



President's Letter – July 2009

Pam's Postings

July marks the beginning of the last half of the calendar year and the fourth quarter of the Clipped Wings® year. It is named for Julius Caesar.

The month brings to mind many things—picnics, cookouts (with watermelon and corn on the cob!), swimming, boating, and the beginning of the “dog days of summer.” Most notably, however, it is the 4th of July with its fireworks displays commemorating our country's birthday—the Continental Congresses' adoption of the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776—to which most of us relate.

As John Adams stated, “It ought to be commemorated ... with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires and illuminations from one end of this continent to the other from this time forward forever more.” Certainly his vision has been fulfilled since one can find fireworks displays that range from the neighbors' backyard to huge displays sponsored by organizations to televised extravaganzas.

Speaking of illuminations, the fireworks sales tents have sprouted like mushrooms here in Papillion and other suburbs around Omaha. Despite the economy, business is “booming.” Fireworks are illegal in Omaha, so Omahans come to the suburbs, buy the fireworks, go back to Omaha and promptly break the law by setting them off. Go figure.

July is also noted for:

- Wimbledon (Ends July 5)
- Tour de France (July 4-26)
- Bastille Day (July 14)

Finally, at 5 minutes and 6 seconds after 4 AM on this July 8th, the time and date will be:

04:05:06 07/08/09

This will not happen again for a thousand years. I do not plan to get up to observe this year's event, nor be around for the one in 3009.

Priorities

July 15 – Articles and photos for the *Clipped Wings® Quarterly* are due to National Editor **Mary Ann Niehus McGarry**.

July 31 – Last day national dues may be accepted by National Treasurer **Sheryl Yanken Schubert**.

August 1 – Year-End Reports due. Send a copy to each national officer (plus a few others).
Note: you will soon receive a separate mailing concerning this report.

Population Parameters

Our “number crunchers” for membership--National Treasurer, **Sheryl Yanken Schubert** (DEN); Address Chair, **Barb Eichel Dittig** (OAK); and Vice President, **Barbara Fisk Vincent** (SEA)--agree that our membership is currently at 1,294, which includes 75 first-time members. Only 6 more members are needed to break 1,300! Who hasn't paid their dues in your chapter? Why not give them one last call as a friendly reminder.

Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania

Some information for those of you interested in attending the memorial service for Flight 93 in Shanksville, September 11:

It is closer to fly into Pittsburgh than any of the DC airports. It is almost a 2-hour drive from Pittsburgh to Shanksville. Rental cars are your likely transportation since there is no scheduled bus service and cabs are expensive.

The specific time for the Clipped Wings® presentation has not been determined yet since there are several activities taking place at the chapel on the 11th. As this becomes firmed up, more information will be sent out.

Please make your own hotel reservations by calling the Holiday Inn in Somerset, 202 Harman Street, 814-442-9611. They are holding rooms under “Clipped Wings” until

August 15, 2009. Should you need to speak with someone, please ask to speak to Kelly Murray. Room rate is \$84 plus tax with no charge for an extra person in the room.

Since all of you should be arriving by Thursday, September 10, a dinner has been arranged that night at “The Inn at Georgian Place,” which is a half a mile from our hotel. We will be having a five-course meal. The price is \$37.80 per person, which includes 6% tax and 20% gratuity.

Please mail **Aurelia Spence Luton** (10103 Four Iron Court, Fredericksburg, VA 22408) your entrée selection from the following three selections and include your check made out to “The Inn at Georgian Place” in the amount of \$37.80.

ENTREES

- 1-Maryland Crab Cakes with Remoulade Sauce
 - 2-Baked Stuffed Pork Chops with Stewed Apples
 - 3-Chicken Cordon Bleu with Black Forest Ham and Swiss Cheese Served with Supreme Sauce
- All entrees are served with appropriate side dishes of pasta, rice or potato and seasonal vegetables. Cocktails and Hors D’oeuvres will be served at 5:30 P.M. with dinner at 7:00 P.M.

For the memorial service on Friday, as a group, we are planning to wear dark slacks (navy or black) with white tops and one of our Clipped Wings® scarves.

This will be an emotional time for all of us, but one that needs to be remembered attended. We hope we will see many of you there.

The Flight 93 Committee is comprised of:

Blanche Harris (DCA), Chairman
C J Weber Borden (DCA)
Mary Nowacki Gorski (PIT)
Pat Blair Morris (EWR)
Karen Niles Williams (BWI)

Philanthropy Project Progress

The Philanthropy Project Committee has provided lodging and registration information for me to send with this President’s Letter. It is being included as separate attachments. Please forward those attachments to all your chapter members who have email so they all have it in writing.

The Embassy Suites, Lincoln is holding 50 rooms for Clipped Wings® for July 16-25, 2010.

Reservations will need to be made no later than **December 31, 2009**. Embassy Suites is within walking distance of volunteer venues at the University of Nebraska (where most of the venues are located) and the Healthy Athletes Clinic. Also, our Parents Reception will be in the hotel ballroom. Make reservations now; you can always cancel later. Important dates are:
July 16 - Volunteers Arrival for Cessna Airlift
July 17 - Cessna Airlift - Arrivals
July 20 - Clipped Wings® Reception
July 24 - Cessna Airlift - Departures

More information will also be in the next issue of the *Clipped Wings® Quarterly*.

Passage to Pleasant Places

My chapter visits during the month of June were to Redwood Empire (RDW), Marin (MAR) and O’Hare (ORD) Chapters.

On June 4th I traveled to San Francisco and was met at the airport by **Barbara Boll Bertacini** (RNO) and **Cheryl Mullins Jensen** (SMF), who were there to sell Clipped Wings® scarves in the “stew lounge.” It was fun to be able to witness this process and see the stew lounge area—it had been 40 years since I had been in one!

From there I took the Airporter bus to Santa Rosa. What a scenic drive that was. **Dona Weber Moberly** (RDW) and Jack met my bus and were my hosts. Since I had never been north of the San Francisco area before, they took me to see the beautiful Redwood trees, and we had lunch at the gorgeous Northwood Golf Course. I witnessed vineyard after vineyard as we drove to Armstrong Redwoods State Reserve, where I was able to see (and photograph) the Colonel Armstrong Redwood Tree that was 308 feet tall, 14.6 feet in diameter and 1400 years old. Amazing.

That evening we attended the Redwood Chapter fundraiser, a dress rehearsal for the play “In the Mood” at the Sixth Street Theater in Santa Rosa. Many Clipped Wings® members were dressed in 1940’s WWII era costumes. **June Porter Rittenhouse** even wore her own military uniform. Co-President and emcee for the night, **Ginny Sheahan**, distributed many raffle items at intermission. Thanks to **Marilyn**

Reynolds for her arrangements and attention to details.

The next day we went to the Sky Lounge restaurant at the Charles Schultz Airport for lunch and were joined by the Marin Chapter. After lunch we took a tour of the Pacific Coast Air Museum, to which both RDW and MAR chapters had donated items on display. We entered several different planes and were given very interesting details by two retired United Airlines captains who volunteer there.

After that tour, MAR Co-Presidents **Diane Hiegel Bazler** and **Stevie Pieschel Serleth** drove me to Larkspur where Stevie and husband Tom were my hosts. Their home had to be the most unique and historic of all my chapter visits. We joined several MAR Chapter board members for dinner at D'Angelo's in Mill Valley. Surprise guests were National Secretary **Christel Hasenbring Ilg** (CHI) and husband Harvey who were visiting in the area. Fun!

On June 18th my husband and I drove to Chicago (9 hours) to meet with Alex Marren (see article below) on June 19th and to visit the O'Hare Chapter the following Monday. I was a guest at their annual Golf Tournament fundraiser for the Countryside Association held at the Marriott Lincolnshire Resort. **Sylvia Hornaday Davis** was an excellent organizer, and her hard work was quite evident. I especially admired her "laid back" disposition when we arrived at the golf course to be told only eight holes of the eighteen were playable because the others were flooded. The golfers didn't mind because they were all given certificates to come back some other day for another FREE 18 holes of golf.

I paired up with **Elaine Dugan Reid** in the morning handing out goodie bags, golf shirts and bottles of water and then later with **Diana Ferber Baker** as we "worked" the 4th Hole measuring the "Straightest Shot." We shared so many laughs—especially when we discovered later that we were measuring the wrong thing. Not to worry though—as someone else measured what we thought we were supposed to. That night there was a delicious dinner (thankfully, in an air-conditioned tent!) with beautiful raffled baskets and many silent auction

items to bid on—my kind of dinner! My day's chauffeur was ORD President **Sandie Wiegel Finerty**.

Each and every chapter visit has been unique and such a testament to the wonderful camaraderie we share. Everyone has been so very accommodating, and I can't thank you enough for the love I have witnessed both towards me and toward each other. Thank you all!

No chapter visits are scheduled for July.

Positive UA Personnel Parley

While in Chicago for the ORD Chapter visit, I was also able to meet with Alex Marren, Sr. Vice President of Onboard Service at United.

Alex's Executive Assistant, Cindy Schaul, is a dear. They had torrential rains in Chicago Thursday night and Friday, and many of the roads were flooded--including right in front of United on Algonquin Road. She directed me "the back way," so that I could get to my appointment. It was scheduled for 5 p.m. on Friday. When Cindy set up the appointment, I was concerned that I was keeping Alex too late--and on a Friday afternoon at that--but Cindy assured me that even on a Friday that was not late for Alex.

The meeting lasted about 50 minutes. Alex was wonderfully pleasant and upbeat. We discussed our various personal backgrounds, etc. I talked about our Special Olympics involvement, plus the "new" philanthropy projects we took on this year--Flight 93 Memorial and CAUSE. She was glad to hear that Clipped Wings[®] was doing these things. I also mentioned that we had become a member of the UAHF Alliance this year and shared with her the Clipped Wings[®] profile I created for the UAHF website.

I thanked her again for the UA tickets for the Family Reception drawing in Boise and for getting the Airplane Scarf sanctioned to be worn with the flight attendant uniform. **Cheryl Mullins Jensen** (SMF) had sent me an updated Fundraising Report, which I shared with her so she could see the results of having the Airplane scarf sanctioned. Over \$9,700 profit so far! I told her about the popularity of the STEW scarf

when the AIRPLANE scarves were being sold at the different domiciles (having sold 93 of those since October). She said there was no way the Stew Scarf would also be sanctioned because of the scarf colors. It was hard enough to get the Airplane Scarf sanctioned. And there is no way the tie will ever be sanctioned with the current uniform because it does not look good with the blue shirt the male FAs wear.

May 15, 2010, is the 70th Anniversary of Stewardess Service. I told Alex that Clipped Wings® would love to be of service to United in any way possible in whatever activities they are planning to honor the flight attendants. She will pass this on to the person in charge of planning those activities.

I mentioned that both RUAEA and RUPA were linked on United's SkyNet website and asked if Clipped Wings® could be also. We later found that it is on "SkyNet Active," which is available only to current employees, but not on "SkyNet Light" available to retirees. It soon will be on both versions of SkyNet.

I also shared my "wish list" with her. She said YES to UA tickets for the Family Reception drawing in Lincoln. Everything else (reinstatement of positive space passes for volunteers to the Lincoln Special Olympics; for chapter delegates to the National Convention; and for National President's travel) she would have to look into, but gave me little hope since they were not giving passes to anyone in the various UA organizations at the present time. But she said it is always good to have dreams, and I should continue to do so. Ha! Alex was very easy to talk with. I left there feeling good about our meeting and am looking forward to talking with her again in the future.

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.

Pendulum Pulses

Countdown to:

Lincoln Special Olympics Natl. Summer Games
July 16-24, 2010 **382 Days**

Nashville Clipped Wings® Convention
September 22-26, 2010 **448 Days**

Postscript

In 1978 the great American philosopher, Dolly Parton, wrote and recorded the song, *Baby I'm Burning*. Some of the lyrics are:

This red hot emotion
Puts **fireworks** in motion
It looks like the **Fourth** of **July**
There's no use in fighting
The fire you've ignited
Just stand back and watch the sparks fly.

In 2003 her album *For God and Country* was released. One of her songs on that CD is *Color Me America*. Lyrics to that song include the following:

I am **red** and white and **blue**
These are colors that ring true
To all I am and feel and love and do
I stand proud and brave and tall
I want justice for us all
So color me America, **red**, white and **blue**.

Her video singing this song along with exhilarating **fireworks** serve as the patriotic grand finale of her Dixie Stampede shows located in several US cities.

May your 4th be glorious, your **fireworks** spectacular, and your parade rain free.

To blue skies and smooth landings,

Pam

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