

SOCIAL GROUP

by David Wiechmann

SERVICE ABOVE SELF: *Rotary at the Dominion*



There are many people who don't know that the Dominion has an active Rotary International ("RI") Club and it's no longer your grandfather's business networking hub. Its membership is now open beyond business leaders to anyone with a heart for service and yearning for great fellowship. In 110 years RI has grown from one U.S. club to be the world's oldest and largest service club organization with over 1.2 million Rotarians in 35,000 clubs in more than 200 countries.

Your neighbors in the Rotary Club of San Antonio at the Dominion constitute a diverse group of individuals who like to have fun and

learn. They meet weekly for lunch every Tuesday at the Dominion Country Club, but reserve the first Tuesday of every month for fellowship at a neighborhood watering hole. In addition to native Texans, members have lived in Mexico, Africa, Puerto Rico, India and Germany bringing a plethora of fun stories and perspectives.

At Tuesday luncheons typically a guest expert speaks on activities in and around our neighborhood providing a greater depth of coverage than you can get on TV. Topics discussed range the gamut of our highways, water, medical, schools, real

estate, music festivals, art museums, fuel supplies and the economy.

RI members form a global network of neighbors and problem solvers who volunteer their time and talents to serve the communities they live in and the world. From once helping to form the United Nations to today's elimination of polio and the global spread of other diseases that are just one flight away from everyone's home, 1.2 million Rotarians strive to exemplify their motto of "Service Above Self."



So Why Rotary? It is the only non-profit, non-religious, non-political organization in the world that has an actual plan for peace and stability through the implementation of its six areas of focus: clean water and sanitation, disease prevention and treatment, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, economic development and finally peace and conflict resolution. It is because of its unique standing in the world, that while others talk, Rotarians are able to instead take action.

The Dominion Club's community involvement gravitates towards the interest of its members since RI is driven ground up by its local clubs and not through top down edicts. Hands on service projects have included wrapping and delivering presents for Elf Louise, the Food Bank, Adopt A Highway at Ralph Fair Road, a Halloween party for all of San Antonio's handicapped children, a toy drive/casino party plus teenager training on first aid and the business basics of being baby sitters.

Most local charitable groups have at one point in time benefitted from a Rotary Club or Rotarian. An annual fundraiser is held to assist organizations that our members take a personal interest in. Recently the Dominion Club has donated to existing local organizations such as the Leon Springs VFD, Cactus Pear Music Festival, school libraries and reading programs, wounded U.S. military veterans, food banks, Boy Scouts and a scholarship at UTSA. Grants were also made for international projects managed by local Rotarians such as eye glasses in Africa and Central America, leg surgeries in India



and home construction in the Honduras. Another project provides tents, water purification kits and other essential items in foot lockers distributed at disaster and war torn areas around the planet including the recent flood in Houston.

The club also supports nearby youth clubs at Aue and Leon Springs Elementary Schools as well as TMI and the Art Institute. Early Act in the elementary schools is a non-violence strategy building program which provides children, ages 5-13, with an after-school opportunity for gaining an increased awareness and knowledge of their

community and the world. At a young age, all students can easily be encouraged to be caring and helpful. It also engages students in character-building activities and prepares them for leadership roles to identify and carry out projects which benefit their school, local and global communities.

If you are interested in becoming a member, please feel free to stop by and join them for lunch. Membership however is by invitation only. It is guaranteed to lift your spirits. More information can be found at dominionrotary.org/ as well as on Facebook.

