

## 2023 Pittsburgh Tri-State Chapter Annual Banquet

Our 33<sup>rd</sup> annual chapter membership banquet was held at Rizzo's Malabar Inn on Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>. We had an attendance of 45 members and a great time was had by all. The food and service were excellent as always and we plan to be back here next year as well.

Our chairman, Jimmy Patitucci, welcomed all the attendees at the start of the event and said grace before we started the meal. We had a moment of silence for the two members we lost this year, Ron Horak and John DeGregory. When this sad moment was over, we decided to enjoy the rest of the afternoon with fellow members as these two guys would have wanted.

We piled up the toys that everybody brought for our donation to the Toys-for-Tots charity program, on the side table and Dave Kitch thanked everybody for our donation. Dave and Bridget took the toys to the donation center after the dinner. Thanks goes out to Dave and our previous Toys-for-Tots program director George Whipkey who was also in attendance. Dave estimated to dollar amount of the toys donated to be near \$1000.

Jimmy conducted a short meeting after the dinner.

- Jim talked about our 2023 events and our upcoming 2024 events and we have a full docket of events every year.
- He recognized the board members and other members who worked so hard this year on all our events and the regional. Our overall financials are strong and we owe our strong financial regional performance to the number of sponsors that Mike Bucheit brought in. Norm Neffield our Treasurer, had the huge task of tracking the over \$50k gross income that the regional generated, along with all the other annual financials. Overall, everybody did their part.
- Jimmy noted that we have a core group on the board that have worked to make our chapter a success but we want more members to move into board positions for the future. All of our 2024 board positions are full, but there is still room for members to get more involved.
- Jim recognized two members with service pins: Jim Wainwright – Secretary and Don Geary for Regional Chairman.
- We have 125 active chapter members and Jim reminded us all to make sure we update our info with Judy Geary because the annual rosters will be printed and distributed in early January. Also make sure your info is updated on your national profile as well. And remember, you have to keep your national dues current to be a member of our chapter.

Thanks to everybody who attended, we had a great time. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

Don Geary