

President's Letter – August 2010

Pam's Postings

I've often thought of August as the "Pause Button" on the progression of seasons through the year. The euphoria and activity associated with June and July are over, and fall with its full agenda of ongoing events has not yet begun. Many plants and flowers have moved from their growth mode to their production mode, and we can enjoy the bounties of nature at its best. Perhaps the fact that the month has no major holidays contributes to this feeling. Also, in my school teaching days early August was the last chance to catch my breath before the new school year began.

We begin to notice that the sunrise is later, the sunset earlier and are reminded that, in the words of William Shakespeare: "Summer's lease hath all too short a date."

One of the most interesting phenomena of summer is the appearance of a rainbow. These fairly rare sights are most often seen in my part of the world when sunshine follows a late afternoon rain shower. They only last a short while, but have the power to fascinate us while they are visible. I like to think of them as the crayons for God's coloring book.

Priorities

August 1 – Year-End Reports due. Send a copy to each national officer (plus other designated national chairmen).

Philanthropy Project Progress

Another Special Olympics Games is history. Clipped Wings[®] was there in full force (70 strong!) and volunteered at a variety of venues throughout the week. Among them were the Lincoln and Omaha airports, the Cessna fly-in location, Family Services, Healthy Athletes, Golf, Aquatics, and the Keshot Booth at Olympic Town. Prior to the Games we focused mainly on volunteering for the Cessna Airlift (as

we had done in Ames and Minneapolis). Since there were fewer Cessnas donated this year, we were also needed at the Lincoln and Omaha airports to escort athletes who arrived on commercial flights from all over the country. Omaha alone had over 900 athletes arriving on Saturday July 17 (then departing July 24). Thanks to **Judy Enis Hall** (OMA) for making all the arrangements at the airports. Everything went smoothly. A huge thank you to **Rosalie Betschart** (PDX) for managing all the volunteer assignments. Our volunteers had plenty to keep them occupied during the entire week.

The Opening Ceremony on Sunday, July 18, was spectacular. Clipped Wings[®] was acknowledged by the President and CEO of the 2010 Games, *Chuck Cooper*, during his speech. What a surprise to all of us, and how very kind of him to do so. We were also listed in the program. Tim Shriver gave an extremely touching tribute to Eunice. Besides the recognition we were given at the Opening Ceremony, the *Lincoln Journal Star* wrote an article in their newspaper about us and also posted one on their website. It can be viewed online at: http://journalstar.com/special-section/special-olympics/people/article_49be5d58-91fc-11df-9deb-001cc4c002e0.html

The Parents Reception on Tuesday, July 20, was beyond our expectations! We anticipated 800-1000 guests, and 1200-1500 came. The parents/families were so appreciative of our efforts. Everyone looked great in our red shirts and Clipped Wings[®] scarves.

Tim Shriver had to leave the Games for a funeral so was unable to attend our reception. However, we were able to introduce several dignitaries who were there including: the President and COO of Special Olympics International, *Brady Lum*; the Managing Director of Special Olympics North America, *Bob Gobrecht*; and the President and CEO of the 2010 Games, *Chuck Cooper*.

Our Special Olympics speaker was the President and CEO of Special Olympics New Jersey, *Marc Edenzon*. He is both a parent of a Special Olympics athlete and a leader within the organization. He was very interesting and enthusiastic and also told us about the first Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day to be celebrated on September 25.

Of course, the raffle for the United Airlines business class tickets to anywhere that United flies (worth up to \$10,000) was a highlight of the evening. The winning ticket holder was a Minnesota couple whose son competed in golf at the Games. Several attendees from Minnesota told us that there could not be anyone who was more deserving. The father coaches six different sports for Special Olympics, and they are both very involved in their states Special Olympics activities. Thanks again to United for supporting us by donating these tickets.

Several Clipped Wings® Parent Grant recipients were there, and photos were taken of them. How grateful each and every one of them were!

Thank you to **Sue Schnieder Dannert** (PHX) who was “in charge” of the reception. It was a beautiful setting (and so convenient — right in our hotel!), and the food and Merrymakers entertainment were outstanding. Sue and Pamela created four photo boards showing past receptions with Eunice. I gave a brief tribute to Eunice Shriver, and there was a video about her on a large screen running continuously throughout the reception.

I can't give enough praise to our hotel, the Embassy Suites. They were so accommodating and gracious. The complimentary, made-to-order breakfasts and two-hour Happy Hour were fantastic . . . a great place for our members to socialize, get volunteer assignments, and rehash the day. They handled the reception crowd with true professionalism.

Pamela Pease Berding (OAK) is creating a 2010 Games slideshow to be shown on the Clipped Wings® website. She is requesting photos be sent (preferably by jpeg email attachments) to her by August 10 for this slideshow. Got any to share?

Philanthropy Project Chairman, **Barbara Allenby Sinnott** (OAK), is to be commended for the committee leadership she provided and the many hours of planning and preparation she spent leading up to the Games. Thanks to ALL who volunteered and especially to the Committee members—Barbara, Sue, Rosalie, Judy and Pamela—for all their hard work and dedication.

Praising a Philanthropist

As mentioned earlier, I gave a short tribute to Eunice Kennedy Shriver at the Parents Reception. The tribute was:

“As you can tell, tonight’s reception is dedicated to the memory of Eunice Kennedy Shriver. Her name is synonymous with Special Olympics, and it is only fitting that we recognize and honor the legacy she has left.

- *We all know dreamers whose reality falls short of their expectations.*
- *We all know visionaries who fail to achieve the future they foresaw.*
- *We all know those who speak of having courage but then do not act courageously when the opportunity to do so arises.*
- *We all know those who speak of dedication and determination but falter along the way.*
- *We all know about the revolutionary who believes the only way to change society is through marches and protests and, at the extreme, violence.*

Eunice Kennedy Shriver was none of these. I repeat. Eunice Kennedy Shriver was none of these.

- *She had a dream and a vision.*
- *She had the courage, dedication and determination to see that the dream became a reality and the vision was fulfilled.*
- *As a result, society underwent a revolution of understanding and attitude toward a segment of it that for too long had been forgotten, ignored and even ill-treated.*
- *It is a revolution that has become global in nature and international in scope.*
- *It is a revolution that was accomplished, not by marches, signs, and protests, but by competition on the athletic arenas.*

- *To see this revolution in action you need only to visit the Special Olympics sports venues throughout Lincoln this week.*

So we say thank you Eunice for having the qualities that enabled this revolution to occur. Thank you for letting Clipped Wings® in some small way be a part of it."

As previously mentioned, the first Eunice Kennedy Shriver Day will take place on September 25, 2010. To read more about this go to the website:

<http://www.specialolympics.org/eksday/>

It would be great for chapters to have some activity to celebrate this day. Several suggested activities are listed on the website. Do you have any ideas how we can celebrate this day while at convention (it is on the Saturday of convention)? If so, please send me suggestions.

Pertinent Policies/Procedures

Article XVI, Section C. 1. of our National Bylaws state: "Resolutions Committee shall . . . receive any resolutions and/or recommendations from individual members, officers and/or committees ninety (90) days before Convention. Recommendations are to be put into resolutions and all resolutions presented to convention. These resolutions shall go out in the delegate packet." Then Section C. 2 " . . . Emergency resolutions may be presented on a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates at convention."

Ninety days before convention would be June 24. Resolutions Chairman **Mary Sensabaugh Londahl** (MAL) has been receiving resolutions past that deadline. Under normal circumstances, these would be considered "emergency resolutions" that may only be presented at convention. However, Mary and the Executive Committee want chapter delegates to be aware of the things they will be asked to vote on BEFORE they arrive at convention. Thus, she will identify the "past deadline" resolutions along with those that were submitted by the deadline. I think the delegates will appreciate this gesture. These will be mailed in September.

Population Parameters

National Treasurer **Sheryl Yanken Schubert** (DEN) and Address Chairman **Barb Eichel Dittig** (OAK) report that membership is currently at 1274, which includes 63 first-time members. Last year at this time the total was 1299, which included 75 first-time members.

Powwow Planning

I still need several non-delegate attendees who would like to volunteer to help at the Nashville convention by serving as pages and timekeepers during the business meeting. Any willing volunteers should contact me no later than August 10 so that they can be listed in the convention program. Thanks!

Hotel pricing is guaranteed until August 22, on an availability basis. **Mary K. Doherty Dana** (OCC) reports that 100 percent of the rooms of the original block have been reserved but that the hotel added another 10 rooms. Hotel information and a convention registration form are on the Clipped Wings® website: <http://www.clippedwings.com/index.html>

Preserving the Planet

There was much discussion at the 2008 LAX Convention about the requirement that delegates bring 50 copies of their chapter reports to convention. Many felt that this was a waste of resources and that we should explore ways to "go green" including placing the reports on a website.

In response to these requests, we are doing the following with the 2008-09 and 2009-10 chapter reports.

Chapter reports should be submitted as usual (due date August 1). Personal information except for the individual names will be removed from the reports after they are received. The reports may be reformatted slightly to provide a more uniform appearance then placed on an Internet site. There will also be a link to this reports website on the Clipped Wings® website. As a further precaution, this reports website is password protected. The 2008-09 reports have all been posted, and all 2009-10 reports will be posted in August. To view the reports:

- (1) Go to the website: <http://tinyurl.com/ylzgsn2>
- (2) Type the user name and password, which was provided in the email cover letter you received with this president's letter.
- (3) Follow the directions given on the website.

This eliminates the requirement that chapter delegates take 50 copies of their chapter reports to convention.

Note that this is only for the chapter reports; national officers and chairmen will still be required to print 50 copies and take them to convention (to comply with the National Bylaws, Policy 12).

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.

Pendulum Pulses

Countdown to:

Nashville Clipped Wings[®] Convention
September 22-26, 2010 **53 Days**

Playful Puns

Both optimists and pessimists contribute to the society. The optimist invents the aeroplane, the pessimist the parachute.

~ George Bernard Shaw

The scientific theory I like best is that the rings of Saturn are composed entirely of lost airline luggage. ~ Mark Russell

If black boxes survive air crashes — why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff? ~ George Carlin

Parting Pearls

"Fairest of the months! Ripe summer's queen
The hey-day of the year
With robes that gleam with sunny sheen
Sweet August doth appear."

~ R. Combe Miller

"Whilst August yet wears her golden crown,
Ripening fields lush-bright with promise;

Summer waxes long, then wanes, quietly
passing
Her fading green glory on to riotous Autumn."
~ Michelle L. Thieme, *August's Crown*

"The brilliant poppy flaunts her head
Amidst the ripening grain,
And adds her voice to sell the song
That August's here again."

~ Helen Winslow

Postscript

I wonder if the great American philosopher Dolly Parton was thinking about August when she wrote the following lines in her song, "God's Coloring Book" (a part of her 1977 album, *Here You Come Again*):

*I saw a golden ray of sunlight
A silver drop of dew
A soft, white floating cloud
Sailing cross the sky a blue
A yellow dandelion
Pretty evergreen
And some red and orange flowers
Growing wild along the stream*

I hope that August provides you with an opportunity to pause, reflect and enjoy the remains of the summer season and that you look forward toward fall with renewed vigor and anticipation. May any rain that comes your way be followed by a beautiful rainbow.

To blue skies and smooth landings,

Pam

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