Middlesex County IRD July Newsletter

What an IRD !

My husband started out a few days early and stayed after IRD was over so we could enjoy DISNEY and its surroundings. We flew down on Monday morning with a direct flight and were there in no time.

After checking in, we made our way to the pool very quickly even though our room wasn't ready. It was hot just like here in New England. Lots of TOPS members were arriving on different flights throughout the days prior to IRD. I even met someone from Ohio on our shuttle to the Coronado Resort where most of were staying.

Weds was a ½ day Field Staff meeting with a break and then back for a field staff banquet in the evening. Very nice to meet other Area Captains & Regional Directors from around the country. Its' even funnier when they are dressed up in 70's attire and you don't recognize them.

Thursday was the beginning of IRD in the evening. There were two workshops in the afternoon which were held by TOPS President Barbara Cady,and a second workshop done by two Disney chefs. I had a quick supper and returned for the opening session which included Field Staff and a few other events.

Friday had two sessions; one in the morning and the second at night. Friday's afternoon workshops included: Author Paul Vitale of the book "Energize with Enthusiasm and Dr. Oliver & Dr. Comuzzie who talked about the legacy with TOPS and the Genome Project. (see this month's magazine)

We as the State of Massachusetts had a nice luncheon together with all the TOPS members (22 members minus Beverly Enos). Our runner-up MA State Queen Carolyn Bellany and runner-up King Richard Henry represented Massachusetts well throughout the week. You will see them at Fall Rally.

Friday's morning session was devoted to miscellaneous events. Over 100 members were in the Before & After losing 75 pounds. 25 members were recognized for losing 100 pounds and achieving their Century Medallion. The retreat directors all spoke briefly as well. The evening session was all devoted to KOPS. Over 125 KOPS graduated on stage and also the Circle of Light was done with all KOPS present. Our oldest KOPS was 51 years as a KOPS from PA. Wait until you see the cover for the upcoming magazines.

The last session was on Saturday. It was the highlight of IRD. Farewell addresses were done by the 2014 International Royalty. All State & Provincial kings & queens were introduced. The awarding of the many division winners from across the country & Canada and crowning of the International Queen & King was the HIGHLIGHT.

Mickey & Minnie Mouse made a debut appearance congratulating everyone at the end. What a MAGICAL ENDING !

The rest of the time my husband & I were there was doing the Disney experience. Yes it was extremely hot just like New England but it was very humid. Many lightning and thunderstorms occurred on a daily basis but so well worth the trip.

If you ever decide to go to an IRD, please take advantage of it and take in the many sightseeing venues in the area.

Next year's IRD which is being held in Little Rock, Arkansas will only be a two day event. Friday & Saturday will be two full day sessions. This will cut down on expenses for everyone in attendance.

Next year's IRD is Little Rock, Arkansas July 14 & 15

2018- Montreal, CANADA July 13 & 14, 2018

2019- Portland, OREGON July 12 & 13

2020- Niagara Falls, NY July??

Just wanted to share my IRD experience with everyone.

TOPS LOVE,

DIANE TRAYAH