

NDSA Director's Report (Page 2) Region 13: TX, OK, Eastern NM - Lary Leach '60

Details: Clubs' Outstanding Initiatives, Successes, and Problems (as needed)

Club	Description of Outstanding Club Initiative(s), success(es), or problem(s) (type 250 words or less)
Dallas	Our First Friday and Third Friday lunches are not official Senior Alumni events, but have worked out to be such. We have been able to gain about 6 active club members through the lunches. Our Senior Alums are active in TAPS. Our Senior Alums have initiated a program of welcoming home troops returning from Iraq and Afghanistan at DFW Airport one Saturday morning a month. We continue our involvement in the diocese, though nothing new to report.
Houston	This is something we do particularly well. We always have projects going on that allow our retired seniors the opportunity to be engaged during the day. Whether it be our weekly mentoring program, or taking a trip down to Galveston to meet with officials from O'Connell High School (which was ravaged by Hurricane Ike), or going down to the weekly food bank, our Seniors are involved. The main thing, however, is that we don't treat them like "Seniors." They are really just the most seasoned and life-experienced members we have in the Club that are naturals for leading projects. It just so happens that they usually have time during workdays to do certain things because they are usually retired. Wyn Norris continues to lead our mentoring program; Bill Kreps still coordinates our Hospital Support Group; Father Rivers is constantly engaged in our community service group; Jerry Toomey coordinates attendance from his contemporaries for important events. I don't know what we'd do without them.
	Just before starting Notre Dame as a freshman, Abby was involved in a major accident while with her family in Mexico. They didn't have insurance and were denied disability. We found out through the Club's close ties to the new class and their parents. We rallied the troops. Her family struggled to pay for the legal help needed. Through the Club, we found Mike Petersmith, who is one of the top attorneys in Houston in this area of law. He took the case for free. The attorney previously handling the matter agreed to refund everything the family had already paid him. With Mike's help, the case was resolved and Abby received a commitment from the neurosurgeon Mike retained as an expert for her case to provide her with the ongoing treatment she needed but the family could not afford. The Club also had the other students from her class, returning from break, bring her ND items to remind her that even though she's not in South Bend, she is a part of our family.
San Antonio	We have a newly appointed Senior Alumni Coordinator who has done a wonderful job of getting seniors involved with the club who otherwise may not be active in the club. The Senior Alumni meet for lunch every other month, pray together, serve communion to the sick and hospitalized and participate in the hospital support program and mentoring programs.
West TX/Eastern NM	PACE/BFTC at Midland, TX: Mary McLaughlin '09 threw out the 1st pitch to great cheers for Mary and Notre Dame
PACE/Bat for the Cure	8 Clubs had games, 6 Clubs Participated: Austin, Dallas, El Paso, Ft. Worth, San Antonio, WTX/ENM-Midland