

Dear SILA Family,

The 2011-12 year is now history. What a year we have had! When we gathered for our retreat in August 2011, we planned our year's agenda following the program outlined at our International Convention in Canada. The club's proposed activities were divided into Program, Membership, Public Awareness, and Mission Support. Each of our projects was categorized into one of the sections. I must admit that I feared we may have been a bit too ambitious with the number of tasks that we adopted, but I am proud to report that we completed everything we set out to do, including two added activities, the celebration of our 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and a Youth Forum, which fell under a 5<sup>th</sup> category, Special Projects.

To the officers, directors, and members I owe much gratitude! You made this a year of accomplishments. You worked hard and now it is time to rest and rejuvenate in preparation for the "real" anniversary year. Although we've begun our celebration, our actual anniversary date is July 19, 1922, so we get to continue during the next club year (August through December) with a bit more revelry. Hmmm, what can we do next to recognize the achievements of our club?

SPECIAL THANKS TO EACH OF YOU: To **Carole**, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, for an outstanding Program year, for organizing and facilitating a most successful Teen Forum, and for serving as my right hand/arm; **Pam**, our 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President, for her ideas that resulted in a very successful Awards Luncheon and for her commitment to our Mission Support; **Joyce**, our fabulous Secretary, who not only kept excellent records but also chaired our WOA committee and almost single-handedly ensured that our Teen Forum had participants; and **Janet**, our Treasurer, who kept us solvent as well as chaired our newsletter and website committees. To **Sheila**, our *Camino Real Region's Spring Conference Chair*, who also chaired our Anniversary Luncheon and made both look like it was as easy as slicing a piece of pie; **Julie**, our *Camino Real Region's Stop Trafficking Chair*, who never said "no" to any request and ensured that we had the ideal site for our luncheon and took care of the Legislators who attended; and Immediate Past President **Jeri**, who offered advice and direction, donated the centerpieces at the luncheon, and worked tirelessly with Mission Support.

To our Directors, **Karen, Dona, Barbara, and Joan**; and our Delegates and Alternates, **Barbara, Jeri, Carole, and Julie**, I thank you for your guidance. To **Joan, Jessica, Julie, Joyce** and the members on their program committees, I extend gratitude on behalf of the recipients of our Fellowship, WOA, Violet Richardson, and Ruby Awards. You worked so diligently to select the best, most deserving candidates for each. To **Emily** and **Sheila**, co-chairs of Membership Recruitment and Retention, our membership grew by eight (8) because of your "stick-to-it-tiveness" during the past two years.

To **Emily**, our resident film-maker, we extend a very special recognition for producing such a timeless video of our club covering our history 1922 through 2012. What a wonderful account of SILA history. We are all proud of what you do and will do in the future. And to **Barbara**, our club Historian and resident Biographer, you have kept our history alive! .

To **Janet, Ann, Carole, Jessica, Teresa, and Daphne**, kudos for handling the Public Awareness portion of our year's agenda. We are on Facebook, Twitter, World Wide Web, and other social media; we have a stellar newsletter that is worthy of Regional and National accolade; and our PR team has paved the way for more media recognition in the future.

To **Karen**, who brought her financial and organizational expertise to the table; **DeAnna**, who dropped everything and made sure that the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Awards Auction was well run, organized and profitable; **Dona** for allowing us to participate in Reading is Fundamental at her school (members felt that this was a very rewarding activity and would like to repeat the activity next year). To **Diane**, who

supported each and every activity and never missed a meeting; **Stephanie**, a steadfast supporter of all activities; and **Annie**, who came out of retirement and re-activated as a “regular” member, I express my sincere thanks.

And finally, to **Bev**, our next President, we all thank you for stepping up to the plate. I wish you all the best and promise to assist in whatever manner I can. You are going to have such a grand time with this wonderful group of committed individuals. If your tenure is just half as good as mine, you are guaranteed a fantastic year.

If I have missed anyone, if I have failed to thank everyone for the success of this awesome SILA year, I ask forgiveness. I realize that we could not have accomplished what we did without everyone’s support and participation. This has been an AWESOME YEAR and I thank you all for your encouragement, candor, and assurance. It has been a privilege to have served such a dynamic group. Thank you for this opportunity.

Each month during my administration, I have tried to use an inspirational poem or quote. As I close this, my last message of the 2011-12 club year, I leave you with this:

It Couldn't Be Done  
By Edgar A. Guest

Somebody said that it couldn't be done,  
But she with a chuckle replied  
That “maybe it couldn't,” but she would be one  
Who wouldn't say so till she'd tried.  
So she buckled right in with the trace of a grin  
On her face. If she worried she hid it.  
She started to sing as she tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and she did it.

Somebody scoffed: “Oh, you'll never do that;  
At least no one ever has done it”;  
But she took off her coat and she took off her hat,  
And the first thing we knew she'd begun it.  
With a lift of his chin and a bit of a grin,  
Without any doubting or quiddit,  
She started to sing as she tackled the thing  
That couldn't be done, and she did it.

There are thousands to tell you it cannot be done,  
There are thousands to prophesy failure;  
There are thousands to point out to you, one by one,  
The dangers that wait to assail you.  
But just buckle in with a bit of a grin,  
Just take off your coat and go to it;  
Just start to sing as you tackle the thing  
That “cannot be done,” and you'll do it.

**My SILA Family, WE DID IT!!!** Have a wonderful summer break. See you in August at the Retreat.

President Ginger