



Donald Schnacke- TSR President 1987-88

Don Schnacke was a Charter Member of TSR when our club was founded in 1986. He was the second president of TSR and had been a member for 26 years at the time of his death in 2012. He had been a Rotarian for years before the founding of TSR, and was a driving force as this new club grew and developed.

A native Topeka, a Topeka High grad, an Oklahoma State University engineering grad, and a Washburn Law School grad. A very proud United State Marine who served in WWII. All who knew Don Schnacke knew he was, at heart, a Marine forever!

Rotarians are leaders and Don enjoyed successful careers in engineering and in law, in both the public and private sectors of these careers. He was Executive Vice President of the Kansas Independent Oil and Gas Association for decades, was appointed Director of Kansas Inc. by 3 state governors, and held leadership positions in numerous other state and national associations. He knew a lot of people and was an effective and influential communicator.

Don was incredibly connected in Topeka and Kansas and at all levels of politics. As such, he was able to bring many notable speakers and timely, outstanding programs to our Friday breakfasts. He was relentless in his belief we needed great programs every week, no exception.

Don acted as club photographer at all club activities for years and years. He wanted the history of our club recorded and preserved. He could be gruff and touch, but he welcomed new members and wanted all of us to be committed, active, vital, contributing TSR members. When his sons Greg and Tim were visiting from Colorado, they would often be Dons guests on Friday morning. To me, he was a great example of the 4-way test and an example to newer TSR members, but most importantly he was a very good Rotary friend.