

**55th WA-AK Division
Annual Meeting & Leadership Conference**

**May 17 - 20, 2007
Redmond WA**

The meeting theme was "Flying High with Technology" and was hosted by the Lake Washington East Chapter. Redmond is a beautiful location and as Bev Ostoj shared, the hotel, food and hospitality were above and beyond.

On Friday, the first professional development seminar was very timely for me. Karen Wright presented the "Eye of the Storm", finding calm in the chaos of your day-to-day life. We did several interactive geared toward thinking beyond the crisis and learned from group interaction.

One thing that I took with me came from a personal story Karen shared. It went like this...she had a great idea she couldn't wait to share with her team. When she did, everyone was excited and supportive; but the more she talked and shared the vision, the more the team's enthusiasm faded to zero. She didn't get it, but one person came to her later and asked if she knew why the great idea fizzled? The person told her that it was because there wasn't any room for the team and their input.

I can honestly say that had I not attended this seminar I would have started my chapter obligations in somewhat the same way -- I believe in TEAM but my enthusiasm and vision may limit interaction. I'm working on it, for the good of the whole.

The second seminar was led by Faisal Jaswal and Gabrielle Bennett from Bellevue Community College on "Building & Preparing Your Preferred Future", recognizing and making deliberate choices and decisions. They had such a wealth of knowledge; we were reeling from facts, figures and encouragement...so many choices, so little time.

What I grasped from our session was that we must be deliberate in what we do, each day, in order to attain the outcome we desire. We should set goals in all areas of our life and find ways to have them interweave as we attain them.

Saturday morning opening ceremonies were the buzz of the meeting. After Friday nights shopping, then wining and dining at Microsoft, we were given a preview presentation from Jared Andersen, Sr. Production Manager on the new features of Outlook and Word 2007...you're going to love it! They have taken the great Outlook scheduling, meeting notices and calendaring features and linked them together. You ladies that maximize this program will be able to color code, maintain your settings and more. When you get it, you'll get it.

After the opening ceremonies, Redmond's Mayor, Rosemarie Ives welcomed us. She first asked who was from Alaska, and Anchorage. She attended the Mayor's conference with Mayor Begich and wanted to send her greetings. I sent Mayor Ives' greeting and received a thank you from Mayor Begich.

The business meeting was full of energy as we were tasked with reviewing 12 proposed bylaw changes, approving the 2007-2008 budget and elections. The majority of bylaw changes were considered housekeeping, to bring them in line with the International bylaws. The Division was hoping to have a dues increase to help offset some of their expenses; it was voted down. The delegates felt that the Chapters are also struggling and an increase would not be in the best interest of the whole.

The proposed budget was also heavily discussed, as it based on the dues increase and had several unclear expenses. When we returned from lunch, we continued with the budget and agreed that the Board should present a balanced budget for approval; this would be done that evening. We then went on to elections. The slate was presented and the Vice President position received a nomination from the floor - Linda Cook, CPS/CAP - and was elected for the year.

Our 2007-2008 Division officers are: Jacqueline Petrick, President; Pam Clark Hamilton, President-Elect; Linda Cook, Vice President; Linda Nielsen, Secretary; and Beverly Ostoj, Treasurer.

We went long on Saturday and had to meet Sunday morning at 7a, but were able to approve a budget that presented more income than expense. Unfortunately, we were unable to hear from International President Sandra P. Chandler CPS; a major disappointment for all. President Chandler was very gracious and interacted before and after the meetings.

The banquet, with silent and live auctions, was full of magic...really, we had a magician entertain us and it was intriguing. Emily even got involved. We did not have a Chapter basket, but had two for the live auction and two, plus several individual pieces for the silent auction. Dianne made two necklace and earring sets for the live auction. The auction began with a \$20 a ticket drawing for any basket on the table, one of ours went for the pot, which we figure was at least \$400! The official amounts are not available, as the host chapter did not individually record the information. As always, the Alaskana baskets did well for the Division...thank you, Ladies!

I left the banquet early to prepare to reconvene the business session at 7a. I was informed that we did not receive any chapter awards for the year; there's always next year. After finishing the business session, we heard from the Boeing Company's Michael Dimeo Ph. D, who spoke on our incoming theme, Forward Thinking. He touched on balance, achieving satisfaction in all areas of your life, and the road to success for us and IAAP.

President Petrick presented her vision and goals for the new year, which includes education, being a resource to the chapters, and two-way communication. "Forward Thinking Leads to Innovation" is our theme and each president was asked to let go of the past and embrace this new beginning. I committed on behalf of the Billikin Chapter and will do my best, with your help, to keep the chapter moving in a positive, productive direction for all.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you at this Division meeting. Have a great summer!

Submitted by EJ Johnson CPS/CAP