

FROM THE PAST PRESIDENT



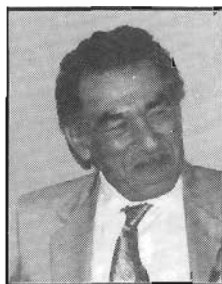
I want to express my sincere thanks to the members of the Space Center Rotary Club for giving me the opportunity to experience the wonders of being the president of this Rotary Club. It has been a great honor being president of one of the, if not the, greatest rotary Club in the world. For me it has been a terrific year. I am not saying it was always fun, nor has it always been easy, but it sure was different, interesting and a true challenge.

Being president was not a position I sought. I was very satisfied just getting involved in Rotary projects wherever needed. Becoming president of the Space Center Rotary Club is almost unreal. One does not feel worthy of such a privilege. It just seems to happen and then it is over. I had many plans and ideas that I wanted to implement during my year as president. However, for one reason or another some of these plans did not materialize.

I wanted to have an outstanding Shrimporee fund-raiser. As it turned out the fellowship was there but the money was not. I wanted to have more socials and fellowship affairs. Ideas were proposed but did

not seem to appeal to many of the members. For this I am sorry. Yet we did have a good year. Those members who got involved in the Shrimporee, Golf Tournament, Fun Run, Christmas Party and those who helped take hope Village youngsters to Rotary Night at the Astros, served pancake breakfasts to support the club Endowment foundation, went to the Rodeo, attended the District Assembly and Conference, joined in the year end party, etc. etc., would admit we had a good fellowship year. Even the Jamboree ended up being a great day of fellowship for those Rotarians who attended.

Did we need to raise a lot of money to have a successful year?



I, as did other members, believed that if we did not raise lots of money at our Shrimporee it meant a bad year. But!!!!

We - supported SPCA, Meals on Wheels, Food Pantries for the Hungry, summer Camp for the Boy Scouts, and Drug Essay Contests. We worked with and supported Hope Village for the mentally challenged, worked on the "Save the Children" program to immunize pre-school children, furnished bicycles to foster children in the "3 wishes for Christmas" program, furnished cosmetics and toiletries to turning point for abused and homeless women and children, collected used glasses for the district's eye care program in Mexico, donated over \$5,000 to the Turning Point to help them establish a home in our area for abused

women and contributed over \$1,250 to Bridgeport.



How does one measure success?

Our Rotarians worked with the staff of Clear View Alternative High School in developing a VIP career development program to help students get on site training, presented and Officer of the Year award, presented an "Excellence in Education" award to the Teacher of the Year, presented scholarships to four local high school seniors, and sponsored the First Graduation Awards Banquet for Clear View High School graduating seniors.

Our club recognized eleven new Paul Harris Fellows and fifteen Rotary foundation benefactors. We have a very strong and active international Youth Committee. We sponsored a multi-district weekend at our club for over 90 visiting foreign students from all over Texas to emphasize "World Peace Through Understanding". We supported a long term foreign student from Holland. We maintained relationship with our sister club in Mexico City. "Club Rotario Aeropuerto". Our world health program remains very active in providing plastic surgery and other medical attention to needy children from foreign countries.

This year the Space Center Rotary

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Club organized and sponsored its eighth annual "Rotary National Award for Space Achievement" which attracts ranking dignitaries from all over the U.S.A. This is one of the most prestigious of national Rotary Award ceremonies.

The most emotional event this year was the formal dedication of the Space Center Rotary Club memorial marker at Cap Landolt Park. Many family members of deceased Space Center Rotarians were in attendance and expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the club for holding this event. Another such moment was the recognition of thirty years of membership by our four club charter members. 1964 - 1994.

Were we successful? Yes!!



Reread the above club activities and accomplishments and all will agree we had another outstanding year. Space Center Rotarians can be very proud of their contributions to the community, to the district and to Rotary

International. And guess what? We started the year with a zero cash balance and a few outstanding debts. We ended the year with a cash surplus to start the new year.

Let's "all" be positive and face the coming year of new challenges and opportunities with the desire to put forth our very

best efforts. Let each Rotarian feel that he/she has the right to say "I served".

THANK YOU DR. FUSTOK

The following is a letter received from Mrs. Cristina Hernandez Garcia, mother of Genero who was a patient of Dr. Abdel Fustok during the months of April and May 1994.

"Dear Vic Maria (Taxco, GRO., June 27, 1994

I expect on receiving this letter you and your wife enjoy a good health. We arrived Taxco without any problem, but nevertheless my son and me were so sad and happy at the same time because we met the most generous and wonderful people in the world, especially you and the Doctor.

I have no words to thank all your help, and that's why I pray to our Lord to bless you all forever and I pray Him to give you enough resources for helping to all the people who need it like me in this case.

Please say to all the Rotary Brotherhood we send them our best wishes, love greetings for your support and please go ahead because I'm sure GOD knows what you have done and he will reward you.

My husband and my children are really happy, too. We have talked about this experience. Believe me please, we are all really thankful. As you know there is a great crisis in Taxco and there isn't any kind of work for paying those so expensive surgeries.

Please Mr. Vic Maria say to the Doctor (Fustok) we love him and Genarito remembers him every time specially when he looks at his hands. Kisses, hugs and thankfulness with love Cristina"

Genero and his mother were housed and cared for by Carol & Bob Kuhl of clear Lake City and their neighbors Lydia & Frank Martinez. Genero had his 6th birthday with the Kuhls. Three years ago, at his home in Taxco, Mexico, Genero tripped. His arms went into a vat of boiling solution up to his elbows. Both of his lower arms and hands were very badly burned and disfigured. Dr. Fustok did extensive repair to Genero's hands and arranged for the Houston Hand Rehabilitation Center at Bay Plaza I to build custom splints and braces to hold Genero's hands in their proper positions.

I want to extend my deepest appreciation and gratitude to Dr. Abdel Fustok for his compassion and miraculous operations and to Susan Gaynor, O.T.R., C.H.T., of the Houston Hand Rehabilitation Center for her gentleness and patience while working on Genero. I want to recognize Gary Chaney who was there when needed to care for and transport this child and his mother to their many appointments. My thanks to Chairman Charles Hartman for his constant support of the program.

As so aptly said by Genero's mother, "I'm sure GOD knows what you have done and He will reward you."

Vic Maria. World Health Committee /s/ Vic Maria