

Writing in November Saying Thank You

We usually think of Thanksgiving as a time to say our prayers of thanks for our blessings. I'm suggesting that in addition we thank others, especially valued friends.

As I considered the idea, I thought of a few of my cherished friends within the NEA/NSEA/CCEA/CREA family over the years of my activity in our organizations.

It was Renee Rampton who first dragged me up to the CCCTA office when it had a temporary home on Commerce. Back in the late 1970's she was entering her teaching career and I was returning. That got me started in serving as Senator. Thanks, Renee.

It was Ann Larson who pressed me to run for delegate to NEA Representative Assembly. I got elected and went to more than ten subsequent RA's even as a retired representative. Thanks, Ann.

At the caucus meeting in preparation for going to my very first one in Kansas City, a bare acquaintance named Judi Hamblin came up and invited me to be her roommate. We joked often that our ten-year association as roommates lasted longer than some marriages. She was convinced that it was because we slept in the same room only once a year! Thanks, Judi, for stepping in and welcoming a new comer.

Those RA meetings held all over the U.S. gave me an opportunity to travel to places like Minneapolis, D.C., Miami, San Francisco, Atlanta, Orlando, Chicago and New Orleans. Mary Ella Holloway and I usually went early and/or stayed late to sightsee and shop. She loved to drive so we rented a car and took off. Thanks, Mary Ella.

In 2000 when I retired, it was Peggy

Rosch who got me involved with this organization, called Clark County Retired Education Employees Association, CCREEA, later shortened to CREA. At the first meeting I attended, Peggy ascended to the presidency and invited me to be her vice president, setting me on the path I've taken ever since as VP, editor and director. Since then she and I have also traveled together world wide. Thanks, Peggy, for all that.

I also want to thank the CREA members who nominated me and wrote letters on my behalf to secure for me the NSEA Retiree Award. Thank you all.

Your turn now! Thank a few friends who have enriched your life in some way. A stamp still costs 44 cents.

-Verlene

Book Exchange

Read a good book lately and now looking for a different one? How about bringing your "used" books and sharing with other members here each month? There are true readers in our midst who would love to exchange the latest and greatest....or not so great... with others. Feel free to bring them to the table each meeting day and walk away with a whole "new" library for your reading enjoyment.

Recipe: Three Cans and a Box

Verlene is always encouraging us to write our memories, and for this issue I'm going to take her up on it. Every time we talk on the phone... and believe me, that is frequently and at length... she is telling me to "write that down, Judi, no one knows the story better than you."

I have had a penchant over the years to give "odd" names to various possessions, or ideas, or occasions that have an importance to me. While in college at BYU, I lived with one room mate in an off campus house of six girls upstairs, four on one side of the basement and then Linda and I in the other half. Although we ended up with the sole care of the stray cat, we all fed him at the beginning... thus I named him "602," our address!! When another cat came along, we called it "Max" until the blooming pregnancy demanded that the name become Maxine. They had one kitten who was exactly like his Dad 602, thus we named him "1/2". That promiscuous Maxine then had "1/4".

You can imagine what we sounded like to the all male apartment complex next door as we called the animals inside for the night. The baritone and tenor sections usually added "1/8", and "1/16!"

I named one of my favorite recipes Three Cans and a Box. the first year I taught. Paychecks were issued once a month (remember?) and the days before payday often provided an opportunity to become "creative" in fixing something for dinner when the cupboard was a bit sparse on contents.

Mom asked me what we were going to have for dinner, I looked into the cupboard and answered, "Looks like it will be three cans and a box tonight." Her reply, "does that mean tin and cardboard or the contents of said cans and box?" I grabbed a can of soup, a can of vegetables, a can of meat, and a box of Stove-Top dressing.

The versatility of this is wonderful!! I mixed the dressing as per box directions, spreading one-half on the bottom of a casserole dish. Open a can of veggies (peas, green beans, corn, etc.), drain and pour on the dressing. Open a can of meat (I've used chicken, tuna, salmon, turkey, etc.), drain, spread over the veggies. Put remainder of dressing mix evenly over the meat. Open can of soup (cream of whatever) and spread over the top of the dressing. Put dish in the oven at 350 degrees for 25 min. or until soup melts into the rest of the dish. Bon appetit!

BRIAN'S

Oct. 12th was our annual "Not Back To School Picnic". I want to let you all know I had a great time. Hard to beat grilled hot dogs and hamburgers outside at the park. I hope you all had as good a time as I did. Saw some new faces. Hope they continue and become old friends.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the people who gave a hand. We have people reserve the park, do shopping, help set up chairs, take phone calls, decorate, tell me where I need to be, and generally help keep my blood pressure in a tolerable range.

Friends from outside of our group, Jim and Cinthia from Planmember Securities Corporation, helped by picking up a large part of the cost. Thank you both very much. If we can get through some red tape, we are hoping Cinthia will be able to write a general financial question column for our newsletter.

On Oct.27, I attended the NSEA-Retired board meeting in Reno. I enjoy going up to Reno and meeting with members from Nevada's northern and rural counties. These meetings help give me a better understanding of what is happening in our state.

Sometimes when I hear what some of our legislators are planning, I realize we are fortunate to have organizations like NSEA and NEA to fight for us and keep us informed.

CREA President,
Brian H. Morgan

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