

Tampa Bay Chapter 58 Wins Five Awards At TREA 2010 National Convention in Tucson

By 2nd Vice President Harry Johnson

TREA Chapter 58 received five awards at the 2010 TREA National Convention, held at the Doubletree Hotel Tucson at Reid Park, in Tucson, Arizona, from Sept. 15 to 18. It is the first time the Tampa Bay chapter has received that number of awards.

Director Harold Atwood and Past President Hermon Sharpe received awards for outstanding service to the chapter and community. President Louis Arana received an award for being 1st runner up for Recruiter of the Year. The chapter also received two 1st runner-up awards, for best newsletter and best website (chapter secretary, Trooper editor and website coordinator Juanita Anspach manages the newsletter and website.)

Chapter 58 Past President Sharpe met me in the hotel lobby Sept. 15 and showed me around to all the places where the meetings would take place during the convention.

The convention opening ceremonies started at 7 p.m. Sept. 15. A very impressive Air Force ROTC Color Guard from a local high school presented the colors. Then TREA National President Charlie Flowers welcomed the guests.

Tucson Mayor Bob Walkup was the guest speaker. First, he welcomed the convention delegates and then he talked about Tucson's water problems. Then he talked about how the city's economy depends on tourism. President Flowers presented the mayor with a TREA plaque in appreciation of his efforts to help host the convention. After the ceremony, there was a reception where the mayor met and talked with folks from different TREA chapters.

On Sept. 16, Chapter 58 President Louis Arana, and all other chapter presidents, met with President Flowers for a question and answer session. One of the main topics of discussion was the problems chapters are having retaining and recruiting members. At the business meeting that followed, TREA committees presented their annual reports, including updates from the credentials and nominating committees, and reports from the national president, Washington office and awards committees. Chapter 58 had four votes and two proxy votes during the election of the national board of directors.

Additionally, the delegates approved the 2009 National Convention business report. The Nominating Committee presented the list of candidates for the national offices. TREA's Memorial Foundation held a silent auction during the convention, and the bidding ended at 7 p.m. Thursday. The winners received their items during the President's Dinner that evening. At the luncheon, Chapter 58 received its awards.

The election of officers took place at the Sept. 17 business meeting. The race for national president was between Thomas Liebarett and Arthur Cooper, who won the national office through a secret ballot. The rest of the board was chosen by acclamation. The delegates also discussed proposed changes to the TREA By-laws and Standing Rules. Not all proposals were accepted, but local chapters will receive the approved changes when published. The delegates also voted to have the 2011 National Convention at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

The Legislative Committee, chaired by new President Cooper, also presented its report on Sept. 17. The report highlighted all the legislative changes that affect the retiree community.

After the Sept. 17 meetings, we all enjoyed the trip to the Diamond Casino in Tucson. On Sept. 18, we left with the Gray Tour Company for the San Xavier del Bac Mission, also in Tucson. The mission, founded in 1692 and built from 1783-1797. Refurbished in the 1990s, the mission has a beautiful cactus garden in front and still has a church; the day we visited, there was a baptism. After that, the tour group went to the Pima Air and Space Museum, which has more than 250 aircraft on display.

On the evening of Sept. 18, The TREA and Auxiliary New Officer Installation Banquet was held with a social hour and dinner. The Air Force ROTC Color Guard presented the colors and a beautiful ceremony in honor of America's POW-MIA's preceded the installation of the national officers.

(See Pictures on Page 2)

Chapter 58 a big success at TREA National Convention



The TREA Tampa Bay Chapter 58 delegates who attended the 47th Annual TREA National Convention were Director Harold Atwood, Chapter President Louis Arana, Past President Hermon Sharpe and 2nd VP Harry Johnson. (Photo by Juanita Anspach)



Juanita Anspach received two TREA awards—for 1st Runner Up for Best Website and 1st Runner Up for Best Newsletter—and presented by Chapter 58 President Louis Arana. (Photo by Emilia Atwood)



Women's Auxiliary Member Luz Arana, left, Chapter 58 President Louis Arana, Puerto Rico Chapter 64 President Isidoro Cerpa and Chapter 58 Director Harold Atwood socialize at the convention. (Photo by Emilia Atwood)



Director Harold Atwood, left, received a TREA award for outstanding service to Chapter 58. Past President Hermon Sharpe, middle, earned an award for outstanding service as past president of the chapter, and to the community. President Louis Arana, earned an award as 1st Runner Up for Recruiter of the Year. (Photo by Juanita Anspach)



On Sept. 18, TREA National Convention attendees toured several Tucson locations, including the San Xavier de San Xavier del Bac Mission, founded in 1692 and built from 1783-1797. After that, the group went to the Pima Air and Space Museum, which has more than 250 aircraft on display. (Photo by Louis Arana)