

President's Letter – December 2009

Pam's Postings

Probably no other month holds as much anticipation and as many expectations as December. Whether it is the lights, music, decorations, performances, religious services, food, cards, shopping, **GIFTS**, or family gatherings, December provides something for almost everyone. It is the season of **GIVING**. Shoppers pack into malls or go online looking for the perfect **GIFT** for their loved ones. But the generosity of the season is not just important to the retail world; it is also a very important time for charities. American is at its most generous during the holiday season. The next couple of months will mark the greatest influx of donations than most nonprofit organizations will see for the rest of the year.

It is the last month of the calendar year and has a number of memorable dates/events:

- 07 – Pearl Harbor Day
- 11 – Hanukkah begins
- 17 – Anniversary of Wright Brothers first flight
- 21 – First Day of Winter
- 25 – Christmas
- 26 – Kwanzaa begins
- 31 – New Year's Eve

Priorities

December 15 – Last year's members are dropped from the membership roll if dues have not been paid.

December 31 – Deadline for reserving a hotel room at the Embassy Suites, Lincoln, NE, if volunteering at the Special Olympics 2010 National Games.

Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania

A DVD, which will include a video of some of the ceremony at the Flight 93 Chapel and a slideshow of photos taken by members at our dinner, at the crash site and at the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel will be available in mid-

December for a donation of \$10 which includes shipping. If you or your chapter would like a copy, please send a check (payable to Clipped Wings) to me at 1402 Western Hills Drive, Papillion, NE 68046. Proceeds will be **GIVEN** to the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel.

Posthumous Provisions

This past year, several contributions have been made to our Special Olympics philanthropy fund in memory of those members who have passed away. I know we have received donations in memory of **Arlene Kauffman Laurie** and also for **Libby Doyle Woodfill**. I was particularly touched by a letter, which I received with a \$500 check from Bob Laurie who stated that on the occasion of his and Arlene's wedding anniversary, he wished to **GIVE** the donation to honor her. Such memorials are a wonderful gesture. Instead of just adding these to the general philanthropy fund, I would like to see something unique created for Special Olympics with those funds. **Any ideas?**

Probing a Possibility

The Name Change Research Committee has distributed a questionnaire that seeks information and opinions concerning the implications of a possible name change for the organization. It will also appear in the next *Quarterly*.

Please remind your members that the committee is neither advocating for nor against the name change. They are only gathering information as directed. This committee was formed in response to a motion that the convention delegates adopted at the LAX Convention. The resolution reads:

“The National President appoint a committee of three (3) to investigate a name change to report at the 2010 convention.”

While this is an emotional issue for many, and one that has been debated before (at the 1990 convention), a majority of the LAX Convention delegates felt that the question should be researched again. One rationale for researching the change was that some current flight attendants feel the name does not reflect their status or think they have to be retired in order to join Clipped Wings®.

The committee will summarize their findings and **GIVE** a report at the Nashville Convention.

I must thank this committee--**Gail Andrus Preston** (OCC), Chair; **Cathy Stoeber Kurinsky** (CHI) and **Vicki Mar** (SEA)--for carrying out the charge they have been **GIVEN**.

Parent Company Progress

There is a lot going on at United. The company granted flight attendant furloughs (instead of layoffs!); there are plans to have new uniforms for the flight attendants in 2011; all 737 jets have now been taken off line; Continental Airlines has joined the Star Alliance (meaning United customers will have access to more than 60 cities not currently served by United); and they are working hard at rebuilding passenger confidence in the airline.

Through December 31, 2009, United is inviting customers, employees, retirees, family and friends to **GIVE** a minimum of 7,500 Mileage Plus miles or \$50 to have a huggable, limited-edition Holden Hugyou teddy bear delivered to a child with cancer. The miles collected will be used to fly families needing financial assistance to treatment facilities across the country, and the bears will be delivered to hospitals in February 2010.

Picking Potential Principals

It's time to think about candidates for the national offices of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Editor. Nominating Chair, **Lavon Parker Cook** (DTW) and her committee will gladly accept nominations at this time. The only requirements are that you must have the permission of the person being nominated and the nominee must have served as

a chapter president or a convention delegate. If you know of members who you think would make good national officers, please **GIVE** them encouragement to run for office. Sometimes it just takes a little encouragement. If they agree to be nominated, a letter or email from their chapter to Lavon is sufficient. Nominations are due by March 31.

Powwow Performance

Think back to "stew school" graduation where we wrote and performed songs to well known tunes. Think about American Idol. Perhaps there could be a "Clipped Wings Idol" out there as well. A unique, fun activity for the business meeting portion of the Nashville Convention has been suggested. Since it is in "Music City," the suggestion was that we have chapters perform a chapter-written song to a country music tune and **GIVE** a presentation to the delegates. The song would possibly be in lieu of presenting a chapter report. This is in the preliminary stages of development, and I am seeking reactions to it at the moment. **What are your thoughts? Is your chapter interested?**

Passage to Pleasant Places

November was an exciting month since I had the opportunity to celebrate Founders Day with **ten** different chapters (LAX, OCC, SAN, RNO, OAK, RDW, SJC, MAR, OMA and SEA). In preparation for these visits, I created and distributed a flyer about our Clipped Wings® Founder Jackie Jos Ceaser.

On the 7th, I attended the Southern California Tri-Chapter (LAX, OCC and SAN) luncheon at The Reef in Long Beach hosted by the Los Angeles Chapter. About 75 attended including four of the five National Officers. National Secretary, **Christel Hasenbring Ilg** and I were guests of **Ethel Lund Pattison** in her ocean-front home (with breathtaking view). We had such fun going through old issues of the *Clipped Wings® Quarterly* (starting in 1963!) and had wonderful lively discussions. National Editor **Mary Ann Niehus McGarry** and **Maureen Lannon Amberg** had picked me up

at the airport, and we spent the day/evening mostly in Manhattan Beach.

From there, I traveled to Sacramento on the 8th and was the guest of **Barbara Boll Bertacini** and **Cheryl Mullins Jensen** for four days. Barbara took me to the Reno Rockets Chapter luncheon meeting on the 11th at the Reno Art Museum. It was a wonderful meeting as each member told me about their United background and what they were currently doing. What a beautiful day it was with the Fall leaves and perfect sunny weather. The following day Reno had a snowstorm and the highway we traveled on was closed due to the snow. Barbara knows me well and made sure I had plenty of retail therapy, fabulous food, and Clipped Wings[®] friends close by with cherished activities to remember forever.

The next day, we drove to Walnut Creek to the Bay Area Chapters' (MAR, OAK, RDW and SJC) Founders Day celebration hosted by the Oakland Chapter. This was a delicious luncheon at another fabulous place—Scott's Seafood Restaurant. One of OAK's founders, **Bobby Keville Deibert**, gave a heart-warming presentation about Jackie Jos Ceaser. I was **GIVEN** an autographed copy of Captain Sully Sullenberg's (who lives near there, in Danville) new book, and I won the vase of a dozen yellow roses at my table.

I returned home just in time to attend Omaha Chapter's Harvest Tea on the 13th provided entirely by **Kathy Broad Pospichal**. You can't imagine how exquisite this is. Kathy goes all out in décor, teas, delicious tea sandwiches, salads, desserts and hats too. This is a tradition in the OMA Chapter, and one that no one ever wants to miss.

Finally, I traveled to Seattle Chapter's Diamond Jubilee 60th Anniversary and Founder's Day Celebration on the 20th. This was held at the Museum of Flight. Both **Betty Groger Newell** and **Peggy Orthmann Parietti** gave presentations about Seattle Chapter's history. So very interesting! I was able to go through many of their old scrapbooks. I remember SEA winning the scrapbook award regularly at conventions (when we used to have an award for that).

This was my second visit for all of these chapters! I'm so thankful for the invitations.

In December I look forward to visiting the Atlanta, Boston and Manchester Chapters.

Please Pencil Me In

I do hope to visit **all** chapters during my term as president, but I must be invited to do so. A chapter visit need not be anything "special"—just an opportunity for me to meet with members in an informal setting is more than enough. I travel on space available passes where possible, so I do not need much advance notice to travel to your chapter. My calendar is relatively open. Just **GIVE** me a date when you would like me to visit, and I'll do my best to be there. Thanks so much.

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. Even a brief email may also brighten someone's day.

Our heartfelt prayers and sympathy go to the CHI Chapter and the family of **Noreen May Stephany**, who just lost her battle with cancer. Her funeral is Friday, December 4.

Pendulum Pulses

Countdown to:

Lincoln Special Olympics Natl. Summer Games[®]
July 16-24, 2010 **229 Days**

Nashville Clipped Wings[®] Convention
September 22-26, 2010 **295 Days**

Playful Pun

An airplane was flying from LA to New York. About an hour into the flight, the pilot announced, "We have lost an engine, but don't worry, there are three left. However, instead of 5 hours it will take 7 hours to get to New York." A little later, the pilot announced, "A second engine failed, but we still have two left. However, it will take 10 hours to get to New York." Somewhat later, the pilot again came on

the intercom and announced, "A third engine had died. Never fear, because the plane can fly on a single engine. However, it will now take 18 hours to get to New York." At this point, one passenger said, "Gee, I hope we don't lose that last engine, or we'll be up here forever!"

Parting Pearls

I recently received a wonderful email of "45 lessons life taught me" by Regina Brett, a 90-year old who wrote for *The Plain Dealer* in Cleveland, OH. It was enjoyable reading. At the end, the final words were: "The Way to Happiness is: Keep your heart free from hate, your mind from worry. Live simply. **GIVE** much. Fill your life with love." If anyone would like to see the 45 lessons, I would be glad to forward the email to you.

Also, I found a website particularly interesting concerning the Season of **GIVING**. To view it, go to: <http://www.personal-development.com/chuck/season-of-giving.htm>

Postscript

In 1984 the great American philosopher, Dolly Parton, released the album "*Once Upon a Christmas*" that included the song, "*I Believe in Santa Claus*." The following lyrics are found in that song: "... I believe that dreams and plans and wishes can come true. I believe in miracles; I believe in magic too."

I sincerely hope that this season of dreams, plans, wishes, miracles and magic finds you believing too. Happy Holidays!

To blue skies and smooth landings,

Pam

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