

Regional Director's Report—NCR Annual Meeting, October, 2010

This has been a busy, enjoyable year for the most part both personally and professionally. Our family has been blessed with health and a new baby (in case you hadn't noticed!) and an ever growing ability to enjoy each other's company. Both grandson's are growing rapidly. The "for the most part" has to do with the arrival of a Medicare card that reminds me the clock is ticking as much as I might want to ignore it. I'm really not ready to retire, and a 10 year old at home precludes it anyway, so I'm in for at least a number of years yet as your RD, as long as you will remain willing to have me!



The logistic and financial aspects of the job such as unit reporting, invoicing, and annual meeting and committee meeting organization have become increasingly seamless and routine, thanks to the way all of you have come on board with our systems.



I have continued to enjoy participating in sub-regional education events and the Chicago, Wisconsin, Iowa & Minnesota supervisory education groups either in person or through video-conferencing. We have a large, talented group of SES's that continues to grow, and that bodes well for the future of our Region. And I have also enjoyed working on the national scene with my fellow RD's who chose me to represent them on the technology task force of the ACPE Board.

I also have always valued being present to support our people going before certification committees both within the region and nationally, and my only regret about our new grandson was that the timing of his birth precluded my being present for them in Kansas City last spring.

A number of years ago I used my continuing education funds to work with Al Nohre, who coached me regarding this position. The goal I set for myself was to grow in the pastoral role of my position. My experience over the past several years leads me to believe that we had some success, but I also know that it is a two way street—that many of you have met me more than halfway, allowing yourselves to be vulnerable and extending me your trust. I pray I have proved worthy of that trust in the past and pledge to continue to diligently work at being so as we go forward.

It does feel like there have been far too many opportunities for pastoral intervention from myself and many of you to each other this past year. There has been email after email coming out of the regional office bearing news of loss of loved ones, loss of positions, illness, etc. for people in our small community. And the regional newsletter reads as a litany of the same. Too many in our community are walking the walk of the "wounded healer".

Because my RD position is part-time, I continue to supplement my work time and income by working with the Lutheran Homes of Oshkosh Ministry Health satellite in northern Wisconsin where I am supervising Candidate Supervisor, Diane Tugel, as she moves through the process. We are doing our second unit together and have a fun group. My participation is primarily through video-conferencing, using the technology that I hope will work well for this meeting, as well as transform some of the ways we do our business in future years, as travel costs and time constraints continue to rise.

Working with the regional board has been special this year as well. We have met almost monthly by conference call and with increased regularity in person, and I believe you will see the positive results as this meeting unfolds.