

Dick Marion

Richard was born September 19, 1923 in Barberton, OH, the first of 3 children born to Lydia and Louis Marion. He grew up in Barberton, attended Barberton public schools, and graduated from Barberton High School in June 1941. He attended Purdue University and graduated in June 1945 with a degree in chemical engineering. College was interrupted by service in the Army as a medic.

Also in June 1945 he married Ruby. They subsequently had 3 children – Bill, Dave, and Christine. After Ruby died, Dick married Jane Bowman in 1990. They now reside in Shreve, close to the Diamonite plant he enjoyed so much.

Dick's career is evidenced by ever increasing levels of responsibility. Dick's first job was with National Aniline in Buffalo, NY. From there, the family moved to Cleveland where he taught at Fenn College while pursuing graduate studies. In 1951 they returned to Barberton when he took a position with Sun Rubber. In October 1965 they moved to Timonium, MD when he took a job with Life-Lyke Products in Baltimore. In April 1966 he started his own consulting business, which he operated until July 1970 when he became general manager at Diamonite and a vice president in the W.R. Grace Companies, in charge of some 250 employees and 3 facilities. He worked there until his retirement. Under Dick's leadership, he initiated Diamonite's participation in the Wayne County United Way. He hired a guy named Chuck Dougherty and encouraged him to transfer his Rotary membership from Mercer PA to Wooster, OH.

Richard has been a Rotarian for about 50 years. He was a member in Barberton, Towson, MD, Wooster, Brevard, NC, and Wooster. He is a past president of this club, having served as president for the 1985-86 club year. He also has served in support capacities at the district level.

Richard has been involved the Rotary Auction since its inception some 30 years back. Lately, he has served as the chair of the Numbering Committee for the Auction. The Boys Scouts of America, Knights of Columbus, and St. Mary's Catholic Church are all better organizations for Dick's participation in them.

Dick is a quiet fellow but strong in his convictions. One of the several people I interviewed noted that Dick always praised you in public, but disagreed or corrected you in private. A true gentleman – Dick Marion. We recognize and salute you.

December 12, 2005
Dennis Boen