



The Voice



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February 2016

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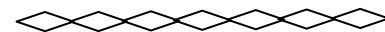
2016 Events Schedule Review

- February 7: Super Bowl Sunday!
- February 11: **Valentine's Day Luncheon and** installation of 2016 Board members.
- March 17: **St. Patrick's Day**
- April 14: Spring Day
- May 12: **Parent's Day**
- June 9: Ice Cream Social
- July 4: 4th of July (subject to change)
- August 11: Ice Cream Social
- September 15: Mexican Independence Day
- October 27: Halloween / Octoberfest
- November 24: Thanksgiving Feast
- December 15: Christmas Feast

2016 Super Bowl Sunday! February 7th

It's the 50th annual Super Bowl, and it's being held in Santa Clara this year at the Levi's Stadium which is considered the most technologically advanced professional football stadium in the United States. That makes it extra special!

Join us at AmSoc for this fight for the Trophy between the Carolina Panthers and the Denver Broncos. Doors open at 3:00 for the pre-game shows, kick-off is at 5:30 pm. Cash bar and Football Pool will be available.



New Novel by Vicki Wootton

The new novel by our own Vicki Wootton is now available.

I was honored to be one of the proofreaders for this beautifully written fantasy. It is full of action, adventure and magic! One of my favorite authors is Terry Goodkind who writes the "Sword of Truth" novels and this one runs along the same lines.

Take a look at Vicki's website for more information:
<http://www.vickiwootton.com>.



New Year's Day Feast Photos

January 1, 2016 celebrating the new year with a potluck luncheon, members brought goodies to share.



Gun Control Debate

One of the things that I enjoy about AmSoc is the fact that the members are so very diverse in their life experiences and points of view. Below is an e-mail I received from Peter Mahony via Klyf Harrison. I got permission from both to publish this.

Anyone interested in listening in or debating this heavy duty subject is welcome to sit down at the "Think Tank" table on Thursday the 11th for what will most likely be a very lively conversation.

Original Message From: Peter Maloney
To: Klyf Harrison - Subject: Gun Rules

The sobering nonsense put out ignores the reality that if a firearm is present: tragedy is also available. If no weapon is present: no tragedy is available from that source. I carried firearms from the age of 18 until 62. First in the U.S. Army, then private security and police work. Few of us truly need a gun or could use it effectively when need arose.

Response by Klyf Harrison to Pete Maloney:

Thanks Peter - With your background in law enforcement where guns are basic requirements I'm taken by your logical slant on weapons. Your suggestion proposing a debate on the issue certainly is intriguing.

From Pete Maloney:

Here is some shooting advice from various Concealed Carry Instructors. If you own a gun, you will appreciate these rules. If not, you should get one and learn how to use it -- and learn the rules:

- ◆ Guns have only two enemies: rust and politicians.
- ◆ **It's always better to be judged by 12, than carried by 6.**
- ◆ Cops carry guns to protect themselves, not you.
- ◆ Never let someone or something that threatens you **get inside an arm's length.**
- ◆ Never say "I've got a gun". If you need to use deadly force, the first sound they hear should be the safety clicking off.
- ◆ The average response time of a 911 call is 23 minutes; the response time of a .357 magnum is 1400 feet per second.
- ◆ The most important rule in a gunfight is: Always win. A gunfight is a deadly struggle. There is no such thing as a fair fight, so cheat if necessary.
- ◆ Make your attacker advance through a wall of bullets. You may get killed with your own gun, but **he'll have to beat you to death with it, 'cause it will be empty.**
- ◆ If you're in a gunfight: If you're not shooting, you should be loading. If you're not loading, you should be moving. If you're not moving, you're dead.
- ◆ In a life and death situation, do something. It may be wrong, but do something!
- ◆ If you carry a gun, people may call you paranoid. Nonsense! If you have a gun, what do you have to be paranoid about?
- ◆ You can say 'stop' or any other word, but a large **bore muzzle pointed at someone's head is pretty much a universal language.**
- ◆ Never leave an enemy behind. If you have to shoot, shoot to kill. If you end up in court, yours will be the only testimony.
- ◆ You cannot save the planet, but you may be able to save yourself and your family.

"Peace is that brief glorious moment in history, when everybody stands around reloading."

~ Thomas Jefferson

Spanish/English Oddities

by Bette Drummond

A tribute to our Canadian cousins.

Watch your honour while you control your behaviour as you labour with valour while sitting in the arbour outside the parlour near the harbour. The odour of the vapour which is flavoured with the mould of your favourite arbour of old trees is belabouring the fact that the vigorous tumour on your brain is the colour of your favourite shoes. With candour I would comment that the fervour of the clamour over the Saviour is unnessessary. Do me a favour and **enjoy this humour. Doesn't make sense, but I had to use all the words.**



Falta, which we hear all the time if we eat out '¿Falta algo?' – 'Are you missing something?' sounds like it means 'It's your fault! but does not mean that, as you can see. The closest it comes to that is 'offence'. As in 'incurrir en una falta grave' --- to commit s serious misdemeanor'. The English word 'fault' means 'culpa' as in 'It's your fault' --- 'Tú tienes la culpa.'

In one of the earlier columns we talked about 'actual' and 'actualizar'. I heard a different use of 'actualizar' recently. A 19-year old woman told me I was 'muy actualizado' because I use a computer and an iPod Touch. She was saying I was very 'up to date', or you might say 'very modern'. 😊

Check out the [English is Illogical](#) Facebook page for more oddities.



Tips & Tricks



Recipe of the Month

Chicken and Sweet Potatoes with Shallots

This recipe has only 424 calories per serving and is full of nutrition!



INGREDIENTS

- 1½ pounds sweet potatoes, peeled and cut into 2-inch pieces
- kosher salt and black pepper
- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts (each 6 ounces)
- 4 shallots, sliced into thin rings
- 2 tablespoons roughly chopped fresh rosemary

DIRECTIONS

Place the sweet potatoes in a large pot. Add enough cold water to cover and bring to a boil.

Add 1 teaspoon salt, reduce heat, and simmer until tender, 14 to 16 minutes. Reserve ¼ cup of the cooking water, drain the sweet potatoes, and return them to the pot. Mash with the reserved cooking water.

Meanwhile, heat 1 tablespoon of the oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Season the chicken with ½ teaspoon salt and ¼ teaspoon pepper.

Cook the chicken until golden brown and cooked through, 7 to 8 minutes per side. Transfer to plates.

Wipe out the skillet. Heat the remaining 3 tablespoons of oil over medium-high heat. Add the shallots, rosemary, ½ teaspoon salt, and ¼ teaspoon pepper and cook, stirring, until the shallots are tender, 3 to 4 minutes.

Serve the chicken with the potatoes and drizzle with the shallot mixture.

Enjoy!

AmSoc Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2016

The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m. with a quorum present. In attendance were Board members Ann Whiting, John Griffin, Regis Soileau, Cam Esser, Cliff Esser, David Ruiz, Doug Mattoon, Fred Hanna, and Frank Rodriguez. Also attending were Board of Directors elect Klyf Harrison and Secretary elect Karen Ashby.

Welcome back to everyone!

Treasurer's Report: The budget was discussed and approved.

Committee Reports: The Menu Committee handed back the regular Thursday lunches to Lupita and will only be handling the once a month special events luncheons. A huge thank you to the Menu Committee for their efforts and all the positive (and delicious) changes resulting in successful weekly lunches. Also, congratulations for hosting a super Thanksgiving. Again, thank you to all those who worked tirelessly on the holiday feast.

~ **The Christmas Day and New Year's Day Pot Luck** events were enjoyed by all attendees. Among the attendees was a new couple from France here in Guadalajara while the husband supervises some of the work on the Tren Ligerero. Special mention was made of **Charlie Parris's lemon chicken, Cliff and Cam Esser's baked pineapple and corn pudding, Doug Mattoon's chili and John Griffin's turkey soup, large rosca, and breakfast for all.** Klyf Harrison expressed his sincerest thanks on behalf of himself and all those with no family in the area for such enjoyable holiday gatherings. Thanks to everyone that donated their time, talents, and food over the holidays.

Old Business: Cash donations to Casa Huichol of \$5000MX and MAMA of \$5000MX were approved. A food donation of 20 large pizzas to the Salvation Army Hogar was approved and will be presented before the pizza coupons expire in February. David Ruiz suggested another donation-worthy opportunity – an old folks home here in Guadalajara – and will provide the Board with information about the organization at our February meeting.

~ The \$5000MX donation to the Salvation Army Hogar was presented by Cam Esser to the Captain at the

Hogar on December 15, 2015. Also representing the American Society were John Griffin, Cliff Esser, and Karen Ashby. A tour of the facility was graciously provided and several issues important to the Hogar were discussed including:

- ~ A larger reduction (hopefully!) in the electric bill now that the tripped breakers on the solar panels have been discovered and reset.
- ~ The replacement of six of the 12 broken water heater tubes (from hail damage) and a suggestion by Cam Esser to be pro-active by installing anti-hail netting or some protection against further damage.
- ~ The discontinuation by Walmart of providing left-over food. John Griffin asked the Board if anyone has any other source of left-over food to please bring it to his attention.
- ~ The willingness of the Hogar kids to sing at Thanksgiving. After some discussion both pro and con, it was decided to table any decision for later in the year.
- ~ The New Membership Form was approved. Karen Ashby will add the website information to the membership form as well as to the Board of Directors contact list.
- ~ The American Society website is in process. David Ruiz reported some technical difficulties are being worked out. Cam Esser and Sean **Godfrey's son, Brian, spent time last week** working with the website. Cam reported the editing of the website is fairly easy but other components are complicated. In response to Klyf Harrison, David Ruiz requested that any submissions to the website be typed up as they should appear and be e-mailed to him. David also mentioned member Gail Early is taking Word Press classes and will be involved with the website.

New Business: The American Legion Post 3 has made generous donations to the American Society, the Salvation Army Hogar and the Junior League. We will gratefully acknowledge the donation by letter to the post commander, Frank Rodriguez.

~ American Society employees will have the following Mexican national holidays off in 2016:

- Monday, February 1 - Constitution Day
- Monday, March 21 - Benito Juárez's Birthday.

continued on page 5...



Board Meeting Minutes (continued from pg. 4)

- *Sunday, May 1 – Labor Day
- Friday, September 16 – Independence Day
- Monday, November 21 - Revolution Day Memorial
- *Sunday, December 25 – Christmas

*This National holiday is celebrated on a non-workday for American Society employees.

~ **O'Rourke donated a large box of calendars and** Ann Whiting will write a thank you note to acknowledge this gift.

~ On Thursday, February 11 we will celebrate **Valentine's Day and the installation of the 2016** Board of Directors with a special luncheon of ham with pineapple slices, broccoli, spinach soup, and dessert. \$140MX per person for this lunch was approved. Ann Whiting has not heard back from the Consulate on who will be attending the installation.

~ On Thursday, March 17 we will celebrate **St. Patrick's Day and the American Society's 71st** birthday at a special event luncheon. The Menu Committee will decide the menu. \$150MX per person for this lunch was approved.

~ The kitchen water heater will be replaced with a modern, efficient, instant heat, tankless type. John Griffin will oversee the purchase and installation of this heater. Cam Esser mentioned the danger when lighting the current water heater and installing a new water heater should be a priority.

~ Donation and compensation of accommodations increases for AA was discussed.

~ It was reported by Cliff Esser that the AA group received an unsigned note raising their rent from \$800MX to \$970MX monthly. This proved to be incorrect as they have been paying \$970MX since September of last year. In the prior year they paid \$900MX monthly. The \$970MX reflects an 8% increase, which was applied to all the accommodations. The note was left by Lupita as a result of the change in procedure to treat the use by other groups as "Accommodations."

~ Currently the AA group meets Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. and a 5th meeting was added in November 2015 and reported in the November 10, 2015 Board meeting **minutes, 'The AA group has added a Sunday** morning meeting from 11 a.m. – 12 p.m.

Accommodations won't be raised at this time but should be revisited in 5 or 6 months'.

~ AA meetings at the American Society are one hour long. David Ruiz expressed his opinion that the AA group is not contributing enough to cover our expenses, especially for electricity. He stated that the group tends to open up early and have side meetings continuing after the one hour general meeting in the American Society facility. Other board members disagreed that the AA group is abusing our hospitality. John Griffin will investigate these allegations and report to the board on his findings. He will also try to determine what is a reasonable contribution amount, given that our providing space for the AA meetings is part of our commitment to community service - see our constitution for our mission statement - and that we cannot accurately determine the cost of electricity for any of the accommodations, including those of David Ruiz or the Junior League.

~ A new, water efficient, comfort level toilet will be purchased to replace the old one in the second bathroom on the first floor. Handicap grab bars will be installed in both downstairs bathrooms. John Griffin will oversee the purchase and professional installation of the toilet and grab bars.











~ Dirty dishes, pots and pans are being left in the kitchen by unknown parties. Those responsible for this need to clean up after themselves. Special thanks to Cam Esser and John Griffin who kindly rolled up their shirt-sleeves and cleaned up the kitchen but continued misuse may result in limiting kitchen access. John Griffin will mount a camera to monitor. And speaking of cleanup efforts, a gigantic thank you goes out to Cam Esser for all her behind the scenes work in keeping the plants watered, the bathrooms shiny, and the garbage taken out while Rocio and Lupita were on vacation.

~ The next Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 10:30 a.m.

The Board meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.



February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Exercise 10 to 11 am Dia de la Constitucion	2  Dia de la Candelaria Groundhog Day	3 Exercise 10 to 11 am	4  AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30	5	6 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
7  AmSoc 3:00	8  New Moon Exercise 10 to 11 am	9 Mardi Gras Carnival	10 Exercise 10 to 11 am	11  AmSoc Valentine's Day Lunch Noon - 1:30	12 Lincoln's Birthday	13 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
14  Happy Valentine's Day	15 Exercise 10 to 11 am Family Day (Can) President's Day (USA)	16	17 Exercise 10 to 11 am	18  AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30	19 Mexican Army Day	20 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
21	22  Full Moon Exercise 10 to 11 am Washington's Birthday	23	24 Exercise 10 to 11 am Dia de la Bandera	25  AmSoc Lunch Noon - 1:30	26	27 English conversation class 2 to 4 pm
28	29  LEAP YEAR Exercise 10 to 11 am					

