

President's Letter – February 2009

Pam's Postings

Turning the calendar page from January to February has always been exciting for me for a number of reasons.

First, it signifies that we are moving closer to spring and warmer weather. Sunrise is earlier, sunset is later, and temperatures get above freezing more frequently. Snow and cold events in February never seem as bad as those same events do in December and January.

Second, it is a month in which we honor our presidents via President's Day. "Back in the day" we used to specifically recognize Lincoln's and Washington's birthdays. The former was always particularly relevant to me since I taught for over 30 years at Abraham Lincoln High School in Council Bluffs, IA.

Last, but far from least, February holds my favorite of all "holidays" - Valentine's Day as well as being the month in which I was born. I have always looked forward to the two celebrations with great anticipation. While I can ignore my birthday, I cannot do the same for Valentine's Day. I **LOVE** everything to do with hearts and all things red (throughout the year).

This February will be especially wonderful since I will get to spend a week in Boise at the Special Olympics World Winter Games, see many of my Clipped Wings® friends again, and meet with the Executive Committee - always a fun and exciting time!

Priorities

There are no due dates in February. Don't you just **LOVE** that?

Polling the Presidents

Thank you to all the chapter presidents who responded to my November Poll. The poll had to do with counting family members' volunteer hours when participating in the National or

International Special Olympics Games. The results were overwhelmingly in favor of counting all family members' volunteer hours. If your chapter hasn't yet responded, please do so. I really would **LOVE** input from **all** chapter presidents.

Praiseworthy Printing

Thank you to Tina Winland (DCA) for the beautiful *Clipped Wings® National Roster and Bylaws*, which is currently at the printer. You should all receive your copy this month. I **LOVE** it! Tina spent many hours preparing this for you. Thanks also to those who assisted her in this task: Barbara Eichel Dittig (OAK)--membership list; Mary K. Doherty Dana (OCC) and Vicy Morris Young (MAL)--history; and Mary Sensabaugh Londahl (MAL)--bylaws.

Past President Passes

Cleda Defabaugh Tipton, the second Clipped Wings® National President (after Jackie Jos Ceaser) passed away in January. She served as President from 1952-53 and has been a continuous **BELOVED** member of the SEA Chapter, which she founded in 1949. She was 90 years old, and although Cleda has suffered from Alzheimer's for several years, it was pneumonia that caused her death. She will certainly be missed!

Plenty of Pretty Planes

Fundraising Chairman, Cheryl Mullins Jensen (SMF), **LOVES** to be able to report that over \$10,000 has been deposited from the sales of the airplane scarves! An order for 500 more scarves has been placed since they continue to be a popular item now that they have been sanctioned to be worn with the United Airlines flight attendants' uniforms. All proceeds go to support Special Olympics.

Population Parameters

National Treasurer, Sheryl Yanken Schubert (DEN) **LOVES** seeing those dues checks arrive! Address Chairman, Barb Eichel Dittig (OAK), reports that membership is currently at 1246, which includes 46 first-time members. The ending membership for 2007-08 was 1385. Please make a concerted effort to encourage previous members to rejoin and first-time members to come aboard.

Philanthropy Project

The National Philanthropy Project Chairman, Marta Morgan Rash (MAL) and her committee members Rosalie Betschart (PDX) and Diana Ferber Baker (ORD) are putting the finishing touches on Clipped Wings[®] participation at the Special Olympics World Winter Games in Boise ID next week.

United Airlines donated airfare tickets (business class) to be given in a drawing to two lucky parents who attend the reception. I know these parents will **LOVE** such a wonderful gift. We are so thankful for United's support.

Purposeful Participation

I finalized the Parent Grant Applications Review ad hoc committee mentioned in my previous president's letters. I **LOVE** that so many volunteered to review these applications. Clipped Wings[®] is providing 20 grants at \$750 each which will be awarded to parents of athletes participating in the Special Olympics National Summer Games in Lincoln, NE, July 18-23, 2010. The members of this committee are:

Patti Jacoby (MAL), Chair
Charlie Wright Petersen (MAL), Vice Chair
Barbara Boll Bertacini (RNO)
Sandy Crawford Evoy (CHI)
Sharon Farber Loosmore (SEA)
Elaine Haley McGann (DEN)
Maureen McGuinness (MAL)
Carol Novak Morgan (MAL)
Kris Sisti Mueller (EWR)
Candi Guyre Symes (OAK)
Sue Wilson (DEN)

Plaudits for Professionalism

In my January letter I wrote about the Continental Flight 1440 that aborted a takeoff from Denver International Airport on December 20 and veered into a ravine. 115 passengers and crew were aboard the 737. All survived—thanks in large part to the efforts of the flight attendants on board.

More recently, the US Air Flight 1549 incident, “Miracle on the Hudson,” captured the imagination of the country and resulted in a huge outpouring of admiration and **LOVE** for the flight crew and rescue workers involved. Captain Sullenberger's comments that “he was just doing his job” reminds us that entire flight crews are heroes with the safety of the passengers their number one priority as they respond over and over with professional skill. Again, I salute this flight crew; they make me proud to have been a part of this career field.

Policy

Policy #4 in our National Bylaws states that chapters can 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.

Publishing Possibilities

Are you interested in a fast and easy way to share chapter news, photos, and even chapter newsletters with other Clipped Wings[®] members online? Consider a chapter blog. Free (gotta **LOVE** that!) web blogs can be created with a service provider such as Blogger. <https://www.blogger.com/>

Blogger has a content management system that provides numerous pre-designed templates, which can easily be customized. Once created, the blog can then be linked to the Clipped Wings[®] website.

Recently RDW and OAK Chapters have taken the initiative and started the ball rolling for creating such blogs. You can view OAK Chapter's blog by clicking on its link located on the Clipped Wings® website homepage.

www.clippedwings.com/

If your chapter would like to do this, it has been suggested that they all be named in the same format, ie., clippedwingsoak, clippedwingsrdw, clippedwingsoma, etc. (for OAK, RDW, and OMA Chapter blogs). Pamela Pease Berding (OAK) will be glad to answer any questions you may have concerning the blogs. Go for it!

Passage to Pleasant Places

Photos from my chapter visits can be viewed on the Clipped Wings® website homepage.

www.clippedwings.com/ Do you have some photos that you would **LOVE** to share of your holiday or Founders Day events? You can send them to Pamela Pease Berding (OAK), and she will post them on the website.

Please Pencil Me In

I would really **LOVE** to visit all chapters during my term as president. A chapter visit need not be anything special—just an opportunity for me to meet with chapter members in an informal setting is more than enough. I travel on passes where possible, so I do not need much advance notice to travel to your chapter. Just let me know when you would like me to visit, and I'll do my best to be there! Thanks so much.

Pendulum Pulses

Countdown to:

Boise Special Olympics World Winter Games February 7-14, 2009	6 Days
Lincoln Special Olympics Natl. Summer Games July 18-23, 2010	533 Days
Nashville Clipped Wings® Convention September 22-26, 2010	599 Days

Postscript

That great American philosopher, Dolly Parton, once said, "**LOVE** is something sent from Heaven to worry the hell out of you." I hope you have much **LOVE** and few worries in the days ahead.

Happy Valentine's Day!

To blue skies and smooth landings,

Pam

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