

Hope everyone had a wonderful New Year. My name is John Cardoza, and I will be working with Bill Stires this year to learn what I can from the 30 years' experience Bill and his father-in-law acquired during their SIR travel experience throughout their years. I will be taking over the Travel Chairman position with SIR Turlock Branch #143 and other branches in SIR area 18.

My travel experience started in 1974 with driving around Generals, VIPs and Airman while serving in the US Air Force. In early 1979 I graduated from the International Airline and Travel School in Alameda, California. After graduating, I worked for Braniff Airlines in Dallas, Texas as a reservations agent from 1979 until they went bankrupt in 1982. In 1983, I worked for United Airlines in Eureka and Oakland, California until 1989.

In 1999, 2000 and 2004 I lived on Princess, Norwegian, and Crystal Cruise lines as an Art Auctioneer. I managed a travel agency in 2001, 2002 and 2003 in Tracy, California. In 2004 I attended and graduated from International Tour Management Institute in San Francisco, California.

I have driven in all fifty states and visited sixty foreign countries. I am writing all this not to brag, but to let everyone know I am a travel junkie and am looking forward to working with everyone as your SIR Travel Chairman.

It will take a while to learn all the regulations required for setting up traveling with SIR. While I am learning the ropes, it would be fantastic if you had specific travel ideas or places you would like to visit.

Let me know what kind of travel you would be interested in. There are so many places or experiences that even the most experienced travelers are not aware. I am interested in any travel plans you pass on to me. Of course, we will not be able to go everywhere. Once I have numerous destinations SIR members want to go, the next step is to see if they are possible as an SIR function. All travel functions with SIR are mandatory to be put before the board and others in the SIR Organization to make sure they are covered by insurance.

My e-mail address, johncardoza@hotmail.com is the best way to contact me. I may also be reached by my **cell phone 209-483-7722**. I personally travel whenever possible, and I still work as an auctioneer around the state of California so sometimes I may not be able to answer my phone. I will get back to you as soon as possible to discuss if the trip is feasible, and what you would like to see accomplished on the itinerary.

For the rest of 2023, I will be the assistant Travel Chairman under Bill Stires. I wish everyone a Happy New Year and am looking forward to working with you as your SIR Travel Chairman in 2024!