

from the Governor's Gavel

By Mark C. Taylor



Mark & Sharon Taylor

Having Fun As A Team

One of the goals in Florida Kiwanis this year is to have fun as a team. This was to include a Caribbean Cruise Interclub to The Cayman Islands. GOAL ACCOMPLISHED! What a great time we had!

True to my commitment, there were no workshops, no speeches, and no Kiwanis obsession. For some on the trip, it was hard. Some wanted to talk about Kiwanis all the time. For me, just having fun with Kiwanis friends was refreshing and recharging. It was fun to hang out with friends and just have fun. We watched the mens' belly flop competition and sang karaoke. We laid in the sun and fought off sunburn. We ate and ate and ate. It was just fun!



I want to make sure you know that service is fun. Working as a team is fun. For Kiwanis Day at the Ballpark, Clubs made it fun. The projects ranged from cheering kids to giving away free hotdogs to things that had nothing to do with the ballpark. One of the most fun projects I heard about was an Action Club that came up with a game of "American's Top Model." How gratifying to me that they would conduct a takeoff on the Super Model Theme.

The fifth OBJECT of Kiwanis starts by saying, "To provide, through this Club, a practical means to form enduring friendships." Those friendships should be fun. While the work of Kiwanis is serious business, don't take Kiwanis too seriously. Have some FUN!

from the

"First Lady"

SHARON TAYLOR

Surprise, Surprise, Surprise!

With homage to Gomer Pyle, I have to say that the past months have been full of surprises! I had a wonderful "birthday of magnitude" (as my dear husband kept referring to it!) which was full of surprises. My best friend and I went to New Orleans where I was surprised during high tea at the elegant Windsor Court Hotel by the arrival of two more friends – dressed in "old lady" clothes complete with gray wigs, lots of additional padding in "certain" areas, orthopedic shoes, etc. It was hilarious – particularly as they took great pleasure in telling everyone at the tea how old I was! That evening, as we were dining at Commander's Palace, my daughter, Christine, who goes to college in Birmingham, showed up! Then, to top it off, on Sunday, Mark showed up in New Orleans and whisked me away for a few days at the beach in Gulf Shores, Alabama! It was the best birthday – full of glorious and wonderful surprises!

As First Lady, I've been blessed with many other surprises as well. My favorite surprises have been those that I have received via e-mail, letters, or by word of mouth. These all involve news that Kiwanians around the State have become Guardians ad Litem. Most recently, I attended a DCM in Division 15 and Richard Osso of the Davenport-Four Corners Kiwanis Club told me that he and three others had been sworn in by their Circuit Judge as Guardians ad Litem that very day! He was so happy and excited! What fantastic news! I have also heard from Clubs that have made significant donations to their local GAL programs. Thank you all so much! I can't wait to hear from the rest of you – I just love these surprises!