

President's Message



Winston Churchill was a world figure who excelled as a leader during a difficult time in the history of the United Kingdom. He expected the best from himself and others, but he understood the chaotic nature of the world and tolerated ambivalence. He graciously accepted and acknowledged his own frailties and the limitations of his policies when failure confronted him. He was one of the most significant *men of his time* because he had the courage to move forward despite the difficulties surrounding him.

UFDC can learn from his example. It is comforting to believe organizations can succeed by either clinging tenaciously to the past or grasping for new ideas or policies which seem to guarantee success. The truth is organizations must judiciously review new ideas in the light of past and proven practices. This is best achieved by involving members in the process. In a committee format, members may review the status quo while objectively and wisely proposing change when and where it is necessary.

We have three new Committees: the Fundraising Committee, a standing committee, the Museum Committee and the Membership Committee, ad hoc committees. Each of these committees has or will have a charter written and approved by the Board of Directors which does not restrict debate or action, but creates a functional structure under which members may freely share their ideas.

The Fundraising Committee has formed and will look at fundraising as a broad concept focusing on consideration of long and short term goals for the organization. These goals will include the building of a strong endowment fund as well as making funds available to enable the every day management of UFDC. In UFDC the clubs are the members. Clubs in UFDC vary in size and in capacity to contribute to the whole. The Fundraising Committee is aware of this and is looking at ways the burden of financially supporting UFDC can be borne equitably by all. This committee is meeting electronically and will meet together at Convention in Anaheim and then report to the Board of Directors at the Pre-Convention Board Meeting. This is not a committee which will expire and forfeit its power and influence with each successive administration. This standing committee will move forward with the organization.

The Museum Committee is an ad hoc committee which will report to the Board of Directors in Anaheim at the Pre-Convention Meeting. It will suggest the formation of a standing committee to be called the Collections Oversight Committee. Under ReAL Services the mission of this committee will reflect the mission of ReAL

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Services to bring together global resources for members' research and study by the acquisition and preservation of dolls and doll-related objects. The committee met in Chicago, has been meeting electronically, and will have an informal meeting in Anaheim to review policies and procedures they will offer as operating suggestions. This first step will allow ground rules to be established. Some work has already been completed as two UFDC members acting entirely as volunteers have been evaluating and organizing a wonderful resource, our informational archives. A system for the library making it more easily accessible for members is under consideration. It is important to recognize the formation of this committee has been a *long-term goal* of UFDC. Management of our collections must

meet current best practices and professional standards.

Membership is our most important consideration. As I have read through the goals of former presidents, increasing membership is referenced by all. The UFDC Director of New Membership will address the concerns and present the goals of this ad hoc committee to the Board of Directors at the Pre-Convention Meeting in Anaheim. She will stress the need to have a standing committee which addresses membership issues on a continuing basis. Recommendations will be made for ways clubs can maintain current levels of membership while continuing to be creative about increasing numbers. Junior collectors are our future. Could we expand age requirements to include younger members? We must consider this and other concepts so UFDC will reflect needs of doll collectors today.

Winston Churchill teaches us "failure is never fatal." What is fatal for any organization is to refuse to look at failure and learn from it. Failure is our teacher. We must engage failure when it comes by looking objectively at our choices.

"Courage is the only thing," we are told. UFDC has had the courage to move forward for over a half century. We had the courage to bond together and grow from a small assemblage of clubs to a federation of over five hundred clubs. I believe together we can do anything. We are dedicated to the protection and preservation of dolls. We are the largest and most visible doll organization internationally. With resolve we can and will move forward, and while we acknowledge we will never realize all of our dreams, we will look our problems in the eye and have the courage to do what is necessary.

Sincerely,

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