**14807, Robert Kinlocke**

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am honored to be here today to speak to you in celebration of your 50th anniversary as an Inner Wheel Club. Rotary Clubs have a long and valued history of helping in their communities and this club is no exception. Just as you individual Rotarians belong to this club, your club belongs to Rotary International. The work that Rotarians do they do within the club both locally, nationally, and sometimes internationally. We are also very active with Social media sites. But, the benefit to each club and each member is dependent upon what the member brings to the club with them and how they put their talents and interests to work in the club. When a club has been around 50 years such as this one, they have had the advantage of a wide range of members and their talents. As Rotarians we have the benefit of serving the community by participating in a club project, by creating a project the entire club supports or if the club supports a Rotary Foundation project.

Rotarians have worked on some practical but phenomenal programs that have made an amazing impact on your community. Rotarians’ projects have provided medical equipment for newborn intensive care units. We’ve had projects that aided with the eradication of polio globally, projects the provide entertainment for children with special needs and children from single parent families. We have high school programs that provide scholarships and science forums for teenagers. In addition Rotarians sponsor Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Model United Nations Assembly (MUNA), Rotary Youth Driver Awareness (RYDA), and Overseas Group Study Exchange (GSE). We also have adult programs such as the mentoring, networking, and personal development. We even have programs for our senior members to make a difference in your community.

All of you know the specific contributions that your members and your club have made to your community and to other Rotarians. To have been in operation as long as this club, you have some amazing accomplishments. You have looked around your community to determine its needs and then chosen what needs you could help. You have joined together and pooled your experience and your talents to make a difference in your own community for 50 years. This is a true mile marker for your club. Not every club makes it to 50 years. But, your club has not only reached it, you have excelled in your in your experiences.

By working faithfully over this 50 years, you have set the example for other clubs who are younger than you. You have shown them how to build a club in membership as well as community work. You have shown them how to grow and learn as well as how to deal with those seasons when your club may lose members or not grow as much as you’d like. You have developed an atmosphere of acceptance of others and one of encouragement to grow and learn. Community work takes dedication and commitment and over the span of 50 years that your club has existed, you have shown other clubs the definition of these two things.

Congratulations on reaching this important milestone and good luck for the next 50 years.

Thank you