

CHAPTER 17 OFFICERS TAKE A ROADTRIP TO MEET MEMBERS IN IMPERIAL VALLEY

By Diane Whorton
Chapter 17 President

(This is the UNEDITED
Article)

On Wednesday, March 20 the officers and some PAC members from Chapter 17, San Diego area, took a road trip, drove over the mountain and ended up in El Centro.

What a pleasant trip. First day of Spring, beautiful weather, wild flowers beginning to bloom and good company.

As we reminisced about the "good old days" when we were working state employees driving this same route to do our jobs, we looked for the Alpine Bread Basket Restaurant to stop and have a great breakfast. We found it had closed 3 years earlier, guess they retired as well. (What a shame).

We stumbled around until we found a place to eat and back on the road again.

What a good day to have fun and laugh about the adventures of yesteryear. We all decided it was more fun to make a trip this way that doing it as a job.

Gathered at the Denny's Restaurant in El Centro were 13 members who live in the Imperial Valley area, most have never attended a meeting or had contact with the chapter.

They also told tails and laughed about the past.

As we listened we found that this isn't a sleepy desert farm

area, there is a lot going on and these folks are right in the middle of it all.

It seemed to be a consensus that retirement is the best thing that happened to all of us. We are all enjoying every minute.

Since this was Chapter 17's first trip to the "valley" we used this as a planning meeting, scheduled two more tentative meeting dates, talked about locations, topics of interest and concerns (local and state), appointed 4 members who volunteered as PAC committee for the area, and threw around more ideas than we had time to write.

As we set a tentative date for June we were warned that "it's going to be hot!" Guess we should find a place around a pool – LOL. We city folks will need to dress accordingly. October will be the next date, so it should be "comfortable."

Members are anxious to get started with visits to the Legislators representing their area.

Their immediate concerns are public perception, what can we do to change it; benefits changes with health care. They need clarification of health coverage for their area before open enrollment. Yes we have things to do.

This was a great trip for the officers and members from the "Big City" and we are all excited to get started working with our Imperial



Chapter 17 members posed for a group photo at recent meeting in Imperial Valley.

Valley members.

You will certainly see and hear more from them going forward – this is a wild and active bunch and ready to rock and roll (do they do that in Imperial Valley? Maybe it's rodeo!!!)

The Charter members for our first meeting are:
President Diane Whorton,
Vice President Steve Haley,
Secretary Gloria Koch, PAC
Laurie Bella and member
Elaine Edwards. Loli Torres,
Paula Escobedo, Elizabeth
Gonzalez, Rod Tuttle, Joseph
Galindo, Amalia Rivera,
Rosa Ortega, Guadalupe
Villalobos, Mariaelena
Rodriguez, Ray Vialpando,
Tom Stroud Manuel
Abundis.

As a side note we were able to SOLVE a CalPERS problem for one of the members while we were there – one of our active members is the former manager of the CalPERS area office in San Diego – all she did was make a call.

We signed up 1 new member
- Welcome Beatriz Reina

and got 4 volunteers for the PAC committee in Imperial Valley.

Now that's what I call a successful first outing!

As we rode back over the mountain and talked about the enthusiasm and future in Imperial Valley. I couldn't help thinking about the road trips with my family on Sundays, Mom, Dad and 4 kids in the back seat counting all the red cars that went by and reading Burma Shave signs.

The next meeting will be JUNE 20th at the Family Style Buffet - 222 E. Cole Road Calexico, CA 92231 (760) 768-1440 from 11:00am to 2:00pm.