



RECOM

Retired Employees City of Mesa



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RECOMAZ.org



RECOM Executive Board

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Message From the Board

In my sixty-plus years on this earth, I can't remember such a "perfect storm" of bad news on a global, national, state and local level. Being a hard core optimist, it's difficult these days to see the glass as being "half full," when its contents are so polluted with the ominous forebodings of current events.

Then I remembered the story of the young couple who had twin, six year old boys. Little Bobby was the quintessential optimist, always smiling and happy. Unfortunately, he was so happy that it often became an annoyance to his parents. Billy, on the other hand was an extreme pessimist, always scowling and perpetually angry. This, of course, also was annoying to anyone around him.

This extreme polarity of personality concerned the parents greatly, and despite their best efforts, could do nothing to "center" the little boys. Then one day out of desperation they took the boys to a renowned child psychologist to see if he could "even them up" a little. After examining both boys, the psychologist rubbed his beard and offered the parents a solution to their dilemma.

The psychologist told them that for Christmas they should buy Billy The Pessimist, every imaginable toy he could ever want, from stuffed animals to airplanes, from footballs to video games. As for Bobby The Optimist, they should arrange to have a huge pile of manure delivered in the front yard, as his Christmas present. "This will certainly sadden the optimist and humor the pessimist," he proclaimed. The parents thought this to be somewhat strange, but in desperation, decided to follow the good doctor's advice.

Early Christmas morning Billy came down the stairs and spied the cornucopia of goods under the tree. After a moment of reflection, he snorted, "Stupid toys! Who wants all those dumb things, anyway," and stormed back up to his room. Dismayed and flabbergasted, the parents momentarily forgot about little Bobby. Suddenly, they heard singing and whistling coming from the front yard. Through the window they saw Bobby furiously shoveling into the huge manure pile. They ran outside and asked why he was doing that. Hardly able to contain his glee, Bobby blurted out, "With all this manure, there has to be a pony in here somewhere"!

I hope you all find your "pony" in '09. Keep digging and have a Happy New Year!

John Gendron

Reports

Programs Committee

Upcoming meetings –

January 21, 2009 Speaker: Brad Tennison, Financial advisor with Tennison Investments and Retirement Planning, “Perceptions of Wall Street”.

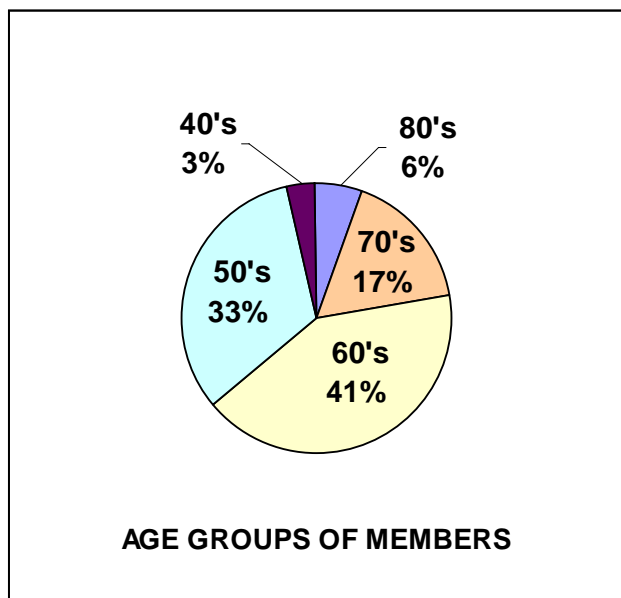
February, 18, 2009 Speaker: Pat Klein from the Arizona State Retirement System (ASRS).

Nominating Committee

Please contact Bill Petrie if you are interested in a Board position. If you're not sure and want more information before making a decision, Bill will be glad to answer your questions. He can be reached at **bpetrie6@cox.net**.

All positions are open except that of Bill Petrie, who has one year left in his term. The names of Candidates for the RECOM Board of Directors will be announced at the RECOM membership meeting in March; the election is held during the April membership meeting.

Membership Committee



Those of you who provided your year of birth on the membership application form are included in the Age of Members Chart. Which group do you belong to?

Here's some other membership trivia:

RECOM currently has 654 members.

Almost 50% of City of Mesa retirees are RECOM members.

There are also 119 spouse/partners who are members and five current city employees.

Over 77% are into technology with e-mail addresses.

Most members live in Arizona (574); the rest live in 28 other states.

Mesa boasts 336 members; the Mesa area (consisting of Apache Junction, Chandler, Gilbert, Phoenix, Queen Creek, Scottsdale, and Tempe), has an additional 124. This means that 560 or 70% live in the communities in and around Mesa.

It's probably not too surprising that the retirement year with the highest number of members (71) is 2005, the year of the retirement incentive, with 40% retiring in the past 5 years.

OK, this is enough. Does it seem like you're at work again? Let's get to the fun stuff....

THE CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION!!!!!!

Christmas Celebration

In December RECOM throws caution to the wind, feels no obligation to improve its collective knowledge base and just parties wildly!



Melita Hillman, Kit Kelly, Jane Albin, and Jo Ferguson ham it up for the camera.

Well OK, not so wildly, but a good time was had by all those who attended the Christmas gathering, especially the winners of \$20 gift cards:

Frances Spidel -- Starbucks
Joanne Kirchgassner -- Target
Bev Watt -- Harkins Theatres
Mike Pappa -- Quick Trip Gas station

Where else do they pay you to come to a party? And this was Mike Pappa's first meeting! Mike, just want to set the record straight – you don't get a gift card every time you come to a meeting. But you get food at this one!



Marian and Clyde McLellan enjoy the refreshments.



Here are Bill Petrie, John Smoyer, Sam Halverson, and Frank Mizner who, not to be outdone by the 'red gals', do some hamming up for the camera too.



Carl Buckels and Dennis Spidel in deep discussion.



Marjorie Buckels and Frances Spidel are having more fun.

Even while enjoying the occasion, our members were mindful of the times, and donated 138 lbs of canned and non-perishable food, which was taken to a local food bank.

What a great way to end the year!

Here's hoping that 2009 brings good health, peace, and happiness to all of you.

Announcements

As a reminder, here are the RECOM membership meeting dates for 2009.

The meetings will again be in the community meeting room of the fire station at 1st Street and Mesa Drive on the third Wednesday of the month at 9:00AM:

- January 21, 2009
- February 18, 2009
- March 18, 2009
- April 15, 2009
- May 20, 2009
- June 17, 2009
- July 15, 2009
- August 19, 2009
- September 16, 2009
- October 21, 2009
- November 18, 2009
- December 16, 2009