

## Club History

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon was chartered on April 15, 1947 and has successfully operated for over 70 years in supporting the Mount Veron and Knox County community. Robert K. Porter of the Mansfield Rotary Club sponsored the establishment of the Mount Vernon Rotary Club.

At the outset the club membership was all male and operated that way for many years under the rules established by Rotary International. However, when the rules changed permitting the admission of women into the membership our Club admitted the first woman member setting the stage for strengthening the Club

The Rotary Club of Mount Vernon is affiliated with District 6690 of Rotary International which geographically encompasses the southeastern quadrant of Ohio.

The Club, since its inception, has continuously met at the Alcove Restaurant with the exception of an two periods while the Alcove was undergoing renovations.

### Community Projects:

Over the years the Club has focused on supporting initiatives and projects that contribute to bettering the community. In the late 40's the Club contributed significantly toward the construction of the lodge building at Camp Cornish, the Girl Scout Camp located in Knox County, just east of Mount Vernon. Ironically, in 2004, when the building fell into disrepair and the decision was made to raze the building, numerous Rotarians volunteered many hours of their time to help tear down the original lodge to make way for the construction of a new lodge.

The Club has always placed a heavy emphasis on education by offering scholarships to graduating seniors to continue their education. In 2005 the scholarship criteria changed broadening recipients to add a scholarship for non-traditional students. Bi-annually hold fundraising events, called *Dollars for Scholars* to support this fundamental project of our Club. Currently we provide scholarships totaling \$4,000 annually.

Some of the other important community projects the Club has supported over the years include:

- Developed and constructed a playground on the Kokosing Trail at Howard.
- **Yellow Jacket Relay:** Annual invitational track meet at Mount Vernon High School track that serves as a fundraiser for the MVHS Track Team. We have partnered with the Mount Vernon High School to support this highly popular event through sponsorship and volunteerism
- **Deeley-Rudin Centennial Playground:** Located at Riverside Park this was our Club's project to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Rotary International. In excess of \$100,000 was raised from within and outside the Club to make this project a reality. The Park was named for: Dr. George

Deeley, a charter member of the Club and Walter Rudin, the longest-term member of the Club.

- **Foundation Park Fun Day:** This is an annual family event through partnership with the Mount Vernon Kiwanis Club to raise money to support needs of the developing Foundation Park.
- Miscellaneous projects in support of the **Knox County Park District:**
  - Constructed an observation deck at Wolf Run Park
  - Storage facilities for the Brown Environmental Center
  - Placed river crossing signs on bridges on the Kokosing River Trail
  - Constructed and installed information kiosks at numerous park sites within the county
  - Planted over 100 trees at Wolf Run Park
  - Participated in construction of the "Bark Park" at Wolf Run Park
  - Constructed a 9-Hole Frisbee Golf Course on Thayer Road (just south of Mount Vernon)
- Additionally, the club sponsors a **youth baseball team** and supports **Food for the Hungry** by providing a truckload of potatoes for the annual Christmas meal distribution.
- **Clubs for Kids:** An annual fun filled golf instructional event for boys and girls that includes a half day instruction in the fundamentals of golf and lunch. Each participant also receives a basic set of golf clubs, appropriately sized to the participant's needs and other required accessories.
- **Annual Golf Tournament:** At one time this was an important Club fundraiser in honor of deceased member Paul Slaughter.
- **Interact/Rotaract:** Our Club has sponsored student clubs at both the high school and college levels.
- **Group Study Exchange:** The Group Study Exchange Program involves hosting non-Rotarians from other countries on a cultural exchange. It is a Rotary sponsored event and involves sending a six-person team and receiving a six-person team from a specific country. Most recently exchanges have been made with Australia, Brazil, Sweden, and India.
- **Youth Exchange:** We have hosted high school students for a year- long exchange. And short term month-long overseas experiences.
- **Frisbee Golf:** We purchased and installed a nine-hole Frisbee Golf range on Kinney Road.
- **Zambia, Africa Water Wells:** In cooperation with three other Rotary clubs we installed state-of-the-art hand pumps in three water wells in Zambia, Africa.

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