

# Old Patrician



Volume 1, Number 10 – September 2008

## The SocComm May Need to Reset Some Ongoing Activities

We are having a very important meeting of the SocComm on Monday evening, October 6, 2008 at 7:00 PM in the card room. We need to get back to basics about the social program so we want and we need your input.

When we started our program in the beginning of the year there was a high degree of enthusiasm. This was probably because we had been so long without any building-wide activities that people jumped at the chance to do something.

As the summer progressed attendance at the barbeques fell off such that the last one had to be called off. Further, we had to resort to phone calls and out right begging to get people to sign up for and attend the restaurant meals both the moderate cost and the low cost ones.

So, come one, come all to the meeting and let's discuss what we really want to

do and how to "sell" it to the rest of the building. Here are some of the things that will be on the agenda:

First, we need a sense of the house on the frequency of barbeques. Next, I had some informal coffee hours planned for Monday afternoons in the fall. Is this a good idea? That is the extent of the "regularly scheduled" events.

We have a museum event on the calendar for Saturday, October 25<sup>th</sup>. We will have a subcommittee report on that tour. Next, Walter Burke should have some further information about the deferred Palm Beach Princess voyage.

In November we planned to revisit the Sock Hop. Is that still an idea for which people will turn out? We have the big Snowbird Welcome Back party on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Discussion should be had on what this will entail. We have already

decided that this should take place "on site" and that the food and drinks should come from the SocComm's treasury, which I might add is in fine shape.

The big event, which we put off from last year, is the dinner dance. It is not too early to get plans in place for this gala party. Although we said that this would be a January affair, we have not nailed down a date. The venue for this event should be decided in the near term.

Other things we should get on the calendar for the winter/spring time frame are the items that received a large number of votes in the survey taken when we first formed the committee. They include bus trips, overnights, wine tastings, Inter-coastal cruise, in-building dinner parties, casino trips, New Years celebration, and social holidays parties (like St. Patrick's Day and Valentines Day).

## Value Meal, A Different Take on Eating Out Together

On Wednesday evening, September 24, 2008 a dozen of us had a very enjoyable time at the Rum Shack. This was a very unpretentious meal for a price that could

not be beat; \$10.50 a person. We gathered in the lobby at 5:15 PM and packed into three cars for the short ride to Lake Worth. The crowd actually arrived before the appointed time such that when I came on the scene, all but three of us had already decamped and were on the road!

When we came to the Rum Shack tables were set up for us in the side room. This gave us the sense of community that the booths and the bar in the main room lacked. The standard "two-fer" meal had been prepaid as is our custom for these restaurant events. The big bonus for the Rum Shack is the included glass of rum, or your favorite libation included in the fixed price.

After placing our drink orders, you had your choice of soup or salad. While most people selected the salad, I had a very tasty cheese and beer soup. It was certainly a novel creation.

The large selections of entrées made making a main course decision difficult. Fish and beef were by far the most popular with the attendees. The meal was capped off with a choice of deserts of which key lime pie was the most popular.

Everyone remarked how good the food was even when compared to restaurants costing four times the price. Beyond the food and the night out aspects of this event, it was the comradery that made this meal a hit. More than one person remarked: "I don't know why more people do not come to these outings." That, my friends, is the topic discussed in the above article. It will be the centerpiece of our SocComm meeting on October 6<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like more of these events, just let me know. The next meal will be a grand affair, unlike this value meal. That will come up in January as the annual dinner dance. However, we can do these value meals anytime. Just come to the SocComm meeting and suggest!

