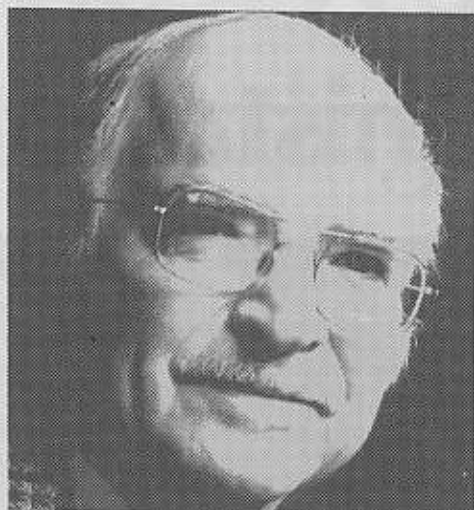


Wilson Charbonneau

Member since 1947



Wilson Charbonneau

member of both our Club and the Dayton Executives Club, 20 years with the Chamber of Commerce, 10 years with the Lions International, and only recently, became a member of The Discussion Club. Currently, at our Club, he serves actively on both the Library and Archives Committee and the Membership Committee.

Charbonneau firmly believes that our Club should be serving a minimum of 1500 members, and that the membership should never be permitted to drop below that figure. He further believes that most engineers, scientists and professionals need to be asked by someone, and if more of our members would ask two or three friends to consider joining, our membership goal would be met in a very short time, and that assessments and other concerns would be no longer needed. Says Charbonneau, with a smile.

"When we get to the point when our auditorium gets a bit crowded too often at normal Club functions, we have then reached our membership limit."

Wilson A. Charbonneau has been a member of the Club since 1947, when he was sponsored for membership by George H. Leland, with whom he was associated briefly, prior to founding his own company, WaLine, Inc. in 1950 at 35 S. St. Clair St., in Dayton, the same building where Delco started about 30 years earlier.

As a freshman, in 1931, he was selected, along with James A. Van Allen, (who was a few

generating plants. He also developed a full line of military electrical panel meters which were supplied in large numbers to electrical equipment manufacturers around the world.

After selling his interest in Burlington Instrument Co., Charbonneau, in 1946, built a plant to manufacture fractional horsepower electric motors for the furnace manufacturing industry. The product was so good that one of his biggest customers offered to buy the plant and the entire output of several hundred motors per day. Upon sale of the plant, Ace Electric Co., he accepted a position with Leland, as plant manager of his company, which later became known as Ledex.

In 1948, Charbonneau developed controls for Leland Electric Co., and received Air Force approval for a line of aircraft inverters. This product line became the basis for Leland Airborne Products, which was later sold to American Machine and Foundry (AMF). The company is now known as Leland Electrosystems.

In 1950, he founded WaLine to produce special electronic equipment for military use. The first item was a target indicator which signaled the pilot when the enemy aircraft was in line for a direct hit, as determined by computerized radar. The second product line was test instruments for radar, followed by variable speed instrument motors, and finally, a full line of electrical indicating instruments.

He sold this company in 1968, and a year later, established Pro International Corp., (ProCorp) to market inventions and businesses. Later Pro Realty was added, after which ProCorp was sold, and he retained Pro Realty as a parttime activity.

As a boy, he was very active in Boy Scouts, and he continued in that organization for 25 years. He is a lifetime member of IEEE, a 37-year

Meeting Members

years later to be credited with the discovery of the Van Allen radiation belts in outer space), to serve as laboratory assistant to Dr. Thomas Poulter, head of the Physics Department at Iowa Wesleyan College, where some of the research equipment for the Byrd Antarctic expedition of 1933-34 was developed. Dr. Poulter was second in command of the South Pole trip, and was credited with saving the life of Admiral Byrd, who had been overcome with fumes in his lonely South Pole cave, many miles south of Little America.

Charbonneau received his Bs. of EE degree at the University of Iowa in 1935, where upon he married his boyhood sweetheart, Elaine, and shortly, thereafter, moved to Milwaukee for a brief period as an engineer for Allis Chalmers Co. Late in 1936, he resigned his job, moved to Burlington, Iowa, where he helped found Burlington Instrument Co., as chief engineer and general manager. Many products were developed and manufactured there, including voltage and frequency regulators and automatic synchronizers for electrical

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