



February 17, 2008

Dear Starlighters:

I have to apologize that the Starlighter Gazette did not make the presses this month. It turns out the Editor and the CIO (Chief Inspiration Officer) are having a wonderful love affair and could not pull themselves away from each other long enough to complete the paper. ☺ Actually, I have three very serious subjects to address and the Gazette is not the appropriate medium to convey these messages. I do appreciate its popularity, thank you for all the positive comments and guarantee its return next time. However, let me have your attention while I present the three issues.

First, at the last board meeting, we had a serious personal conflict arise between several board members. Because of the conflict, four board members resigned and the remaining board members voted to accept the resignations. Fear not, however, because Bob Muschek, respected past board member, has graciously volunteered to join the board for the remainder of this year to fill one of the most important vacancies. Marilyn Bailey and Millie Kegel have stepped up and agreed to assume the responsibilities created by other vacancies. So, rest assured that we will be back to a full contingent very quickly and re-focused on the work ahead, principally planning some great and fun dances for the remainder of this year and next.

Second, at almost every board meeting when we are planning final details of the upcoming dance, the subject of hors d'oeuvres raises its ugly head. We often get varying comments on the survey sheets about appetizers. Some club members love them, and others wonder why we have them at all when our meal will be served within an hour. Hors d'oeuvres cost us from \$300 to \$500 per dance. That works out to about \$8.00 to \$10.00 per person. There are board members who feel that this is money that we do not need to spend. Other board and club members enjoy the appetizers during the social and cocktail hour. To try and resolve this once and for all, we are coming to you, the membership, for a vote. At the March dance, a ballot will be distributed for you to vote to continue serving hors d'oeuvres at all dances or to discontinue serving them all together. If you cannot attend the dance but still want to have your vote counted, feel free to email me at [paul@morinit.co](mailto:paul@morinit.co) or call me at (714) 963-4397 to register your vote. There is one other important fact that you should know which may affect your vote. Discontinuing hors d'oeuvres will not lower the price that we charge for each dance. It will only allow us to continue to offer the same quality of venue and meal for a bit longer into the future without having to raise the cost of the dances. The majority will carry the day, so if you care about hors d'oeuvres, be sure to register a vote.

Lastly, I want to discuss membership. We currently have about 70 active couples in

the club. Attendance at dances averages from 35 to about 45 couples, at or barely above 50%. In order for your board to continue to book attractive and quality venues, we need to have both a larger membership and a higher attendance. Many venues today require us to commit a substantial block of funds to reserve a date, irrespective of the expected attendance. This means that if actual attendance is low, we pay the

difference out of our treasury, which sometimes results in a significant loss to the club. We have three such dances coming up in March, May and July. On March 15<sup>th</sup>, we will be at the Yorba Linda Country Club with the band Sky Blues. Yorba Linda is a popular venue with a reasonably large dance floor and usually very good meals. On May 19<sup>th</sup>, we will hold our Spring Formal at the Alta Vista Country Club. This has always been one of the most popular venues for the club, and our favorite band, Street Corner Symphony, will provide the music. On July 19<sup>th</sup>, we are going to a new venue, the Anaheim Marriot, near Disneyland. We have been fortunate to reserve a large room with a huge dance floor for a significant discount. Despite the discount however, the cash commitment is very large for a club of our size, so we need everyone to join us for that dance.

Besides marking these dates on your calendar so that you can be sure to attend, we need you to invite and bring your friends and neighbors to any or all three of these dances. It is vital that we grow our membership to 80 or 90 couples, and generate attendance numbers closer to 50 couples per dance for us to continue to flourish. It is just becoming too difficult and too costly to book good venues with quality meals without being able to guarantee attendance of 100 or more. So, please for the continued success of the club and to keep costs to a reasonable level, every one of us needs to be a recruiter for the club.

Thanks for your attention to these matters that relate to the business end of the club. Unfortunately, from time-to-time we have to pay some attention to these things in order to keep the wheels greased and turning smoothly. Now let's get back to the fun and enjoyable matters of dinner and dancing in March. Cocktails anyone?

Best Regards,

*Paul A. Morin*

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Your Prez.