers and directors are: President-Elect Mike Helmick; Vice President Deborah Rogers; Secretary Lori Hunt; Treasurer Chris Stockdale; Sergeant-at-Arms Mike Winn; Immediate Past President Rick St. Cin; Club Service Chair Tami Knipstein; Community Service Chair Christine Kempff; Vocational Service Chair Grace Garne; and International Service Chair Janice Butler.
- July 2006 — Bill Reed will serve as District 5870 Assistant Governor; Travis Sheffield will serve as the New Club Extension Chair for District 5870; and Marcie Polsky will serve on the RYLA committee and will be the RYLA Camp Director.
- August 2006 — The Rotary Club of Bastrop and individual members wrote and submitted letters of support to the Texas Historical Commission (THC) requesting that the City of Bastrop be considered for the Texas Main Street Program. Each year the THC selects up to five Texas cities as official Texas Main Street cities. The program is important in maintaining the vitality of historic downtown districts.
- August 2006 — On Monday, August 28, a reception welcoming DG Jim Osbon and his wife, Brenda, was held at the new CASA Building, 507 Water Street, from 6:00 until 7:30 pm.
- August 2006 — On Tuesday, August 29, DG Jim Osbon and his wife, Brenda, made their official visit to the Rotary Club of Bastrop County.

- September 2006 — A Family of Rotary Wine Tasting Party was held at the home of Joe Newman on September 26.
- October 2006 — The 13th Annual Rotary Fest was held on October 7 at Riverbend Park in Smithville from 6 p.m. until 10 p.m. The Interact Club again ran the children's games to make extra money for their club projects.
- October 2006 — The Bi-District Friendship Reunion was held in Tampico, Mexico, on October 27-29. No members were able to attend.
- November 2006 — The Rotary Club along with the Bastrop Education Foundation held Bastrop County's Biggest Tailgate Party fundraiser on November 24 at Scooter's. A breakfast was served from 7:30 a.m. until 10:00 a.m. Lunches, snacks and drinks were available after 10:00 a.m. Prize drawings began at 9:00 a.m. First prize was two tickets to the UT/Texas A&M annual After Thanksgiving Day game. Proceeds benefited Rotary Club projects and the Bastrop Education Foundation. The Rotary Club raised over \$3,000 for their special projects. The winner of the game tickets, B. J. Tondre, passed them to Stella and Willie Pina. Co-Chairs were Jay Polsky and Tim Shuminsky.
- December 2006 — A donation of \$269.22 was given to the Bastrop City Library. Sheilah Kosco, Teen/Reference Librarian, and Bonnie Ueckert, Children's Librarian, accepted the donation for their new Teen Program. This money came from the cups that are placed on the tables at each meeting. (NOTE: The cup money has been used for the Youth Exchange Student, but we did not have one this year, so monies will be donated to other organizations for Literacy projects).
- December 2006 — New Rotary shirts were distributed to members who ordered them from Garments-to-Go. Boyd Johnson was Chair.
- December 2006 — The annual Christmas Party was held on December 4 at the LCRA Conference Center. Members purchased and wrapped presents for approximately 40 Bastrop County CASA children. President Rick Nalle presented checks for \$3,000 to Lee Ann Calaway, Development Director, CASA, and Jason Goodman and Susan Nogues, Board members for CAC.
- February 2007 — District Leadership Training was held February 17 for new members at Central Texas College.
- February 2007 — The Foundation Banquet was held on February 24, at the Austin Airport Hilton. RI President William B. Boyd was the speaker. Members Dolores Hestdalen, Derek Van Gilder, Rick Nalle, Bill and Beverley Reed attended the dinner along with Austin Hestdalen, Donna Van Gilder, Betsy Nalle, and Bob and Mary Lockhart (previous Rotarian who is joining Bastrop County).
- March 2007 — Camp Enterprise 2007 was held on March 30-April 1 at the T-Bar M Ranch in New Braunfels.
- March 2007 — District Leadership Training (PETS) was held on March 23-25 at DFW Hyatt. President-Elect Mike Helmick attended.
- April 2007 — Deadline for Presidential Citation was April 1, 2007.
- April 2007 — Rosa Panta, 2003-04 Youth Exchange Student from Peru, was visited our Club on April 3. She gave a short report about what she had been doing the last few years.
- April 2007 — The Rotary Club of Bastrop County hosted the Area Youth Service Above Self Awards on April 10 at the noon lunch meeting. The awards will be presented by

Benjamin Ford, District Chair. Kasey Kellar, Smithville HS, was our Youth Service Above Self Awardee. Kasey single-handily hosted a local blood drive at the Smithville Recreation Center to benefit those in her community.

- April 2007 — The District 5870 Assembly, Central Texas College, Killeen, was held on Saturday, April 21 beginning at 8:00 a.m. The Assembly is for incoming board members and other Rotarians interested in the District.
- May 2007 — President Rick Nalle had an “End of the Year” party at his home on May 6.
- May 2007 — The Rotary District 5870 Conference was held May 10-14. The conference was a cruise to Cozumel, Mexico which left from Galveston. Rotarians Beverley Reed, Bill Reed, Dolores Hestdalen, and Dolores’s grandson, Austin Hestdalen, attended.
- May 2007 — AG Bill Reed, 2004-05 Bastrop County President, was inducted into the Rotary District 5870 Roll of Fame, Class of 2007, at the District Conference.
- May 2007 — Members participated in the tenth annual Relay for Life on May 18-19 to benefit the American Cancer Society. The Club donated \$500 as a corporate sponsor of the event. Club members also contributed their own money as participants in the walk. David Johnson was chair.
- June 2007 — The Travis T. Sheffield Scholarships were awarded to Jerry Dean Shimek, Jr., Bastrop High School, for \$1,500 and Megan Simmons, Bastrop High School, for \$500; Lauren Carver, Smithville High School, for \$1,500 and Kasey M. Kellar, Smithville High School, for \$500.
- June 2007 — The 98th annual RI Convention was held in Salt Lake City, Utah on June 17-20. Club member A. J. Lynch attended the Convention.
- June 2007 — The Club donated \$50 to the Foundation in memory of the passing of PDG Gene Davenport’s father. The Club also matched members’ donations for a grand total of \$3,100 to Foundation.

July 2007 — June 2008

Mick Helmick

”Rotary Shares”

- June 2007 — President Elect Mike Helmick’s installation was held on Tuesday, June 26, LCRA Conference Center. His officers and board are as follows: President-Elect Deborah Rogers; Immediate Past President Rick Nalle; Vice President Al Mouton; Secretary Derrick Formby; Treasurer Marcie Polsky; Club Service Steve Kice; Community Service Jerry Kahler; International Service Joe Newman; Vocational Service Mark Sheffield; and Sergeant-at-Arms Chuck Anderson.
- July 2007 — RYLA was held at McKinney Roughs, July 1-7. The following students were chosen to attend: Oseas Sanchez and Missy Garza, Bastrop High School; Corey Macks and Kelli Matacha, Smithville High School. Alternates were Ethan Fholer and Kimberly May, Bastrop High School and Bradley Campbell and Samantha Foerster, Smithville High School.
- July 2007 — The following members served on or chaired District 5870 committees: Jay Polsky, Assistant Governor; David Johnson, Inbound Co-Director YES; Marcie Polsky, RYLA Camp Director; Al Mouton, RYLA Logistics Coordinator; and Dr. Lance Carroll, RYLA Medical Coordinator.

- July 2007 — 2007-08 DG Barry Curlee's Installation was held at the Rotary Club of Austin on July 3. Club member Jay Polsky, Dolores Hestdalen and her grandson, Austin Hestdalen, attended the installation.
- July 2007 — The Club's 10th Youth Exchange Student, Pier Pulvirenti, arrived from Rome, Italy. He will attend Bastrop High School and his host family was David and Sarah Johnson of Bastrop.
- August 2007 — DG Barry Curlee made his official visit to the Rotary Club of Bastrop County on August 28.
- August 2008 — During the month of August the Club welcomed eight new members.
- August 2007 — The Club sponsored Nicolas Orozco, 12th Grade, Smithville HS, as an outgoing Youth Exchange Student to Rome, Italy.
- October 2007 — The 14th Annual Rotary Fest fundraiser was held at Riverbend Park in Smithville on October 6 to benefit Rotary special projects. The Interact club from Bastrop HS participated to help raise funds for their projects. They were in charge of the children's booths. Jay Polsky was chair.
- November 2008 — Bi-District Friendship Reunion Conference was held in South Padre Island on October 1-4. No members were able to attend.
- December 2007 — On December 11, Bastrop County Rotarians, spouses, family and friends met at the LCRA Conference Center to celebrate their annual Christmas Party with food, merriment and camaraderie. Members and the Interact students wrapped presents for the CASA children. President Mike Helmick presented checks in the amount of \$3,000 each to the Children's Advocacy Center and the Court Appointed Special Advocates.
- February 2008 — On February 9, members attended the District 5870 Foundation Banquet at the Austin Marriott North, Round Rock. Ron Burton, Trustee, the Rotary Foundation, was guest speaker.
- February 2008 — The Club honored Floyd Urban, Manager of the Bastrop Branch of Derrick Equipment, for their "Straight Shooter" award. Urban was chosen because of his tireless support and assistance to his customers and the community. The Vocational Service Committee, chaired by Mark Sheffield, initiated this new award to honor local people that demonstrate high ethical standards in their everyday business. The committee sought nominations from the Club's membership and asked that each nominator provide a narrative explaining why their nominee deserved this recognition. The award was announced at the Chamber of Commerce's Annual Banquet at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort on 2-9-08.
- February 2008 — On February 22, a Family of Rotary party was held at President Mike Helmick's home. Lenore Brieger, 101 years old, and Joe Newman played the piano for everyone's enjoyment.
- March 2008 — Members attended the Rotary Club of Cedar Creek's Chartering meeting on March 31 at the Hyatt Lost Pines Resort & Spa. Bastrop County Rotary presented Steve Dewire, Cedar Creek President, with a large banner with their name "Rotary Club of Cedar Creek" and a bell.
- May 2008 — Travis T. Sheffield Scholarships were awarded to Jordan Wright and Lenora Maus of Bastrop High School. and Lauren-Ashley Call and Bradley Campion of Smithville High School. The scholarships were \$1,000.00 each.

- May 2008 — The annual District 5870 Conference was held at the Hilton Austin Airport on May 2-3. DG Barry Curlee presented Rick St. Cin with the Roll of Fame, Class of 2008, award for his service to Rotary. Bastrop County president Mike Helmick assisted with Registration. David Johnson, District 5870 In-Bound Co-Director, Youth Exchange Students (YES), and Pier Pulvirenti, Bastrop County's Youth Exchange Student, spoke about the YES program. Members attending were Mike Helmick, Dolores Hestdalen, Deborah Rogers, Jay Polsky, Marcie Polsky, David Johnson, Pier Pulvirenti (YES), Rick Nalle, and Rick St. Cin and wife, Lisa St. Cin.
- May 2008 — Members participated in the annual Relay for Life celebration at Bastrop High School football stadium on May 16-17. Rotary Club and members contributed approximately \$3,000 to help with the fight to cure Cancer.
- June 2008 — The Club applied for a District 5870 matching grant of \$1,600 (\$800 from the District and \$800 from the Club) to cover the cost of a 215 foot picket fence around the Kerr Center. The Club bought the materials, paid for the construction of the fence, and eight Club members painted the fence. Gerald Kahler was Chair.
- June 2008 — On June 24, 2008 at an evening meeting, 2004-05 DG Gene Davenport installed Deborah Rogers as president of the Rotary Club of Bastrop County. Deborah's Board of Directors were: Immediate Past President Mike Helmick; President-Elect Marcie Polsky; Vice President Steve Kice; Secretary Matt Mix; Treasurer Michael Goebel; Sergeant-at-Arms Luis Rodriguez; Club Service Chair Boyd Johnson; Community Service Chair John Eaton; Vocational Service Chair Mark Sheffield; and International Service Chair Clyde Howell; Beverley Reed was Mistress of Ceremony.
- Gene Davenport honored Paul Harris Fellows Dolores Hestdalen with a Paul Harris +1 who donated a Paul Harris to Honorary Member Lenore Brieger (who died before a presentation could be made to her); Pier Pulvirenti (our Youth Exchange Student and donated by Derek Van Gilder.); Don Heller; and Al Mouton given to his wife, Janice (donated posthumously by Club members for his service to the Club).
- Also, the Club had 24 sustaining members.
- June 2008 — The installation of 2008-09 District Governor Ronny Reynolds was held on Saturday, June 28 at the Headliners Club in Austin. Club members Dolores Hestdalen; Mike Helmick and his wife, Jean; Jay Polsky; and President-Elect Deborah Rogers attended this meeting.