

August 2018

Riding the Wave of Inspiration

To start our four days together, I decided to focus on the theme Karen chose for her biennium. As I engaged in the only kind of surfing I'm ever likely to do, I was surprised to discover that there are multitudes of inspiring surfer quotes to be found on the Internet. But the one that inspired me most is from Bethany Hamilton, the young surfer who was attacked by a shark and lost an arm. While she was recovering, she was asked if she'd ever surf again. Without hesitation, she replied that of course she would. "I love surfing much more than I'm afraid of sharks." Her dedication to something she loved inspired her to overcome any fears she might have. So while working together this week, let's be just as inspired to focus on what we love--the wonderful organization known as Alpha Delta Kappa.

Working Together

One of my ADK sisters gave me a copy of a book she received when she became the chaplain of Gamma a long time ago. The book was edited by Florence Hendricksen in 1966 and is full of many great inspirational poems and passages. This one seemed appropriate for us as we continue our tasks:

We all have a share in the beauty,
We all have a part in the plan,
What does it matter what duty
Falls in the lap of each man?
Someone has blended the plaster,
Someone has carried the stone;
Neither the man nor the master,
Ever has built things alone.
Making a roof for the weather,
Or building a house for a king;
Only by working together
Have we ever accomplished a thing.

Walt Disney Quote

Everyone knows who Walt Disney is, and since we're so close to Disneyland, I just had to include one of my favorite quotes from him. Somebody once asked him what they should do to start a career in animation, and he replied, "The way to get started is to quit talking and begin doing." So let's follow Walt's advice. I'll quit talking, and we can begin doing the work we need to accomplish for the day.

Lamps

As the president of Gamma this biennium, I've decided to end each meeting with us singing "The Lamp of ADK". So when my eyes saw the title of this poem from the book I was given, I had to share it.

Lamps

I met a stranger in the night
Whose lamp had ceased to shine.
I paused to let him light his lamp
From the fire that burned in mine.
A tempest sprang up later on
And blew the world about,
And when the wind was calmed and gone
I saw *my* lamp was out.
But back the stranger quickly came-
His lamp was glowing fine-
He gave to me his precious flame
And gladly lighted mine!

Let's share our lamps of ADK and light the lamps of all our other ADK sisters, especially those whose lights might be dimming.

Instant Garden of Success

This is a cute poem that our chaplain shared at Gamma's June meeting.

Some tips for making your garden an instant success:

Plant five rows of peas:

Patience, perseverance, preparation, planning, and positivity

Include three rows of squash:

Squash negativity, squash idleness, squash hurtfulness

Add five rows of lettuce:

Let us be positive, let us take responsibility, let us be in control, let us reward our accomplishments, let us be

empowered

And no garden would be complete without turnips:

Turn up with a positive attitude, turn up with a smile, turn up
with new ideas, turn up with determination, turn up with
success

May all of our gardens flourish!

The Challenge of Change

The hard fact that everyone must cope with is change. Things just don't stand still. The world is changing around us, and although we might feel secure and comfortable with how things are, we must keep pace. We just start feeling accustomed to things as they are when life pushes us into something new. Several of us are new to the ADK State Board of Directors, and almost everyone is new to their job. And all of will agree that the ADK we all know and love is changing, too. We are often reluctant to give up the old and familiar, but we must now look forward to the new with eager anticipation. Once we have adjusted, we will realize that change can actually be good for us. As we begin this two year adventure, we need to keep in mind the words of Edwin Markham, an early day California teacher and poet:

Yesterdays are the shells we shed;
The best is always up ahead.
There's always some new world for winning,
And every end is a new beginning.

Today's The Time By Charles G. Reigner

We cannot hope to see the distant way.
The future lies beyond our mortal sight.
The past is gone with all its disarray,
Today's the time to think and plan aright.

What's done today will make the next task clear.
We dare not sit and let the days go by
Or yield despairingly to anxious fear,
But rather do today what meets the eye.

To work with faith and courage in the heart,

To act today on what we've learned and know,
To take the step which means we've made a start
Will give us all a satisfying glow.

Above the mists of doubt, there's still a ray
Of light to break the clouds of fear and dread.
Although we cannot see the distant way,
We *can* take the step that's just ahead.

The Value of Time
By Florence Hendricksen

Time passes quickly. There is nothing we can do about it but see that it passes fruitfully. If someone accomplishes more during the day than another, it is not because he had more time, but rather because he used his time more advantageously.

If, in passing, time lays up its store of good deeds done, of noble ambitions upheld heroically, of kindness and sympathy scattered with a lavish hand, there will be given to it an enduring quality which nothing can take away.

The past is gone. The future has not yet come. The present is all we have. We cannot change the past, nor can we draw upon the future. But we can use the present.

Our time this week has flown by, but I believe we did pass it fruitfully. We accomplished much, and now get to go back to our chapters, share what we've learned and done, and plan for the future.