

## Rotary Foundation Gala

Here is an event you really should attend. This is the annual Rotary Foundation Gala.

**Do not go** because of what it will do for your Rotary Foundation, although all the proceeds will go to help Rotary foundation.

**Do not go** because of what it will do for our club, although the club will benefit from having a good turnout at the celebration.

**Do go** for what it will do for you! *You deserve* a restful fun evening at the beautiful Schwertner Ranch. *You deserve* to dine on gourmet Texas cuisine prepared by well-known chefs from Stirring Sensations in Austin. *You deserve* the excitement of the silent auction, live auction and a shot at winning the half-carat diamond door prize. This year you don't have to drive for hours across the hill country to get there and back. Schwertner ranch is in Salado (just a few miles up I-35 from Sun City) at

**1200 Lindemann Road, Salado, TX.**

If you buy anything at the auction, 100% of your donation will go to your Paul Harris account at Rotary Foundation. The ticket for the evening including food and refreshments is only \$70. At that price you can't afford to stay home and watch some re-run on TV.

## Rotary International, Lisbon

You can't just show up for the 104<sup>th</sup> RI conference in Lisbon, Portugal. You need to plan a trip like that. The meeting will be held June 23 – 26, 2013, and there will be a LOT of folks coming. The hotel rooms on the bay will go fast, so get a head start on your plans to attend. London has edged out Tokyo as the most expensive city in the world to visit. Lisbon, Portugal, has long been known as one of the least expensive cities to visit, although still one of the most impressive places to sightsee. So get in gear and make your plans now before the only airline space is a fold-up chair on the wing.

## 5870 District Conference

On the topic of conferences, the district 5870 Conference is coming up May 31 to June 2, 2013. A great district governor, Bernie Zercher (5470), said that he did not become a "real Rotarian" until after he had attended his first district conference. The conference will have motivational speakers and provides you with the chance to meet and get to know Rotarians from all over the district. This year, 5870 Conference will be at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Los Pines Resort in Bastrop. The theme will be Hawaiian and will feature a Luau. We have offered our own Past President, Lou Gibson, to be the featured grass-skirt Luau dancer, but the district has not yet accepted our offer. A key feature this year will be a drawing for a free trip for two to Hawaii.

DO NOT confuse the Rotary District Conference with the dozens of business conventions your job has required you to attend. It is not even similar. The business conventions are just company-sponsored hangovers with a golf tournament and coffee breaks. The last one of those I attended had tons of extra little Holiday Inn notepads, but the bar ran out of swizzle sticks. I feel lots of nostalgia when I attend those business conventions — it makes me miss army mess hall cooking. They always have really good speakers, but very few good listeners. But afterwards you always get back to the office with a lot of information, mostly several hundred business cards.

No Rotary Conferences are not like that. At the Rotary District, you will gain some really great insight into why YOU are a Rotarian. You will make great new friends. And, come back with a lot of ideas of how you can help our club improve. Plan now to attend the meeting in Bastrop.