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A Note from the New President

Greetings friend, my name is Audie Hollis and am the new president of the Florida Senior Sports Association and the active editor for our bi-monthly news letter. Now, for those of you in Rio Linda that means every two months!

The purpose of our news letter is many fold: 1) to provide information about senior sport activities with a major slant towards softball, 2) to provide avenues for travel for like minded seniors, 3) to provide information on various products that we find to be useful or helpful in enriching our lives and, 4) the most important purposes is to provide a charity giving mechanism with a sports slant. We are working on a couple of charities that will have sports involved but will certainly be a higher calling such as benefiting wounded veterans, etc. Stay tuned for our next issue as we should have something worked out by then!

The very name of the organization which is a not for profit corporation indicates that most of our concern and coverage will be in the state of Florida. However, as we expand we look for this to grow geographically into the rest of the country and then finally the world. Yes, yes, I know, big plans but even Niagara Falls had to start with the first drop of water.

Perhaps a brief bio would be in order for you to know who I am and from what bundle of cloth I was cut. I was born in Jacksonville, Florida in 1952 and have been a life long resident. I grew up in a blue collar family with my dad working for the city as a cable splicer and my mom being a housewife. I have 6 other brothers and sisters and was the first person in my family to graduate from college.

I graduated from the University of North Florida in 1974 and was married and working full time as a real estate appraiser. My wife and I eventually had six children with the oldest now 34 and the youngest 22. I also have 11 grand children so the point here is I have been through a number of kid related wars. I just about can't be surprised by what kids will do as my trials and tribulations have helped me become a lot less judgmental of others and a much better listener!

I have been the owner of Hollis Appraisals, Inc. for over 30 years and have been an active real estate investor. I played softball in my 20s but retire at 30 to help raise, coach and educate my six children. I came out of sports retirement at 49 to play softball with two of my sons, two of my brothers and five of their sons. We had an entire 10 man team of Hollis' and won the local associations championship. Photos of that group I will cherish forever as each game was like a family reunion with parents, cousins, in-laws all coming to watch us play. The next year I discovered senior softball and have been involved for the past nine years as a player, sponsor, and coach. We have won

the state tournament a number of times and numerous national tournaments including the Tournament of Champions four of the past five years. I have traveled to Hawaii five times over the past eight years with the FSSA to play and promote softball and have developed friendships with numerous players throughout the United States.

Ed Rose, the director of the corporation asked me to serve in this capacity and due to the purpose and goals of the organization I thought this would be a noble endeavor.

Therefore, expect me to chime in ever issue about the "state of affairs" whether its sports related, or political or business as my purpose will be to raise awareness and to provoke thought and maybe even garner a response from you. Hey, I'm a big boy and I can take disagreement as long as it is in a civil manner. As a friend once told me, "when you point that boney finger at me, remember there are three pointing back at you."

I hope to hear from you and if there are softball or sport related concerns or questions send them my way and we will explore answers and solutions together.

Warmest Regards,

Audie Hollis