

“FILES AND PROFILES” FROM THE DISTRICT

**“The Dixie District: District 17
November 2006 Issue
DISTRICT SPRING CONFERENCE
19-21 January 2007
MAINSTAY SUITES
410 Pine Mountain Road
Pigeon Forge, Tennessee 37863
888-428-8350**

Welcome to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee! Nestled on a 25-acre farm just two blocks off the Parkway in Pigeon Forge, the MainStay Suites was built to accommodate a particular kind of guest to the Smokies. . . a guest who enjoys quietness and privacy, but one who prefers to be within walking distance to all the shopping and conveniences that this mountain city offers.



The weekend of 19-21 January was the only open date that the MainStay was not booked until the prime rate season of spring. With an affordable rate of \$69.99 plus tax, this facility has everything and more that one looks for when going to the Mountains. . . (Smoky Mountains, that is)! The sales manager has extended the special rates two days prior to the meeting and two days after the meeting to ensure plenty of extra time to visit special sites, shop (some great bargains can be found), and explore Old Smokey to your heart’s content.

The main street running through the city (Parkway) is 0.46 miles away from the hotel. On the parkway can be found independent shops, several shows, restaurants and shopping malls. There is a variety of restaurants and cocktails lounges located nearby. The hotel is within five miles of attractions like Dollywood, the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Dolly Parton’s Dixie Stampede Dinner Show and Splash Country.



The acreage is complimented by a stream running in front of the property plus an amazing view of the Great Smokies. When we were doing a site check of the property this summer, several ducks claimed this area as home and didn’t appreciate our disturbing their nice and tranquil life!

The accommodations for the District bid has double queen beds, as seen in the photograph below. Each room is a suite, featuring fully furnished kitchens with full-size refrigerators, ice makers, coffee makers, microwaves, two-burner ovens, dishwashers and garbage disposals. All local calls are free. Data ports and hi-speed internet are also part of the conveniences. And for those who wish to stay in touch with the outside world, a complimentary newspaper is for your use each morning.



Winter in the Smokies is certainly unpredictable. We have asked for sunny weather; chilly and brisk, but plenty of sun. But just in case that does not happen, we have anticipated that and have Plan B all lined up for our conference! (See next page!)

A bird's eye view of the premises show the spaciousness of the area. The outdoor pools are a thing of beauty during the warmer months. However, we have the cooler weather covered too.



In addition to the above, an indoor heated pool, and an **outdoor** heated pool and hot tub are located on the premises.



This should be enough to make you start looking at your calendars, marking out those important dates , and start packing swim suits and beach towels.

Now, let's talk about **food**, always one of the more important things we usually focus on. We have two plans for Friday night; either we dine inside at the main building or if the weather permits, we go to Plan B.

Since Friday night will be an Original Country Buffet with all the country trimmings, everyone know that food tastes better if eaten outside. The MainStay has a 1600 sq. ft. Creekside Pavilion that can be enclosed and used year round. It will seat

250 folks and comes with a kitchen and restrooms; it is located just a few feet from the main building, but delivers privacy and the feeling of outdoors. This is one of the newer additions to the property and will be nice to have our Hill Country Friday Night festivities here.



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ENTERTAINMENT

“Hills and Hollows Mountain Music and Storytelling”

Actually Mike and Kathy Gwinn started the “Hills and **Hollers** Mountain Music and Storytelling”. No one living in these beautiful mountains would say “hollows”; only “flat landers” would say “that” word!

Kathy, a former schoolteacher, tells mountain stories garbed in a mountain dress. Mike, in bib overalls, sings and plays autoharp, bass, guitar and dulcimer. Bluegrass and ballads are his fortes.

They may tell tales of the Walker sisters, six self-sufficient siblings who used to say their mountain land produced everything they needed except soda, sugar, salt and coffee. Their small quiet cabin in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park remains as a testament to their heritage.



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COMMANDER'S COMMENTS



Greetings friends! We have just completed one of the most successful Fall Council and Conference Meetings that District 17 has ever hosted. So many members were working and completing their projects that it was amazing. The excitement in the air could be felt throughout the building. I have never been so proud of my friends in District 17. It started Friday with friends arriving and greeting each other, meeting each other in the well stocked hospitality room and getting caught up in visiting. Later Friday night everyone dressed and attended a Western theme party that was fantastic. We even had some people packing iron. Boots, scarves, hats, jeans, a saddle, we had it all.

A silent auction started Friday night and lasted until dinner Saturday night. Some of the donated items from artists in D17 were of a caliber to draw bids in the three figure range. We need to do this again!

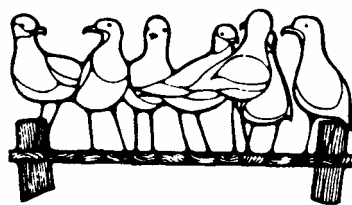
Saturday morning started with our Council Meeting and led right into our Conference. The view from atop Red Mountain at 0800 was spectacular. The afternoon seminars were very well attended and enjoyed by all. For those who did not get to attend seminars Saturday afternoon, some of the sessions were repeated Sunday morning. Saturday night found us celebrating P/V/C Frank Wedge's anniversary of 50 years of membership. D17's own P/V/C Herb Rossmeisl represented our Chief Commander and presented the awards to Frank. Frank and Anita Wedge are such a beautiful couple and their smiles radiated throughout the room. It was a beautiful

evening that will be remembered by all of us who attended.

How could we improve on such a Fall Council and Conference as we just completed? By having an even better Spring Council and Conference. It's time to start making plans and reservations to attend the District 17 Spring Council and Conference, 19-21 January 2007, at the Main Stay Suites, 410 Pine Mountain Road, Pigeon Forge (Gatlinburg), Tennessee 37863. Come early and enjoy the Great Smoky Mountains. We may even get snowed in! Our seminars are filling up fast and promise to be as good or better than ever before. Saturday night join us as we have our Change of Watch. We have a hard working bridge now and we will be installing an even better one; a commander and bridge that will carry District 17 on to greater glory.

In 2007 Rome Power Squadron will be celebrating its 50th Anniversary. Plans are being made to involve as many members of D17 as possible. Watch for information early next spring and join us as we add another jewel in our 50 Year Crown.

Tom Carey, Commander



(**Entertainment** continued from page 2)

Kathy and Mike also may entertain with stories and songs related to the Little River logging camp.

A tour guide in the Smokies with a penchant for research, Kathy says the loggers called themselves "wood hicks", and deemed their cooks "gutrobbers." She might also spins yarns about the Cherokees, Mount LeConte and the coming of the national park. Perhaps she'll throw in a moonshine story.

Resident of Sevier County on the other side of the Smokies, the Gwinns often invoke native daughter Dolly Parton in their act. "If I tell the story of her coat of many colors, then Mike sings that song," says Kathy.

"It's like inviting you to our front porch. We want to give you an experience that is truly unique. That is the oral tradition of the stories and the music of the people here that was unique, that you won't find in other places."

FROM THE EDITOR

The meeting in Birmingham last weekend was one of the best we have hosted since creating the Meetings Committee. Your Committee wishes to thank all the members involved in the planning and great work they gave to ensure a great time.

Now it is time to turn our thoughts to the “Spring” Conference and consider traveling to the mountains for the 2007 Change of Watch.

The MainStay Suites located in Pigeon Forge (located next to Gatlinburg and Sevierville), Tennessee was chosen for several reasons. First, the mountain location has been mentioned many times by the members of our district. When we drove to the area to do site checks, we were very impressed with this facility and with the staff. The Sales Manager outdid himself making us feel comfortable and right at home and worked with us in creating a reasonable rate for our members. He and his wife, Karen, will be our entertainment for Friday night. Mountain Music! (Do I hear “Rocky Top” requested?)

Some parts of the planning have not yet been completed, but the menu and the room facilities have already been established.

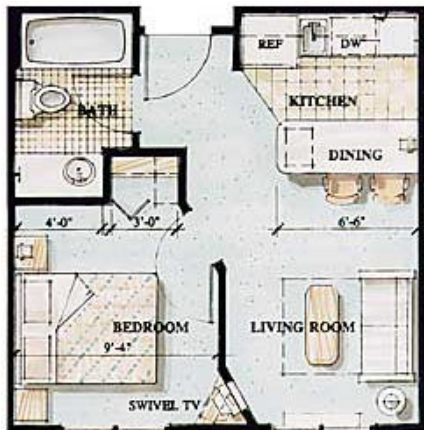
Friday night, an **Original Country Buffet** will be spread for us including pork, chicken and catfish and all the trimmings such as blackberry cobbler.

Saturday noon, we will be treated to a **beef taco sideboard with chili**.

Saving the very best chow until Saturday night, we will have a choice of **prime rib or boneless chicken breast**.

I have not yet completed the meals reservation form, but will forward that to Dick Raymont, our district newsletter editor within the next few days. We can also send it again with the December issue of the “Files and Profiles” if need be.

As far as the sleeping facilities, note below the drawing of one of their suites:



Just another example of a floor plan in the MainStay Suites.

A more complete breakdown of the menu, including the meal reservation forms will be sent out next month.

All the information relating to the sleeping rooms will be included in the same issue; this will be sent in the “Files and Profiles” as well as the district newsletter. We will make every effort to ensure that all our members receive correspondence.



Kitchen area in our of the MainStay Suites.

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PLEASE...If you feel that your address is not accurate in order to receive your district newsletter, advise your editor. And commanders, if you would pass this information on your bridges, we will be able to update our e-mail listings, as well as the street addresses of our members.

Remember, each district newsletter that must be mailed requires that it be collated, stapled, stamped and labeled. Each copy requires a 39 cent stamp. The last mailing included six hundred copies; that’s a lot of folding, stapling and stamping. Thanks to Dick Raymont and his volunteers in the Huntsville for doing this for us. Make their work lighter. .send your e-mail address to him. . . .or to me!

Talk to you soon; have a great week!

Janis Owen

