



# President's Message

## Thoughts from the Doll Room

*Snowflakes are one of nature's most fragile things, but just look what they can do when they stick together.*

Vista M. Kelly



Winter may bring cooler temperatures, but the heat being generated from all the work going on at the UFDC would indicate the thermometer is going up and not down! All this productivity depends on a steadfast crew of volunteers. Volunteers are like snowflakes, each beautiful and unique in their own way, but when they come together they generate enough energy to start an avalanche!

Plans for our 68<sup>th</sup> annual convention are well underway. Our Director of Convention Services, Dr. Barbara Stone, has been working for months on what is guaranteed to be a delightful gathering for doll enthusiasts in that most magical of locations, Orlando, Florida. Walt Disney's brother Roy, described Walt Disney World, located close to the convention hotel, "as a Magic Kingdom where the young at heart of all ages can laugh and play and learn – together." This could also be a perfect description of our upcoming convention!

One of the biggest attractions will no doubt be a very significant and recent addition to the UFDC's museum collection. Ethel Newcome and her massive wardrobe will be officially unveiled in Orlando. A large wax doll that was offered as a Sanitary Fair Doll for raffle in the 1860s, Miss Newcome will be accompanied by not one, but three trunks of her original clothing and accessories, and will be proudly displayed in Orlando before moving to her permanent home in Kansas City. Don't miss the opportunity to see her and the many other doll attractions that will be offered to convention attendees.

The fall was an extremely busy time at the UFDC headquarters. The Collections Oversight Committee, along with the Director of ReAL Services, Loretta Nardone, organized and held our very first museum symposium. Focused on the museum's extensive collection of Dewees Cochran dolls, molds and other items personally owned by Dewees, the museum welcomed attendees for an intensive examination of her work. Another symposium is being planned for the spring and this time the focus will be on French Fashion dolls.

The Executive Committee and Regional Directors also came to Kansas City to hold meetings and to participate in a membership symposium. This symposium was designed to examine some of the issues facing membership growth for the future and was the first time in many years that the whole Board had the opportunity to meet together. Seeing the Board working together to set goals, plan strategies and establish a concrete agenda for both maintaining our present membership and encouraging new membership, was truly inspirational. Their enthusiasm, positivity and determination was a demonstration of where the true strength of our organization lies: with our dedicated volunteers and loyal members.

Henry Ford wrote "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success." These words could easily be applied to both our organization's history and our present. It is also the key to our future.

Until the next time,  
Your President,

*Janet*