



Good evening,

If happiness is activity in accordance with excellence, it is reasonable that it should be in accordance with the highest excellence. Aristotle

I want to thank all of you for attending and showing your support for the Alabama Division by your presence at this meeting. I hope our first timers were captivated by the way our meeting was run and how the Division takes care of business. I remember the first Division Meeting I attended and how amazed I was at the procedures and the steady calm flow of business. Now I know how things run and I am still amazed. The calmness wouldn't be possible without the networking of our co-coordinators, members of the Northeast Region Chapters Anniston, Gadsden, and Huntsville, the Alabama Division membership and the Alabama Division Board. I want to thank all of you again for making this a wonderful meeting.

A few months after being installed as President, I received a package in the mail from Brenda Kern CPS. It contained a very pretty silver key with blue stones that said SUCCESS on the side. This really touched me and I felt like maybe I was supposed to be in this

position. I also want to thank Deana, Debbie, Rose, Trish, and Fran for all their encouragement. I consider all these ladies my mentors.

A lot of you know that I am not a speech maker even though I don't have a problem talking. I have learned the meaning of my theme "Key to Excellence" and have been able to use it through out the year.

I have chosen to use and learn from it this year.

My personal growth has exceeded its borders. I have laughed so much this year and especially this weekend. You can't get together with Gertrude, Joyce, Carolyn, Monica, Trish, and Maria without laughing – a lot. I have grown personally knowing the members of the Alabama Division.

My professional growth – I had the opportunity to present programs to several chapters this year as well as attending seminars. I have learned so much especially in my presentations – A lot of you know that I am not a speech maker even though I don't have a problem talking. I was even asked to be on a panel at International in Denver – boy was I surprised. When you get the call – you wonder where did they get my name and do they really know me. I had a great time and didn't embarrass myself or the Alabama Division.

“The quality of strength lined with tenderness is an unbeatable combination, as are intelligence and necessity when unblunted by formal education. Maya Angelou”

Chapter growth – The Alabama Division has had a great year in recruiting new members. We only had a slight problem in retention. Remember there is still time to recruit and get a Distinguished President’s Watch. The membership year isn’t over until 30 Jun.

I have presented IMPACT programs, chapter programs and also spoken to an Admin group at work. These have all allowed me to grow personally, professionally and hopefully the chapters had attendees that were so overwhelmed with what I had to say that they couldn’t wait to join.

Bear Bryant's **Three Rules** for coaching: 1) Surround yourself with people who can't live without football. 2) Recognize winners. They come in all forms. 3) Have a plan for everything.

Each person in this room has the potential to be a Division President. I have seen that this year. In my incoming speech, I said your job will be easier if you get good committee members. I really know how to pick them – the Division committee chairs have been outstanding this year and I couldn’t have selected a better team. Everyone went that extra mile and I couldn’t have made it without any of them. I also want to thank the membership for selecting great Chapter Presidents. Several of them had duties with the Division as

well as the Chapters and I know they have to be exhausted at the end of this year.

I would like to conclude with a quote from Jim Valvano “To me there are **three things** everyone should do every day. Number one is laugh. Number two is think -- spend some time in thought. Number three, you should have your emotions move you to tears. If you laugh, think and cry, that's a heck of a day. “