

NEWSLETTER

Volume 4, Issue 1

March 2012

Happenings Since December 2009 Newsletter

The Association has not been nearly as busy as we were as reported in our last Newsletter (Oct 2009). Not sure that is a good thing or a bad thing? Just a few things we've been working on for this Association follows:

- Held reunion in October 2010 in Las Vegas, NV.
 - IF YOU missed this one, you missed a tremendous event! Great venue (Palace Station), great banquet and a great guest speaker (Hank Okraski), not to mention the opportunity to lose some money in the casinos! ☺ So, a great time was had by all attendees and many new faces attended for their 1st time. Once again those 1st timers had expressed concern in WHY it took them so long in making the time to attend this function? **Great question** next time we expect to see these folks and other 'new' folks as the word gets passed.
- On going effort to enhance our database with more accurate information such as addresses and e-mail information.
 - One of our biggest problems is when folks move or change Internet providers (i.e., e-mail) they do NOT let us know and we end up losing track of them. Your provider doesn't let us know of changes, it's up to YOU to do that. So PLEASE keep us up to date.
 - Still need much more work in trying to locate lost friends and need to emphasize need for anytime you have a change, get the change to us, otherwise, you end up on the 'lost' list!!

Happenings (Cont)

- Continue to increase membership significantly. \$25 for TWO Years. If interested contact Frank Watts, using contact information under "Who Are Your Committee Representatives and How Do You Contact Any of Them?"

When thinking of places to hold our reunions, we try desperately to keep the costs reasonable to allow fixed income folks an opportunity to attend at an affordable price. Quite frankly, many times our rates might be lower the more folks we can get to attend. In the past we have concentrated on Orlando and Las Vegas primarily for few reasons. First, the cost to get to either place typically can be quite reasonable for those flying. Second, going to Orlando in December offers an opportunity for attendees to visit the I/ITSEC trade show where the very latest in Simulation & Training Technology is shown. And finally, who doesn't love Las Vegas?

As noted earlier, each 'new' person that attended this last one iterated the same thought, "Why did I wait so long to do this?" Not to mention how many had an opportunity to see someone they had not seen in many years and were absolutely thrilled to have that opportunity.

So let us know what YOU want!! We ALWAYS discuss this during our all-hands event at the reunions too.

OH ... and pay particular attention later in this Newsletter about details for our **NEXT** reunion!!

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Reunion 2012!!

YES

Plans are almost finalized for a reunion in 2012 in the Memphis area. Actually, they will be finalized by the time this Newsletter is published.

As several folks may recall, during our last reunion in Las Vegas (Oct 2010), consideration was being given to having a 2012 reunion in Orlando, Atlantic City, Branson or Memphis. We had four volunteers that would investigate each place with primary considerations being ease of getting to/from our selected area, costs of rooms and reunion events (i.e., banquets, etc.) and local amenities (things to do). Orlando is able to provide us with most of our general criteria with the exception of getting a reasonable price for our hotel choice that would accommodate our needs most, so we dropped this location from consideration this time. We never received any feedback for Atlantic City, so it was dropped. Jim Vydra did some extensive research in the Branson area and came up with some really good options. But we got some feedback from Ken Minick who had had another reunion there and found that getting to/from airport as well as local transportation might not be to our benefit. Therefore we've settled for the Memphis option this time! Details follow

Where: Robinsonville, MS (very close to Memphis)

When 7 – 11 October 2012

Reunion 2012!! (cont)

Place: Harrah's Tunica

(check out their web site and read reviews: <http://www.harrahstunica.com/casinos/grand-casino-resort-tunica/casino-misc/maps-and-info.html>)

Cost: \$66 per night with all taxes included, PLUS **Reunion Fee** of \$85 per Person. Reunion fee is not optional (per last reunion's all-hands discussions) and includes, banquet fee, bar setup & applicable fees for the bar during the banquet, some snacks provided during the all-hands meeting, hospitality set up, and other fees Association encounters to make YOUR reunion more enjoyable.

Call: 866-635-7095 & Identify yourself as 'TD Association' reunion member.

Deadline: Reservation **MUST** be made before 7 Sept 2012 to guarantee at this rate. After 7 Sept it will be on space available basis and at prevailing hotel rates. So don't delay!

Cancel Policy: Ask at time of reservation!

Other: If enough interest, there may be a bus available to take those interested to Millington to see what's going on there today. This **COST** is **NOT** part of reunion fee and is over and above all other costs for interested parties.

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From The President

Well it's been a while since the last Newsletter, but as stated up front, not much happening other than our Las Vegas reunion! Since the last Newsletter, I decided to retire as I was getting very tired of the 70 mile drive EACH way every day and the wear and tear on me and my car was a major factor in that decision.

My frustration in our process of trying to locate folks hasn't subsided much because it's difficult at best to keep up with what we have, much less track down lost folks. We continue to make great strides in this area, but there are still far too many that we have no data available. Any feedback you guys can provide will be greatly appreciated. Become an Association Member and you will get our entire list and can see for yourself just how many we are trying to find and maybe help us out. Not to mention, we aren't convinced we have all former TD's captured in the database. A perfect example of how difficult it is, is when I e-mail this Newsletter the number of bounces I'll get on e-mail addresses simply because we were NOT notified of changing addresses will be extensive!!

One thing that has helped in some respects is the establishment of the TD Association Facebook page and we owe GREAT thanks to Vic for starting that up. ONE drawback to Facebook is that WE don't get the e-mail addresses of those joining unless they personally contact one of the committee representatives. I say drawback, but it is really a security matter for Facebook and can't fault them in that regard.

And finally, I must give applause and admiration to a dedicated group of committee folks that support me and continue to be of great inspiration to keep me straight. Many thanks to them and their very strong and encouraging support since assuming this role.

Pete

Who Are Your Committee Representatives and How Do You Contact Any of Them?

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