

Communication

...from the President General

Almost Merry Christmas!

On this day after Winter Solstice, I hope the earlier sunrise reached you! Cloudy and drizzle here in Marietta, Georgia, as is usual for Christmas time. Besides wishing all my fellow Compatriots and their families a Merry Christmas, I wanted to give you some great year end SAR News.

The Keynote Speaker for the Tuesday July 17th PG's Banquet in Houston will be Scouting Chief Executive Michael Surbaugh! In keeping with my usual outside the box guy, I asked Peter Grassl of Kansas if he could potentially obtain Mr. Surbaugh as our speaker. Today he confirmed that that will happen. In addition to all else that will happen at the end of this SAR year at Congress, we will have a great treat in the Keynote Speaker.

The Protiviti IT Audit has been finished and the Ad Hoc Committee's summary has been received. It will be a roadmap for the way forward and will be in the Trustee's ShareFile Folder shortly. We are preparing for the Request For Proposal (RFP) for a new website management contract now that our current contract cancellation has been sent out. We are looking forward to making our website perform as we hoped it would.

New application times are between 4 and 5 weeks and supplements are down from 26 weeks to 15 and falling. The genealogy staffing is full and with 9 full and part time people, we are set to improve times and quality.

Compatriot Wayne Snodgrass has produced and funded a DVD for a "How To" on presenting to schools and others. It will be available shortly. This is based on what others have done with the Traveling Trunk and the Colorado Patriot's Chest. For those who want to make presentations and don't know how (I wish I had this before I first presented in 1998) this is great. For those experienced, it is another tactic to improve. Thanks, Wayne.

Even though this is a holiday time, take a few minutes before next weekend to personally contact those in your chapter who have yet to renew. If you had forgotten, or misplaced your renewal, or had not been reminded, would you be glad someone took the time to contact you before you would be listed as non-renewed? I and three others in my chapter will be doing just this. Let's shoot for 100% renewal as a goal.

Before the start of next year's travel season, I wanted to take a moment to thank everyone across the country who have welcomed Karin and I to their States. The snow followed us from Houston(!) through Atlanta to Norfolk to Delaware and Baltimore, so we have experienced a white December (no, it did not stop my running--only 8 miles to go to reach my 1200 for the year!)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All,