



PEP TALK



PULMONARY EDUCATION PROGRAM – LITTLE COMPANY OF MARY HOSPITAL

JUNE 2009

RISING COSTS FORCE CHANGE

It is no secret that we are in the midst of a global recession and families, small businesses and corporations are making hard choices to survive in this challenging economy. Unfortunately, The PEP Pioneers are no exception.

Since 2006, we have had three price increases in our luncheon that has brought the cost of each meal to \$11.00 each, but the board of directors voted to use our treasury funds to absorb those increases rather than pass that charge on to you. We have also continued to host the Annual Summer Picnic free of charge as our way of thanking you for supporting the PEP Pioneers. But, like so many other organizations around the world, our donations have decreased and our treasury reserves are dwindling. To allow the mission of the PEP Pioneers to continue we have reluctantly voted to make the following changes to our program costs:

Beginning in August, the cost of the luncheons will increase by \$1.00. That will bring your cost of our monthly luncheon to \$9.00 per person. The PEP treasury will continue to absorb the difference. The raffle tickets will remain \$1.00 each. The Board has also voted to charge \$5.00 per person for the upcoming summer picnic at Victor Park. Please be aware that these events are not fund raisers and these changes reflect our increasing cost of providing meals for you.

We want to thank you for all of the support, commitment and hard work that you give the PEP Pioneers. We are committed to meeting your needs and growing as a group for many years to come.

With wishes of better breathing for all.

Teri Neilson and Rubye Richey

Co-treasurers of the PEP Pioneers

Editor's Apology

The Fates and my stupidity conspired to interrupt the editing and publishing of this incomparable newsletter in May and June.

The problems began with my better half being rushed to the hospital for a severe angina attack. Following that, my poor old computer crashed – big time! So I bought a new desktop with (Ugh!!) Vista. Transferred files didn't work, etc. ad nauseum.

When I finally overcame those little problems, my printer suddenly decided it no longer likes to print envelopes.

Net result: This marvelous little newsletter is late, poorly done, and probably won't be received by a number of you members. I'll try to do better next month – honest!! --Ed

INDEFATIGABLE TOM'S TRAVELS

...continued...and continued...and

More about Argentina



A major "take off point" for snow and mountaineering activities in Patagonia is the town of El Calafate. About 1,800 miles south of Buenos Aires and 500 miles north of the tip of South America, the customary method of getting to there is by flight from the domestic airport in Buenos Aires, and that is how Daniela and I went.

El Calafate airport is fairly new, having been built about nine years ago. Shuttle

buses at the airport take arriving passengers to their hotels that are located in the town itself, which is about 15 miles away. Neither Dani nor I had been to El Calafate before and we made



reservations for three nights at a "B&B" hotel there that turned out to be quite conveniently located. It was several blocks from downtown in one direction, marshlands of Lago Argentino in another, and a small museum in a third direction. El Calafate is a small and trendy tourist boom town that has been experiencing very rapid growth in the past few years. Sheep ranching was the primary industry in this region of the country as recently as ten years ago, but it has now been replaced by tourism. With a census of 8,000 residents in 2005, the population was estimated to have increased to 20,000 in 2007, and I understand that rate of growth has continued to the present time. The reasons for the explosive increase are adventure seekers who have learned of the variety of activities that are available in Patagonia. The "downtown" area itself encompasses, at most, nine square blocks. And, although the buildings themselves still have the look of a small country town, they are occupied mostly by restaurants, souvenir shops, and tourism offices. A wide variety of tours are offered, including sport fishing, skiing, mountain and glacier hiking, and horseback riding.