

No Meeting in December!

The Secret Member Number
for December is 102



TRAMPAS TOPICS



December, 2007

A Nonprofit Public Benefit Organization for Retired Men Devoted to the Promotion of Independence and Dignity of Retirement.



Sayings of 2007 Big Sir, Floyd Skelton

As I write my last column as Branch 116 Big Sir (following two wonderful Thanksgiving feasts) I am indeed thankful for friends and family and the privilege of living in this great country.

What time could be more appropriate to thank the many SIR members who have been so helpful to me as Big Sir over the past year.

Art Donaldson – For his ongoing support, assistance, and counsel, as well as helping keep me on the right track when I might have easily taken a wrong turn.

Dick Chaffee – For his financial insight regarding our Annual Voluntary Contribution, luncheon costs, and increased Elks Lodge rental.

John Maclay – For his excellent recording of ExCom meeting minutes, especially noting my use of the gavel.

Bill McCord – For his superb efforts that insured our very successful Spring Dinner/Dance and Christmas Dinner/Dance events.

Jim Nachtweih – In addition to his Attendance Chairman duties for the smooth transition to a new caterer, holding the line on cost, and defining the menu for the balance of 2007.

Robbie Robinson – For efficiently managing our largest activity (golf) and his significant efforts with Ben Smith exploring alternate luncheon meeting sites when we were faced with a potentially prohibitive rent increase.

Ben Smith – For his efforts with Robbie Robinson exploring alternate luncheon meeting sites, as well as taking on every task he was asked to assist with.

Jerry Hicks – For his efforts in identifying alternate luncheon meeting sites.

Frank Crua – For successfully wearing both SIR and Elks hats, while playing a key role in keeping our rent increase moderate.

Carlos Xavier – For being the driving force behind the renewal of the Honoree program in 2007.

Jack Bevis – For accepting the Honoree Selection chairmanship, and then searching for, identifying, and scheduling our 2007 Honorees.

Phil Goff – For deftly assuming chairmanship of the Area 2 Computer and Technology Group, allowing me more time to focus on our branch.

Jerry Kaplan – For accepting the Welcoming Chairmanship to insure that new members meet the right SIR for the activities they have expressed interest in. His good work there led to his accepting appointment as our new Activities Chairman.

Terry Miller – For aggressively seeking new members via the Public Relations Chairmanship.

Dick Thomson – For providing member database information in a timely manner for items such as the Branch 116 e-mail list, and the new Carpool/Mapping program.

John Peterson – For stepping forward as a Branch 116 photographer.

Chaplain Team – For sharing responsibility for a very important part of our monthly luncheon meetings.

Harry Shaner (who suggested the team approach), **Doug Aalders**, **Pete Belden**, **Ron Domer**, and **Ben Smith**.

Storyteller Team – For creating a “lighter moment” during our monthly luncheon meetings. **Ron Domer**, **Milt Greenstein**, **Jerry Hunter**, **Marty Ratterree**, and **Ben Smith**.

My Most Enjoyable Experience as Big Sir: Recognizing and getting acquainted with our Senior (90+ years of age) Sirs: **Bob Anderson**, **Stan Hill**, **Bob Lake**, **Ray Maffei**, and **Ed Kusters**.

Thanks to you all for this wonderful experience and Best Wishes for the Holidays and a Rewarding New Year.

Floyd Skelton

Branch 116 Leadership for 2007

Executive Committee



Big SIR
Floyd Skelton
838-2515



Little SIR
Art Donaldson
934-8391



Secretary
John Maclay
937-2399



Asst. Secretary
Matt Arena
946-0404



Treasurer
Dick Chaffee
932-5087



Asst. Treasurer
Bob Shader
939-8421

Board of Directors



Pete Belden
686-3650



Ron Armijo
945-0637



Terry Miller
686-9298



Bill Hemmelsbach
458-2511



Tom Eller
939-5897



Dick Thomson
944-1760



Jerry Hunter
376-4353

Committee Chairmen

Attendance	Jim Nachtweih	838-7417	Interviewer	Bill Mowris	672-2885
Audit	Dick Thomson	944-1760	Membership	Roland Scrivner	938-9078
Bridge	Milt Greenstein	376-5589	Membership Roster	Dick Thomson	944-1760
Candy Sales	Dirk Meyer	820-6878	Newsletter Editor	Phil Goff	831-3692
Chaplain	Rotating		— Proofreader	John Maclay	937-2399
Christmas Party	Bill McCord	376-5280	Nominating	Jerry Hunter	376-4353
Computers & Tech	Phil Goff	831-3692	Photographer	Ken Miller	256-9419
Computer Support	Dick Thomson	944-1760	Piano	Bob Lake	837-4054
Fishing	Dick Thomson	944-1760	Poker	Bill Harrington	935-1625
Golf	Tom Robinson	798-4276	Public Relations	Terry Miller	686-9298
Golf Handicap	David Harris	672-5543	Spring Party	Bill McCord	376-5280
Greeters	Tim Hubbard	944-0742	Sunshine	Matt Arena	946-0404
E-mail contact	John Maclay	937-2399	Travel	Carlos Xavier	947-6756
Historian	Matt Arena	946-0404	Volunteers	Bob Kinser	837-8886
Honoree Selection	Jack Bevis	254-7256	Webmaster	Floyd Skelton	838-2515
Host	Frank Crua	932-0975	Welcoming	Jerry Kaplan	938-1037



Membership Summary

Roland Scrivner

Total Current Members — 257
 This Month's Inductees — 3
 Those in Interview Stage — 3
 Total in Process — 7
 On Inactive Status — 30
 Left the Branch — 3
 Waiting for a Member Number — 2

- Les Wareham #241 to Inactive #320 - Wife's health
- Joe Rotunno #175 Resigned – Health
- Bill Hartung #195 Resigned – Wife's health

Three New Members were inducted in November:



John A Fraser
 112 Irongate Ct., Alamo 94507
 837-7439
 Wells Fargo
wokeagle@aol.com



Alfred Brunner, Lory
 1781 Piedmont Dr.
 Concord, 94519
 687-0594
 City of Walnut Creek
albloryb@astound.net

**No
 Photo
 Available**

Charles E Gilliam, Florence
 1074 Kaski Ln
 Concord, 94518
 682-3782
 Auditor QA
gilflo@comcast.net

Vance Gentry Memorial Service

The service will be held on December 27, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in the Walnut Creek Elks Lodge, 1475 Creekside Drive. A reception will follow. Please contact the Lodge at (925) 935-1811 if you plan to attend.

Branch 116 Officers and Directors for 2008

Big SIR	Art Donaldson
Little SIR	Frank Crua
Secretary	John Maclay
Assistant Secretary	Matt Arena
Treasurer	Dick Chaffee
Assistant Treasurer	Bob Shader
Directors:	Ron Armijo
	Pete Belden
	Bill McCord
	Bill Hemmelsbach
	Floyd Skelton
	Ben Smith
	Dick Thomson



\$ums In Retirement

Dave Munson

There is no meeting in December. Our January meeting has been moved up to the 3rd Wednesday on January 16th.

Our speaker for January will be Gary Schlossberg, Senior Economist, Wells Fargo Capital Management. Gary is often seen on Bay Area broadcasts commenting on current economic events and conditions.

Dave Munson

Editor's Note

After publishing the Trampas Topics Newsletter each month for almost 5 years, I will be turning over my responsibilities to Floyd Skelton. Beginning with the January 2008 issue, Floyd will be the new editor.

I've always thought that the Trampas Topics Newsletter plays an important part in keeping our Branch healthy and active. Please thank Floyd for taking on the new role and offer your support in developing articles, submitting pictures etc.

It's been fun.

Phil Goff



Nine Hole Golf

Dick Chaffee, Doug Alders and Joe Ostler

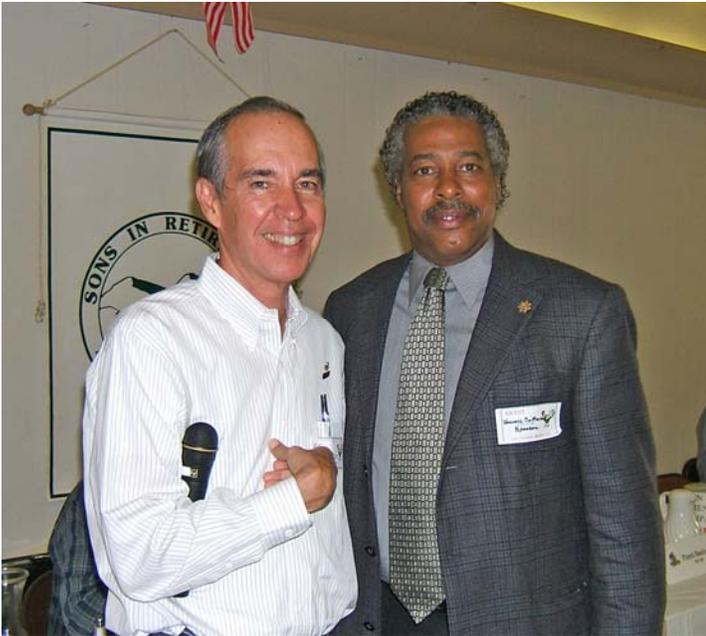
The Nine Hole Golf Group is having a yearend Championship Tournament. It consists of three separate tourneys and you must play in 2 of the 3 tourneys to qualify for the Championship.

The third and final tourney will be held at Pine Meadows on Wednesday, December 12 at 10AM.

Good Golfing!

Doug Alders

November Lunch Meeting



Vern Crittendon was our guest speaker. He talked about the history and current situation at San Quentin Prison.



Bill McCord assembled a poster board of Christmas pictures to advertise the upcoming Christmas Party.

December Birthdays

When you see these members, wish them a Happy Birthday!

Butler, John
Cole, Edward
DeHeus, Marvin
Domer, Ronald
Gibbs, Parker.
Harris, David
Hubbard, Timothy
Jenkins, Phillip
Olson, Dennis
Robertson, Conrad
Skelton, Floyd
Stoll, William
Waterman, Douglas



Branch 116 Book Club

Rich Black

Little SIR Art Donaldson can still recite the initial sentences of the Gettysburg Address. Rich Black filled in where he could, and Jack Butler came through with copies of it in its entirety for all, as the SIRS book group discussed Lincoln, his cabinet, his generals and the Washington D.C. social scene during the Civil War as reflected in Part II of Goodwin's **Team of Rivals**. Jim Scott, Lytton DeSilva, Bob Daily and Joel White completed the group.

Get a copy of **The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid** and join fellow SIRS members on Monday, December 10 at 10:00 AM at Bonanza Street Books in Walnut Creek. (It's a hoot!)

Newsletter Submissions

Do you have an article or picture you would like to submit to the Trampas Topics Newsletter? Just email it to trampastopics@gmail.com and the current Newsletter editor will retrieve it.

Area 2 Computers and Technology



Phil Goff, Chairman
831-3692 philgoff@yahoo.com



Dick Curry, Asst. Chairman
376-5541 racorinda@pacbell.net

There will not be a meeting of the Computers and Technology Group in December.

We are looking forward to our meeting on January 17, 2008 to present a process to keep your emergency records organized using the computer. More information will be included in the January Trampas Topics Newsletter.



Floyd Skelton was our featured speaker at the November CAT Meeting



The CAT meetings usually attract 50 or more attendees.

Bridge



Milt Greenstein

Our Branch 116 Duplicate Bridge group met on November 6th with 18 players participating. The high scorers for this session was the team of **Art Donaldson and David Geary** with a score of 44, or 61.11 %. Second place was taken by **Oscar Krikorian and Jim Nachtweih** with 58.33 %, while **Floyd Skelton and Ali Aghaiepour** came in third with 52.78 %.

On November 13th, the Lunch and Bridge group met at Roundhill C.C. with 27 men attending. High scorer was our Big Sir-to-be **Art Donaldson** with 5,770 points, followed by **Joel White** (5,250), **Lou Sandor** (4,940), **Ron Wolberg** (4,880) and **Gene Power** (4,830). We had three small slams this session, **Jim Nachtweih / Art Donaldson**, **Joel White / Art Donaldson** and **Fred Massarro / Warren Westrup**.

Then on November 27th, we met at Diablo C.C. for lunch and bridge with 28 men present. Our high scorer for this session was **Art Donaldson** with 7,220 points, (do you notice how often that name appears in these bridge reports ?). Second was **Bill Sullivan** (6,170), followed by **Warren Westrup** (6,140), **Ron Wolberg** (5,840) and **Dennis Perry** (5,560). Even though the winners had very good scores today, the overall averages for the day were just a little above average. We had just two small slams today, **Ken Harold / Mort Schaps and Bob Singleton / Milt Greenstein**.

Our next session at Roundhill C.C. on December 11 will be our last session for 2007. We are always looking for more men to join our group, and have room for more. You don't have to be an "expert" to join in; learn or improve your game and enjoy the comradeship of a great bunch of guys and some delicious lunches.



TRAVEL— Carlos Xavier



Pick up brochures, forms, etc., at the travel desk at the luncheons. If we run out of these and you are still interested in the trip, please ask your travel chairman and he will have one sent to you. Payment should be made to the travel agency arranging the event unless otherwise stated in the announcement.

Overnight and Longer Travel

April 3-12, 2008

The Islands of Hawaii. Our 50th SIR Anniversary trip is back again, better than ever. We will fly to and from the Islands and enjoy two nights at the Hawaiian Village on Waikiki Beach before boarding Norwegian Lines' new ship the *Pride of America*. Our 7 day cruise through the Islands include Hilo, Maui, Kona, Kauai and Oahu. Cost ranges from \$2554 to Owners Suites at \$6065. Contact **Carlos Xavier** at 947-6756 for more details.

October 6-19, 2008

Danube Dream. Glide past fairy-tale castles and medieval villages aboard the MS Switzerland II riverboat traveling the second longest river in Europe. Take in views of the Czech Republic, Germany, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. Enjoy a 2 night stay in Budapest followed by a 7 night cruise on the Danube and a 3 night stay in Prague. Cost \$3415 to \$3660. Call **Bob Hagler** for more information at 934-7620.



Attendance

Jim Nachtweih

Attendance at the November 19th meeting totaled 197 persons. This includes 186 members, 1 speaker, and 10 guests. There were 63 excused members and 8 un-excused members. The un-excused members will be asked to pay for their missed lunch.



Sunshine Report

Matt Arena

With this season of blessings and thanksgiving we are all blessed to enjoy good health.

Happily our members who have had surgery recently are recovering nicely -- Parker Gibbs, Rod Chaney, Dennis Olson, Art Miller and Marty Ratterree.

Marty appreciates our concern but requests we hold our calls while they keep their phone free to confer with the doctors.

Thank you.

Matt Arena



Branch 116 Golfers

David Geary

The SIR Branch 116 Golf Club eighteen hole golf club has the following deadlines for payment:

Payment Deadline	Event	Date of play	
1/8	Silverado/So.	Monday, 2/11	\$44
1/10	Lone Tree	Tuesday, 1/22	\$38
1/10	Roddy Ranch	Monday, 1/28	\$39

2008 golf books will be distributed at the luncheon meeting on Monday, 1/21

Monday 1/7 and Monday 1/14 we will play @ Boundary Oak

Regards,

David Geary

Area 2 Fishing Report



Dick Thomson



Terry Miller

All SIR members and guests are welcome and encouraged to participate in fishing trips as well as attend the monthly meetings. Next meeting will be December 27th at the Legend Sports Bar and Grill at the Diablo Creek Golf Course at 4050 Port Chicago Highway in Concord. Meeting starts at 8:30 am.

A trip to Lake Almanor was not very productive. Nine Fishing Sirs caught only 5 fish in two days. **Romano Gnusti** caught a spunky 3 pound German Brown trout, and **Dick Thomson** landed a beautiful 4 pound salmon. Joining Romano and Dick on the outing were: **Terry Miller, Harry Sherinian, John Hayes, Jack Waddell, Paul Dubow, George Schulze, and Al Brunner.** **Pete Gates** led an equally unproductive trip to the Sacramento River north of Red Bluff. **Steve Loftin** did catch a sweet 25 lb salmon, but **Craig Walton, Tom Hensley, and Carl Moyer** caught only a few small trout.

In separate outings, **Karl Droese** fished from Sayulita north of Puerto Vallarta in Mexico for some big tuna and roosterfish. **Bob Spellman** joined Karl, and caught a 75 pound roosterfish. Karl also fished locally for some nice trout at Lafayette and Del Valle Reservoirs. **Joe Karg** enjoyed a party boat ride for sand dabs and crab before the oil spill. Joe got 6 nice crabs and 26 delicious dabs. **Joe Peterson** has recovered from his appendectomy, and caught only a few small stripers from his favorite spots in Sherman Lake fishing with **Craig Walton.** On a trip to the delta with **Carl Moyer,** Joe caught quite a few crappie, as did **Terry Miller** who caught crappie and a limit of nice stripers. Also catching stripers with Carl were: **Joe Karg, Craig Walton, and Paul Dubow.** Fishing with Carl, but without any luck were **Bill Hooy**

and **Sal Costanza.** **Joe Karg** and Carl also fished for sturgeon twice without a fish. **Don Mittelstaedt** fished Lake Crowley for 14 trout to 20 inches on a 3 day trip. **Harry Sherinian** went bottom fishing from Mazatlan, Mexico and caught fish until his arms wore out. **Bob Olson** fished the mothball fleet for stripers without success, and **Sal Costanza** fished Suisun Bay for a nice striper.

At the November meeting, **Don Mittelstaedt** showed us how he uses small midge flies to catch trout. The presentation was well done with excellent details. Our speaker at the December meeting will be **Kent Cremolini,** who is versed in rod and reel repair.

We have an exciting agenda for 2008, starting with a journey to the Klamath River for steelhead, a sturgeon outing in Suisun Bay, and group trips to the Fishing Expos in San Mateo and Sacramento. We will also have a trip for float tube, small boat and bank fishing at Shadow Cliffs reservoir in Pleasanton. We are planning a lot of local outings for next year that should be fun and informative for everybody.

For further information, please contact **Terry Miller** (Big Fish) (925-686-9298;) **Dick Thomson** (Branch 116 Coordinator) 925-785-7600;) or **Romano Gnusti** (Treasurer/Secretary) (925-376-3313.)



Carl Moyer and Terry Miller display their stripers and crappie caught in the Delta



Lonnie Randall, Pat Tinguely and Al Zavattero gather near the Leader Board at the SIR Sunol Tournament



Lonny settles up with Pat after a fun round at Sunol



Chairman

Tom Robinson

18 Hole Golf



Handicap & Scoring

David Harris

Sunol / Cypress - November 26, 2007

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3		
Al Zavattero	66	3	Troy Powell	66	3	Phil Jenkins	69	3
Pat Tinguely	70	2	Conrad Robertson	70	2	Dan Ghelfi	71	2
David Geary	71	1	Al Hutchko	71	1	Tom King	71	2
Paul Kim	71	1				Frank Lockwood	71	2
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Al Zavattero	82		Troy Powell	88		Phil Jenkins	94	

Closest to: Hole #5 - Jerry Hunter --- Hole 11 - Dirk Meyer, John Peterson

Rooster Run - November 20, 2007

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3		
Paul Kim	69	3	Jerry Hunter	69	3	Bob Kinser	76	3
Al Zavattero	70	2	David Carlson	74	2	Bob Conlon	77	2
Frank Crua	72	1	Conrad Robertson	75	1	John Peterson	80	1
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Paul Kim	86		Jerry Hunter	87		Bob Conlon	102	
Al Zavattero	86							

Closest to: Hole #6 - Frank Crua --- Hole 15 - Bob Conlon, Tom King

Boundary Oak - November 14, 2007

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3		
Frank Crua	70	3	Troy Powell	69	3	Phil Jenkins	65	3
Steve Cherepy	72	2	Jerry Hunter	71	2	Max Foust	69	2
David Geary	72	2	Tony Yniguez	72	1	Bob Kinser	73	1
Lonnie Randall	72	2						
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Steve Cherepy	82		Jerry Hunter	89		Phil Jenkins	92	

Closest to: Hole #2 - Bill McCord, Max Foust --- Hole 12 - Frank Crua, John Peterson

Boundary Oak - November 5, 2007

Flight 1			Flight 2			Flight 3		
Larry Cannon	68	3	David Carlson	65	3	Phil Jenkins	67	3
Phillip Marks	69	2	Robbie Robinson	68	2	Bob Kinser	71	2
Bill McCord	71	1	Troy Powell	70	1	Dan Ghelfi	73	1
Dirk Meyer	71	1						
Low Gross			Low Gross			Low Gross		
Larry Cannon	84		David Carlson	87		Phil Jenkins	92	

Closest to: Hole #2 - Frank Crua, Tony Yniguez --- Hole 12 - Bob Testa, Joe Stralovich

Remember: Sir Branch 116 Golf Hotline is 906-5355
Golf Checks should be made out to: "SIR Golf, Branch 116"
Mail Golf Checks to: P.O. Box 55, Moraga, CA 94556-0055

18 Hole Golf Leader Board Standings as of November 26, 2007



FLIGHT 1		FLIGHT 2		FLIGHT 3	
NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS	NAME	POINTS
Crua, Frank	43	Powell, Troy	44	Jenkins, Phil	55
Schmidt, Neil	32	Hunter, Jerry	36	Serafino, Al	31
Tinguely, Pat	27	Robinson, Robbie	36	Peterson, John	29
Meyer, Dirk	24	Goff, Phil	32	Kinser, Bob	26
Geary, David	22	Carlson, David	30	Foust, Max	24
Zavattero, Al	22	Hutchko, Al	23	Lockwood, Frank	19
Domer, Ron	19	Robertson, Conrad	22	Ghelfi, Dan	16
Harris, David C	17	Story, John	14	King, Tom	14
McCord, Bill	17	Langhorst, Carl	11	Conlon, Bob	13
Clizbe, Jim	16	Chaffee, Dick	10	Arena, Matt	12
Randall, Lonny	15	Schnieder, Will	9	Hemmelsbach, Bill	12
Xavier, Carlos	15	Testa, Bob	9	Morison, Paul	8
Kim, Paul	14	Eller, Tom	8	Ostler, Joe	6
Marks, Phillip	13	Yniguez, Tony	6	Stralovich, Joe	6
Clark, Bill	12	McCloughry, Darrell	5	Aalders, Doug	5
Cannon, Larry	6	Dillon, Frank	4	Brown, Doug	5
Benz, Andy	4	Lutkus, Alex	4	Saavedra, Jim	4
Carson, Ernie	4	Campbell, Rob	3	Maclay, John	3
Cherepy, Steve	4	Deisem, Harley	2	Takacs, John	2
Leschot, A	2	Loder, Bob	2	Turrin, Art	2
Altomare, Jim	1	Roberts, Don	2	Kallas, Pete	1
Hicks, Jerry	1	Socolich, Dick	2		
		Daniel, Jed	1		
		Videle, Jim	1		

The Golf Website has Up to Date info on all Tournaments

The Golf Website address is,

<http://www.sir-web.org/116-golf/>

Please bookmark it in your "Favorites" list of websites.

The website contains information on the following:

- 2007 Golf Schedule: Dates, times, and courses as well as detailed information on costs, payment information, deadlines, and special event facts.
- 18-Hole Pairings: Weekly, usually on the Friday or Saturday prior to the event, showing captains, teams, starting times, and handicaps.
- 18-Hole Leaders and Results: Weekly, usually within a day or two of the event.

- 9-Hole Results: Bi-weekly, also usually within a couple of days of the event.
- Paid-In-Advance Sign-Ups: Weekly, showing checks that have been received for the next 3 or 4 pre-paid outings.
- Boundary Oak Sign-Ups: Weekly, shortly following 18-hole events, and the monthly luncheon when most signups occur. This listing will show who has signed-up for the next two Boundary Oak sessions, and whether they have indicated using a cart.

All SIR 116 members are encouraged and invited to offer comments, additions, suggestions, and corrections to the site. Please send your e-mail to:

sir116.golf@sbcglobal.net

**Las Trampas
Branch #116**



**A non profit Organization for Retired Men
devoted to the Promotion of Independence
and Dignity of Retirement**

RETURN TO: Roland Scrivner
3300 Tice Creek Drive #4
Walnut Creek, CA 94595-4105

Non-Responsibility Declaration:

All activities arranged for or by, or sponsored by, Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons in Retirement Inc. and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants, or their property, in any matters pertaining to said activities.

Please Remember our Rules of Attendance and Membership for Branch 116

Regular members missing 3 consecutive meetings without notifying their attendance chairman or attending less than one-half (5) meetings within the last 12 months, shall be notified by form letter of their membership termination. NOTE: Excused meetings cannot be included to achieve the minimum attendance. Certification of attendance at another Branch meeting will be considered a credit to the attendance record. (Maximum of 2 visits per calendar year).

Non-Responsibility Clause: All travel events and other activities sponsored by Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, or its Branches, are for the convenience and pleasure of the members and their guests who desire to participate. Sons in Retirement, Incorporated, and its Branches do not assume any responsibility for the well being or safety of the participants or passengers, of their property or any damages whatsoever, in any manner pertaining to said travel activities.

Checks for trips of 3 nights or less must be made payable to the Branch conducting the trip. Checks for trips in excess of 3 nights must be made payable to the travel agency involved.