

HILL COUNTRY MOUNTAINEERS ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012

Without question, 2012 was an exceptional year for our chapter beginning with our football team's rout of Clemson in the Orange Bowl on January 4. My thanks and appreciation to officers Steve Schrom, April Wappes, Betty Skaggs and Joe Mock for their dedication and service which made our success possible.

The HCM chapter hosted gamewatches not only for football and basketball but also WVU women's soccer and volleyball contests. Steve secured a new venue, The Draft Pick American Grill on Riverside Drive in South Austin, for our fall football gamewatches and as a result we enjoyed record attendance at these events.

Earlier in the year, Joe stepped forward to serve as chairman of our newly-created Big 12 Conference Steering Committee. In April, he took time out of his busy work schedule to travel to Morgantown for the annual Alumni Leadership Institute. There Joe gathered a tremendous amount of information that proved most helpful for events later in the year. As part of the Blue and Gold weekend, the WVU Alumni Association sponsored a book drive for the WVU Children's Hospital and, as was the case last year, our chapter made a generous donation of books to this important cause.

In July, we attempted to reinforce our chapter's identity by purchasing t-shirts which featured an original logo designed by a local Austin graphics artist. Betty was instrumental in locating this individual and we offer special thanks to her for all of her great help in this regard. The t-shirts became something of a "hot item" as folks scrambled to secure their gold t-shirts in advance of the forthcoming October 5-6 weekend...you know, the weekend when:

THE MOUNTAINEER (with musket in hand) captured the hearts and cameras of WVU football fans who attended the Austin Air Raid pre-game party/buffet/reception on Friday, October 5, at The Cedar Door in downtown Austin. According to Gregg Cave, Chapter Outreach Officer at WVU's Alumni Association, we "blew it out of the water." I take that as a thumbs up. Yes, there was fantastic food, WVU cheerleaders, an outstanding live band and overall general craziness that night. Special thanks to our Big 12 Special Events Committee (headed up by Joe) members: Steve, Stacey, Tim, Betty and April as well as chapter volunteers: Leslie, Curt, Nikki and Michelle. Thanks also to the WVU Alumni Association for its donation of raffle items. Everyone went the extra mile to ensure that we raised the bar, i.e., the standard, for pre-game events. Our secretary/treasurer, April, was most diligent in keeping track of our finances and seeing to it that we ended the year on the plus side of the ledger. Again, kudos to all for their kind assistance on this one!

And then the following day, Mountaineers gathered once again (this time with thousands of our closest friends from all around the country) at the stadium to view UP-CLOSE and IN PERSON the amazing victory over those fellows in burnt orange and white. What an amazing night...many calling it our Super Bowl...and I would tend to agree.

Our chapter supported charity again this year with a donation to the West Virginia Red Cross for blizzard relief. Also, our Mountaineer family was extremely generous in its support of the Give

Me Five initiative to collect medical research funds for CDKL5, an extremely rare and devastating genetic disorder characterized by multiple, early-onset seizures which affects infants and young children.

We encourage everyone in our Central Texas Mountaineer family to offer suggestions for events, activities and programs in 2013. Thank you.

--Submitted by Pattie Roe, Chapter President