

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JOHN SCHNITTGRUND

It's been a while since the last message. There has simply been a lack of things to report about...until now.

If you remember the survey that was conducted around the first of the year concerning the yearly Laughlin Reunion, the results of that survey indicated that there was interest in moving the Reunion location to somewhere other than Laughlin, Nevada. We were able to finalize an agreement with the South Point Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas for this year's Reunion. The prices for rooms and the cost of the events we plan are very close to the prices we have paid in the past. There will be more information about this event coming, so keep October 13th and 14th open.

Just a reminder that this year's summer BBQ picnic will be held at Clement Park on Wednesday August 12. We are moving to Wednesday so everyone can park and enjoy the BBQ without the walks we have had in the past. Weekend parking has been a problem and the Wednesday event hopefully will remedy that.

Retired Captain, Jennifer Steck and several other retirees are involved in a project that hopefully will get COLAs for those retirees in the New Hire Plan. We are in full support of what Jennifer is doing, and we will assist in any way we can. Information about Jennifer's work can be accessed by going to the DPRA web page and clicking the FPPA experience button. The Social Security Fairness Act took effect in 2024. That act returned lost Social Security benefits to retirees who had their benefits offset due to Government Pensions. That same Act made additional benefits available to retirees. You may qualify for up to half of your spouse's Social Security benefit if the spouse's benefit is greater than yours. Everyone's situation is different but it may be worth a phone call to Social Security to find out if you qualify. That number is 1-800-772-1213. Below is a message from Kim Hull regarding her research and experience with Social Security.

There have been a few problems in the past with retirees who are called to testify in cases that are just now finding their way into the system. We have an agreement in place to pay \$90.00/hr. for the time it takes to prepare for these cases. If you should get subpoenaed for these cases, make sure you check with the Court Liaison office and the District Attorney's office to assure you are paid.

As always if you have any questions or need any assistance, please call.

If you filed for your social security once the Social Security Fairness Act was signed into law, you may be entitled to additional benefits. I recently learned that I qualify to receive nearly half of my husband's social security benefit, because my benefit was lower than his. and you may be eligible for the same as well.

H.R. 82, the Social Security Fairness Act took effect January of 2024 and restored benefits that had been reduced for many retirees because of the pension offset.

If your spouse receives a higher benefit than you do, contact the Social Security Administration to ask whether you qualify for spousal benefits or back pay. This cannot be done online. Call 800-772-1213 to schedule a phone appointment.

During my appointment, the agent verified my identity, asked a few questions about my marriage and reviewed my benefit history. The process was simple. I was able to receive back-pay dating to January 2024, plus an increase in my monthly benefit going forward.

This is worth looking into if you paid into both a pension and Social Security. We all did.

I hope you find this information valuable. Please, enjoy your retirement. You deserve it! If I can help feel free to contact me. Kimpinson01@comcast.net

By

Retired Sergeant Kimalee Hull 78020

2026 Board Member