

INTRODUCTION

When Susan and I were asked to be responsible for putting together the ten-year history of Eta State, we agreed we wanted information included such that future generations could say, “Oh, so that’s where it all started!” As you read through the sections, you will discover areas where “seeds were planted” and ideas became realities through the decade.

You might be able to identify how long it takes a young child to count to ten when she counts by ones, but when she counts by twos, the time becomes much shorter. Counting by twos is quite popular when our organization is founded on biennia. You will see how much can be covered in a two-year span and yet you can also see how quickly opportunities and challenges can change what just happened previously.

As you read the first biennium theme of President Carmen, you’ll note she chose “Building Tomorrow Today” and how appropriate that President Sheila’s theme reads “Create the Future–Ignite.” Both these ladies were thinking about future generations. The in-between themes addressed the “how-to’s” such as President Betty’s which read “Becoming Voices of Influence” while mine read “Transforming Our Traditions” and President Patricia’s read “Dare to Lead.”

Updated opportunities allowed for the latter part of the decade to be more technologically enhanced such as using QR codes in the program book for interacting with participants or skyping with an International President at a Leadership Seminar. Challenges such as declining membership also brought innovative ideas for taking advantage of non-dues revenue and the establishment of a non-profit 501(c)(3) Educational Foundation.

Yes, we hope you will see a lot of “Oh, so that’s where it all started” and you will discover events and people that nurtured and supported the “seeds” that eventually grew into realities—realities that will build the “tomorrows” and not only build, but “ignite” future generations to use their voices, to transform their traditions and will dare to lead.

Fondly,
Linda S. Little, 2011–2013 Eta State President