



President's Message



UFDC unites us in many ways.

We are united by our love for dolls. We share the beauty of our dolls and celebrate the myriad of dolls that thrill us with their variety and range. We all enjoy researching dolls, learning more about them, and sharing our findings with members of our clubs. As historians we study origins of and other remarkable aspects of the objects of our affections. Finally, we are united by a desire to not only share our dolls, but to find companionship in our associations with others.

Convention is the time we meet together not just to share our dolls, but to assemble as delegates representing member clubs at the Annual Meeting of our Federation. If you were unable to be present at the Annual Meeting in New Orleans, it is important to read the reports beginning on page 176 of this issue of DOLL NEWS and become updated about the business of the organization. You will find the reports of all officers and the minutes from the Annual Meeting.

Directors for Regions 2N, 2S, 7, 9, 13 and 14 were elected at this Annual Meeting. I want to thank these loyal members for being willing to serve. The Regional Directors are your representatives on the Board of Directors of UFDC. Regional Directors strive to visit each club as often as possible during their term. Please invite your regional director to attend a meeting of your club. This is an important link to UFDC.

I want to acknowledge all of the wonderful volunteers who made the Convention in New Orleans possible. Without their dedication, the cost of running a convention would be prohibitive. I want to thank the officers, especially Janet Gula, Director of Convention Services and all chairpersons for their loyal volunteerism. Our host hotel in New Orleans told us our convention is the most complicated they have experienced. They can't believe it is run entirely by volunteers!

The At Your Service Open House was attended by over five hundred members. It was an opportunity for me to shake hands with many of you. Meeting in this personal way was a delight. In addition UFDC members donated a truly impressive collection of books to the Louisiana Children's Museum. Executive Director, Julia Bland, attended the evening and personally thanked our members for their generosity.

"Ours is a circle of friendships united by ideals."

Juliette Gordon Low

The Opening Ceremony was made even more special when UFDC was presented with an exceptional gift by our very own members, folks you pass in the corridors at convention, folks who have dedicated themselves to sharing dolls via respected publications, glorious exhibits and simple exchanges of words. Despite the closing of the Rosalie Whyel Museum of Doll Art, a personal loss for the entire family, members of the Whyel family have closed one door and opened another by gifting UFDC with the George Borgfeldt Archives and the beautiful fundraising queen, Madeleine de Baine, and her fabulous wardrobe and accessories. Look for information about these gifts in DOLL NEWS as well as other UFDC publications. We thank the Whyel family for bringing our collections to a new level of professionalism.

I am always saddened when I reflect on the fact all members of UFDC cannot attend convention. There are some alternatives. Announcements about regional conferences currently scheduled in Santa Clara, California, September 5-8, 2012 and Wenatchee, Washington, September 12-14, 2013 can be referenced in DOLL NEWS. Regionals are an opportunity to learn about dolls and enjoy fellow members of UFDC in a local geographic area. I hope many of you can take advantage of these events. Please support your region and neighboring regions by attending a wonderful weekend of dolls. Remember all are welcomed.

Now we look forward to a new year. The beauty of the fall season wraps us in brilliant color and reinforces us with a spectacular show featuring the miracles of nature. Thus inspired, we come to truly appreciate other gifts we are given, especially through membership in UFDC. Relationships through dolls are life-long treasures which enrich our lives. We are grateful for our hobby and the friendships we garner. Let us work together to promote dolls and doll collecting by supporting the organization whose mission it is to preserve and protect dolls, UFDC.

In Unity,

Ada
UFDC President