

How it Happened

On November 19, 1970, Fredrich G. Behner, a Rotarian from Monroe, Michigan, placed an ad in the *Green Valley News* for Rotarians to meet and discuss a new Rotary Club for Green Valley.

The sponsoring Club was the Old Pueblo Club of Tucson, Arizona, J. Walter Nelson, President.

Behner and District Governor William E. Craig prepared the formal application, which was hand carried to Rotary International at Evanston, Illinois by Fred.

Provisional Acceptance

On January 12, 1971, official recognition of the formation of a provisional Rotary Club in Green Valley was received from Rotary International, and the first meeting was held at the Que Paso Restaurant in Green Valley.

Provisional officers were:

Fred Behner, President
Ed Karn, Vice President
Ray Marks, Secretary
Bill Parks, Treasurer

Chartered!

The official date of the Green Valley Rotary Club's charter was January 21, 1971. Charter Night ceremonial pomp and circumstance for the Rotary Club of Green Valley occurred at the Ramada Inn in Tucson, Arizona on February 23, 1971, the same date as the 66th birthday of Rotary International. Tucson Rotarians and guests numbered 196, two of whom were Past Rotary International Directors, Al McKeown and Reginald Smith.

Original Members

Fredrich G. Behner, Jr.; Edward F. Karn; Arthur B. Heiberg; Paul Carmi Smith; George H. Bowman; William S. Parks; John T. Crawford; Howard J. Rustanik; Hersel Wendell Hudson; Edward C. Bryden; Charles Fredaric Bonnet; B. George Baldwin; Raymond C. Marks; George E. Olmstead; Rev. Rector W. Johnson; Joe H. Canfield; Warren E. Culbertson; Robert Swerny, DDS; Kyle C. Hawkins, MD; Dallas Larsen; David Wesley Barns; Robert D. Lynn; John P. Sinclair; Clifford A. Teufel; Rev Monsignor John F. Burns.

Additional Facts

- The Rotary Club of Green Valley began with 18 active members and 7 senior actives (a category abandoned by RI in 2003).
- Al McKeown was elected to the Green Valley Club after his 50 years of service in the Detroit Club.
- On July 1, 1972, Fred Behner became the Club's 1st Paul Harris Fellow after serving 17 months as its 1st President.
- On December 31, 2009 we had 42 active Paul Harris Fellows.
- The Club has inducted 280 members from 1971 to December 31, 2009.
- Women were allowed admission into Rotary on 1987. Areta Finch became the Club's 1st female member in 1991 and the Club's 1st female president in 1994. We had 8 active female members on December 31, 2009.
- Wintering Rotarians from northern and eastern states, Sojourners, have always come to the Green Valley area and are warmly welcomed as helpful and active club participants.
- Club projects and our Club's Foundation contributions include college scholarships; local needs support and educational mentoring; international projects in Thailand, Russia, and Niger; international youth exchanges and youth leadership training.
- Our total giving to Rotary International since 1971 exceeds \$360,000 as of January 4, 2010.

Meeting Places Over the Years

Que Paso Restaurant (burned in 1972)
Green Valley Country Club
St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church
Our Lady of the Valley Catholic Church – 1979
West Center Auditorium – 1981
Canoa Hills Social Center – 1992 to 2007
St. Francis in the Valley Episcopal Church – 2007 to present

Presidents of the Rotary Club of Green Valley

Fredrich G. Behner	1971 – 1972
Edwin Karn	1972 – 1973
Roger W. Baxter	1973 – 1974
Charles F. Bonnet	1974 – 1975
William S. Parks	1975 – 1976
Robert B. McGhee	1976 – 1977
James R. Livingston	1977 – 1978
Olaf Solstad	1978 – 1979
Leo Rummell	1979 – 1980
Irving G. Reamer	1980 – 1981
Donald W. Gray & Richard B. McKnight	1981 – 1982
Richard B. McKnight	1982 – 1983
Robert C. Gelbach	1983 – 1984
William A. McGibbon	1984 – 1985
Albert J Altar, MD	1985 – 1986
Robert M. Fleury	1986 – 1987
Gerald Sanders	1987 – 1988
James D. Wright, DDS	1988 – 1989
Joseph N. Crystall	1989 – 1990
Charles E. Gabrielson	1990 – 1991
James D. Schafer	1991 – 1992
Alan W. Grayban	1992 – 1993
James E. Pfenning	1993 – 1994
Areta D. Finch	1994 – 1995
Timothy A. Olcott	1995 – 1996
Frank Arrotta	1996 – 1997
Herbert Morgan	1997 – 1998
John H. Ehrenfeld	1998 – 1999
R. Scott Jacobson	1998 – 1999
Richard Roberts	1999 – 2000
Arleen Boyuls	2000 – 2001
Robert Lehnhardt	2001 – 2002
Kenneth Swiniuch	2002 – 2003
Nick Clement	2003 – 2004

Father Mike Shay	2004 – 2005
William Bennett	2005 – 2006
Thomas C. Bunting, MD	2006 – 2007
Mark Dugan	2007 – 2008
Jerome Ochs	2008 – 2009
Mitch Salyers	2009 – 2010