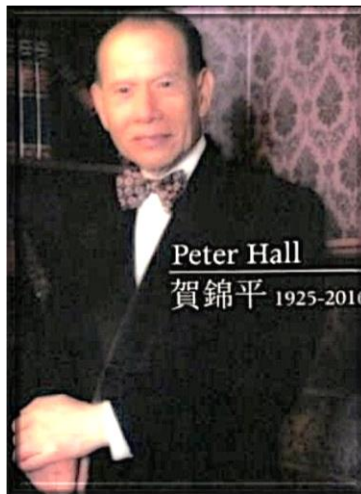


Peter K. P. Hall Dedicated Youth Service through Scouting

By Herbert K. Lau (劉敬恒) (Rotary China Historian) 1 January 2017



Affectionately called “Uncle Peter” by most of his fellows, Peter K. P. Hall (賀錦平) (1925-2016), of the Rotary Club of Hong Kong Island East (香港東區扶輪社), was elected the 22nd Rotary International District 345 Governor in 1981-1982 when the District was compiled with clubs in the northern portion of the Republic of China’s Taiwan (臺灣), the British Crown Colony Hong Kong (香港) and the Portuguese Territory Macao (澳門). Peter was the second district governor provided by the Club since its inception on 6 April 1954. His senior was John Yuen (阮維揚), the 14th Governor in 1973-1974.

In 1996-1997, Uncle Peter was conferred “Service Above Self Award” by Rotary International. The Award is presented annually to individual Rotarians whose contributions to the organization embody the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self”. The Award recognizes outstanding efforts in the promotion of Rotary International objectives in any avenue of Rotary service and contributes Rotary’s highest honor for a Rotarian.

Prior to that in 1994-1995, Uncle Peter was conferred “The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award”. The Award is given annually to Rotarians whose outstanding service to the Foundation reaches beyond the District level or extends over a long period of time. Recipients have received the “Citation for Meritorious Service” at least two years before they are considered for nomination for the Distinguished Service Award.



1982 -- Working for world understanding and peace – During his visit in Manila, The Philippines, Rotary International President Stan E. McCaffrey of Stockton, California, U.S.A., participated in the signing of an agreement to form matched districts. Representing the districts in this show of solidarity are (from left) Fred Frank Fricke of Makati, The Philippines; Oscar Ravenera, Governor of R.I. District 382; President Stan; and Peter K. P. Hall, Governor of R.I. District 345.

After the completion of one year of service as a Director 1960-1961 of the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (東華三院庚子年董事局總理), Peter was invited to join the Hong Kong Island East Rotary Club. According to a casual talk between Peter and the author, he was given a 6-month “probation” by the Club’s membership committee prior to induction. This gave him enough time to think about his future in Rotary whether it would be a RINO (Rotarian in name only) or to be true Rotarian with hands on service. Certainly, throughout the rest of his life, Peter had exemplified himself by conduct the true philosophy and spirit of the 《Object of Rotary》 while practicing 《The Four-Way Test》 .

Though Peter’s profession declared and classification represented was “Freight Shipping Agency”, frankly, he seemed to be working “full time” for Rotary as it was the general impression by most of our fellows. Almost every day, Peter walked out of his residence carrying his black brief case down the Bowen Road (寶雲道) to visit his *de facto* office---the Rotary Information Center (扶輪諮詢中心) in Central District (中環) and moved later in Causeway Bay (銅鑼灣). Always 8-days-a-week during his 55 years of service in Rotary, Peter attended numerous Rotary/Rotaract clubs’ meetings, committee meetings, task forces, conferences, assemblies, institutes, conventions, etc., no matter merely as a participant, or to serve as chairman, convener, discussion leader, trainer as well as many other assignments. Because of his active participation in local and international events, Peter was so well-known and popular in the Rotary circle of many of the Far East countries: Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Singapore, and of course, The Philippines. Before the Asian economic crisis in 1997, the Rotary International Asia-Pacific Office was located in Manila.

Coming back to the District, one of Peter's best contributions was the effort on membership development and extension of many new clubs in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao, and even Mongolia. In 1994, Peter was the site surveyor to fly over Ulaanbaatar. His favourable site survey report gave the Rotary International Board of Directors to lay the decision on making the democratic country Mongolia (蒙古國) to join the list of Rotary Countries, of which gave green light to the Rotary Club of Ulaanbaatar be admitted membership on 10 January 1995. This first Rotary Club in the capital city of Mongolia was sponsored by The Rotary Club of Shatin (沙田扶輪社) in Hong Kong.



As indicated by the title of this article, Peter dedicated half of his life in youth service. Other than those new generation programs offered by Rotary: Interact, Rotaract, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), ambassadorial scholarships, Group Study Exchanges (GSE), etc., where Peter used to serve as counsellor in various aspects, Peter had also served the Hong Kong Scouting for almost 50 years as a lay member. i.e. the non-uniformed supporter. On 31 March 2008, Peter was awarded, in his capacity as Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Island Region Scout Council (港島地域副主席), the 3-Star Long Service Medal (LSM) by the Scout Association of Hong Kong (香港童軍總會). The initial recognition of the LSM is 15 years of service. Each and every further 10 years will be given 1 Star. The 3-Star Long Service Medal is the appreciation to a Scout member of 45 years long service.

Peter began his Scout supporting in the early 1960's as a member of the Hong Kong Island Eastern District Scout Council. In 1975, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal (功績榮譽獎章) (DSM) in his capacity as the Council's Honorary President (港島東區童軍會名譽會長). The DSM is awarded to adult members of the Association in recognition of meritorious services of different degrees rendered to the Association over substantial period.

Peter moved on to serve the Hong Kong Island Regional Council of which is a higher level. In 1989, Peter was awarded The Bronze Dragon Medal (青龍勳章) by the Scout Association of Hong Kong. This year, Peter was the Chairman of the Executive Committee (香港童軍總會港島地域執行委員會主席). The presentation was a double-happiness to Peter because it was conferred from the hands of the Association President, Sir Ti-Liang Yang (楊鐵樑爵士), who was the Hong Kong Rotary Club President in 1983-1984. The Bronze Dragon is awarded to administrators of the Association in recognition of further exemplary service of the most exceptional character rendered to the Association.

In 1995 during the annual St. George's Day Scouts Rally, in front of thousands of Scouts, Peter was decorated again with higher award of The Silver Dragon Medal (銀龍勳章) in his capacity as the Deputy Chairman of the Hong Kong Island Region Scout Council.



Distinguished Service Medal



Silver Dragon Medal



3-Star Long Service Medal

Parallel to his service in Rotary for 55 years, plus the Hong Kong Scouting for 5 decades, Peter also served the youth through the Hong Kong Juvenile Care Centre (香港青少年培育會) as its President and remained on its board until the last day of his life. The Centre was founded in 1948 providing residential training and educational services to the boys who have behavioural and emotional adjustment difficulties.

Peter K. P. Hall, an ethnic Cantonese, was born in Hong Kong on 6 September 1925. In his alma mater, Peter was the first Chairman of the Wah Yan College (Hong Kong) (香港華仁書院) Past Students' Association (WYPSA) which was established in 1969 when the original WYPSA (that had both Wah Yan College Hong Kong (WYCHK) and Wah Yan College Kowloon 九龍華仁書院 (WYCK) alumni as its members) was divided into two, the WYHKPSA and the WYKPSA, as each year the number of graduates increases. Peter was the only Chairman and later President of WYHKPSA who had never studied in either the Robinson Road (羅便臣道) or the Queen's Road East (皇后大道東) campus. He studied in the Nelson Street (奶路臣街) campus of WYCK between 1933 and 1941, after which Hong Kong went through the difficult period of Japanese Occupation during the Pacific War in 1941-1945. When asked why the newly incorporated WYHKPSA elected Peter as its first Chairman in 1969, he jokingly replied that it was because he "lived on Hong Kong Island!" The real reason might be Peter's distinguished leadership of the original WYPSA, his great spirit of service and his friendly temperament. He served as the President of the WYPSA from 1961 onwards, and as Chairman of the succeeding WYHKPSA from its incorporation in 1969 until 1971, after which he served as President again until 1976. It was extraordinary for Peter, who had never studied in WYCHK, to contribute so much as PSA Chairman, President and later Past President, to the scholarships, campus improvement works, student activities and many other aspects of WYCHK.

On top of all the above, his period of service overlapped much with the other areas of his distinguished record to the good of the community, including in the Tung Wah Group of Hospitals (東華三院), Po Leung Kuk (保良局), Pok Oi Hospital (博愛醫院), etc. Peter was also a successful entrepreneur in the restaurant business, and he practiced his Catholic faith devoutly.

This lifelong passion for food and devotion to a Catholic life might already be there during his adolescence in the Nelson Street campus of WYCK.

Uncle Peter passed away on 5 February 2016. The memoir for Peter carried the following testimony that reflected he was truly a “Man for and with Others”, long before the coining of the term:

Once, when asked how he managed to lead and manage so many organizations and projects, Peter said simply that he did the jobs no one else wanted to do. This attitude and his profound humility were consistent with the kind of man Peter was, one who put in countless hours of hard work without complaint or need for recognition ... Peter Hall was loved, admired, and deeply respected by all who were fortunate to be touched and blessed by his kind heart. He did so much to change so many lives for the better, and his profound legacy will live forever.

Uncle Peter will be best remembered by following his generous spirit of dedicated Service Above Self. In God, may he be rest in peace.

