

## **Southern District Thoughts - March 13, 2021**

### **Opening Thoughts:**

Our theme today is “Together We Bloom!” We look around us now and we see encouraging signs of spring. Fading away are the 2020 despairs of a pandemic world, students unable to get the best education we know how to give them, too many families in isolation and unable to hug, too many lives lost. 2021 is springing up before us with many enchanting blooms. Blooms of vaccines and the changing world they bring, blooms of schools giving our children and their teachers safe spaces to learn together again, blooms of smiles on sisters faces as we look forward to meeting in person, and finally blooms of happiness when we are able to hug each other and our loved ones once again. Spring has sprung and we are reveling in the beautiful blooms in our future. Today we have a chance to connect with each other. We have a chance to revitalize the old desolate garden of covid despair. A chance to spring out of our doldrums and learn new ideas about water conservation gardens and succulent centerpieces. We have a chance, even though far away from each other, to be closer to each other in spirit. Goethe (Grrta) said, “The world is so empty if one thinks only of mountains, rivers and cities; but to know someone who thinks and feels with us, and who, though distant, is close to us in spirit, this makes the earth for us an inhabited garden.” Let’s revel in this blooming garden of sisterhood at our Southern District Conference today.

### **Closing Thoughts:**

A wise person said, “You have to nourish to flourish.” Today we have been nourished by the beauty of nature in the company of each other. We have toured the Water Conservation Garden and learned how to make a spectacular succulent centerpiece. We have soothed each other’s spirits as we float in this ocean of sisterhood. Nature and our ADK community has nurtured us. Nature and community speaks to the deepest parts of our soul,

taking us out of our everyday worries and concerns. Today we had a chance to bloom in our inhabited garden of sisterhood. Let's take the spirit of a blooming garden back to our chapters. Let's help our sisters grow out of their isolated garden of 2020 and into the sun filled, flower filled garden we see before us. Let's all bloom in 2021!