

Well, here it is! I'm writing my last president's letter. I must admit that I am looking forward to attending Gateway meetings holding less responsibility. It has been an interesting couple of years. I have learned a lot about the chapter, it's members, and myself. Thank you for this opportunity.

Our meeting this month will have a patriotic theme. I'm sure some of you are thinking, "Patriotic in November? What about fall?" If you think about it, November can be a patriotic month. We have national elections, Veteran's Day, and our own chapter elections. So show your patriotic streak at the November meeting. Dress up, have fun!

Retreat was absolutely wonderful. Well done, Ellen and company! We had a fun, relaxing, and creative time. Be sure to wear your Olympic Painter's medals to the meeting. Bring some of your retreat work (even if it's not finished) for the Show and Tell table. Thanks again Ellen for a great time.

I've got a big thank you for Judy Dodson and her nominating committee, Lorie Reece and Mary Jo Kumer. I think these three ladies deserve a lot of respect. It's not easy to make so many phone calls and hear no for an answer so many times. I asked Judy to take on this responsibility because of her interest in and knowledge of the absentee ballot system. I know that several members are utilizing the absentee ballot this year. I appreciate them taking the interest in our chapter and being heard even though they couldn't be at the meeting. I also appreciate the ladies that are stepping up and running for office. I'm glad you put your names on the ballot early so that we could all make an informed choice instead of a last minute decision. KUDOS to you. I'd also like to thank Mary McEntire, Dixie Reeb, and Debbie Christenson for being tellers for the vote. This year to receive your ballot you will be asked to sign your name. We want to have an organized system for the ballot distributing.

At the November meeting we will also discuss the 2005 meeting location. The choices we have are: Bridgeton after 2:00 pm; Maryland Heights Community Center; St. Ann Community Center; and St. Peters Community Arts Center. At this time, The Mills does not give their room to community groups. The voting procedure for the new location will be as follows: you will be provided with a sheet detailing information on the four choices; we will discuss the choices; we will vote for our 1st choice; then everyone will revote for our second choice; and likewise for the third choice. By revoting, we will get a more accurate account of the choices.

Also, I need the committee chair people for 2004 to give me a list of their committee members by November 14th.

Finally, it is with both sadness and relief that I say good-bye to my fellow board members. I have greatly enjoyed working with you this year. Thank you for the support and for the alternative viewpoints. We have made a fair and balanced team. I've enjoyed you all.

See you in November,
Allison

