



## President's Letter – June 2009

### Pam's Postings

June always brings to mind my dad. Not only because it's the month we celebrate Father's Day, but because his birthday was also on June 14<sup>th</sup>, which is Flag Day. My dad always claimed that they flew the flags for him. I don't know how old I was before I realized that really was not true. As I visited his grave on this past Memorial Day weekend, I found that the Boy Scouts had again decorated his grave (as a Veteran) with a flag. Little did they know how really symbolic that is to our family and the very special memories it has for me.

The month of June is also noted for:

- Father's Day (June 21)
- First Day of Summer (June 21)

June is "National Rose Month" (and the rose is the official flower for June). My special love for yellow roses is known by many. The month is also noted for weddings. In fact, June is named after Juno, the goddess of marriage, so some consider it good luck to be married during this month. Of course, June also means school is out for the summer, and those of us who are (or were) teachers can really celebrate that!

### Priorities

**June 15** – National Philanthropy Assessments for each active member are due to National Treasurer, **Sheryl Yanken Schubert** (DEN). Assessment is \$10 per member; or \$5 per "After April 1 Half Dues, First-Time members."

**June 30** – California Chapters Sales Tax Report due to California Tax Chair, **Barbara Arneson Basso** (MAR).

### Population Parameters

Both National Treasurer, **Sheryl Yanken Schubert** (DEN), and Address Chair, **Barb Eichel Dittig** (OAK), are in agreement that membership is currently at 1,292, which

includes 73 first-time members. Their breakdown of membership categories shows that almost three-fourths of the chapters (all but eight) have added at least one first-time member this year. That's outstanding! We are inching toward that 2007-08 membership for of 1,384. It's never too late to make a concerted effort to encourage previous members to rejoin and first-time members to come aboard. Dues can be paid until July 31.

### Philanthropy Project Progress

The new Philanthropy Project Committee for the 2010 Special Olympics National Summer Games spent two full days in Lincoln, NE, for their investigative trip on May 4-5. They met with the Games Operating Committee (GOC) and toured the various venues, checked out five possible Family Reception sites, obtained catering menus/prices, considered lodging possibilities and received more information about our involvement in the Games. I met with the committee on May 5, and received an update from them. We will be helping with the Cessna Airlift on July 17 so make plans to arrive on July 16 if you want to be involved in that event. Our Reception will be early in the week, on Tuesday, July 20, and it will be appetizers (not a meal). We also have many other opportunities to volunteer at the sports venues throughout the week. There's still much to be decided; I will keep you posted when the information becomes available.

### Paraphernalia on Parade

The United Airlines Historical Foundation (UAHF) is working on a project with the Smithsonian's National Air and Space Museum and the San Francisco Airport Museum to catalog Flight Attendant uniforms. The project **needs your help** with donation of uniform items. The UAHF website contains information

about how to donate along with the list of items needed. The list is on a non-public page and may be accessed with user name and password. Go to: <http://www.uahf.org/custom/login.asp> and log in using “ellen” as the User Name and “church” as the Password. If you have uniforms that you don’t know what to do with, please help UAHF complete this project.

## Passage to Pleasant Places

My chapter visits during the month of May were to the CHI, MKE, DCA, LAX and PHX Chapters. On Friday, May 1, I flew to Chicago and was the guest of **Christel Hasenbring Ilg** (CHI) and husband Harvey. Christel took me on a scenic tour of the Chicago area before we attended the “Derby Day” Tri-Chapter (CHI, ORD & MKE) Luncheon held in the Metropolitan Club in the Sears Tower--thanks to **Dianne Holmberg Bastian** (CHI). What a view! There were 53 members present, including guests from SMF, RNO, STL, MHT, and DTW Chapters (plus me from the OMA Chapter). President **Audrey Hopp Allison** (CHI) created a fun-filled Kentucky Derby Horse Race representing the different chapters. Later that evening **Sylvia Hornaday Davis** (ORD) hosted a cocktail party. The next day Christel drove me to Milwaukee for a MKE Chapter luncheon at the home of **Pat Bruders Pauly**. Lots of laughs were shared, and we had our own “spa treatment.” On the way home, we stopped in Lake Geneva for some shopping (of course!) and site seeing. I was able to spend Christel’s birthday (May 3) with her in their country home.

The next weekend I flew to DCA. When leaving the airport, I had lunch with four chapter members (**Vonne Schauer Kleven, Aurelia Spence Luton, Ann Harding Smith**, and Chapter President **Pat Powers Rothacker**) at Bastille’s in Alexandria’s Old Town. My hosts were Vonne and husband Bill, and Vonne also hosted the “Hawaiian Luau” themed luncheon meeting the next day. I was delighted to meet the 22 members who attended. After the luncheon Vonne took me into Washington, DC, for some site seeing. I hadn’t been there since

1967! I was particularly impressed with the new FDR Memorial.

The next weekend I flew to Los Angeles for the LAX Spring Luncheon. **Sam Mohr-Good** certainly made my stay memorable. We started with a tour of the Flight Path Museum (wonderful!) and lunch at Scotty’s right on Hermosa Beach as we viewed the Pacific Ocean. She then took me to their main charity—the South Bay Vocational Center—where I was able to see the impact that LAX Clipped Wings® has made on that facility and its clients. So very inspiring! We also visited the Reagan Library on the way to Sam and husband Jim’s Porter Ranch home. Rush hour on the 101 was an experience I’m glad I witnessed—not quite like Omaha! Saturday on the way to the luncheon we stopped at Pepperdine University and visited the Heroes Garden, a memorial to the victims of 9/11, particularly Pepperdine alumnus Thomas Bennett who died in the crash of Flight 93. It overlooked Malibu and the Pacific Ocean. So emotional and breathtaking! The LAX Spring Luncheon was filled with food, flowers and fun at the home of **Jo Polson Michel** in Pacific Palisades (close-by neighbors to Whoopi and Arnold)! It was so good to see old friends and meet new ones. I also got to visit with fellow National Officer--Editor **Mary Ann Niehus McGarry**. After leaving the luncheon Sam, **Rae Rutherford Shumard** and I visited the new Getty Center Museum. Wow!

I returned home on Sunday and left Tuesday morning for a Phoenix Chapter visit. They had an exquisite Tea at Champagne’s in Scottsdale. There were 25 ladies present and co-presidents **Pinky Cleary Kubiak** and **Ernie DeFord Heywood** made sure I got some shopping and site seeing in after the luncheon. That evening **Gail Gardiner Schiffman** hosted a dinner for eight of us. What fun we had. I must also thank dear **Karen Shannon** for transporting me to and from the hotel and pointing out several sites along the way. The next day Ron and **Barbara Boll Bertacini** (RNO) drove my husband “Z” and I to Sedona to have lunch with Bob and **Sue Schnieder Dannert** (PHX) at the Enchantment Resort. I had never been to that part of Arizona, so you can imagine how impressed I was with

the red rocks of Sedona. Of course, Barbara and I did “major” shopping too—wind sculptures.

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. Even though this past month was a whirlwind of activity, it has to be “right up there” among the most enriching days of my life. Thank you all!

My chapter visits for June include RDW, MAR and ORD chapters.

## Prior Personnel in PHX

Phoenix also was the site of the Retired United Airlines Employees Association (RUAEA) Convention May 17-24, which I was lucky enough to attend. Executive Vice President Ron Bertacini was instrumental in seeing that I was a guest of the organization. It was held at the beautiful Hyatt Hotel in downtown Phoenix. Ron and **Barbara Boll Bertacini** (RNO) made sure that “Z” and I were well taken care of! It was such an interesting and informative convention, and the people were very friendly and fun. I also got several ideas to share with our convention chairmen. It was great to see several Clipped Wings® members there, and I’m so glad I got to meet and spend time with long-time member **Joan Denton Jervis** (MAL).

A **very important** bylaw change was passed at the convention that opens membership in RUAEA to **all** former United Airlines employees of retirement age. You no longer have to be retired from United to join. I signed up for a three-year membership on the spot! (Only \$25 a year or \$60 for three years—a one-time-only offer). You can contact Ron for more information: [bertacini@surewest.net](mailto:bertacini@surewest.net) and/or go to the RUAEA website to sign up: <http://www.ruaea.org/>

RUAEA has an award winning monthly newsletter; it is so informative. I have been receiving it (as a National President courtesy), and I look forward to it each month. Vice President **Barbara Hake Vincent** (SEA) writes a column about Clipped Wings® in every issue.

## Please Pardon What’s Printed

Unfortunately, errors pop up at the most inopportune times, and those need to be corrected. In the *Clipped Wings® Quarterly* that you will soon receive such an error appears in the last paragraph of the LAX Chapter article. Correction: Former LAX and OCC member, Pat Dungan (Olsen) Schoneberger's daughter Darcy passed away recently, after valiantly fighting Scleroderma for several years. **Patricia Brown Strohecker's** daughters are all alive and well.

Also in the recent *Clipped Wings® National Roster and Bylaws* in the list of Past National Presidents, Joyce Perkio Eldred’s name was inadvertently in bold and marked “In Memoriam.” Joyce has **not** passed away. We apologize for these misprints.

## 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.

**Gail Andrus Preston** (OCC) has recently returned home from many days in the hospital with double pneumonia, and thankfully she is recovering nicely.

Many might remember **Helen Louise Motter Thwing** (SEA). She passed away in May. She was a very young 95. I remember her volunteering at the Special Olympics in Ireland in 2003. She was probably the oldest volunteer; they even wrote an article about her for coming to Ireland to volunteer at her age. You may still read about it on the link: <http://tinyurl.com/nc5u77>

## Pilgrimage to Pennsylvania

I mentioned in my last letter that the National Officers will be attending the September 11 anniversary service at the Flight 93 Memorial Chapel in Shanksville, PA, and we would like to invite all Clipped Wings®

members to attend also. We will be presenting our \$1,000 donation at that time. It would be nice to have a large group of members there. We had thought about a bus from the Pittsburgh airport to the site, but with too many different times of arrivals and return departures, it does not seem feasible. Car rental seems to be the best transportation. Shanksville is about an hour and a half from Pittsburgh. **Blanche Harris** (DCA), Chair of the Flight 93 Committee, has suggested that those wanting to spend the night stay in Somerset.

## Present Powwow Planning

The 2010 National Convention Chair, **Mary K. Doherty Dana** (OCC), reports that all events and activities chairmanships have now been filled. She is also working on selecting a logo from several that were submitted. I get so excited each time I think about the Grand Ole Convention in Nashville!

## Projected Powwow Planning

I've just received wonderful news that the Seattle (SEA) Chapter will be the hosts of the 2012 National Convention. **Louise Vacca Mennella** and **Norma Artzer Evered** have graciously volunteered to be co-chairs. They have already received confirmation from the Portland (PDX) Chapter offering their assistance, so they are well on their way to planning a great convention.

National Convention Liaison (and 2008 LAX Convention Co-chair) **Carolyn Younger Plumley** (LAX) has been most helpful in providing information to give the SEA Chapter a good foundation.

SEA last hosted a convention in 1988—the first time I was elected to a National Office, so it holds a soft spot in my heart. Thank you to SEA for stepping up to the plate and volunteering to host a chapter-sponsored convention. I know it will be another fantastic convention for us all.

## Pendulum Pulses

Countdown to:

**Lincoln** Special Olympics Natl. Summer Games  
July 16-24, 2010 **412 Days**

**Nashville** Clipped Wings® Convention  
September 22-26, 2010 **478 Days**

## Postscript

In my May letter I noted that the great American philosopher, Dolly Parton, had written and recorded the song, *Yellow Roses* in 1989. Since June is National Rose Month and the yellow rose is the flower of Clipped Wings®, it seems only fitting that she makes an encore appearance this month. You can hear this on *YouTube*. <http://tinyurl.com/dldswg>

Speaking of that great American philosopher, we can now refer to her as “Dr. Dolly” since she received an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville on May 8. She is also the cover girl for the May/June *AARP Magazine*. She never ceases to amaze me.

To blue skies and smooth landings,

*Pam*

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