

Article for LOP News February 2014

Sons in Retirement (SIR)



By Phil Frank

By the numbers, on Wednesday, 1/8/2014 at 10:35 AM, Craig Saunders, Sons In Retirement Area 33 Governor installed Dick Green, our new Big SIR, and Elmer Curtis, our new Little SIR, into their 2014 offices. So, with fond memories of the great year SIR Branch 170 enjoyed under the laudable leadership of Paul Lambert and Glen Delisle, we embarked on a glorious new journey through 2014.

If you are not now a member, corral someone who is, and ask him to show you the New Member Invitation Envelope that Dick gave the regulars. It's an easy read...Dick's a much better writer than I. Then you can join us in all the fun.

What fun? Well, like being brought up-to-date by LOP General Manager Fred Dean-Turner at the upcoming 12:00 noon meeting, Wednesday 2/5/14. Or, like going on the tour of Beale Air Force Base that Tour Guide Bob Chan is planning for March. Or, like dipping your oars into the sea yarns of CDR R. Nowatzki, USN Ret. He'll speak in March of adventures on the USS Hornet (Jimmy Doolittle's Tokyo bombing airport).

You see, almost anything can happen at our meetings. In January, Food and Beverage Manager Steve Lach and his crew of chefs and servers gave us a "floor show" as we gave them a Plaque of Appreciation for their fine service at our lunches and, especially, our champion Christmas Dinner Dance.

Then, we heard auto-biographical sketches given by some of our newest members. Peripatetic Peter Kenyon born in England, learned French, blew glass, became an IT and a financial CEO, became a multi-million miler flying between offices and homes around the world. We're glad he landed here!

Peter Voskes started out in the Netherlands. He took to the trees when his family branched out to the States...worked in forestry. He showed us some beautifully turned wood bowls. I thought he was a real chiseler, until he told us that he had been a California Correctional Department Officer for years.

Skip Albee skipped lightly over his résumé as he remembered well his family's military background.

Terry Eberhardt, born, raised and educated in the San Jose area, served its citizens in the San Jose Parks & Recreation Dept. But he got out of town long enough to spy on the Russians from Turkey while a US Air Force Intelligence Officer!

Arizona State, US Air Force, San Rafael, Resource Developer, 3 daughters, 9 grandchildren, Coeur d'Alene, golfer...they're all in Daryl Chandler's résumé. Welcome, newcomer!

Big SIR Dick Green has been flying high ever since his start in Minneapolis. His career in the US Coast Guard took flight with the Sikorsky H-3 helicopter program and his post as CEO at McClellan Air Force Base. It was a natural leap from Top Dog there to Big SIR in retirement in Vallejo, and now LOP. He bids you all, "...retire and come fly with the SIR".