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Dear OPVA,

After living in Seattle for many years, we moved to the quieter pace of the central Oregon coast. Recently, we returned to the "old neighborhood" to celebrate our daughter's engagement. We were busy with an itinerary that included several dinners with family and friends as well as a picnic at Volunteer Park and a ferryboat ride across the Sound to visit Hal's mother.

To reduce the cost of gas, we combined the trip with a stop in Portland on the way back for a VA appointment. One more great meal before returning home mean the rich entrees and special desserts would come to an end, but the memories of spending time with loved ones would sustain us.

Thank you for offering the Recreation Fund that we happily shared!

Hal and Kathryn

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Dear OPVA,

I am very glad there is a recreation fund to help with members' fun/party times. This year my partner and I are going to Colorado to see my step-daughter's HS graduation and then we'll be heading for Montana for a family reunion in honor of my mother-in-law's 80th birthday.

We are getting our little old RV ready for the trip. She, like many of us, has a few cosmetic problems and some trouble with leakage. Even so, she's got spirit and the inner will to get around, however slowly. With help from Caveman RV here in Grants Pass, we are fixing her up. She will never be young again, but with your help, theirs and our own elbow grease, she will travel with dignity, panache and no leaks.

Again, I am grateful for the assistance provided by the recreation fund; there's always a price for looking perky when you're past your absolute prime. The rec fund will help me defray some of the costs of helping Alice (down the rabbit hole), look as good as her engine is.

Anne

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Dear OPVA,

My wife and I decide on a distinctive experience for our first use of OPVA's generous recreation fund. We traveled to Sequim, Washington to stay overnight at the Red Caboose Bed and Breakfast. We slept in our own private caboose (each one on the 2 ½ acre site is a uniquely-themed car). Although converted to a sleeping room, many of the original features have been preserved. Our caboose retained the working conductor's desk, the central cupola with conductor chairs, as well as the original toilet room and it was decorated throughout with railroad memorabilia and posters.

In the morning, we boarded the Zephyr dining car for an outstanding 4-course, gourmet breakfast, served in much the same fashion as I remembered from days gone by. Since my father was a lifetime chef on Southern Pacific Railroad, I have many fond childhood memories of "riding the rails". This trip was wonderful way to enjoy a getaway as well as to reminisce.

As if the destination wasn't enough of a treat, the surrounding area was a delight to explore- John Wayne Marina, Dungeness Scenic Loop, and local lavender farms. We left plenty unexplored and waiting for a future return trip.

Thank you so much for this wonderful opportunity. Without the fund, we likely couldn't have justified this extravagant trip.

Gerald

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Dear OPVA,

My husband, who had been sick for many years had recently got stronger. So we booked a 7 day cruise to Mexico on the Princess. We flew our 1st time on Jet Blue from Portland to California. The airline did a great job helping us with the wheelchair and assisting Gary and the cruise was the very best vacation we have ever had. It was romantic, fun, pleasant and easy. We would encourage anyone in a wheelchair to go enjoy life on a Cruise of your choice. You're really treated like royalty and the handicap room was the best.

Thank you so much OPVA for the unexpected blessing.

Gary & Sherrie

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Dear OPVA,

I would like to thank OPVA for their supportive and caring gift, which is the recreation fund. Because of this fund I enjoyed a brief but very enjoyable visit with an old friend.

On October 21st, my assistant and I set out for Condon, Oregon on an overnight trip to have dinner with an old friend I have known from the fourth grade. Now granted Condon is not considered a high point of Oregon tourism with a little over 750 residents, it did however provide a wonderful stage for a long meal and great conversation. I truly believe we sometimes find our oldest friends to be our personal treasures. Having weathered the ups and downs of childhood and later life together these friends have bonds with us unlike most.

Thanks to your wonderful gift we had a splendid meal, overnight stay and time to enjoy my personal treasure.

Gordon