



6.1 The International Fellowship of Shooting Sport Rotarians

March 2006

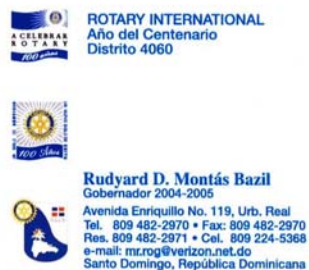
The idea for forming a shooting sport fellowship came from then President Elect Clark Vargas of the Rotary Club of SouthPoint in January of 2005. At that time he was involved in what was then the club's 3rd annual clay shoot fundraiser and as a result of some research in the Rotarian Magazine, Rotarian Clark discovered there was no shooting sport Rotary fellowship. Seeing an opportunity to create another avenue of fellowship among Rotarians, Clark then discussed the idea with past club presidents Bob Hervey and Eddy Kirby who encouraged him to proceed with establishing what has become Rotary's International Fellowship of Shooting Sport Rotarians.

Rotarians Clark and Eddy then began the process and contacted key Rotarians in leadership positions for advice. All were encouraging but they also warned it would be a three-year process and a daunting road to embark on due to the requirement of gaining support from the international community. But, due to the clubs ongoing international service projects to provide computers to children in Colombia, South America and it's continued support of the Clean Water Project in the Dominican Republic, prior contact had been made with District Governors and Club Presidents in both countries so Rotarian Clark knew we could get the support needed and confirmed that it would occur at the Centennial Convention in Chicago in June of 2005 with all parties present. Of course the first Governor asked to sign the application was our own District 6970 Governor-Elect Shann Purinton who sweetly said, "Clark don't know much about it, but I will sign as soon as I take office 1 July", so the project was up and rolling. All the while, Rotarians Clark and Eddie had been coordinating with RI's senior coordinator for global Networking Groups, Mr. Jesse Allerton, who was very helpful with the forms and kept them appraise of the deadlines. In the middle of the process the rules and forms changed but by the time Rotarian Clark was on his way to Chicago all that was left was to get the necessary signatures from the District Governors.



"Service Above Self"
Shann Purinton
Governor 2005-2006
District 6970

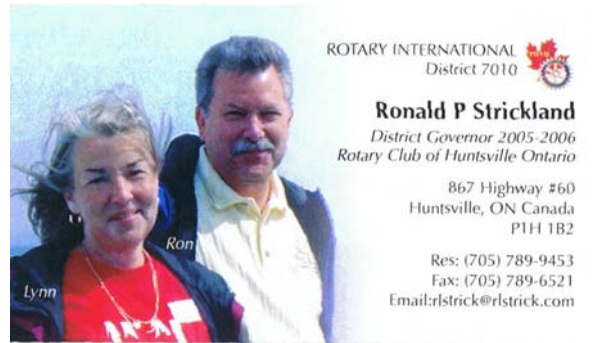
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Rudyard y Margarita

The next step in the process was the establishment of a worldwide shooting sports membership base and establishing the need for a fellowship. Since Rotarian Clark had been an international pistol shooting athlete and past president of the Florida Sport Shooting Association with its 41,000 National Rifle Association members and had been selected for the Team USA shooting try outs in 1989, he had

the contacts in the various National Governing Bodies (NGB) of the different shooting sports associations in the USA and was able to spread the word to his contacts and through them to their international counterparts in order alert the international community about what a group of Florida Rotarians were attempting to do and to gauge the potential membership possibilities. Everyone of the NGB's contacted stepped up and asked how they could help, indicating it was an awful tight deadline to get people by the end of June but they would do their best. Talk about best! USA Shooting, NSSF, NRA, Club Cazadores Cubanos, NSSA, ISPSC all helped identify seventy (70) plus shooting athletes in seven (7) different countries that would consider joining the fellowship before July 1 and we had the potential members needed to establish the fellowship.



Now at the International Convention, Rotarian Clark encountered difficulties making contact with the Colombian delegates and after speaking with over twenty (20) governors who listened attentively and said they would have to think it over, saw his needed endorsement slipping away and time running out. Very dejected, he went back to the House of Friendship and while watching the entertainment; Rotarian Clark noticed he was sitting next to a Governor Elect from Canada. Established some common ground elicited from him and learning that he was a hunter, Rotarian Clark made his pitch one more time and the Governor-Elect of District 7010 agreed to sign. The necessary endorsements were in the house.

The paper work went in to RI and on November 9, 2005 Jesse Allerton e-mailed Clark this message,

“Dear Rotarian Vargas, Congratulations! The RI Board of Directors reviewed your application and have decided to officially recognize the international Fellowship of Shooting Sport Rotarians as a Rotary Fellowship.”

And with that, the establishment of a new Rotary fellowship was done and completed in eleven (11) months with of course the next to be notified and thanked District Governors Shann Purinton (6970), Rudyard Montaz (4060), and Ronald P. Strickland (7010) who sponsored the fellowship and by their actions are now immortalized in the history of the IFSSR. Since being approved thru now, a Board of Directors was constituted, officers were elected, Articles of Incorporation were recorded, application for 501(c) 3 has been applied for, and By Laws have been approved.