

National Capital Technology and Computer User's Group, Inc. PIZZA & SALAD SIG DONATION PROGRAM

Our organization was founded in May, 1978, initially as a group interested in the microcomputers offered by Tandy / Radio Shack. An early feature of meetings was a social component following the sessions, when folks would gather at a nearby restaurant, to continue the day's discussion, solve world problems, seek advice about buying new equipment, and generally enjoy each others' company. These food and palaver sessions came to be referred to as the PIG – Pizza Interest Group, or Pizza SIG – Pizza Special Interest Group.

In 1994, Blair Jones, NCTCUG's long-time newsletter editor, began a practice that has expanded and continued to the benefit of the club. Blair offered to sponsor the session - to pick up the check for the evening's repast, in honor of her birthday. It was expected that the other members attending would donate their portion of the check to the club's treasury.

In the years since, Blair and other members have also 'sponsored' full or partial Pizza SIGs for their birthdays, retirement anniversaries, or in appreciation for the help received in troubleshooting sessions. These sessions have generated significant funds for the ongoing operations of the club, generally amounting to more than \$400 a year, and a record keeping system has been established to track donations, and provide annual donation letters to contributing members for tax record purposes.

In current practice, members attending the after-meeting sessions are requested to round up the total of their food and drink tab to the next highest dollar, add 20% for gratuity, 9% for VA and Arlington meal tax (i.e. - 30% for ease of calculation), and provide the money to the evening's 'check manager' who pays the tab, and records the evening's donations, which are initialed by another member. Some members make a specific donation at virtually every session. In calendar year 2011, \$628 was donated to the group at these sessions.

Members and guests should feel free to attend these sessions even if they don't wish to have a meal, although common courtesy to the restaurant proprietor and serving staff dictates at least having a soft drink.

As age, wisdom, and doctor's orders have intervened over the years, the name of these sessions has evolved to 'Pizza and Salad SIG' in recognition of clogged arteries and the importance of healthier menu choices – darn it !