

# RoAnns of Austin

## *A bit of history.....*

In many Rotary Clubs throughout the world, wives of male members are affectionately called "Rotary Anns". This affectionate designation grew out of an interesting historical occasion.

In 1914, San Francisco Rotarians boarded a train to attend the Rotary Convention in Houston., and until the train stopped in Los Angeles there was only one woman on board, the wife of Rotarian Bru Brunner. As the train picked up additional Rotarians, Mrs. Ann Brunner was introduced as the Rotarian's Ann, which soon became "Rotary Ann".

Since the clubs of the West were inviting Rotarians to hold their next convention in San Francisco, during the trip a number of songs and stunts were organized to perform in Houston. One of the Rotarians wrote a "Rotary Ann" chant.

On the train's arrival at the Houston depot, a delegation greeted the West Coast Rotarians. One of the greeters was Guy Gundaker of Philadelphia, whose wife was also named Ann. During the rousing demonstration someone started the 'Rotary Ann' chant. In no time at all, Ann Gundaker and Ann Brunner found themselves hoisted on the men's shoulders and paraded around the hall.

Every one liked the term of endearment, and "Rotary Ann" has stayed to this day.

Guy Gundaker and Bru Brenner became RI Presidents in 1932 and 1952 respectively. Thus each of the two original Rotary Anns became first ladies of Rotary International.

## *Austin history.....*

On March 8, 1962, a group of wives of Rotary Club of Austin Rotarians met for the purpose of organizing the women of Rotary in the Austin area.. The object of this organization would be to foster friendship and fellowship among spouses and surviving spouses of Rotarians. The first luncheon was held at Green Pastures and the name "RoAnns' of Austin" was adopted.

Though the name has not changed, since 1987 membership is open to spouses of lady Rotarians.

All Rotarians and friends of Rotary are invited to the monthly meetings.

For information call:

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or

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