



The

Communiqué

Vol. 29, No. 2

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

An Adventure in the Sierras

Our CACI National Vacation – July 26 - August 1, 2003

Join fellow CACers for an exciting Adventure in the Sierras at the Horizon Casino and Resort in Lake Tahoe, Nevada. Located in the heart of South Lake Tahoe. All casinos and entertainment are within walking distance from the Horizon. The Edgewood Tahoe Golf Course, site of the NBC Celebrity Golf Tournament, is adjacent to the hotel.

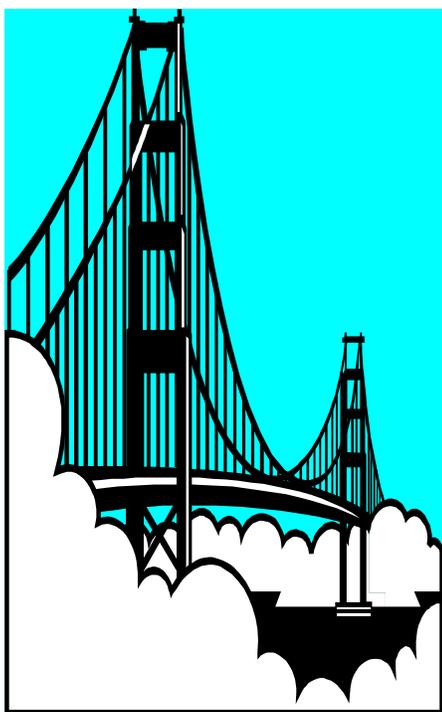


Sail into the sunset aboard the M.S. Dixie for a dinner and dance cruise on Lake Tahoe. Walk the streets of the Ponderosa Ranch, home of the popular TV western, Bonanza. Visit Carson City, the State Capital, and Virginia City, the largest national historic landmark district in the United States.

Enjoy a sports day at Zephyr Cove, Tahoe's most complete lakefront resort. Here you can ride a jet ski, enjoy para-sailing, volleyball, horseback riding and hiking. Golf and tennis will also be available. Where else can you enjoy sun and fun with so many friendly faces. Go all out or just relax it is your choice.

The convention package includes 6 nights lodging, daily breakfast, 5 dinners, dances, masses and seminars. Early Bird price by May 17 is \$699 per person double occupancy and \$1030 for a single package. A pre and post convention is being planned in the San Francisco area (see below).

Reservation forms will be coming please see your Club President and for further information or contact our convention coordinators: **Pat Bray at 562/431-8761 (Pacific coast time) and Georgia Mottl at 714/974-6370 (Pacific time)**. For additional updates contact the CACI Web <http://www.caci.org/cac>.



Pre and Post Convention Set for San Francisco

CACI Pre and Post Vacation at the Best Western El Rancho Inn located in Millbrae, California, near the San Francisco Airport. Free shuttle service is available to and from the airport and the El Rancho. Come to the Pre-Convention to relax and recover from jet lag, so you will be ready for all the fun and excitement at the Adventure in the Sierras CACI Convention at Lake Tahoe. On Thursday and Friday evenings, attendees may get together for dinner at the hotel or at one of the nearby restaurants. On Saturday, July 26th in the morning at approximately 9:45 AM the bus will take CACers to the Horizon at Lake Tahoe. The \$40 bus ride takes about 4 hours to travel the 200 miles between Millbrae and Lake Tahoe, NV.

For the Post convention, the bus will transport CACers from the Horizon and arrive at the El Rancho sometime after 3:00 PM and Friday August 1st. On Friday join fellow CACers in the hospitality suite for drinks and snacks and to make plans for dinner at one of the many nearby restaurants. Saturday features an optional all day bus excursion to San Francisco including a narrated city tour with free time for additional sightseeing or shopping and a dinner with reserved seating at a San Francisco restaurant. If you need more information please contact **Elinore Tanck 408/738-2511 etanck@yahoo.com or Sonia Bon 650/637-0865 soniak@aol.com**.

Sweet Song of the President



Hello All!

I am so excited. Today the sun came out, the temperature was in the 50s, and I think I saw the first robin of spring. Most of you were covered in snow and ice all winter. Let me tell you that there is a light at the end of that tunnel.

CACI has been working for you this past winter despite the bad weather. So of the issues brought before us dealt with membership criterion, increase in CACI dues, club development, publicity, and of course the CACI convention in Lake Tahoe, NV.

By the way, did you know that Lake Tahoe, NV is WEST of Los Angeles, CA? Check out a map of the US and see for yourself.

Membership: Because some of our clubs are registered as 501c(3) entities, there should only be one level of membership. The category of 'Associate' is not allowed. Your club can have a 'Friends' category. These would be people who are not eligible to vote or hold office in your club. Former members who are now married, people who are not eligible to be married in the Catholic Church, etc., would fall into this category. If your club is listed as a 501c(7)-social club, this would not apply to you.

Increase in CACI Dues: Dues are currently \$2.00 per member per year, and have not been raised since the mid-1990s. Since then, many costs have increased. The dues do not cover postage and

printing costs for the Communiqué and the Directors' Handbook. Because of this, the CACI budget has been operating at a deficit for several years. The proposed increase will be to \$3.00 per person.

Club Development/Redevelopment: We are looking at the possibility of tapping from our list of email/web page inquiries to see if these people are interested in either being members at large or be a core unit for a new club. Additionally, any club who needs assistance to increase membership may apply for the newly established grant funds.

All of the publicity material will be

As an incentive to get more first-timers to attend, we are offering a \$100 discount to anyone whom Lake Tahoe will be their first convention.

revised and ready to be distributed by this summer. Clubs can personalize the posters, pamphlets, and other materials to use for their individual needs.

This summer's CACI convention will be held July 26 through August 1, 2003, in Lake Tahoe, NV. Double occupancy price is \$699 per person. As an incentive to get more first-timers to attend, we are offering a \$100 discount to anyone whom Lake Tahoe will be their first convention. San Francisco will be the site of the pre-convention and post-convention. If you fly into San Francisco International airport and stay at the hotel with us, you can take the chartered bus up to Tahoe. When the convention at Tahoe has completed you are able to take the bus down to San Francisco and join us for the post-convention.

So, join us this summer, and know that your CACI Board is working for you.

Respectfully,
Barbara Accordino
 CACI President

Catholic Alumni Clubs International

2002-2003 Officers

- President:* Barbara Accordino (Louisville) 502/969-2272
- First Vice President:* Paula Hartig (Buffalo) 716/633-8891
- Second Vice President:* Michael Coogan (Washington, DC) 301/947-5707
- Treasurer:* Mike Kappel (Miss. & Missouri River Valley) 618/397-2320
- Secretary:* Janet Yntema (Detroit) 313/882-0990
- Past President:* Larry Bleau (Washington, DC) 301/474-1338
- Eastern Region VP:* Loretta Lovell (North Jersey) 201/794-9487
- Midwest Region VP:* Teddi Tri (Twin Cities) 952/941-7003
- Western Region VP:* Irene Quinn (Sacramento) .. 916/381-3250
- Chaplain:* Fr. Charles Pfeffer (Philadelphia) 215/898-7575

The Communiqué is published by The Catholic Alumni Clubs International (CACI), an umbrella organization for the more than 30 local Catholic Alumni Club (CAC) chapters across the country. Members of CAC chapters are college and nursing school graduates who are free to marry in the Church.

The purpose of CACI is to host an annual national convention, facilitate communication among local clubs, and represent the interests of single Catholics in our Church at-large. The annual national convention is held during the first week of August and hosts more than 200 CACers from across the country. Smaller Regional Weekends across the United States are also offered, allowing CAC chapters in specific various regions of the country to come together for fun and fellowship.

CACI is a nonprofit organization organized under the laws of the state of Colorado. The address of President Barbara Accordino is 5710 Hasbrook Drive, Louisville, Kentucky, 40229-2944.

Western Region Reports In

Hello fellow CAC'ers from west to east, and northerners to south-erners!!

It has been wonderful serving as your Regional Vice President these two years, and I must sadly give up the reigns to a new warm body, so come forth and serve your region and national Executive Board. It is fun traveling to weekend getaways to where the President is for that year. I saw some great sights around Washington DC under Larry B's realm and saw some great blue grass around Barb's hometown.

Mucho gracias, to my regional board these two years: Paula Buchignani, Assistant, Marie Acebo, my Treasurer, and Immediate Past Vice President, and Cindy Parker, Secretary, hope to see you at convention; I have a great regional adios for you all.

We are looking forward to a Mini California regional in spring 2003, May 2-4. Down by the Seashore at the Hearst Castle area on Hwy. 1, camping at San Simeon State Park, or motel very near by park for other "campers". The cost is \$50.00 for campout weekend, or \$50/night motel double occupancy. Call me, or send checks with letter stating your reservation intention.

Tuesday of Convention is western region day so see you all there gang!

The next big regional out west will be a winter fest in Las Vegas, Nevada in January 2004. Martin Luther King weekend looks like price for 2 or more days will be about \$50./room, and if shared with roommate, even better, a reception Friday night in western region suite

and brunch, (lunch after meeting on Saturday, leaving rest of day for exploring, and the evening for shows, etc., Sunday for sightseeing around Lake Mead, Hoover Dam area, shuttles from airport comp, and we are half way down the "strip" very near to major shopping and some huge casinos, so look for registration forms very soon

I moved this to January, as some extra social dates in Washington DC happening in the fall made November date pretty close to plan travels with budgets. See you in the winter for a sunny winter fest with the western region.

Irene Quinn

Western Region

Vice President

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In God We Trust

Several years ago, a friend of mine and her husband were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. My friend, Arlene, was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home on the water-way, and cars costing more than her house. The first day and evening went well, and Arlene was delighted to have this rare glimpse into how the very wealthy live.

The husband's employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. Arlene knew she would never have the opportunity to indulge in this kind of extravagance again, so was enjoying herself immensely. As the three of them were about to enter an exclusive restaurant that evening, the boss was walking slightly ahead of Arlene and her husband.

He stopped suddenly, looking down on the pavement for a long, silent moment. Arlene wondered if she was supposed to pass him. There was nothing on the ground

except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts.

Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny. He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up? Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She causally mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before! What was the point of this? "Look at it." He said. "Read what it says." She read the words "United States of America." "No, not that; read further." "One cent?"

"No, keep reading." "In God we Trust?" "Yes!" "And?" "And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a

coin I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it! God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him? Who am I to pass it by? When I see a coin, I pray, I stop to see if my trust IS in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me.

Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful! When I was out shopping today, I found a penny on the sidewalk. I stopped and picked it up, and realized that I had been worrying and fretting in my mind about things I can not change. I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to smile.

Yes, God, I get the message. It seems that I have been finding an inordinate number of pennies in the last few months, but then, pennies are plentiful!

And God is patient.
Author Unknown





Going to the Convention has Many Rewards



CACI vacation are more than just meetings for club representatives. It is a time when every club gets to show off its colors. There is a real feeling of camaraderie.

Very soon each club will be receiving a packet in the mail. In these packets will be an agenda of what will go on at the meetings and who will be running for office. There will also be forms for:

CAC'er of the Year

CACI'ie Award

Outstanding New Leader

Web Page Award

Best Newsletter - 1st, 2nd & 3rd place in Classes A, B, C

The Charlie Award

For friendship and hospitality at the convention

The Crying Towel

A token of sympathy

Community Service Award

Club ID

Club that best demonstrates the convention theme

Mileage Award

These and many other awards will be given out at the CACI Vacation in the Sierras.

Other rewarding experiences include going on tours. The first timers party which is a great way to learn who else is new. After hours parties given by each of the regions. Dancing till Midnight. Meeting and making new and wonderful friends. The best and most rewarding experience of every CACI Vacation is making memories to last a lifetime. Will you be joining us this summer in Lake Tahoe,

Midwest Regional Vice President

It is still winter as I write this article, but by the time you see it, Spring should be well on its way. I can't complain about the winter we had here in the Twin Cities area – we really didn't get much snow or cold weather until February, unlike some other parts of our country. To me, Spring is always a sign of better things to come (I am not a Winter person!). I pray and hope that this Spring will bring good times to each and every one of us, to CAC, and to our country.

I recently attended the Midyear meeting of the CACI Executive Board. Among the topics discussed were the upcoming summer convention in Lake Tahoe, NV, and the necessity to increase dues for CACI.

This summer's CACI convention will be held July 26 through August 1, in Lake Tahoe, NV. It looks like we will have a great time there. Please talk it up in your clubs. As an incentive to get more first-timers to attend, we are offering a \$100 discount to anyone for whom Lake Tahoe would be the first CACI convention. Also, anyone who was a 'first-timer' at Jekyll Island last year, also will qualify for a \$100 discount. Local Presidents who attend will get a \$50 discount. (If a

president also qualifies for the \$100 discount, he/she will only get the \$100 discount.)

Midwest region will be in charge of the After Hours party on Wednesday night. If anyone would like to help, please contact me.

We will be discussing the need to raise CACI dues while at Lake Tahoe. Dues are currently \$2.00 per person per year, and have not been raised since about 1996. Since then, many costs have increased. The CACI officers have

If you know of someone who would like to run for regional Vice President or Assistant Vice President, please let me know.

reduced expenses wherever they can, but some things are out of our control. Postage has been raised several times. Printing costs for the Communiqué and the Directors' Handbook have increased over the years. The CACI budget has been operating at a deficit for several years. The proposed increase will be to \$3.00 per person. Please discuss this with your club and get back to me, so I can have a feel for what the local clubs will accept.

The upcoming Midwest regional weekends are the Spring regional, at Louisville, KY, over Memorial Weekend, and the joint East/Midwest regional next fall, at Williamsburg, VA. set for October 31st - November 2nd.

Elections for the new Midwest officers will be held at the Louisville weekend. A new slate of officers will be necessary, since all of us have held office for the limit of 2 years. If you know of someone who would like to run for regional VP or assistant VP, please let me know.

Also, be thinking about what charity you would like to present at the Louisville weekend. We will be choosing which Midwest charity we will be collecting for at Lake Tahoe.

Sincerely,

Teddi Tri

Midwest Vice-President
952/941-7003 tedtri@aol.com

*Dream what you want to dream;
Go where you want to go;
Be what you want to be,
Because you have only one live
and one chance to do all the
things you want to do.*

Unknown Author

Eastern Region

Spring is almost here, flowers will soon be blooming and the April showers will bring May flowers. Spring also bring the regional weekend in Cape Cod sponsored by the Boston CAC. Flyers have been sent to all of the clubs and I hope to see many of you there the weekend of June 6-8.

The Regional Weekend also means the election of a new Regional Vice President. I want to thank all of you in the Eastern Region for making it possible to serve you during the last two years.

Joint East and Midwest Region on the Fall Regional which will be held the weekend of October 31 to November 2 in Williamsburg, Virginia.

It is with a sadness that I will no longer be your Regional Vice President but I am looking forward to serving both you and the national board in some capacity in the future.

As a swan song, I am currently working with the Midwest Region on the Fall Regional which will be held the weekend of October 31 to November 2 in Williamsburg, Virginia. The people who are working on this with me have promised that it will be a spooky weekend and that we will have the time of our life there.

So instead of saying goodbye, I would like to say "Happy Trails To You" until we meet again in Cape Cod, Lake Tahoe and Williamsburg.

Loretta Lovell

Eastern Regional
Vice President



Traveling with CACI

Have you ever wondered why do the international representatives keep talking about regionals and going on CACI vacations?

It is because we care about others and we enjoy many different things with people that can be our friends. If your club has something that others do not, maybe we could join you and your club for a regional in your town.

May I tell you something that I learned very early on. Life is not worth living if you don't share with others. I have found more friends and seen more beautiful parts of America then I ever thought possible. Since I don't like to travel alone I have found going to CAC Conventions a wonderful alternative to staying home or working continuously.

Many of the conventions include after hours parties, shopping, and dances along with optional tours. Convention Coordinators work hard to bring you a little bit of the culture in their area. They also do their level best to keep costs down so you get more for your money.

So if you like to party (and who doesn't) or if you want to see parts of America you never thought you would, join us at one of the upcoming conventions. You won't be sorry you did. Hope to see you at one of the Conventions.

Rita M. Walczyk

Editor, CACI Communique

Escape to the Cape

Hi fella CACers,

Save June 6, 7, 8th for a great escape to the sandy shores of Cape Cod, Hyannis. The Boston CAC will be the host for this upcoming Eastern Regional held at the five star Sheraton Hyannis.

The hotel is located near public beaches and has both an indoor and outdoor pool as well as a health spa. Many CACers attended the 1997 CACI National Convention held a short distance from the Sheraton (two miles) and the convention was a sell out so don't procrastinate. The deadline is May 1st.

If anyone needs more information on accommodations and/or transportation and/or tours just email marthastrachan@yahoo.com. We will have detailed information on tours and transportation in your confirmation letter. Don't hesitate to email in advance for help.

There are many sites of interest during your visit such as: Nantucket Island, Martha's Vineyard, Harbor cruises, Dinner/Train rides, Lighthouse tours, JFK Museum just to mention a few. Mark on your registration form which tours you are interested in. There will be Boston CACers to greet and assist you at Green Airport, Warwick, R.I. (Providence) and at Logan Airport, Boston as long as you send your flight itinerary. You may stay extra days at the group rate. Hope you plan to join your fellow CACers for a fun-filled weekend on the Cape. Join us in our "Cape Escape"!

Martha Strachan,

Coordinator

marthastrachan@yahoo.com





Have I known you all forever?

While the Jekyll Island convention was my first it was like meeting dear old friends. I guess this is where the "alumni" comes from in our club name. As brothers and sisters in the body of Christ didn't we attend different schools together? The convention was wonderful. From dawn to dusk the activities they planned on Jekyll Island offered many opportunities for fellowship, exploration and sport.

My journey to Jekyll began at the Detroit airport where by chance I met Bill O'Brien (Detroit) and John Stampor (Detroit). Bill did not have a limo reservation from the Jacksonville airport to Jekyll Island so with a quick call to Jack at Advantage Limo all was arranged before we left Detroit. Thank you Lord for cell phones! The first evening set the stage for the whole week; we started the week with a mass, which is the best way to begin! Valerie Nadeau (Baltimore) lead the choir which I joined along with my roommate Patricia Gurbelski (Baltimore). We had mass daily thanks to Father Chuck Pfeffer (Philadelphia) and Father Larry Ventline (Detroit). After mass the first evening there was a first timers party so that all of us who were

green behind the ears would have some new friends from the start. It was a success and I left the party with new knowledge of the CACI organization and a couple of golf partners for the next day and throughout the week. My golf game was poor, but I enjoyed playing with the very patient CACers Don Exner (Washington), Rick Mizel and Anne Monte. Lou Zeleznock joined us as well and while he didn't play he kept us all laughing. Did we see you on Caddy shack or was that Bill Murry pretending to be you?

Each day was filled with the splendor of God's gifts of friendship and nature. The day began with a beautiful sunrise and finished with stargazing. Did you know that the arc or the handle in the big dipper arcs to Arcturus? I didn't either; Bill Welsh of CAC Boston is quite an expert on the constellations. In between the sunrises and the moon rising there were trolley tours of Jekyll a fabulous day trip to, Savannah marvelous tours of the mansions, nature walks, professional entertainment, dancing and a wonderful CACer talent show.

I would like to offer a big thank you to our Detroit Corresponding secretary Jan Yntema and Evie Pullis

from CAC New York, your hard work make the convention a grand success!

Following is a quote from Eleanor Roosevelt that made me think of the deep friendships that exist within our club.

May we continue to meet and encourage one another!

Susan Schearer (Detroit)

First Timer - Jekyll Island

"All human beings have failings, all human beings have needs and temptations and stresses. Men and women who live together through long years get to know one another's failings; but they also come to know what is worthy of respect and admiration in those they live with and in themselves. If at the end one can say, This man used to the limit the powers that God granted him; he was worthy of love and respect and of the sacrifices of many people, made in order that he might achieve what he deemed to be his task, then that life has

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