



President's Message



When I was young my parents gave my sister, brother and me their childhood books to read. Most were the classic children's stories but some were fairly obscure. One book of my father's was called *Something for Nothing*. The story was about a young man who taking what he thought would be an easy summer job learns that accomplishments only mean something if you work toward them. I was thinking about this the other day as I was playing one of my favorite fantasy games, "what would I do if I won the lottery?" This scenario usually ends, after my husband retiring and our paying off our children's mortgages, with my sitting at a doll auction with my hand up! In recent years I have also dreamt of what it would be like if UFDC won the lottery and could fund all of the worthy projects we aspire to as an organization. A healthy endowment, all the professional help we could ever need, programming and research easily accessible to all of our members, low cost doll events for our members to attend, a thriving museum, and on and on. A fun dream, but as I sat and remembered my father's book it began to occur to me that if our dreams were handed to us on a silver platter they would not mean the same thing to us.

I believe that we as members of UFDC are very fortunate in that we have to work together to achieve our goals for our hobby. By doing so we build not only a strong organization but also strong bonds between us individually, and our accomplishments as a group give us a real sense of ownership in what we are building.

I recently heard someone say "I'm so grateful for members who say 'I will...'" instead of "They should'..." UFDC is a volunteer based organization, that is our blessing; that is our strength. Because we need every member to contribute to the success of the group we all share a vested interest in our club and can take pride in our joint accomplishments.

What you get out of your doll club experience is directly proportionate to what you put into it. When you choose to support UFDC with a donation to any of our funds or by lending your special talent to some needed task your support makes a significant difference. As you participate in your local doll club by sharing a show and tell, presenting a program, working on a special club event, or holding an office you experience the joy of sharing and the sense of personal growth that comes from a job well done and you develop a deeper connection to your club and club members. When your club supports the broader organization by inviting your Regional Director to be a guest at your club meeting or event, when your club supports a UFDC program such as the eBay fundraiser, when your club volunteers to host an event at a regional conference or convention - you achieve the satisfaction of helping your fellow UFDC members to build a bright future for doll collecting. When you serve the organization by sitting on a special committee or serving as a Regional Director or Officer, you experience the joys of friendship, of stretching your personal skill set and of playing an active role in supporting something worth believing in.

All of these activities, on every level, have a real and important impact on the fate of our hobby.

There is no Fairy Godmother who will, with the wave of a wand, make all our challenges disappear and all our desires for our club come true, and I find that I am increasingly grateful for that, grateful that we share the responsibilities and the rewards of our working together. If you are not already participating, join in and see what I mean!

Linda Edward
UFDC President