

May 2011

Dear Members,

It is hard to believe that it is almost the end of May, but at least the sun is shining (right now, that is) and it is so very warm.

I would like to welcome all the new officers and a big thank you to you and the returning officers. It is so nice to have so many members care so much about their chapter and willing to do what they can so you will have a successful year and chapter!. I look forward to meeting you and working together to make our organization better than ever.

Are you advertising your chapter in the paper? Maybe putting out posters? Have you remembered about the **\$250.00** a chapter will receive from Headquarters? Since last IRD I have been placing tickets in a container for each new member. I will take them to IRD and a drawing will be held and a chapter in each Regional Director's area will receive a check. So, the more new members you enroll in your chapter gives you a much better chance in the drawing.

Also, the chapter with the most new members and those that membership's have expired return to chapter, will be in the running for the \$25.00 that I offered after last years rally. The award will be given at this years rally, providing the winning chapter is in attendance at this years rally.

Wisconsin, **Ohio**, Indiana and Minnesota is hosting IRD (International Recognition Days) in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on July 7-9, 2011 at the Hilton Hotel and the Milwaukee theater in downtown Milwaukee.

We would like to encourage your participation as the host state to support our efforts as we welcome members from around TOPS World.

You may register on line through the TOPS website at www.tops.org and go to the tops store or you can check out IRD registration in the Dec/Jan and in the April/May issues of the TOPS News.

I hope a lot of you are planning on attending IRD in Milwaukee in July. It will really be a fun one. Jim and I are going on the tour that will take us where they make Jelly Belly, and do some shopping! Yea! I can't wait (Jim is not too excited about this tour, the shopping scares him!) This will be the closest IRD will be for a few years. Next year is San Diego! If you are in Milwaukee, please look me up. We will be staying at the Hilton.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO MAKE THIS A SUCCESS.

I would like to thank TOPS President, Barbara Cady, Regional Director Ruth Gielow, the Ohio Field Staff, and the Committee for a wonderful SRD. Big thanks to Gwenn Smith, Minnesota Coordinator for coming to Ohio and doing the KOPS workshop. If you were not there, you really missed a good one. Everyone should have the chance to attend one of Barb Cady's workshops. We are already busy working on next years SRD. If you would like to be involved and are willing to work, please contact me.

CONGRATULATIONS to Marsha Piatt for receiving the honor of TOP Area Captain of Ohio at the SRD in Columbus, presented to her by Regional Director, Ruth Gielow. Great job, Marsha! I am so proud of her.

Kris Senn took oodles of pictures at the SRD. He is an excellent photographer and has offered to make a CD of “The Best of SRD.” He also has a photo of every KOPS in the Circle of Light! We will take orders for anyone that would like one. They are \$5.00 and Kris has said he will donate 20% from the sales of the CD back to the SRD. If you would like one, please send a chapter check or money order to Elaine Cottrill, 1185 Stark Drive, Alliance, Ohio 44601. I will forward these to Kris and they will be mailed to you.

A note from Doris Lutz, our 50 year KOPS. She writes “ I would like to thank those who attended our last KOPS Society meeting. The fellowship, the honors and flowers I received sure made me feel so special. Jennie Kaminski and I have been proud to represent this area and Ohio all these 50 years and show that TOPS does work. Hope to see everyone at the next KOPS Society meeting in June.” Congratulations to Doris and Jennie! Doris received her necklace and certificate for her 50th anniversary as a KOPS at SRD. Jennie is in assisted living, but she is doing great and we are very proud of both!

And now, from the new **KOPS Society Kaptain, Ann Sloan**, she would like for all KOPS and “going to be KOPS” to join them at the Silver Park, 2930 S. Union Ave., Alliance, Ohio 44601. Bring a picnic lunch and meet in the Rustic Pavilion from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. June 11th. Also wear comfy walking shoes for a walk around the beautiful lake. (Save some bread crumbs for the ducks). For more information, please contact Ann at 330-794-8311.

The Area Captains and I will be planning workshops and we hope you will plan on attending. Everyone is welcome. We would like to visit your chapters, so please contact each one of us. For Summit and Portage counties, contact Marsha at 330-274-8933. For Mahoning and Trumbull counties, contact Mary Ann at 330-898-3508 and for Stark county contact Denise at 330-454-9739. Columbiana, Carroll, Jefferson, Harrison, Belmont and Monroe, and any of my chapters, contact me at 330-823-6751.

Don't forget to check out the Ohio website, www.topspride.org You can also visit Minnesota, Wisconsin and Indiana on the same website. You can get ideas for programs and contests, besides finding out what is happening in Ohio.

Now, just a short recap: **Pictures by Kris, KOPS Society June 11th, workshops and chapter visits! We are here for you!**

TOPS Hugs,
Elaine