



President's Letter – April 2010

Pam's Postings

Even though the official onset of spring occurs in March, I consider April to be spring's true start. My belief is being validated as I write this since the sun is shining, the breeze is blowing, and the temps are near the 80 degree mark. Hopefully, Mother Nature is not playing a cruel April Fool's joke by planning to send us snow tomorrow.

April derives its name from the Greek goddess of love and beauty, Aphrodite. To me, one of the most beautiful creatures in nature is the butterfly. I enjoy these so much that I have used a butterfly motif in decorating my great room. I happen to live in Papillion (NE), which is the French word for butterfly. April also marks the midpoint of the great monarch butterfly migration that begins in Mexico in February and ends in Canada in June.

Finally, (and coincidentally) I recently received a beautiful email from an OMA Chapter member that combines butterflies and the concept of sisterhood (a message that all Clipped Wings® members can relate to). I will be happy to forward it to anyone who wants to see it—just let me know.

Notable dates/events in April are:

- 1 - April Fool's Day
- 2 - Good Friday
- 4 - Easter
- 15 - Tax Day
- 22 - Earth Day

Both my mother and husband have birthdays this month, so I get to celebrate twice!

Priorities

April 1 – First-time members (those who have **never** belonged to any Clipped Wings® chapter previously) can join for one-half national dues, local dues and philanthropy assessment.

April 15 – Chapter Mid-Year Financial Statements due to National Tax Vice Chairman, **Pat Jandt Graham** (SJC)

April 15 – Articles and photos for the *Clipped Wings® Quarterly* due to National Editor **Mary Ann Niehus McGarry** (LAX).

Policy Provisions

Policy #4 in our National Bylaws states that chapters may apply for Chapter Assistance for grants up to \$200. This assistance is reserved for new chapters in their formative first three years or to a chapter showing written proof of financial problems. All requests must be received by the National Treasurer by May 31.

This differs from Delegate Assistance, which is awarded to chapters “in need” during convention years to help defray the costs of sending a delegate to convention. Policy #5 states: Delegate Assistance shall be under the jurisdiction of the Executive Committee. Said fund shall not exceed \$1500. Grants shall be determined by the number of requests received. No grant shall exceed \$300. No chapter will receive grants for more than two (2) consecutive conventions. All requests must be received by the National President by May 31 with written proof of financial problems.

Past President Passes

On March 4 Clipped Wings® lost one of its most loyal members when **Vicy Morris Young** (MAL) took her final flight. In addition to serving as National Editor and National President, she was the National Historian for so many years. In that capacity she maintained the history of our organization and kept the legacy alive through the scrapbooks/history albums, which she displayed at conventions, and through the articles she wrote for the *Clipped Wings® Quarterly*.

It is impossible for me to think of another person in this organization (living or dead) who did more for Clipped Wings® than Vicy. She was more than deserving of every accolade she received. Her guidance over the years inspired me and many others to serve in any way we could.

She had a mind “like a steel trap” and could be relied upon to provide facts about Clipped Wings® or United’s past to anyone who asked. Her advice and friendship were always available, and she provided them through her infamous notes, letters and phone calls. She will be missed so very much.

There will be a tribute to Vicy in the next issue of the *Clipped Wings® Quarterly*. Any story, photo or special memory of Vicy can be mailed to National Editor **Mary Ann Niehus McGarry** (LAX) by April 15.

Philanthropy Project Progress

Sue Schnieder Dannert (PHX), Vice Chairman of the Special Olympics 2010 National Games in Lincoln, requests that attendees at our past Special Olympics Parent Receptions send her photos of Eunice Shriver by May 1. The committee is planning to display these at the Clipped Wings® Parents Reception in July, which will be a tribute to Eunice. You may contact Sue at sdannert@npgable.com if you have any questions. Thanks!

Population Parameters

National Treasurer **Sheryl Yanken Schubert** (DEN) and Address Chairman **Barb Eichel Dittig** (OAK) report that membership is currently at 1250, which includes 47 first-time members. Last year at this time the total was 1266, which included 67 first-time members. The ending membership for 2008-09 was 1299; and for 2007-08 it was 1385. Please encourage previous members to rejoin and first-time members to come aboard.

Powwow Planning

Be sure to check out the Clipped Wings® website for convention information and forms. <http://www.clippedwings.com/index.html>

We are still accepting volunteers for the performance of a chapter-developed song or skit presentation during the business meeting. There are many options for the performance. Please see the March President’s letter for the details. This is meant to be a fun event. If your chapter sees it as being stressful, then simply tell me that. Not every chapter is expected to have to participate.

Principals Pondering Policies

Thank you to National Secretary **Christel Hasenbring Ilg** (CHI) for an outstanding job of completing the Minutes of the February 18-20 Executive Committee Meeting, which were emailed to chapter presidents, national officers and national chairmen in March.

Pictures Please

National Vice President **Barbara Fisk Vincent** (SEA) would like you to send her photos of those members (and former members) deceased since the last convention. These will be included in the Memorial Roll presentation at the Nashville Convention.

Profession Party Plans

I have been corresponding with Jennifer Jagielski at UA World Headquarters about next month’s 80th Anniversary of the Flight Attendant profession. She is planning several events in different cities. When I receive confirmation of these dates, locations and how Clipped Wings® members might participate, I will be sure to let you know. So, stay tuned for the celebrations!

Passage to Pleasant Places

Each spring the MAL Chapter has a gathering in Florida. This year it was on March 17 at the Gaylord Palms Resort in Kissimmee. All snowbirds and Clipped Wings® members who are in the area are always invited. I was lucky enough to be able to attend again this year. What a beautiful facility. The lush greenery throughout reminded me so much of the Opryland Hotel in Nashville (same hotel chain).

Mary Sensabaugh Londahl arranged the luncheon, and it was a delicious and bountiful buffet. She also had an "Opportunity Drawing," which was such fun. About 22 members/guests attended. We discussed Father Al Mascherino, and I provided some history about the MAL Chapter. One notable fact is that 17 past national presidents have been an MAL at one time or another. Thank you to president **Carol Novak Morgan** and the MAL Chapter for including me in this year's luncheon.

Pertinent Policies/Procedures

Although the deadline for changes to the National Bylaws has past, the due date for resolutions to be considered at the Nashville Convention is June 1, 2010. As stated in the Bylaws, a resolution may be submitted by individual members, officers or committees. A Resolutions Committee will be identified in the May President's letter.

Power of Prayer

Please continue to keep our Clipped Wings® friends who are ill, having treatments/tests, or who have recently lost a loved one in your prayers. Cards, phone calls or perhaps visits are always a special way to bring a bit of sunshine into their lives.

Sympathy goes to the OAK chapter for the loss of one of its founding members, **Marilou McLean Morrison**, who just lost her battle with cancer.

Pendulum Pulses

Countdown to:

Lincoln Special Olympics Natl. Summer Games
July 16-24, 2010 **108 Days**

Nashville Clipped Wings® Convention
September 22-26, 2010 **174 Days**

Playful Pun

An airliner ran into some particularly nasty weather. The passengers, certain they were going to crash and die, screamed in terror as the plane was pummeled by wind, rain, hail and lightning. At the height of the storm, a young woman jumped up and exclaimed, "I can't take

this anymore! I can't just sit here and die like an animal, strapped into a chair. If I am going to die, let me at least die feeling like a woman. Is there anyone here man enough to make me feel like a woman?" A muscular man starts to walk up to her seat. As he approaches her, he takes off his shirt. She can see the man's muscles even in the poor lighting of the plane. He stands in front of her, shirt in hand and says to her, "I can make you feel like a woman before you die. Are you interested?" Eagerly, she nods her head and exclaims, "Yes!" The man hands her his shirt and says, "Here, iron this."

Parting Pearls

The butterfly is a flying flower, the flower a tethered butterfly. -- *Ponce Denis Ecouchard Lebrun*

Happiness is a butterfly, which when pursued, is always just beyond your grasp, but which, if you will sit down quietly, may alight upon you. -- *Nathaniel Hawthorne*

"Just living is not enough," said the butterfly, "One must have sunshine, freedom and a little flower." -- *Hans Christian Anderson*

Love is like a butterfly: It goes where it pleases and it pleases wherever it goes. -- *Anon.*

Postscript

Since April (Aphrodite) honors love and beauty, it seems only fitting to seek wisdom from the great American philosopher Dolly Parton. Her song *Love is Like a Butterfly* contains the lyrics:

Love is like a butterfly
As soft and gentle as a sign
The multicolored moods of love are like its satin wings
Love makes your heart feel strange inside
It flutters like soft wings in flight
Love is like a butterfly, a rare and gentle thing

I hope that love and beauty are an integral part of your lives each and every day, not only this month but throughout the year.

To blue skies and smooth landings,

Pam

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