



A Message from the Director

Your Board of Directors held the 2015 Annual Meeting and 4th Quarter Meeting on Friday, December 4th. The Annual Meeting is held every December in conjunction with the 4th Quarter meeting. The Annual Meeting agenda and discussion focused on addressing 2016 Board seat openings, a review of Chapter membership changes, the 2016 QCS budget and a high level review of the preliminary 2016 Treasurer's report. The Board also recognized the outstanding service of retiring Board members Donna Wenzel, Karen Bruder and Connie Ferguson.

QCS membership aligned with our 35 Chapters totals 13,827 members. 76% of these members are retired. Total North American membership is 41,565. This reflects 27,738 QCS members not aligned with organized Chapters. The Board has work underway to address this gap with an immediate focus on the Converting network. Work is also underway to start up new Chapters in Bogalusa and Erie. A start up meeting was held in Bogalusa on October 13th with approximately 40 members identified. Erie has over 400 members in the immediate area and represents a prime target for a new Chapter in 2016.

The 4th Quarter meeting focused on updating key strategic initiatives. The top priority involves improving the level of grant activity across the Chapter network. The Chapter "Best Practice" model initiative was completed in October. Savannah, Georgetown, Mobile and Riverdale were interviewed and provided detailed input on their grant administration process. This information will be shared with all Chapters in February. A key finding addresses the importance of the Chapter Annual Meeting and the value of including IP's senior leaders in the Chapter meeting agenda. Work continues on delivering Chapter specific directories for local use. Chapters reported their January – June activity resulted in 31 grants to members in dire financial need. Full year activity will be available in March. Karen Bruder reported on her successful efforts to reduce the cost of the 25 Year pin by 50%. The Human Resource group has been updated on the results of this initiative. As reported in a prior Bulletin, a redesigned QCS Membership Certificate has been approved and will be available in late 2016.

1st Quarter 2016 Calendar

Chapter 1099 Form Recipients	January 15 th
6 Month Activity & Audit Reports	February 28 th
1st Quarter Board Meeting	March 17 th

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Society's purpose is to provide financial aid quickly and confidentially to and for the benefit of a member or a deceased member's surviving eligible dependent who is in need of financial assistance in the face of misfortune or emergency.

A Message from the Director (Continued)

The QCS Board priorities for 2016 include the following:

- Grant Activity and Best Practice Recommendations
- 35 Quarter Century Society Directories
- Finalize a Converting Network Chapter Proposal
- New Chapter Formation Target: 3
- Board Representation at Chapter Meetings
- Senior Leader Involvement in Chapter Meetings
- Chapter Leadership Succession Planning
- QCS New Member Introduction and Orientation

The Board extends a special thanks to all Chapter leadership teams for their continued commitment to the QCS Mission. Your hard work and dedication to finding and supporting QCS members in need is appreciated. Personally, I appreciate the opportunity to serve as a member of the QCS Board. Best wishes for the New Year.

Bill Wilson

Executive Director

Chapter Reporting Requirements

As a reminder, the following represents the reporting expected from each Chapter on an annual basis:

- 6 Month Chapter Activity Report
 - January – June Due July 31st
 - July – December Due February 28th
- 1099 Form (Grants over \$599) Due January 15th
- Annual Audit Report Due February 28th

All Chapters received the request for their 6 Month (July – December) Activity Report. Compliance with these reporting requirements is a condition for Board approval of the annual Chapter allotment funding provided in April. I remain available to support any Chapter as they complete the required reporting.

QCS Board Membership & Officer Changes

Donna Wenzel completed her second term as a QCS Board member on 12/31. In addition to her Board role Donna served as QCS President. Based on the 2 term limit criteria, she will vacate her Board position. A special thanks to Donna for outstanding service to the Quarter Century Society. Karen Bruder will leave the Board following 3 years of service. Karen was instrumental in developing the Society's communication program. Connie Ferguson will also vacate her Board role after 4 years of service. Following the recommendation of the Nominating Committee, Joyce Margulies, Fred Ellrich and Lou D'Eri were all nominated and confirmed to fill the open Board positions. John Hash was nominated and approved to fill the role of QCS President. Elizabeth Leslie will move to John's vacated position of Vice President and Marianne Duval will replace Elizabeth as QCS Secretary. Your 2016 QCS Board Officers consist of the following individuals:

John Hash	President
Elizabeth Leslie	Vice President
Marianne Duval	Secretary
William Wilson	Treasurer
Gregory Mitchell	Assistant Treasurer

IP & Wreaths at Arlington National Cemetery

December 12th was National Wreaths Across America Day. The organization Wreaths Across America (WAA) was founded by IP customer, Worcester Wreath Company. Their special wreaths are placed on the graves of soldiers laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery and elsewhere. Since 2010, IP's Industrial Packaging's Container of the Americas (CTA) Auburn, Maine Box Plant has donated 5,000 boxes each year to support WAA and produced 100,000 boxes for the project this year alone. More than 27,000 of the boxes produced this year went directly to Arlington National Cemetery with each box holding 9 wreaths. The remaining boxes went to 1,100 other burial sites around the U.S. and internationally. In addition to the boxes, the Auburn team was able to provide a driver, Marc Belanger, to personally deliver a truckload of wreaths to Arlington. Worcester Wreath Company, the creator of the non-profit WAA, has been a customer of CTA's Auburn plant for more than 15 years. This is the second year they were able to provide a wreath for every headstone at Arlington National Cemetery!

Thousands of volunteers supported by WAA removed and recycled the packaging used to transport 240,000 remembrance wreaths. The packaging used to deliver the wreaths is being recycled through IP's Recycling business. In addition, IP's Global Government Relations team worked closely with the Auburn team and the Recycling business to ensure this worthwhile initiative was successful.

What great things would you attempt if you knew you could not fail? Robert H. Schuller

Chapter Grant "Best Practice" Initiative

The Board of Directors sponsored an initiative in 2015 to better understand the factors that were critical to the administration of the Chapter grant process. Approximately 50% of our current Chapters are active in the annual grant process. In 2014, four Chapters were responsible for 51% of the grant activity; Mobile, Savannah, Georgetown and Riverdale. Phone interviews with Chapter leaders provided insight into the processes in place to help identify Chapter members that find themselves in dire financial need. Detailed reports will be provided to all Chapters with recommendations to enhance the grant management process. At a high level, the following consistent themes emerged from the interviews:

- The Chapter annual meeting is a key driver in the member networking process. Members in need are often identified during this gathering.
- Involve IP senior leaders in the annual meeting.
- Local facility management support.

The Pine Bluff Chapter Annual Meeting

The Pine Bluff Chapter held its annual meeting on September 11th. 580 members and guests attended the event. Pat Costello, Chapter Chairperson provided information on Chapter grant activity and information on the Quarter Century Society's initiatives. Special thanks to mill leadership for their support of the Pine Bluff Chapter.

The Mobile Chapter Annual Meeting

Mobile held its Chapter annual meeting on October 5th. 140 members attended the event. The keynote speaker was Mike Amick Jr., Senior Vice President. Wes Smith, retired Executive Vice President was also in attendance. Elizabeth Leslie attended and represented the Board of Directors. She provided an overview of QCS activity and key strategic initiatives. Mobile is the largest Chapter in the QCS network and is a consistent leader in supporting Chapter members who are in dire financial need. Our thanks to Joe Hossley, Chairman, for his excellent leadership. Joe has been replaced by Derrell Thomas but will remain close to the leadership team as Chairman Emeritus.

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