



Club members made state and national news in 1993 by helping crew members of a stranded Yugoslavian freighter, pictured in the background. (Photo courtesy of *The Post and Courier*.)

# The 1990s: Extending a helping hand

Bob Baldwin and Andy Brack, contributing editors

## Overview

As the country prospered throughout the 1990s, members of the Rotary Club of Charleston found new ways to provide service on the local and international levels.

## Membership

For the first time in its history, the Club's membership dropped during the decade. At the beginning of the 1990s, the Club had 278 members. By the end of the decade, it had 227 members.

## Projects and community service

The Club continued to raise the bar on community service. At the beginning of the decade, Club members dedicated a new fountain at Wraggsborough Square. By the end of the decade, it has raised tens of thousands of dollars for a new \$200,000 fountain at Marion Square.

Members also provided international help by raising money to fund Project Living Water to help pay for portable water purification devices for third-world countries. Members also raised \$27,000 for Habitat for Humanity and built a Habitat house. They celebrated the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. And they made national news helping stranded crew members of a Yugoslav freighter.

## Notable speakers

The Club attracted outstanding national and local speakers – from baseball great Hank Aaron to presidential candidates George W. Bush and John McCain. Members heard political debates of candidates for S.C. governor and lieutenant governor.

They learned more about Kuwait from Ambassador Edward Gnehm, about why Sherman didn't burn Charleston from historian Ted Rosengarten and about the Anne Frank Foundation from Cornelius Suijk.

Members also heard about prison reform from S.C. Attorney General Travis Medlock and about global warming from the Sea Grant Consortium's Margaret Davidson. The S.C. Coastal Conservation League's Dana Beach warned about the dangers of urban sprawl. And U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings warned about the ballooning federal debt and deficit.

## 1990–91: Wraggsborough project concludes

A Club project led by Skip Krawcheck to build a Rotary Fountain in Wraggsborough Square finally reached fruition this year. A ceremony was held in the square on Oct. 15, 1990. Members agreed the fountain and square were now beautiful and greatly enhanced because of work by Rotary.

The Trident Community Foundation, started with seed money from the club and run by Director and Rotarian Ruth Heffron, continued to grow and serve the community. It had assets more than \$3 million and had given out over \$6 million in grants since it started.

After returning from the Rotary International conference in Portland, President Conrad Zimmerman Jr. told members of a historic event – the opening of Rotary clubs in Poland and Russia. The presidents of those clubs were at the conference and gave moving presentations on how pleased they were to be joining Rotary International.

The Club's great door greeter, Len Sikes, reached 45 years of perfect attendance. Admiral Stan Bump, a Rotarian and commander of the Naval Base, volunteered to be United Way Chairman, the first military man to do so. In the district, past District Governor Lambo Schwartz of Myrtle Beach became the

first South Carolina Rotarian to be elected a director of Rotary International.

In November, District Governor Jack Martin visited the Club and urged members to continue to support the Rotary Foundation and also consider the new International program, "Preserve Planet Earth." He asked members to try to improve attendance, as the Charleston club ranked 38<sup>th</sup> in the district.

Robert Clement, John Hassell III, Tom Waring and Gerard Stelling were elected directors for the forthcoming year. From this group, John Hassell III was chosen president-elect for the 1992-93 Rotary year.

Sue Sommer-Kresse served as the Foundation Chairman for the year. She and her committee notified sustaining members as to their status on contributions and then urged everyone to become a sustaining member. For the year, the Club contributed \$18,920 to the Foundation.

The Club honored the top academic seniors from the public high schools and presented each with a certificate and a check for \$270. Also honored was Pearl Jackson as Teacher of the Year. She taught at the Robert McNair Elementary School.

The year ended with a Spouses' Night at the Sand Dunes Club. When Zimmerman passed the gavel to new president Jim Worthy on June 25, 1991, Executive Secretary Dot Humphries was recognized by all Club members for her dedicated service with a bouquet of roses, a standing ovation and a kiss from Zimmerman. He said she was the most dedicated person to Rotary of all those in the room.

Start: 278 members. End: 281 members.

## 1991-92: Keyway gets some changes

President Jim Worthy created two new innovative committees – Opportunities for Service and the Community Forum. The first featured a bulletin board where many requests for service were to be posted. Examples were "driving a senior citizen to a doctor's appointment" and "helping children at a picnic." Rotarians could scan the board and take one and accomplish it. The second project,

the Forum, featured a topic of public interest and an open discussion. Topics were to be discussed on a quarterly basis and the subjects were to be published in advance. Larry Tarleton was to moderate.

Worthy also emphasized the Rotary theme for the year, "Look Beyond Yourself," and urged members to plant at least one tree during the year to help another Rotary International goal of "Preserving Planet Earth." The Club purchased four live oak trees to plant along East Bay Street.

On July 30, 1991, the Club's *Keyway* newsletter was revised for the first time in many years. The new format, which featured a logo with the Charleston skyline, was thanks to editor Bob Prenner and his committee. The newsletter also featured the "President's Corner," a weekly column written by the president. With his folksy, humorous style, Worthy chided members for straying outside Rotary principles. For example, he said some of the Health and Happiness jokes being told were not appropriate for the meetings. He admonished members to seek the high ground if there were any question about whether a joke were appropriate.

One of the program highlights of the year was having Ambassador Edward Gnehm speak. The ambassador to Kuwait, he thanked Rotary for his start in life because he received a scholarship to study in Egypt, where he learned to speak Arabic.

Another outstanding speaker was editorial writer Michael Bonafield, who was well-versed in Soviet history and affairs. He visited Russia just after the August coup, and he predicted the end of communism. By Christmas, the Soviet Union and communism ceased to exist. Later in the year, members Gary Nichols and Walt Crone visited Russia during separate trips, and each gave his impressions of life in Russia immediately after the demise of the Soviet Union and the difficulty in changing to a free market economy.

Another good program was about the Anne Frank Foundation given by Cornelius Suijk of Amsterdam. He was interred by the Germans during World War II and currently was director of the Foundation. The Anne Frank exhibit was to travel to the Charleston Museum in the spring.

The Club sponsored two winners for the District Foundation Scholarships – Ms. Shawn Baldy, who would study in New Zealand, and Mr. John Newell, who would go to Cameroon.

Every Club member was challenged to be a Paul Harris Fellow by 1995, the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday. To help members become Fellows, the Club offered members up to \$500 to match the amount needed to complete their Fellowships. Because of the offer, the Club gained 26 new Paul Harris Fellows during the year.

The Club again honored 13 top students from the area public high schools by inviting them to lunch and awarding each a certificate and a handsome check. The Club also was visited by the Group Study Exchange team from District 1170 in England. It was a female team and well represented their country.

President-elect John Hassell, Jerry Nuss and James Stuckey represented the Club at the District Conference. And members had another great Spouses' Night at the Sand Dunes Club.

Start: 281 members. End: 281 members.

## 1992–93: Club exhibits true spirit of Rotary

Members of the Rotary Club of Charleston made state and national news by reaching out to help six crew members of a Yugoslavian freighter stranded in Charleston Harbor because of U.S. shipping regulations affecting ships of the former Soviet bloc.

First, members passed the hat and raised \$212 for the stranded sailors. Then they invited them to attend a meeting held at the Shrine Temple (in view of the ship). Whit Smith made arrangements through the Harbor Pilots Association to get a launch to bring them to the meeting.

"Our Club's concern was covered last Tuesday by NBC's *Today* show along with a news photograph for *The State* newspaper in Columbia," according to the Feb. 2 issue of the *Keyway*. "Our Club's gesture of friendship toward those caught in a changing world reflects the true spirit of Rotary."

Under the leadership of President John Hassell III, Rotarians spent Saturday's during winter and spring working on building a Habitat for Humanity house at the corner of Cooper and Aiken

streets in downtown Charleston. They raised \$27,000 for the project. Club members also continued to volunteer time and money to keep the Wood for Warmth program going.

Meanwhile, Rotary's programs continued to stimulate members. Historian Ted Rosengarten told members Sherman didn't burn Charleston because he considered it ruined as a target and he didn't want to be hemmed in by a port city.

College of Charleston President Alex Sanders gave a moving holiday speech, "Whatever Happened to Tiny Tim?" to highlight the importance of helping humanity.

S.C. Attorney General Travis Medlock focused remarks to the club on prison reform, restructuring sentencing codes and exploring alternatives such as prison "boot camps." University of South Carolina President John Palms discussed his vision of ways to keep South Carolina's best and brightest in the state.

Margaret Davidson, executive director of the S.C. Sea Grant Consortium, outlined the disastrous effects of global warming and encouraged members to act to reduce effects instead of relying on politicians.

Doug McKay, economic development assistant to S.C. Gov. Carroll Campbell, outlined the competitive nature of trying to attract companies and showcased the state's recent success in bringing BMW to the Upstate.

USC historian George Rogers recalled in a talk to members that he served as the Charleston Club's first Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in 1949–50. He attended the University of Edinburgh, which he said was one of the highlights of his life during which he learned of many historic connections between Scotland and the Palmetto State.

Other programs included talks on Habitat for Humanity, the Historic Charleston Foundation, how Charleston helped victims of Hurricane Andrew, the Charleston Interfaith Crisis Ministry, Trident Technical College, state government restructuring, Spoleto Festival USA, and the S.C. Department of Corrections,

Member Sue Sommer-Kresse visited a club in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, which expressed interest in developing a sister club relationship. In June, the Club had an annual social at the Sand Dunes Club on Sullivan's Island.

Start: 281 members. End: 288 members.

## 1993–94: Club has busy year on several fronts

As in past years, the Club had excellent programs. One highlight was a presentation by member, General Tom Mikolajcik, who was in charge of repairing the airport in Somalia to prepare for the United Nations humanitarian mission in that country. Mikolajcik and his staff were able to transform the airport, which was in a terrible state of disrepair, into what became the busiest airport in Africa in a very short period of time.

An enlightening program on the BOC Challenge, a grueling sporting adventure which began in Charleston in September 1994, was given. About 30 sailboats will leave Charleston, each with a single person on board who would sail around the world and try to arrive back in Charleston in May 1995.

Member Hugh Eichelberger gave a meaningful depiction of the current condition of morals and values in our country. He then told members they could help repair this social fabric of our culture by setting the right examples for others. He said members must be part of the solution, not part of the problem.

“Rotary Wheels” was a successful new project the Club sponsored with the Charleston Breakfast Rotary Club. The program benefited Habitat for Humanity and the Interfaith Crisis Ministry.

The Club nominated four candidates for International Ambassadorial Scholarships, and one of them, Carol Newell, was named a principal winner by the district selection committee. The Club also received a letter from the Christ Church, New Zealand Rotary Club stating what an outstanding ambassador that Shawn Baldy, the Club’s current scholar, had been. Members also sponsored a summer exchange student, Megan Mulvey, to France for six weeks in the summer of 1994.

Bill Nettles and Mary Dean Richards were candidates to lead the District’s Group Study Exchange team to Scotland in the Spring of 1994. Nettles was elected. He and his team left in February to spend six weeks in Scotland. Upon returning, he described their great adventures in the land of the Scot.

The Club and the district were saddened by the death of J. Lambert Schwartz, a past district governor from Myrtle Beach.



"Lambo" was the District's only member elected to the International board of directors and was serving when he died. Members also were saddened by the passing of Mal Haven, 92, past president and a great Charlestonian. He had been a member of the Club for 43 years. Other sad notes: the Club lost William H. Gogswell III and Clifton L. Hair Jr.

Past President Lin Sikes was honored with a standing ovation for 48 years of perfect attendance. He continued as the Club's greeter at the door. He was known far and wide for his aplomb in greeting all members – a labor of love for him, which he had been doing for many, many years.

In December, members attended a benefit concert given by the sponsored Men's Chorus and the Ashley Hall Choir, an event that helped raise money for a Habitat project. During November and December, the Interact Club at Ashley Hall School was very active, including holding a bake sale to contribute to the Lowcountry Alzheimer's Chapter.

In January, a special committee started planning for the 75th Anniversary celebration, to be held Feb. 2, 1995. In March, members started raising money by having weekly "lotteries" in which 75 percent of the money raised went to the funding for this event.

The Club sent \$500 to the Los Angeles area for earthquake relief efforts. The Club's Habitat project, which was delayed for several months due to government regulations requiring the whole house to be elevated to new flood heights, was started up again in March.

In May, members held a luncheon at the Air Base and then toured the new Air Force transport plane, the C-17 Globemaster III. Mikolajcik was host.

Members continued to support the Rotary Foundation. At the end of the year, the Club had 83 active Paul Harris Fellows, 130 sustaining members, and two active benefactors.

In June, Spouses' Night was held with a new menu (not Frogmore stew). Members and guests were entertained by the Charleston Men's Chorus.

For the fourth time since 1968, the Charleston Club awarded its Service Above Self Award. The recipient was Edward Fava, the Charleston County administrator, for his exemplary work. During

his tenure, County Council has won several state and national awards for excellence. He also was one of the main spokesmen in the base closure hearings. His efforts helped to save the Supply Center from being closed.

Start: 288 members. End: 280 members.

## 1994–95: Club celebrates 75<sup>th</sup> birthday

Members celebrated the Club's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Feb. 2, 1995, with a formal dinner at the Omni Hotel in downtown Charleston.

During the year led by President Daniel Ravenel, the Club also held a charitable auction to benefit the Coastal Council of the Boy Scouts of America, which also celebrated its 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Founding members of the Charleston Club were integral in getting scouting started locally.

Other notable events of the year included two political debates – a debate between lieutenant gubernatorial candidates Bob Peeler and Liz Patterson and a congressional debate between Mark Sanford and Robert Barber. During the year, politicians who spoke to the club included gubernatorial candidates David Beasley and Nick Theodore, as well as Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. During the year, members also hosted families for the National Youth Regatta, which was held in Charleston.

Club members also learned from interesting programs on the Medal of Honor Museum at Patriots Point, Johnson and Wales University, Trident Technical College and the Trident Community Foundation. They also found out about the S.C. Bar from President Rutledge Young and learned about redevelopment at the Navy Base and from the Regional Development Alliance. Other notable programs featured Dana Beach, lunch on the USS *Paul Hamilton* and information about the BOC Challenge.

Start: 280 members.

## 1995–96: New endowment program started

Rotary took on a decidedly international flavor throughout the year. Raul Monfort of Denia, Spain, served as Charleston Rotary's 1995–96 exchange student through the Rotary International Youth Exchange Program. Petra Langerov of Bratislava, Slovakia, served as the Club's Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar. And Martin Timr, an architect from the Czech Republic, was in Charleston as part of the Club's Rotary Internship Exchange Program. Also during the year, Club members heard from Shawn Baldy, the Charleston's Club's Ambassadorial scholar to New Zealand.

At the start of his term as president, Peter Wertimer challenged members to "a little bit of Rotary and a whole lot of fun" with several projects, including hosting international guests and beautification of the Calhoun Street Corridor on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Club's project of beautifying Marion Square.

With Wertimer in charge, the Club also made a big effort to help the Carolina Youth Development Center, which started in 1790 as the Charleston Orphan House, the nation's first publicly-supported orphanage. In October, Club members held a golf tournament that raised \$20,700 to create an endowment to benefit CYDC.

Another big milestone for the year was in September when Club members celebrated 50 years of perfect attendance by Linwood Sikes. District Governor Bob Onorato of Hilton Head traveled to Charleston to recognize Sikes, known far and wide for his cheerful weekly greetings.

One of the Club's most exciting guests in years was baseball great Hank Aaron. Instead of meeting at the Shrine Hall for the usual 1 p.m. meeting, members gathered at the Exhibition Hall of the Gaillard Auditorium to listen to "Hammerin' Hank" talk about his heavy involvement with youth mentoring programs. "Children are the greatest commodity we have in this country and to save a child through mentoring is the greatest feeling in the world," he told members Jan. 23, 1996. The speech led Rotarians later in the year to form a special mentoring committee to promote member involvement with youth.

## SPOTLIGHT: Club begins its own Rotary Fund

Through the years, annual dues have funded most of the Club's operations. Many requests for donations from worthy organizations often were limited by funds in the operational budget. To meet some needs, members raised money through auctions, raffles and requests to members.

In 1995, however, the dynamic changed. President-elect Anne Moise was asked to start a foundation within the Club to allow it to contribute more to the community. Thus began the Charleston Rotary Fund. Bill Schubert was a spark plug to help get the Fund going. After his death, the Fund was named in his memory.

Members agreed to raise an endowment of \$100,000 before any funds would be donated. They contributed by adding money to their dues payments. When members reached \$1,000, they were honored as CRF Fellows. By October 2004, the Club had 89 CRF Fellows. Another 120 members have contributed various sums and were working towards becoming Fellows.

CRF funds, administered by a board comprised of three past presidents, are for one-time projects. Guidelines dictate 75 percent of the funds go to Rotary projects – a third each for elderly issues, educational projects and emergency relief. The remaining 25 percent of the money is unrestricted.

By October 2004, more than 60 projects received more than \$45,000 in CRF funding. Donations helped provide money for tornado and hurricane relief, Charleston youth services, senior issues programs and Kosovo relief. Funds have helped rebuild a fire-damaged church kitchen that helps feed the needy. Monies have helped buy school supplies and dictionaries in schools where members provide mentoring.

-- Jerry Nuss

In other programs during the year, State Sen. Ernie Passailaigue gave a pointed talk on problems being encountered in working to get a replacement for the Grace Bridge over the Cooper River. Former Congressman Arthur Ravenel talked about the Charleston Regional Development Alliance. U.S. Rep. Mark Sanford gave impressions about his service in Washington.

Minor-league baseball personality Mike Veeck talked about the joy of minor-league ball. Dr. Daniel S. Hamilton, a policy adviser to an assistant U.S. secretary of state, outlined the ongoing Bosnian-Serb crisis.

Rick Terhune moderated a mayoral forum between Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. and challenger Ron Fulmer. At another meeting, the Club hosted several city council candidates.

End: 290 members.

## 1996–97: Club gets new fund under way

Through the leadership of Anne Moise, the Club's first female president, the Charleston Rotary Fund got into full swing in the 1996–97 year as a tax-exempt vehicle to allow the Club to make an impact on a wide range of charitable and educational initiatives in the Charleston community.

Alex Grimsley, Chris Hawk and Johnny Jordan served as the fund's first advisory board and recommended disbursements to the board.

During an April program, Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. spoke to the Club about its Marion Square fountain project. He said he was convinced that Marion Square would become the true heart of the city and would be one of the most beautiful urban areas in the country.

The fountain, which would be paid for with \$100,000 each from the Club and the city, was to be located near the corner of King and Calhoun streets at the site of the existing artesian well completed in 1879. It provided the first permanent water supply for the city, according to the April 22 *Keyway*. Throughout the year, Club members participated in periodic raffles to help fund the fountain project.

In other programs, Berkeley County's Jim Rozier discussed economic development. U.S. Senate candidate Elliott Close talked about his bid to unseat Sen. Strom Thurmond.

Club members also enjoyed talks on the London Museum, the *Hunley* submarine, electricity deregulation, regional land planning, and potential port operations on Daniel Island.

In November, members recognized longtime Rotarian Jimmy Bagwell, who turned 80. During the holiday season, Rotarians donated more than \$42,500 to the Salvation Army.

Club members also experienced the woes of moving during the year. In the fall, members moved the weekly meeting from the Shrine Temple, which was sold to the Carolina Yacht Club, to the Sheraton Hotel. Later in the year, members decided for space reasons to move again to the Charleston Rifle Club on Heriot Street. In May, the Club had its annual social with a barbecue at the Charleston Rifle Club.

Also during Moise's tenure, the Club enhanced its rapport with Sanders Clyde Elementary School through its volunteer mentoring and reading efforts.

Start: 290 members. End: 283 members.

## 1997–98: Club raises money for fountain

Club members dedicated themselves to a project to build a fountain in Marion Square by raising more than \$70,000 of the \$100,000 needed. In February, members raised more than \$16,000 in one fell swoop through a benefit concert in the Gaillard Auditorium in cooperation with the City of Charleston and the Charleston Symphony. By June, the Club presented a \$25,000 check as a first installment on payment of the project.

During the year, President John Milkereit was known for his interviews with members during meetings. He also called for the Club to build greater awareness of Rotary projects and services throughout his year at the helm. In a March edition of the *Keyway*, he wrote, "The amount of money we raise within the Club and community is satisfying....But, I sense that the scales are tipping toward financial investment and away from hands-on service. To

be a Rotarian means that you really are committed to personal service.”

Among the highlights of the year was a presentation by internationally-known pollster George Gallup Jr. He discussed how little youth expectations had changed over 20 years. More were concerned about divorce rates than homework, TV violence, drug abuse and alcohol use, he said.

Member Whit Smith and past president John Hassell gave views on placement of the new Cooper River bridge and an update on the proposed project. Later in the year, world-renowned bridge builder Gene Figg talked about how bridges were designed and built.

Dewey Teske of the S.C. World Trade Center outlined opportunities and challenges with international trade. Lawyer David Popowski, son of a Holocaust survivor, provided members with an update on a planned Holocaust Memorial in Marion Square. Local businessman John Rivers, who served as chair of S.C. Educational Television, showcased the valuable programming done by the statewide network.

In other programs, Neal Peterson gave an inspiring account of his “Around the World Alone” sailing trip. School board member Diane Aghapour outlined challenges facing Charleston County students. Superintendent Chip Zullinger outlined a proposed bond referendum to help repair decaying schools. State Treasurer Richard Eckstrom called for reductions in wasteful government spending.

During Milkereit’s term, a Rotary flag flew from a mast outside the Charleston Rifle Club, the meeting location, during meetings. At the end of the year, longtime Club Secretary Dot Humphries retired.

Start: 283 members. End: 244 members.

## 1998–99: Club saves with Web site, Keyway

The Club in March started delivering its weekly *Keyway* newsletter, which started out in the 1920s as the *Rotary Ragout*, by e-mail following implementation of a new Club Web site, which was located online at: <http://www.charleston-rotary.org>.

The new form of *Keyway* delivery led to two dynamics – members could read it on paper or electronically. First, the newsletter had a new look that allowed it to be printed on standard paper, instead of being presented as a folded bulletin. Second, the Club was able to save about \$12,000 a year by cutting some postage costs. In turn, the savings allowed the Club to have extra money to spend on Club projects. While many members started receiving the *Keyway* through e-mail, several continued to receive it by U.S. mail.

The Club continued to have tantalizing programs. Developer John Knott talked about sustainable design principles at Dewees Island. Laura Kennedy and John Thompson of Blackbaud described the company's high-tech operations for nonprofits. Ben Brecht of Opus Media discussed the challenges of marketing on the Internet.

U.S. Sen. Fritz Hollings discussed fiscal waste by the U.S. government, whose spending had created a \$1 billion per day cost of interest on the national debt. Later in the year, College of Charleston professor Bill Moore gave political insights into the coming election. In January, Charleston Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. gave a "State of the City" address. In it, he focused on how the city works with more than 5,800 people to mentor Charleston's children.

The Club hosted Dr. Andrzej Stanislawek of Lublin, Poland, as its International Intern for several weeks. He worked with mentors at Roper Hospital and MUSC. Exchange student Bernardo Valdiesco of Ecuador gave a presentation on what it felt like to be in America. Charleston native E.P. McClellan shared his memories of growing up in Castle Pinckney in Charleston harbor.

Tom Myers of We are Family talked about the group's mission to educate family members of gay and lesbian teens.

During the year, the Club formally established a partnership with Sanders-Clyde Elementary School with a presentation of \$500 from the Club to the school's library fund.

The Greater Charleston Rotary Club Auxillary, which was the nation's first Rotary-Ann group, celebrated 76 years of service. The Club's Feb. 23 meeting was held at the Francis Marion Hotel to commemorate 75 years since the opening of the hotel, which got started in part due to investments by Rotarians in 1920.



During the year, Carroll Schweers was hired to serve as the Club's executive secretary.

Start: 244 members. End: 237 members.

## 1999–2000: Club hosts presidential candidates

The Rotary Club of Charleston became a showcase for Republican politics when it hosted two major candidates seeking the presidency: Gov. George W. Bush of Texas and U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona.

On Aug. 25, Bush spoke to a room packed with Club members and guests who appeared to be the "who's who" of Republican politics. Bush told members he wanted to create an environment in which Americans could follow their dreams and entrepreneurs could flourish. On Dec. 14, McCain told a room of more than 700 people about his plan to use 70 percent of government surpluses to offset Social Security and Medicare.

During the year, the Club took on a new activity to sponsor Project Living Water. Club members agreed to help fund installation of some portable water purification devices in poor areas in other countries without access to clean drinking water. Molly Greene, wife of member George Greene, outlined how the units each could clean 10,000 gallons of water a day for \$1 per day.

Also during the year, President Mike Jones pushed members to support the Charleston Rotary Fund. At the end of the year, he announced members had met a goal of reaching \$100,000 in the fund.

In programs, Sen. Ernie Passailaigue spoke about video gaming and reassessment. Gov. Jim Hodges spoke about job training, programs to improve education and the pending statewide referendum on an education lottery. Later in the year, State Superintendent Inez Tenenbaum talked about the department's concentration on accountability, improving student achievement, infrastructure and teacher quality.

The Club also hosted a mayoral forum between incumbent Mayor Joseph P. Riley Jr. and challenger Maurice Washington. Dana Beach of the S.C. Coastal Conservation League spoke about urban sprawl. At another meeting later in the year, he spoke

against port expansion, while John Hassell supported it. Sen. Glenn McConnell gave a presentation on the recovery of the Civil War-era Hunley submarine.

The Club also hosted a program series that looked back at wars involving America. Member Alex Grimsley provided a historical overview of World War II in which more than 10 million people died. Col. G. Kenneth Webb spoke about his combat experiences in Europe. Retired Gen. David Watts gave a presentation about the Korean War.

Orangeburg physician, Randolph Smoak, the president-elect of the American Medical Association, spoke on his group's being in favor of health care reform. MUSC President Ray Greenberg spoke about the education, research and clinical programs at the teaching hospital. Dr. Jeffrey Wigand, a biochemist who was the inspiration for the movie *The Insider*, spoke about his experiences with the \$45 billion per year tobacco industry.

During the year, the Club was awarded the Presidential Citation for 1999–2000 at the District Conference.

The Club lost member Jimmy Bagwell, a past president and past district governor. He was remembered as being responsible for starting a club in Mount Pleasant and for chairing the committee that led to formation of the Trident Community Foundation.

Start: 237 members. End: 227 members.