



Rotary Club Napoli – 1924 – 2024

The Rotary Club Napoli founded in 1924 is one of the oldest clubs in Italy, making it the Doyen of District 2101 Campania.

Its establishment took place thanks to the commitment of Neapolitan professionals, entrepreneurs and managers, who shared the idea of creating an organization that would promote the spirit of service and professional ethics.

In 1923, Rotary landed in Milan, but the first contact between Rotary and Italy dates back to five years earlier, during the final phase of World War I. This was reported in a detailed documentation held in the Rotary archives of Zurich relating to the contacts between Biagio Borriello Neapolitan ship-owner, eminent member of the Naples Chamber of Commerce Board, Consul of the Netherlands and the exponents of the International Rotary (at the time still International Association of Rotary Clubs), who indeed prefigured the creation of the first Italian Club in Naples.

In fact, numerous businesspersons had interests in the field of navigation and commerce in the city of Naples, whose function as a privileged seaport, for those arriving from overseas, made it an ideal place for setting up a Club for the American Rotary. This possibility was long evaluated and solicited by the headquarters of Rotary, as highly feasible and perhaps to be privileged with respect to alternative hypotheses.

Unfortunately, the political condition of that period made this enterprise unaffordable. Therefore, it was only in the spring of 1924 that some gentlemen began to meet, becoming the promoters of the constitution of a Rotary Club in Naples.

After numerous meetings, the Rotary Club of Naples was founded and officially presented at the City of Naples. The first formal convivial meeting with the inaugural ceremony took place on December 11, 1924, at the Bertolini Palace Hotel in Corso Vittorio Emanuele, in the heart of the elegant Chiaia district and with an imposing panoramic view of the Gulf of Naples, in the presence of the Rotary International Commissioner for Europe Fred Warren Teele and the highest city authorities.

The first President of Club Napoli was Francesco Bertolini, owner of the homonymous hotel, who, for the first official meeting, resorted to the culinary skills of the gastronome Luigi Carnacina, a pupil of the great French author and chef Auguste Escoffier.

Giorgio Ascarelli was appointed as Vice-President, Pietro Lerario as Secretary, and on that occasion the director of the Banco di Napoli, Nicola Miraglia, was announced as honorary member of the club.

On January 6, 1925, the Club of Naples received the admission card to Rotary International. During this period the Club Napoli worked hard to implement important initiatives. The first one was to set up a commission for the study and realization of projects to improve the hygienic conditions of the city. The second one was to become the point of discussion and proposal for the construction of the Naples - Pompeii - Salerno highway. In a memorable session for the Rotary of Naples on May 21, 1925, the construction of the Naples - Salerno highway was decided and the solid realization started with the constitution of the "Società per le Autostrade Meridionali", with the initial capital of 500,000 lire, subscribed almost exclusively by Rotarians in a single day, who did not exceed twenty members at the time, and for whom its success was an unknown factor.



Other important commitments of the members of the Club were offered for the establishment of the "Neapolitan Society of Orchestral Concerts", the establishment of the San Carlo as an autonomous body, the arrangement of the Zoological Station.

Rotary in Southern Italy hosted for a long time only the Clubs of Naples and Palermo, to which were added, at the end of the twenties, the club of Messina (1928) and, in the following decade, Catania (1930) and Bari (1933).

In that period, the position of Rotary appears strengthened by the excellent relations with the House of Savoy, testified by the presence of the aristocratic elite within the Clubs: honorary member of the Club of Naples, in 1926, is the Duke of Aosta Emanuele Filiberto of Savoia. He was the first of the Savoia to join Rotary. During the convivial organized in his honor by the Club, with the presence of authorities and notables of the city, he gave a memorable speech of appreciation on Rotary underlining its commitment to the progress of the nation creating great echo with the leaders of the Italian Rotary during the meeting of the Naples Congress in May 1929. In November 1938, the Fascist Regime invites the Rotarian Clubs operating in Italy, to suspend their activities and the National Council of the Italian Rotary, with a unanimous vote, resolves the dissolution of all Rotarian Clubs as of December 31st.

On December 20, 1938, Eng. Enrico Franzì, President of the Club, delivers the speech in which he announces that the Rotary Club of Naples "closes its last cycle of life after fourteen years of intense and fruitful work, during which it has given unquestionable proof of care and devotion to the Rotarian ideals, but first and foremost to the ideals of the Fascist country." Only after the landing of the Allies in Sicily in July 1943 Rotary activities could be resumed. When the Allies returned to main land Italy from Sicily, the Association resumed its activities: the first Club to meet was that of Messina on 18 March 1944.

The resurrected Club of Naples met again on 8 July 1944, in the hall made available by the "Banca Commerciale Italiana" in its main office in via Toledo.

During these years, the Rotary Club of Naples has played an important role in the social and economic life of the city, promoting initiatives of solidarity and local development. The Club has organized numerous cultural, educational and social activities, including conferences, exhibitions, cultural exchanges, urban regeneration projects and local, national and international humanitarian aid. It has continued to develop and carry out service activities through the support of international projects.

Among the most important initiatives carried out in this period, the ones that mostly stand out is the restoration of the city's architectural heritage, a cycle of conversations in which the special law for Naples was established, the promotion of the tourist settlement of Monte Faito, in which many Rotarians participated, and the establishment in 1968 of two new Clubs in the city, which further developed Rotary in Naples.

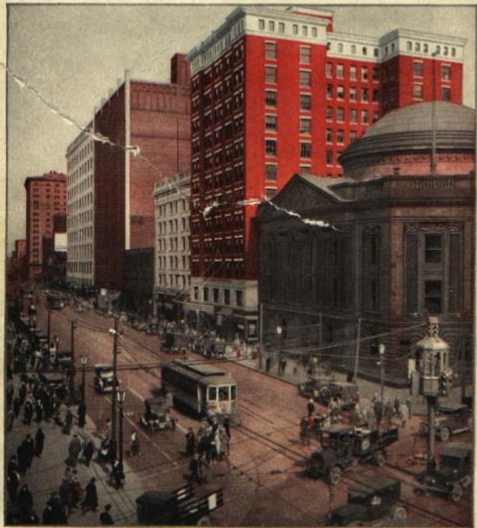
Today, the Rotary Club of Naples continues to be a point of reference for the community and the surrounding area by promoting the improvement of the quality of life and livability, actively engaging in solidarity projects, economic support to cultural activities through numerous awards and initiatives and with the promotion of the professional ethics.

The Club has an important online presence, thanks to its website and social media accounts. It continues to be an organization of great relevance and influence in the city of Naples and worldwide, with the aim of being in the furrow of tradition but in step with current times. In the

Rotary year 2024-2025, the year of the Centenary celebrations, the President of the Rotary Club Napoli is once again Massimo Franco.

More information on the Rotary Club Napoli at: www.rotarynapoli.it

ROTARIAN
The Magazine of Service
 June 1925 25 Cents



CLEVELAND—MECCA OF ROTARIANS—JUNE 15 TO 19

CALLING NAMES <i>By James Brown Scott</i>	ELAM FLOCK <i>By Joseph Lister Rutledge</i>	GASOLINE ALLEY <i>By Arthur Melville</i>
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The Convention Program—Special Cleveland Section

32

THE ROTARIAN

June, 1925



Waltz," is said to have been written during his student days at Athens, and this was given as a violin solo. The picture given the library is said to be the only one existing, and is an enlargement of a woodcut. Other pictures in connection with Mr. Foster's life also attracted interest.

Many Debates on Value Of Business Codes

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND.—A discussion held to ascertain the attitude of members to the campaign on business methods showed that while members are anxious to associate themselves with any practical efforts at such improvement, there was a feeling that written codes should be avoided. Similar results are reported from two other I. E. I. clubs, and several other clubs are still discussing the matter. The Inverness club passed a resolution approving such codes.

\$25,000 Skating Rink For City

MEDICINE HAT, ALTA.—The Amateur Athletic Association of this city invited representatives of various civic organizations to discuss the possibilities of a community skating rink. This preliminary meeting appointed a citizens' committee of nine, five of whom were Rotarians. Later this committee was reduced to six, including four Rotarians and sub-committees were appointed to select a site and prepare a plan of financing the project.



Colonel David C. Collier, honorary member of the San Diego, Cal. Rotary Club, has been appointed director-general of the Sesqui-centennial celebration of American Independence at Philadelphia in June, 1925. On a site of approximately one thousand acres he is preparing a large International Exposition to match the one he handled at the Panama-California Exposition in San Diego in 1915.

It was arranged to secure some city property through tax-sale proceedings, and the city agreed to deed this property to the "Medicine Hat Rink Co., Ltd." and in addition to give the Rink Company a twenty-year fixed assessment of taxation and an average rate for utilities totaling \$750 per annum. The Rotary Club (Continued on p. 72.)



Inaugurazione del Rotary Club di Napoli

This group photograph was taken at the inauguration meeting of the Rotary Club of Naples, Italy. This club came into the Rotary in December, 1924, and its members are enthusiastic over the possibilities of the organization. Fourth from the left in the front row is James Henderson, who has just become Governor of the Italian district; and fifth from the left of the same row is Fred Warren Teale, Special Rotary Commissioner for Europe.

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Telegram: BIAGIO BORRIELLO. Code: ABC (5th Ed.)

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NAPLES

June 27, 1918
Naples

P. O. Box - Telephone 12-32

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P. G. Ask'd _____

For information of _____

To the Secretary,
Messrs the International Association of Rotary Clubs, attention front

910 Michigan Avenue, Chicago

Chicago, Ill. *to the Naples*

4334-11

Dear Sir,

I have received your favour of the 14th May Ultimo, file IOI2, and thank you for the pamphlets explaining Rotary, which are having my special attention.

