

## **A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

This is my second – and last – message to you on the website as President, as my term is soon ending much too quickly. So many things to do and so little time – I had hoped to accomplish more in my term of office, however in the short time I had and with fewer meetings some projects will have to be carried over into the following year. I think a lot of Past Presidents had the same feeling I am having – sad to think my term is ending, but in some ways glad to turn over the gavel to someone else!

It has been a good year and I want to thank all the dedicated and conscientious members who served on a committee, edited and worked on the UPDATE, kept the website up-to-date and the members who worked “behind the scenes”. The many hours everyone put in for the benefit of the Association is appreciated. A special Thank You goes to the members of the Executive Committee for their guidance, patience and dedication to the Association. I also want to thank and recognize all of the agency membership liaisons who have helped by posting material so that members and potential members can be well informed on issues, conference, awards, elections and available trainings.

As spring brings change, also changes in the Association are in the future. Ideas and suggestions as to how to enhance and improve WSSA will be implemented. It is hoped that any changes that occur will make the Association better and stronger. For example, most districts do not have quarterly meetings anymore, however regional trainings were successful a couple of years ago. I hope we can again have regional trainings, in order to reach more members in the State, hopefully involve more members and obtain new ones.

The 72<sup>nd</sup> Annual Training Institute and Conference is almost here, (May 27, 28 & 29, 2009) and I hope you can attend and have your registration in. (Or if you read this after May 29<sup>th</sup>, I hope you enjoyed the workshops and camaraderie.) The conference is a great way to obtain the training needed and receive the necessary credits. It is also a time to network with others in your field, share ideas and discuss concerns. I especially enjoy attending the annual conferences to see friends I have made over the years – many who have retired like me and only see once a year. It is also a great time to meet WSSA members I have only talked to by telephone or communicate via e-mail and to make new friends from all over the State.

It has been an honor to serve as your President. THANK YOU for all of your support and encouragement. It has been my privilege to work with so with the many dedicated, talented and enthusiastic individuals. Keep up the good work and involvement as you benefit and WSSA benefits!

I would like to close with the following thought:

### **When you Get to the end of Your Rope...Tie a Knot in it and Hang On!**

Two frogs fell into a deep cream bowl;  
One was an optimistic soul,  
But the other took the gloomy view,  
“We’ll drown,” he cried, without more ado,  
And with a lasting despairing cry,  
He flung up his legs and said, “Goodbye.”

Quote the other frog with steadfast grin,  
“I can’t get out, but I won’t give in.  
I’ll just swim around till my strength is spent,  
Then I’ll die the more content.”  
Bravely he swam to work his scheme,  
And his struggles began to churn the cream.

The more he swam, his legs a-flutter,  
The more the cream turned into butter.  
On top of the butter at last he stopped  
And out of the bowl he gaily hopped.  
What is the moral? It’s easily found –  
If you can’t hop out, keep swimming around!

So, hang in there – and Make a Difference!

Please call or e-mail me at anytime with questions, suggestions or ideas – or just to keep in touch!

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