

Raise Funds *Painlessly* For State and Local Leagues



In case you didn't know, your state is participating with Travel Concepts International, Inc. in a fund-raising project called *Travel with the League*.

What is Travel Concepts International?

Sounds like a big name, but is actually a small company owned and operated by a long-time League member, Gwen Erwood, specifically to arrange group international tours for League members and friends of the League. We are in our 19th year of business and advertised in the National Voter from 1988 until the magazine went to three issues per year.

What Does This Mean to Your Local League?

It means you can share in a project to

- Raise needed funds
- Draw in new members
- Energize longtime members
- Create camaraderie between members from across the country
- Provide learning opportunities
- Raise public awareness of the League

Raise Funds

For each person who travels from your League, \$100 is contributed to the State League to be shared 50/50 with Local Leagues (LL). A cheque is written after a tour departs and sent to the State League, along with a list of participants. Just one couple traveling adds \$100 to LL coffers. Some states reduce PMP for local league credit (LWV-WA).

Draw in New Members

Over a period of years, satisfied travelers have shared their enthusiasm with non-members by putting them on our mailing list or by sharing a specific brochure. When travelers sign up, they are asked if they are League members. If not, they must pay a nonmember fee of \$50, or they may join the League. In most cases they join. (Why not? Save \$50!) You have a new member!

Energize Longtime Leaguers

Let's have an element of fun along with all the hard work we do! Travel together, share experiences, form friendships and come home satisfied. International trips add wonderful dimension to a person's life.

Camaraderie

Overheard at a dining table in Morocco when discussing the possible causes of drop in national membership, "This is the best League conversation I have had in years!"

Embassy and Consulate Visits

How many Americans have had the opportunity to visit a U.S. Embassy abroad and be briefed by the State Department? This is one of the regular features of our tours, time permitting.

Meet with Counterpart Groups

What a thrill to find other women's groups actively involved in making the world a better place! For example: The U.S. Embassy put our group visiting Mongolia in touch with the founder of Women for Social Progress. As a result "Burmaa" visited the U.S. as a guest of Leagues in California, Indiana and Virginia. How inspiring to learn first hand from a leader of a newly emerging democracy. In Costa Rica, we visit the University for Peace (in support of the United Nations), and in Turkey we have an ongoing conversation with Turkish American University Association. When time permits we have school visits and home visits.

Travel Concepts International Supports Your Efforts

- Copies of the *Placerville Post*
- OUR WEBSITE - The address is www.travelwiththeleague.com. We want and need state and LLs to link with us. Potential travelers and non-members can learn about how to join the league. Our homepage has a section called "**League Leaders**". Click on this to download current newsletters, flyers, and camera-ready advertising.



Trips for Everyone

A range of tours are designed for those who like luxury accommodations and all inclusive features, as well as economical trips for independent travelers who prefer modest accommodations. Singles, men and women enjoy the tours, as do parents and teenagers or grown children traveling together as a family. Our prices are very reasonable considering all of the attention given to detail and planning.

Gwen Erwood
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TRAVEL CONCEPTS INTERNATIONAL, INC.

Cultural Tours to Better Understand the World and its People

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A company established by a League member for League member travel.

No Commitments Needed From LLs Except to Try to Get the Word Out.

LLs do not need to guarantee even one traveler! Whether a LL refers one participant a year or dozens, the possibilities are limited only by energy. We will take care of all the reservations. Trips are usually closed three months prior to departure. Cancellation policies are clearly printed, but we also offer trip cancellation insurance. We now offer payment by credit cards. Since we take on the responsibility of holding space, we reserve the right to withdraw a tour if the number of travelers falls below requirement or conditions become unsafe. This rarely happens, but should not be of concern to LLs. All features of a tour are clearly printed so there are no misunderstandings. We provide a tremendous amount of preprip study material. Our guides say we have the world's best prepared travelers. Of course they are also the smartest, the most fun, etc. We love our work and we think it shows. Be confident in offering the trips. As one of our travelers says (having taken over fifteen tours with us), "Forget the rest, go with the best!" Thank you, Shirley Gold!

What do Leagues Do to Participate?

Be aware of the tours. Use the tools available on our website. The newsletter, *Placerville Post*, is available for all who want copies. Let us know how many you need.

- Give newsletters to members.
- Better yet, give information (newsletter or brochure) to nonmembers who like to travel. "You like to travel...Take a look at these trips."
- Use dated camera-ready copy in your newsletter IF and ONLY IF the bulletin is mailed first class. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES ADVERTISE THE TOURS AT NON-PROFIT STANDARD MAIL RATES. Periodical 2nd class rates is okay. The regulation reads, "The restrictions provide that matter is ineligible for the nonprofit rates if it advertises, offers, promotes, or for a fee or consideration, recommends, describes, or announces the availability of any travel arrangement."
- Link with us on your homepage. We are keeping track of who is participating by linking our website with yours. Call us at 1-800-762-4216 if you have any questions.
- Download *Raise Funds Painlessly*, located on our website, to your LLs to get them involved in this fund-raising project.