

Mary Beam – The Fraternal Experience Brought to Life

Grand Lodge Vice President-Secretary/Treasurer Mary Beam's story exemplifies what the fraternal experience is all about. Mrs. Beam has been a Hermann Sons member most of her life and has lived first-hand almost every benefit that Hermann Sons membership has to offer!



Mary Beam, far right, reads to a child who is a patient at Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital. In observance of "Join Hands Day," Mary's lodge has collected and donated thousands of books to the hospital's young patients.

Mary is a second generation Hermann Sons member, and was first introduced to the Hermann Sons way of life through her participation in dance classes. Mary began taking dance at age 6 and continued through the age of 17. During this time, dancing became the main focus for her. She learned to express her creativity through dance and she became a real competitor. All of these valuable lessons helped Mary to achieve further success in her high school years. Mary credits Hermann Sons for providing her the ability to succeed in public settings through participation in fraternal activities.

At age 9, Mary became involved in the San Antonio Hermann Sons local youth chapter where young members learn the rules and procedures of conducting meetings. Her involvement in this chapter became a "developing ground" that helped her acquire her leadership skills.

From age 9 through 13, summer camp in the beautiful Texas Hill Country was the Hermann Sons benefit that Mary enjoyed. These years of summer youth and fun further strengthened the fraternal bond for which Hermann Sons members are proud to be known.

After her camp experiences, Mary became active in the Louise Schuetze Lodge, first as a member, and later as an officer. Activities and community projects sponsored by the lodge helped to build new friendships, new business associations, and to further cement the bond with other fraternalists. The lodge system gave Mary a feeling that being a lodge member was belonging to a group of people doing something worthwhile. More important was the appreciation and recognition that came with being a lodge member.

Along with her lodge experiences, Mary became a full-time employee of the Grand Lodge, or home office. She began her career at the Grand Lodge as a clerical employee in various departments where she gained valuable business knowledge. Mary currently is the Grand Vice President Secretary/Treasurer. In her present position Mary has drawn on many of the fraternal experiences that have prepared her to meet the varied challenges an executive position presents.

From childhood dance to executive leadership, Mary's experiences at Hermann Sons are a testimony to the benefits of belonging to a fraternal society. Mary Beam is living proof that the positive results of Hermann Sons membership can last a lifetime!