

SPRING FLING 2017

HCSC SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

The Southern California HCSC Club gathered in the Southern California desert February 15 – 17 for Spring Fling 2017, the historical start of the New Year for the club. . The Hilton Palm Springs Resort was the headquarters for many of the club's events, doubling also as the home for the club's visitors to the desert. Over the three days, clear skies and warm temperatures gave way by Friday to cool winds and occasional rain showers. But none of that change could temper the club members' enthusiasm.

A pre-convention reception was staged Tuesday night at the Stelmach Residence in the Movie Colony neighborhood of Palm Springs. Club members Vincent Caporusso and Sandy Gonzales graciously hosted early arriving friends from Southern California, providing cocktails and a generous buffet. Retired store manager Jim Sivelle arrived with Stan and Cheryl Newton after a long flight from Montana to Palm Springs International. Jim had worked with or alongside many in the group during his tenure in Southern California. By night's end Jim had regaled everyone within earshot with stories from his lengthy career with JCPenney.

Wednesday evening started the 3 day event for all members. SoCal Treasurer Ross Willour and his wife Marilyn arranged again for HCSC to use the clubhouse at their residence in the Four Seasons community, located just a few miles from the Hilton. Ross had been actively working with the caterer for Wednesday night plus deciding on the supplies needed for the bar. Recently recruited Roger Hanson went out and purchased the alcohol, wine and mixes and arranged to get them to the clubhouse.

Vice President of Activities Ron Salzetti had his hands in most things. He made the arrangements at the Hilton for those staying. Plus he worked on securing the meeting rooms that would be needed for various activities. He also secured and distributed the tickets for the McCallum Theatre where the music of ABBA was featured Thursday night. He also worked with the Banquet Manager at the Hilton in selecting the sumptuous menu for our meeting ending breakfast buffet on Friday.

Gerri Burt and her husband Wayne hurried in from work in the Los Angeles area a little after 5 PM on Wednesday to join in the opening night reception. After circulating for a while, and after a quick trip to the market to secure some bottled water, she greeted the group, welcoming all to Spring Fling. She introduced a few guests who had traveled a long way. She then brought to the front of the room Marilyn Willour to discuss some of the daytime activities she had been researching for Thursday. Gerri then introduced Jim Sivelle, who earlier in retirement had been a past president of the social club in the 1980's. After welcoming Jim formally, Gerri presented Jim with a plaque enrolling him in the Century Club which recognizes both his age (91) and his years of service with JCPenney. Several of Jim's coworkers in the San Bernardino store had learned of Jim's plans to attend Spring Fling, and they quickly signed up to attend their first Spring Fling and join Jim in Palm Springs.

Thursday provided many choices for members to explore activities in Palm Springs or the surrounding desert cities. There was golf scheduled for some at Cimarron Golf Club. With temperatures during the day in the mid 70's, that was a treat for our friends out of Northern California, the Northwest or Texas.

There was shopping available for others in downtown Palm Springs or on the El Paseo in nearby Palm Desert. And of course the Shopping Outlets along the 10 Freeway drew others.

The desert is also filled with a number of museums and art galleries that beckoned members. Marilyn Willour led tours in past years to venues like the Air Museum in Palm Springs which prompted enthusiastic reports from attendees. Others in the group planned on ascending the Palm Springs Tram found just north of the town. And for a few, lunch at one of the many fabulous restaurants or hotels was the plan for the day, followed by a trip to the movies to check on missed Oscar contenders.

Thursday evening found club members searching out dinner at an early hour at restaurants scattered throughout the desert. And then at 8 PM, 54 members of the club attended the performance of a tribute band comprised of Swedish performers singing the many hits of the group ABBA. Performed at the stately McCallum Theatre in Palm Desert, this is the fifth year the SoCal club has participated in one of the Spring performances at the McCallum. The 1,200 seat McCallum has been providing plays and musical performances to the desert communities for the past 29 years. The tribute band was joined on stage by the Desert Symphony Orchestra. This performance was sold out well in advance, and the audience enthusiastically roared its approval.

Friday the HCSC Foundation led by Larry Noble and Ron Salzetti met at 7 AM at the Hilton to review the status of former associates whom it supports. New candidates for assistance were discussed and added. Then the HCSC Social Club led by Gerri Burt met at 9:15 to review plans for three upcoming 2017 events.

The three day confab closed with a sumptuous breakfast buffet in the Hilton's Tapestry Room. Gerri Burt thanked everyone for their attendance, and singled out Ross and Marilyn Willour along with Ron Salzetti for a special thank you for heading up the preplanning. She also asked those in attendance to circle the following dates in 2017 on their personal calendars:

MAY 20 Sixth Annual Partners BBQ Lake Mission Viejo Mission Viejo, CA

AUGUST 18 A Day at the Races Del Mar Racetrack Del Mar, CA

DECEMBER 2 Christmas Luncheon Vintner's Steak House San Juan Capistrano, CA

Information will be coming on these three club events.

Larry Noble finally updated those in the audience on Foundation activities in 2016, sharing the growth over the past few years in the number of former associates being helped by the Foundation. For many it was then a race to their homes in Southern California in advance of a major storm that was just starting to hit.

People attending Spring Fling 2017 included:

Stew and Diane Anderson; Keith Armbruster; Betty Bidwell; Wayne and Gerri Burt; Vincent Caporusso; Jonathon Stelmach; Stan and Jeannie Cook; Tom and Kathleen Cotton; Ken and Susan Dall; Frank and Pat Fitzpatrick; Don and Vicki Gergovich; Sandy Gonzales; Roger Hanson; Barbara Stokke; Wayne Harmon; Lu Niesley; John Liddle; Rudy and Diana Melendez; Stephen and Mirth Meyer; Cari Miller; Barbara Stagner; Stan and Cheryl Newton; Larry and Cheryl Newton; Les Olander and Helga Osterman; Sam and Laurie Page; Jeff and Jennifer Page; Mike and Flo Ray; Al and Melissa Rogers; Ron and Kay Salzetti; Mark and Audrey Schultz; George and Cathy Scott; Richard Scoville; Bill and Martha Shaver; Jim Sivelle; Jack

and Helene Siebert; George and Sue Steele; Jerry and Teri Wilhelm; Ross and Marilyn Willour; Ron and Ruth Winkler; Tony and Veta Zarifis.