



May 1, 2016

Dear Leaders,

Regretfully the time has come for me to say "farewell" to my president's term. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting the hospitals I got a chance to visit as well as meeting each of you. This past year has been an amazing time for me because of you, the volunteers at large, getting to know each of you and seeing the love of giving in each of your hearts.

I take with me memories of every time of togetherness I shared with so many. I would be remiss if I did not mention the memories of those volunteers who also gave so much but have now retired or their souls are at peace. Leaders, I urge you to find time in your membership meetings to invite and recognize the retired volunteers and remember those volunteers whose souls have come to a peaceful rest.

Please know despite me moving out of the role as SED's president, you can always call on me to help with whatever project you would like to undertake. I am more than willing to help and continue my friendship with each of you.

I encourage you and the volunteers at large to continue the work you are doing and please continue to take the time to report your work in an article to the Highlights and Digest Newsletters. Those publications are read by so many not just volunteers. Many of the heads of each hospital and their respective staffs read this information. So never think your articles are just a repetitious request that is printed, put aside or goes unread.

I am so very thankful for the many invitations I received to your events during my tenure. Also, for those auxiliaries who invited me to install new officers. All of these events will always be a time when I will look back and reflect on each. Since writing poetry is one of my favorite past-times, I am certain, at some point I will compile all of my memories into a poem or a short poetic story. In the very near future, I look forward to publishing my work with much prayer and sending each of you an invitation to a book signing.

So many have sent me emails asking me, since I am the first person of color to hold this position if I found some of my experiences uncomfortable. I did in some very minute ways experience things that could have been uncomfortable to some but I am one who is very confident in myself and have no insecurities therefore I can honestly say as I have for many years and will continue to do so, I do not allow anyone to steal the joy in my heart or the confidence imbedded in my soul. I am never surprised of such incidents, I expect them. However, my eyes are always looking at what is ahead of me and how I can succeed at what is expected of me. I am one who maintains a positive environment and a positive outlook on life which reflects my mind, thoughts and actions. Needless to say, without a doubt my faith is the key to how I live my life.

Don't forget the SED's Election and Installation Meeting May 17, 2016, MAHA's Annual Meeting on Mackinac Island and MAHA's Fall Conference in Frankenmuth. If I don't see you at all of these meeting, I look forward to seeing you at some.

As I close this letter, again I "thank you" for the cooperation and respect you have given to me.

*I now view my theme no longer being; TOGETHER...WE CAN! instead
TOGETHER...WE DID!*

Always and from the Heart!

Pat Esselman, SED President